

July 5, 2026 – Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday – July 4th – Vigil Mass –

5:00PM Nathan Burke – USN – Training Causality (Ted/Janet Achuff)

Sunday – July 5th – Mass is Streamed Live –

9:30AM In Thanksgiving to God for Our Freedom

Monday – July 6th – St. Maris Goretti, Virgin & Martyr

9:00AM William Crowell (Krawchuk Family)

Tuesday – July 7th – Weekday –

9:00AM Michele Henning (Mom)

Wed. – July 8th – Weekday –

9:00AM Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

Thurs. – July 9th – Weekday – St. Augustine Zhao Rong, Priest & Companions, Martyrs

9:00AM Reading & Communion Distribution Only

Friday – July 10th – Weekday –

9:00AM All Veterans & Family Who have Protected Our Freedom

Saturday – July 11th – Weekday – St. Benedict, Abbot

9:00AM Intentions of Rex & Mariann Helfant (Parish Community)

Please Pray for Our Sick and Housebound, Deceased Members, for an End to Abortion and Respect for all Life!

Lynda Stefanski, Peter Libasci, Joseph Bonk, Tom Trotter, Dave Blessing, Jeff Olimpo, Matt Sebastiano, Maria Middleton, Fern & John Gibson, William Merkle, Russ Funkhouser, Joseph Jones, Elizabeth Ann Schlotter, Andrew Schlotter, Bethany Steinberg, Joann Thaler, Julie Petry, Steven Fusco, Greg Gambino, Patrick D. Brown, Douglas Defreest, Jr., Benny LoScalzo, Steve Ombalski, Jane Burger, Ginny LaBar, Michael Gawronski, Marciano Alves Viera, Bernadette Maszczak, Shawn Kelly, Beth Collins, Nikia Helfant Messier, Anthony Libasci, Louis Cortese, Faith Marie Messier, Ann Lewis, Alvin LaBar, Emma Jones, **Bernie Boylan**

Church of Saint Lawrence

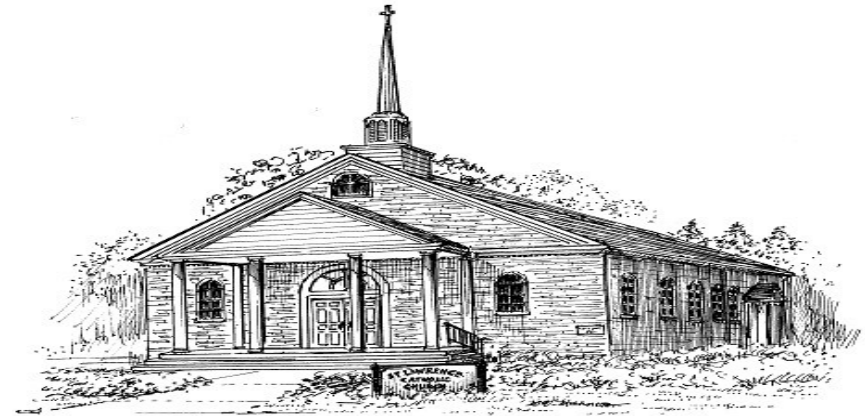
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Rev. Walter J Benn, Pastor

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Email: saintlawrence@verizon.net

[Website: saint-Lawrence-church.org](http://Website:saint-Lawrence-church.org)



Mass Schedule: Saturday Evenings @ 5PM; Sunday Morning @ 9:30AM; Holy Days @ 9AM, 12 Noon & 7PM; Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday @ 9AM, Thursday Readings & Communion Distribution Only.

Eucharistic Adoration: Wednesday @ 9:30AM – 11AM

Confessions: Saturday @ 3:30PM - 4:30PM @ Church. Via Appointment - Contact Rectory

Holy Name Society: Meets Monthly; Second Monday @ 7PM @ Ceader Hall (Sept – May)

Altar Rosary Society: Meets Monthly; Second Thursday @ 7PM (Sept – May)

Lay Carmelite Community of St. Teresa of Jesus of Los Andes: Meets Monthly, First Saturday Following the 9AM Mass in Ceader Hall.

Marthas & Marys Ministry: Faith based group, meets First Friday @ 11:30AM @ Ceader Hall

Weddings: Contact Rectory for Details. Plans Preferred Minimum 6 Months in Advance.

Parish PREP Classes & New Parishoners: Contact Rectory via Phone or email.

Rectory Office: Mon-Fri @ 9:30AM – 12 noon

Pastor's Corner July 5 2026

On this weekend, when we celebrate our nation's 250th Birthday, there is great and uncomfortable irony in this weekend's Scripture Readings. Why? Because they all speak of how we are to understand the worth, the purpose, and the responsibility of "Power". Lest anyone misunderstand the teaching within them, they point to God, the Father, as the sole and only example of how, when, and especially why He uses His Divine power.

When God the Father uses His power, it is always to create; to **give** Life; to **protect Life**; to **promote** Life; to **defend** everything about Life because as it comes to us from Him, it is ***pure***; it is ***precious***; it is ***innocent***; and if used as He intended, it is certainly ***never a threat***. If you remember the story of Creation, as God creates each thing, He gives Man/Woman the task of naming them. In the ancient Near East, that was understood to mean that God gave them power over those things and those persons. What mankind quickly chose to ignore was that, in sharing a portion of His power with humanity, humanity was supposed to emulate the Father's attitude toward the use of that *power*.

As children, did we not misunderstand the "power" or authority our parents shared with us when they "put us in charge of our sisters & brothers" while they were away from home, to handle a short-term but urgent chore that would take them away from the house? Inevitably, when they returned, they found some unhappy campers, in the persons of our siblings, who thought we had misused that authority in some form or fashion. *Power* is very dangerous, because it can become intoxicating. It offers a false sense of personal worth and security. Why? Because one possesses something that others do not have; the person with *Power* can now influence circumstances to their benefit or penalize those whom they are indifferent about or dislike. It takes a person of character to handle *Power* correctly. Such a person must always strive to be honest with themselves,

transparent before others, humble, and, above all, understand that they aren't the source of that power... only the Father is! They must understand that the Father shares this great and powerful gift with us, not because we deserve it, but because others need us to use it for their welfare. This requires something very important. Regardless of whether they are 12 years old or 72 years old, no one will handle *Power* correctly if they don't stay close to the Father and strive to become familiar with the Father's Heart.

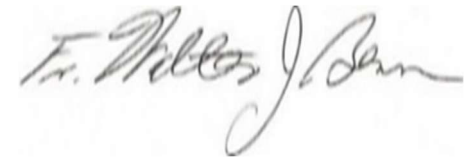
From the beginning of civilization, humanity has entrusted the leadership of their tribe or kingdom to one person: a Chief, a King, a Queen. They loved and were devoted to those leaders, whose leadership was characterized by their efforts to be their Father or Mother. They became disenchanted or resistant to the leader who was indifferent to their needs at best; rebellious to those who betrayed their loyalty or legitimate needs at worst; all of which brings us to what we celebrate this weekend, the 250th Anniversary of the "Great Experiment!

I forget how American historians precisely characterized our National History, so forgive me if I misstate it, but it goes something like this: Through its heroic and humble Revolution, America became an independent Country; but it was only after the awful, the violent, and terrifying experience of the Civil War that we became a Nation. It took us over one hundred years to decide how to use our blessings (a.k.a. Freedoms). In order to do that, every State would have to surrender powers which, in some self-righteous way, they refused to sacrifice. Until 1860, each State hoarded its traditions, culture, and economy through its State laws, and no one, NO ONE, had the right to challenge them. As we all know, the issue of *Slavery* was the moral elephant in the National room. To a certain extent, the Civil War became a gigantic moral intervention on a National Scale. The time had come when we needed to decide whether we were going to see ourselves as Americans, instead of

Pennsylvanians, or Georgians; Ohioans or Virginians; New Yorkers or Texans. To do that, the citizens of each State would need to surrender some of their state *Powers* for the general welfare of the whole; i.e., the "*Country*". The American Civil War was about *Power*; *Power*-abused, withheld, or hoarded; or power shared, which would be shared for every person: not just men, but women; not just Christians, but Jews; not just for Caucasians, but every person of every Race, creed, and culture. You can be certain that a lot of White, Christian men, in both the North and the South, had difficulty in taking this next step in moving from national adolescence to moral adulthood. And all of us know why. It meant choosing to share *Power*, i.e., God's blessings, with others.

Without doubt, the United States of America remains the *Great Experiment*! *Like the Chosen People* of 3,000 + years ago, we are no better than any other person or people God has created. But just as the Father chose the Israelites to reveal to the peoples of the world that there is one God; that He wants them to return to Him for eternity, and out of love will help them to learn how to do it; He also chose the people who initially settled in North America to embrace this cultural and political task. At the time, they just didn't know it. Despite our many flaws and sins, I believe that the Father chose the peoples of the United States {which includes every generation: past, present & future} to show the peoples of the world how to be a righteous people, a people who decide to use the powers they will inherit, and then use them only for others and not for themselves; a people who insist on equality, respect and justice for all who are a part of their Country; a people who reflect the Peace of the Father. George Washington set the tone early when, after his term as our first President had come to a close, he refused to accept additional nominations that would surely have introduced an unhealthy form of leadership, not in harmony with a democracy.

We are God's sign to the peoples of the World of what they can become if they use the *Powers* the Father has given them; courageously and selflessly using them for each other. Unfortunately, at this time in our history, I don't think America offers the same message to the peoples of the world, which previous generations projected. At our core, we are still a good people, but we have allowed the Shallow-Ones, the people who betray the *Power* which the Father has entrusted them, to redefine the definition of what America is. Our present culture, which promotes the lie that America is all about instant wealth, employment, fabulous lifestyle, and no personal accountability, is just that; a Lie. This false message is promoted in our entertainment and sports industries, among many of our political leaders, and across the platforms of both Parties. On this 250th Anniversary of our Country, let us pray for ourselves. "*We the People*" are America. As people of many faiths, we strive to be true to our Creator. When we pray, let us always begin with words of gratitude for all that the Father has ever done for us, given us, provided for us, and forgiven us. Then, in humility, but with the confidence which a child has in the love of her/his parent, ask Him to give us the grace to return the beauty, the moral strength, the spiritual direction of His **Holy Spirit** to our Country. If He is anything, the Father is a patient God Your brother in Christ,



Collections: June 28 Parish @ \$2920 Peter's Pence @ \$164, Candles @ \$117. Thank You!!

Special Collection: Campaign for Human Development, July 11-12