

July 19, 2026 – Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday – July 18th – Vigil Mass –

5:00PM Intentions of Steven Danford (Dad)

Sunday – July 19th – Mass is Streamed Live –

9:30AM Intentions of Betty Steinberg – Birthday – (Dolores Bonk)

Monday – July 20th – St. Apollinaris, Bishop & Martyr

9:00AM Intentions of Helfant Family (Ann Lewis)

Tuesday – July 21st – Weekday – St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest

9:00AM World Peace

Wed. – July 22nd – Weekday – St. Mary Magdalene

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

Thurs. – July 23rd – Weekday – St. Bridget, Religious

9:00AM Reading & Communion Distribution Only

Friday – July 24th – Weekday – St. Sharbel Makhluf, Priest

9:00AM Christine Myers (Dolores Bonk)

Saturday – July 25th – Weekday – St. James, Apostle

9:00AM Bernie Boylan (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

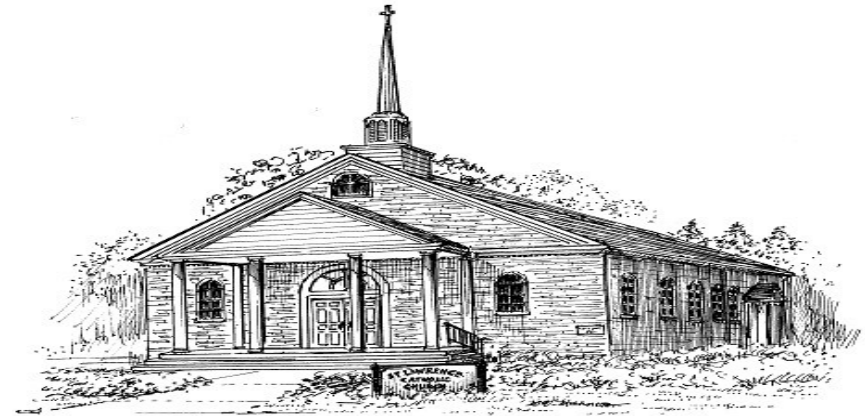
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Rev. Walter J Benn, Pastor

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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 19, 2026

In today's Gospel, we are treated to one of Our Lord's classic parables, the *Parable of the Sower*! It seems simple and straight forward, but it is amazing how most of us struggle with it. This happens because, like the Apostles-in-Training, most of us focus on the wrong thing; namely the **seed**. Like a magician who draws our attention away from the real magic by trying to misdirect us we have a tendency to follow the Sower and the action of his tossing seed, when in fact the key to this parable is that the seed lands on **ground**, specifically the different types of ground: the ground on the path which has been pounded into a semi-hard surface by everyone's feet; the rocky ground; the ground already occupied by aggressive thorn-bushes; and finally the "rich soil" which doesn't labor with any of the impossible conditions listed above. The primary reason why the seed can flourish in the "rich soil" is that the rich soil is receptive; it's not competing with any of the impossible conditions created by the other kinds of grounds. Because the Apostles sense that many of the people are failing to grasp Our Lord's teachings, they understandably ask Him why He continues to speak to them in parables. Our Lord explains why. The hearts of many of the people are poor

soil, and they are responsible for those conditions. If they listen to Our Lord with preconceptions of who God is, or what he expects of them or should expect of them, if their hearts are hard with intolerance of others, selfishness, arrogance, a proclivity to judge others or an unwillingness to forgive others, an unwillingness to risk total honesty about themselves and most especially refuse to be humble enough to admit they need God's forgiveness, then God's seed will never have a chance to take root in their hearts. Jesus can sow the seeds that contain the truth of God's love; until they are blue in the face and they will never get it. Every good farmer will tell you that farming begins with good soil and that he can never presume he has inherited good soil when he takes over a farm. Many times, the soil of his farm must be nurtured: rocks must be removed; trees and invasive bushes must be cut away; he must nourish the soil by manuring or fertilizing, and just like us, the soil needs to be groomed by how and where he plows. There are times when he recognizes that the soil is tired, and that he needs to let it rest for a year by not planting anything. As you can tell, this is labor intensive. The farmer must work and work hard so that when it is time to plant, the seed he sows will fall on ground that is *receptive for it*.

The same is true of us in our relationship with Our Lord. If we are going to become close to Him and become comfortable with the seed of His teachings, we must work all our lives at preparing the soil of our hearts. Farming is not a five to ten, Monday through Friday job. The soil, the weather and the seasons dictate the life of the farmer, not the farmer's conveniences. So how do we prepare the soil of our spiritual hearts? We do that by spending time with Our Lord each day in prayer; by seeking Him out in the *Sacrament of Reconciliation*, so that He can remove the spiritual rocks and thorns in the soil of our hearts, and most especially, by seeking Him out each Sabbath in the mystery of the Eucharist. We also prepare the soil of our spiritual heart by striving to be humble, forgiving and selfless persons in our relationship with the people in our lives and community. When we do these things, it will only be then that the seed of Our Lord's teachings will be able to take root in our hearts, and "*produce fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold*". Your brother in Christ



Collections: July 12 Parish @ \$2065.
Campaign for Human Development @ \$195 . Thank You!!



Women's Catholic Conference: October 24. Altar Rosary Society will again be organizing a group to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown. Flyers in vestibule. Registration deadline is August 17. Questions. Contact Mariann Helfant @ 908-892-8663 or principal45@gmail.com



Presentation for Cruise, July 23 @ Ceader Hall @ 10AM-12:30PM.