

June 1, 2025 – The Ascension Of The Lord

Saturday – May 31st – Vigil Mass

5:00PM Ray Heikel (Janice S)

Sunday – June 1st – Mass is Streamed Live –

9:30AM: Dolph & Stella Ell (Helfant Family)

Monday – June 2nd – Easter Weekday – St. Marcellinus & Peter, Martyrs

9AM: Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

Tuesday – June 3rd - Easter Weekday – St. Charles Lwanga & Companions, Martyrs

9AM: Intentions of Dilys Correia

Wednesday – June 4th – Easter Weekday –

9:00AM: Walter Bonk (Dolores Bonk)

Thursday – June 5th – Easter Weekday – St. Boniface, Bishop & Martyr

9:00AM: Readings & Communion Distribution Only

Friday – June 6th - Easter Weekday – St. Norbert, Bishop

9:00AM: Intentions of Janette Bonk (Dolores Bonk)

Saturday – June 7th – Easter Weekday –

9:00AM Souls in Purgatory (Helfant 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

Please Update the Above Prayers If Needed. Contact Parish Office

Church of Saint Lawrence

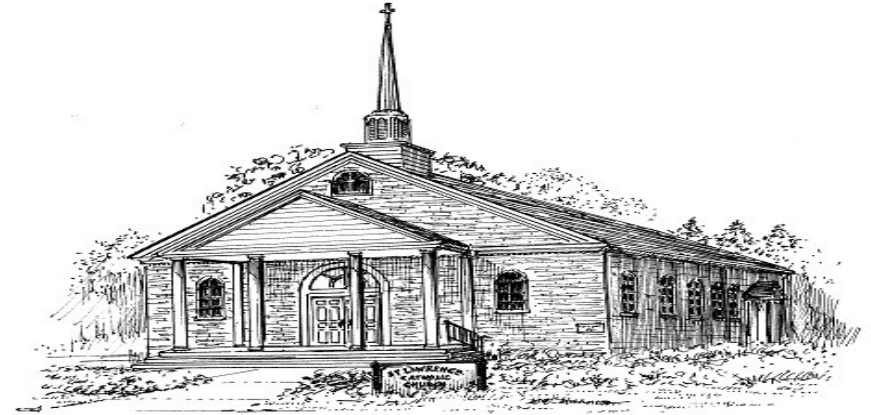
345 Elmwood Lane
Riegelsville, PA 18077

Rev. Walter J Benn, Pastor

Rectory: 610-749-2684

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! June 1, 2025

In this weekend's Scripture readings, we listen to the words of two men in the prime of their lives who are about to face violent deaths: St. Stephen, the first martyr of the Church, and Our Lord during His long prayer during the Last Supper. When we place ourselves in their sandals, we can appreciate that their words are filled with emotion because they are also filled with conviction and faith in God's goodness and love. To appreciate this, we must always keep in mind that at that time in history, virtually no one in the ancient world believed in eternal life; no one thought that the gods had any interest in sharing eternity with humans. While what Jesus taught about sharing eternity with God the Father was attractive, most thought it was preposterous. When the people of those centuries thought about the gods or God, they thought of them as *Creator*, not as *Parent*. Mankind was created to serve the purpose of the gods, not as their children preparing to return home.

This is what makes us as Christians so different. It is why our take on life in our flawed world is optimistic, even in the face of a continual stream of violence, death, tragedies, contradictions, and injustices. It is the reason why most Christians are risk-takers. It is why many, if not most, are educators, social workers, law enforcement, firefighters, EMTs, in the military, hard-working single parents, and in the many fields of healing such as

medicine, psychiatry, psychology, and their related studies such as therapists. This is why they volunteer as teacher's aids, coaches in youth sports, scouts, hospitality workers in hospitals, or invite ailing parents to live in their homes. This is not to say that they are perfect or without sin or that they "go to church" every sabbath. Many among them believe that they can live a painless Discipleship, one that can avoid any Calvaries.

Some may believe that this was an easy choice for Jesus to make {it wasn't}; however, no one can argue about Stephen's choice, as well as the choices that hundreds of thousands of Christians would make by embracing a life of compassion, generosity, humility and Love for those in their lives. They would suffer cruel martyrdoms, not because "they got caught" being a Christian, but because they risked publicly living their Christianity.

In very subtle ways, my brothers and sisters, we live in the same kind of world. We must not be discouraged by that. We must understand that our world's lack of values is why Our Lord called us to discipleship. Our Lord does not call us to be Judge, Jury, and Executioner, but He does call us to reject what is wrong and support what is right. The people in our lives, our Country, and our World need to be challenged when they are indifferent to those suffering from long-term poverty, a lack of equal opportunity to find employment, or their race or sexuality is

different from their own. Is not the patron saint of our parish, Saint Lawrence, a great example of this? This is not about Catholics or any Christian having an obligation to look for trouble. Still, the story of St. Stephen or of St. Lawrence challenges us not to water down our Catholicism to accommodate others. All of this requires us to be persons of daily prayer, the Eucharist, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation and stay close to one another as a spiritual family. Like the members of all families, we will never be free from disagreements or differences of priorities among one another, but we can have confidence that as the Father offered the clarity and strength of the Holy Spirit to the baby Church, so will He do for us; if, like Our Lord, St. Stephen, St. Lawrence and all of the wonderful Christian women, men and children who have preceded us, we strive to interiorize the Love of the Father within ourselves, as well as for others. Initially, it is scary and intimidating, but ultimately, it is liberating.

Your brother in Christ,



Collections: May 18 Parish @ \$2531, Catholic Foundation – E Giving @ \$4074 Catholic Home Missions @ \$490. May 25 Parish @ \$4849, Debt Prevention @ \$100, Candles @ \$90, Poor Box @ \$194, Missions @ \$120. Thank You.



Altar Rosary Trip to Philadelphia: Save the date Friday, June 20. Visiting: Old St. Mary's Church, Old St. Joseph's Church, Tour & Mass at the National Shrine of St. Rite of Cascia. Details will follow.

Coffee & Donuts: Sunday, June 8 following the 9:30AM Mass. All invited.



Annual Parish Dinner: Tuesday, June 24 @ La Bella Via, 41 Third Street, Phillipsburg, NJ. Cost \$20pp payable to: "The Holy Name Society", cash bar, soft drinks provided. RSVP by June 15. Forms in vestibule of Church.