

August 16, 2026 – Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday – Aug 15th – Vigil Mass –

5:00PM Intentions of Mary Scolavino – Birthday (Dolores Bonk)

Sunday – Aug 16th– Mass is Streamed Live –

9:30AM Intentions of Rex & Mariann Helfant (A Friend:>)

Monday – Aug 17th – Weekday –

9:00AM Sanctity of Life & New Born Children

Tuesday – Aug 18th – Weekday –

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

Wed. – Aug 19th - Weekday – St. John Eudes, Priest

9:00AM Intentions of Steven Danford (Dolores Bonk)

Thurs. – Aug 20th – Weekday – St. Bernard, Abbot & Doctor of the Church

9:00AM Reading & Communion Distribution Only

Friday – Aug 21st – Weekday – St. Pius X, Pope

9:00AM World Peace

Saturday – Aug 22nd – Weekday – The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9:00AM Intentions of Dolores Bonk (Senior Family)

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, Elizabeth Ohle**

Church of Saint Lawrence

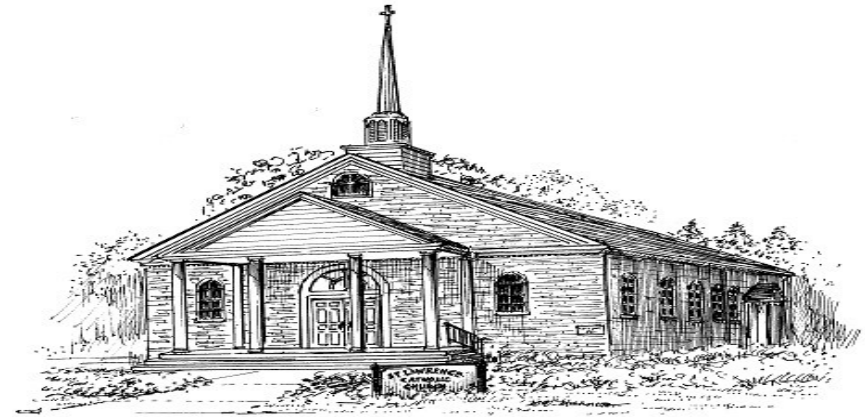
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Rev. Walter J Benn, Pastor

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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 Minimun 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 August 16, 2026

Today's Gospel recalls one of the rare times in which Our Lord chooses to travel through the pagan territory of *Tyre* and *Sidon*. These were two cities located in the far north of Israel along the Mediterranean Coast. Background: After the Israelites entered into the Promised Land and conquered its inhabitants, their land was doled out to each of the 12 tribes of Israel. Tyre and Sidon among the cities given to the Tribe of Ture & Asher. Tyre became a very prosperous city, becoming a commercial rival of Jerusalem. Eventually, like each of the ten tribes of the Northern Kingdom, they became indifferent and compromising in their religious beliefs; it only took a little over 2 centuries before these ten tribes were conquered by neighboring Pagan kingdoms, who lost no time in spreading their pagan cults among these defeated people. To the Jews of the Southern Kingdom, which was anchored by Jerusalem, they were seen as apostates; people who had betrayed their covenant with God. To the Jews of the region around Jerusalem, these people were dead and they did not wish to have anything to do with them. It is an understatement, to say that the feelings between the two peoples were **Hard**.

Regardless of his reason, that Jesus would choose to travel there was extraordinary. And for a devout Jew such as St. Matthew, to include this story in his Gospel is even more extraordinary. What is

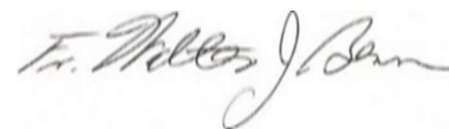
the explanation for all of this? Many scholars believe, that in his heart, St. Matthew knew that to perpetuate this prejudice and hatred was counter to the caliber of Love which Our Lord called his followers to live by. Initially, St. Matthew worked very hard to attract his fellow Jews to embrace Jesus as the Messiah; that Jesus was an expression of God's faithfulness to them as much as they, in their faithfulness and devotion, has been faithful to God. It shouldn't be surprising that these faith-filled Jewish converts to Christianity, presumed that all converts to Christianity would also embrace the spiritual beliefs and traditions of Judaism. They weren't opposed to non-Jews being attracted to Jesus Christ; they just presumed that they needed to also embrace the spirituality of Judaism. In time, the numbers of Gentile converts were outnumbering the Jewish Christians, and they came to feel that being required to embrace all of the traditions of Judaism was unreasonable. This in turn, created more than a little tension within their communities, including St. Matthew's.

Today's Gospel, shows us a St. Matthew's efforts to address this issue among his parishioners, by including this story of how Jesus chose to travel to pagan territory. Notice, initially Jesus is reticent to respond to the women whose daughter is possessed by demon. When she repeats her plea for help, Jesus' response reflects the coldness of the times, "*It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs*". As only a mother could, the women

persists; "*Please Lord, even the dogs eat the scraps which fall from the table*". How could our Lord resist, the woman's pleas. She had just shot Him with both barrels: a mother's genuine **Love**, and her genuine **Faith**.

My sisters and brothers, how often have we found ourselves in such positions? And I am not talking about being in desperate need of someone's help; **I'm talking about responding to someone's need whom we resent or dislike or feel is unworthy of anyone's help because of what they have brought on themselves**. As you pray over this story and the example which Our Lord gives us; let us do what we probably don't want to do or be asked, and that is to ask Our Lord to never hesitate to love every person laboring in any kind of circumstance. Let us ask Him to always help us to choose the *doing*; and let Him worry about that person's worthiness or unworthiness. Pray for me to do this, as much as I am calling you to do this. Our Lord will not waste your time.

Your brother in Christ,



Collections: Aug 9th Parish @ \$1807, Catholic University @ \$176. Thank You!!

Knights of Columbus: Meeting Aug 17 & Aug 19 @ 7:30PM @ Ceader Hall



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



Bible Study: begins Sept. 16, held on Tuesdays @ 10AM-12 Noon @ Ceader Hall. **Registration deadline was Aug 9.** Fee \$40. Forms + details in vestibule + Web Site.

Coffee & Donuts: **revised date** is Sunday, Aug 16 following the 9:30AM Mass @ Ceader Hall