**July 20, 2025 – Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Saturday – July 19th** – **Vigil Mass**

5:00PM Kathlene Carroll (John/Linda Dolan)

**Sunday – July 20th – Mass is Streamed Live**

9:30AM Intentions of Joseph Bonk (Dolores Bonk)

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

9AM: Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

**Tuesday – July 22nd –Weekday – St. Mary Magdalene**

9AM**:** Texas Flood Victims and Families (Parish Community)

**Wednesday – July 23rd – Weekday – St. Bridget, Religious**

9:00AM: Texas Flood Victims & Family (Parish Community)

**Thursday – July 24th – Weekday – St. Sharbel Makhlouf, Priest**

9:00AM: Readings & Communion Distribution Only

**Friday – July 25th – Weekday – St. James, Apostle**

9:00AM: World Peace (Parish Community)

**Saturday – July 26th – Weekday – St. Joachim & Anne, Parents of the Blessed Mother**

9:00AM Intentions of Dolores Bonk – Birthday (Teresa Rapatski)

**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

Please Update the Above Prayers If Needed. Contact Parish Office

Church of Saint Lawrence Rev. Walter J Benn, Pastor

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Riegelsville, PA 18077 Email: saintlawrence@verizon.net

*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 Thurs. @ 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! July 20, 2025

One does not need to be a Scripture scholar to recognize the theme of this weekend’s Scripture Readings; namely, *Hospitality.* God uses the profound human experience of hospitality*,* to remind each of us when we were the beneficiaries of another’s act of love, when they received us into their home, or at their table or with their gift. In offering us the warmth of their hospitality, they wanted us to know that they loved us and treasured us; that we had a place in their heart. Our Lord also wanted to impress upon us, that as recipients of such acts of love, we have a responsibility to share it…to pass it on. It is a contradiction to hoard love; rather, by its nature, *Love* is always meant to be shared. God’s love has an in-exhaustible shelf life. When we love people with the love with which Jesus loved, we need not fear that we will suffer some kind of poverty or love-depredation. This stands out particularly through the examples of Abraham & Sarah, and Mary & Martha.

 Abraham & Sarah are elderly; and they are steeped in the desert code of hospitality, which teaches that when a person comes to your home or tent with a need, you have an obligation to do your best to help them meet that need. It doesn’t matter whether they are a friend, neighbor, relative or stranger; **one has a responsibility for them**. There should be no long face, no grumpiness, no hesitation. One should not add to the dilemma of the one in need, by causing them to regret having approached you or me with their need. As the first Reading unfolds, we see how wonderfully, both Abraham & Sarah respond to the needs of these strangers who come out of the mid-day heat of the desert seeking relief. These two elders, whom their culture teaches should be given great respect and deference, take on the posture of servants. Abrham sees to it that their feet are bathed; that Sarah is asked to prepared a great meal, which includes the slaughtering of one of their valuable cattle. He extends the courtesy of listening to their every word. Whether Abraham & Sarah realize it, they are extending to these strangers the love of God, and they do it without hesitation or regret. Because these strangers have had the love God extended to them, we see how, in love, God returns that love in the form of Sarah’s future pregnancy. Love begets love. One does not offer it out of a sense of obligation. Rather, love is offered…. unconditionally.

 When we turn to the Gospel, we see that Mary & Martha provide a contrast to Abraham & Sarah. Without doubt, Mary & Martha are very good people; without doubt they love Our Lord and are eager to put that love into action; yet, they stumble a little in their efforts, especially Martha. In sharing this story, there is no doubt that St. Luke is impressing upon his readers that although Martha is being extremely conscientious about being a good host, Mary’s priorities are more accurate in that she chooses to focus all of her time listening to Our Lord. I’m sure, that over time, Martha came to appreciate Mary’s choice.

 My sisters and brothers, once again Our Lord teaches us that ***understanding*** God’s love is not important; rather, God’s love is a matter of ***remembering***. God’s love is not a matter of being a rocket scientist; rather, it is a matter of being willing to be self-less, to be other-centered. Only a genuine person will be able to make that choice and know, that in the long term, he/she will never regret it. The source of those acts of love, will make sure of that.

**Collections:** July 13th Parish @ $2253, Human Development @ $124. Thank You.

 ***Becoming Catholic*!**

Becoming a Catholic is a big decision, but one that hundreds of people make each year in the Philadelphia Area.If you or someone you know has this interest, please encourage them to contact Fr. Benn through the Parish Office at [610] 749-2684 or email him at saintlawrence@verizon.net, so that he can assist them in making this decision. Here is some basic info about RCIA program at St. Lawrence:

* Classes run September 9, 2025- > March 31, 2026
* Classes are conducted in the Church Hall on Tuesday evenings 7-8 PM.
* No previous knowledge of any kind is required; all materials will be provided.

This year’s RCIA program will be closed to new applicants after **2025-09-20**

**Catholic Women’s Conference**: see handout.



**Saturday, July 26** following the 5PM Mass in Ceader Hall. All invited to this Free Parish Community event. Do your best to attend and share fellowship with some tasty food.

**175th Anniversary Celebration:** St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, Aug 2nd @ Riegelsville Borough Park, **Noon -4PM**. All invited. Family-friendly, Music, Food Truck, Dunk the Pastor, Bounce House and more. Bring your own lawn chair.