

**December 24-25, 2025 – *Nativity of the Lord - Christmas***



**Wednesday – Dec 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve – Vigil Masses**

4PM Christmas Vigil Mass: Intentions of Helfant Family  
6PM Christmas Vigil Mass: Ceader Family (Parish Community)

**Thursday – Dec 25<sup>th</sup> – Nativity of the Lord – Christmas Day**

9:30AM Ceader Family (Altar Rosary Society)

**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, Gerry Primavera



**Church of Saint Lawrence**

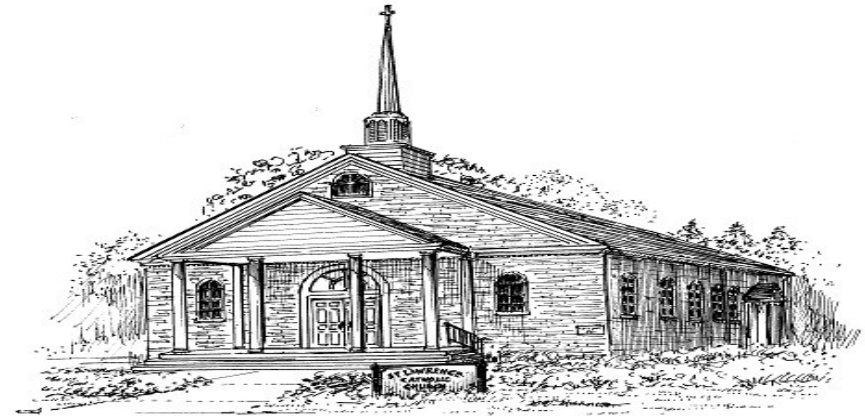
345 Elmwood Lane  
Riegelsville, PA 18077

**Rev. Walter J Benn, Pastor**

Rectory: 610-749-2684

Email: [saintlawrence@verizon.net](mailto: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 December 25, 2025

After Easter, there is no more significant event in human history than **Christmas!** And like all significant events, Christmas is pregnant with parallel stories, characters, and events. All of them contribute to the significance of Christmas for humanity, their relationship with humanity's loving God, and each person's journey towards their *Father-Creator* and Eternity. The significance of Christmas can only be appreciated when all those stories, characters, and events are taken as a whole, including the great 1,500+ year history of the Jewish People, all of which took place before Our Lord was born. It is wrong to treat Salvation History as a buffet, where we choose one story or person and ignore the related persons, stories, and events.

So, how do we approach this great Holy Day as well as the Holy Season which follows this Holy Day.....this *Christmas* Day? I would suggest that a helpful way to understand the significance of Christmas is to reflect on the notion of **Visitation**, specifically, the acts of **Visiting** and **being Visited**. During Advent, we reflected on the Angel Gabriel's **visit** to Zechariah, who was preparing to lead the people in worship in the Temple. Gabriel relayed God's request to him and his wife, Elizabeth, to accept the pregnancy of the future John the Baptist. We reflected on Gabriel's **visit** to the future Blessed Mother, making a similar request, asking if she would accept an inexplicable pregnancy for God... an *Immaculate Conception*. We reflected on Gabriel's **visit** to St. Joseph, when he explained that there was no need for them to divorce, because Mary's pregnancy was not a matter of infidelity, but of God; that this was an *Immaculate*

*Conception*. Today, we reflect on the *Nativity* or *Birth* of Our Lord.

Once again, **visitations (three of them)** figure prominently in this Sacred event. The first is when "*a heavenly host of angels*" **visit** a group of shepherds, who were shepherding their sheep during the night, and announce a significant event. The second **visitation** occurs when the shepherds **see** the Holy Family in a stable outside Bethlehem. A few weeks from today, we will celebrate a third **visitation** event, namely, the *Epiphany of Our Lord*, when the three Magi **visit** the Holy Family. Each of these visitations is significant. However, for some reason, I find myself focusing on the visitation of the Holy Family by the shepherds. Each of these "**visits**" wasn't one-way. They involved people of faith who believed in God, that God loves everyone He creates, and that He expects them to participate in this love relationship that He seeks to enter into with them. Why? Because He is a God who will be faithful to the promises He made to His children in the past, as well as to those He will make in their future. They are free to say "No"; to walk away from His invitation. They were also free to pursue this relationship by getting involved. The shepherds were simple, uneducated, and unsophisticated men, but they were also grounded in their Jewish faith about God and His love for His *Chosen People*.

My sisters and brothers, whether you realized it or not, God has probably **visited** you in several ways, on several occasions. It could have been under the simplest of circumstances, but no doubt it got your attention, because it challenged you to consider how seriously you take God's love for you. On this Christmas Day and in the coming weeks, as we focus on how eager God is to draw us back to Him, let us ask ourselves

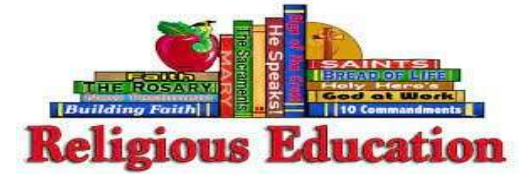
how seriously we take his invitations. Just because the Angel Gabriel isn't going to visit us and look us in the eye, doesn't mean that God hasn't **visited** us, nor that God won't continue to **visit** you. He will speak to you through the example of your spouse, children, friends, co-workers, events, something you see or hear in the News or on TV, even in your daydreams. During this Christmas Season, pray... talk to God; better still, shut up and listen to God. Remember the responses of Zechariah, Joseph, Mary, the Shepherds, and the Three Magi when Gabriel visited them. Initially, they were unsettling.

Nevertheless, each of them was willing to listen with a humble heart, and because they did, God enabled them to embrace their role in His *Plan*. They would never be the same. Neither will you, if you have the humility to be open to His **visits**! Your brother in Christ,



**Altar Rosary Society:** annual **Christmas Dinner** @ Springtown Inn, January 9 2026. Sign-up sheets in vestibule.

**Regina Academy Open House:** at St. John's, January 14, 2026 8:30AM – 10:30AM, PreK through Grade 8. Refreshments served. Check it out:>



**Religious Education Financial Assistance:** forms available in vestibule for Fall 2025 & Spring 2026. Provided by the Ceader Trust Trustees. Time sensitive, act now. Deadline March 1 2026.

**Mass Intentions 2026:** will begin posting the week of Dec 28. If you have a list available, please provide to parish office sooner rather than later. Will do our best to accommodate date request; however, a need may arise for a slight change to your original request. Please be understanding:> Individual requests throughout the year remain on going.

**Weekly Contribution Envelopes 2026:** are available for pick up in church. Please make the time to do so. Envelopes not picked up by February 1 will be discarded and removed from the 2027 envelope list. No changes can be made to the 2026 product which was completed in October 2025.

**From the Editor's Desk:** Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all. Thank you for the privilege of providing parish services throughout this my eighth year. TCS