

**January 18, 2026 – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Saturday – Jan 17<sup>th</sup> – Vigil Mass**

5:00PM Intentions of Steven Danford (Dad- Nick Danford)

**Sunday – Jan 18<sup>th</sup> – Mass is Streamed Live**

9:30AM Leo Zavatone (Terri Olimpo)

**Monday – Jan 19<sup>th</sup> – Weekday –**

9:00AM Intentions of Bernie Boylan (Dolores Bonk)

**Tuesday – Jan 20<sup>th</sup> – Weekday – St. Fabian, Pope/Martyr; St. Sebastian, Martyr**

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

**Wed. – Jan 21<sup>st</sup> – Weekday – St. Agnes, Virgin & Martyr**

9:00AM Protection of the Unborn

**Thurs. – Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> – Weekday – Day of Prayer, Protection of the Unborn**

9:00AM Readings & Communion Distribution Only

**Friday – Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> – Weekday – St. Vicent, Deacon/Martyr**

**9:00AM** **NO Mass Today** – Readings & Communion Distribution Only

**Saturday – Jan 24<sup>th</sup> – Weekday – St. Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor of the Church**

9:00AM Intentions of Bernie Boylan – Hospital – (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, Gerry Primavera, **Bernie Boylan**

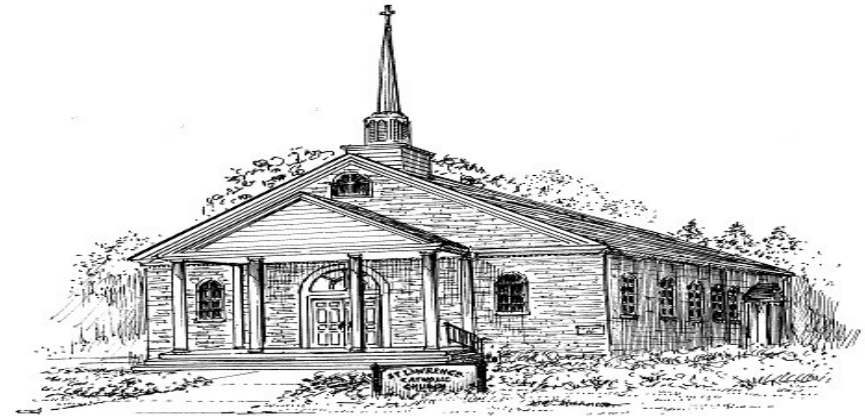
**Church of Saint Lawrence**

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Riegelsville, PA 18077

**Rev. Walter J Benn, Pastor**

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[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 January 18, 2026

Upon seeing Jesus, John the Baptist remarked, *“I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and remain upon him. I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me. ‘On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain; he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God.”*

My sisters and brothers, for many centuries, the People of Israel have been waiting and watching for the Messiah. From time to time, their understanding of **who** the Messiah would be, **how** they would recognize him, and **what** he would do within Israel would be debated. By the time of Our Lord's Birth, the majority of Jews believed that the primary consequence of the Messiah's arrival for them would be manifested in His liberating Israel from the control of the Roman Empire, and that eventually, the Messiah would lead Israel back to its former glory days as the political, financial, and military super power of the civilized world. In falling into this mindset, their understanding of their relationship with God shifted from the spiritual to the superficial world of the temporal. Their efforts to be good Jews were directed more toward impressing the Messiah when He arrived, as if their good impression would move God to reward them with a better quality of life and greater status in the world's kingdoms. Lest we be too judgmental of our Jewish brothers and sisters, we must be humble and honest enough to recognize that many Christians, including Catholic Christians, have fallen into the same trap.

We are in a Love-relationship with God; we are not in a political or business relationship with God. Like contracts, political/business relationships are based on **obligation**. The core of the relationship that God seeks with us is based on His *Love* for us. It is a love offered freely, unconditionally, and without obligation. If we are persons who are not centered on ourselves, we will recognize His love; we will be inspired by His Love and, by instinct, want to love Him back by sharing that love with those in our lives.

This is why Jesus, as Messiah, came into the world under the circumstances in which He did. He was born into a blue-collar family, from a town of no particular status, with no formal education, including within His own religious traditions. On the surface, there is no way he could or should have been confused about being the Messiah based on the qualifications and identifying characteristics of the future Messiah embraced by His people; yet He was. Why? Because Love is what defines God! Love is characterized by humble acts of compassion, selflessness, generosity, patience, forgiveness, the willingness to ask for forgiveness, and courage.

Were the royal officials in Jerusalem, the majority of their religious leaders, and the wealthy of Israel drawing the attention of their people **to** God by inspiring them with these virtues in their personal lives? This is why Jesus had no intention of having His Messiahship confused by any association with the messianic expectations of his day. Jesus trusted in the goodness of His people. It might take longer, but He trusted in their essential goodness to recognize what is authentic. How? By the love which he would offer them

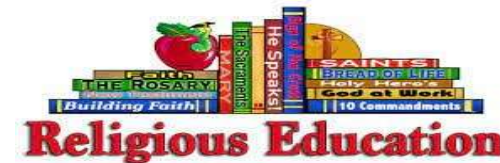
and which they would witness within Him.....all the way to the Cross. This is why today's Gospel concludes with John's words, "*Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God.*" As we begin each of the days that God gives us in our life, we should begin it by asking ourselves, will the people that will be a part of that day.....our day, be able to say "*Now I have seen and testify that he is the Son of God*", because of what they have seen of Jesus in me?

Your brother in Christ,

F. Miles J. Benn

**Collections:** January 11 Parish @ \$1970,  
Candles @ \$86, Catholic Relief @ \$235. Thank  
You.

**Need Your Help If You Can:** we are in need of Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors. Advise Fr. Benn. Thank you!!



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

### 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.



**Bingo Night @ St. John The Baptist,**  
Friday Jan 30<sup>th</sup>. Doors open @ 6PM.  
Gaming starts @ 7PM. Admission \$30pp  
or \$35pp @ door. BYOB, Ditto your own  
snacks. Age 18 + years only Please.

Holy Name Society THANK YOU: to the anonymous Donor's generosity which is greatly appreciated & needed.



**Sincere Gratitude:** anonymous Donner's generosity contributing to our Parish over the Christmas Season via "Jenny Montgomery Scout" distribution. Given the nature of the donation this is our way of acknowledgement of receipt and expressing our heartfelt gratitude.