

St. Lawrence Catholic Church

Home of the Mater Dei Community
Staffed by the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter
110 State Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101



December 21, 2025

MASS TIMES

Sunday: 7:30am, 9:00am, 6:00pm (Low), 10:30am (High)

Monday to Friday: 7:10am

Saturday: 9:00am

Wednesday and Friday: 6:30pm

CONFESIONS — Before each Mass

EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION

Sunday: 5:30 to 5:50pm Solemn with Benediction

Tuesday: 8 to 11:45am Solemn with Benediction

Friday: 5:30 to 6:25pm Simple Adoration except during Lent

Saturday: 8 to 8:45am Solemn with Benediction

MONTHLY DEVOTIONS

St. Jude: 3rd Wednesday, 5:30 to 7:30pm

Sacred Heart: 1st Friday, 5:30 to 7:30pm

DIVINE OFFICE — Daily except Monday

Lauds: 6:30am (Sunday)

Terce: 8am

None: Noon

Vespers: 5pm

Compline: 7pm (1st Friday)

Terce and None are recited privately on Sunday.

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

Rev. James Smith, FSSP	<i>Pastor</i>	fr.smith@stlawrence.cc
Rev. Cidrian Cortes, FSSP	<i>Assistant Pastor</i>	fr.cortes@stlawrence.cc
Rev. Ronald McCann, FSSP	<i>Assistant Pastor</i>	fr.mccann@stlawrence.cc
Mr. Paul Thomas May	<i>Music Director</i>	music@stlawrence.cc

Parish Office

contact@stlawrence.cc

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday to Saturday; 8:00am to 4:00pm

(717) 889-4217 • Dial x9 for Sacramental Emergency

TODAY

Sunday, December 21

- Sunday Socials organized by the Knights of Columbus
- Adult Catechism—12:15pm

UPCOMING

Tuesday, December 23

- Legion of Mary—6:30pm

Wednesday, December 24

- Vigil of the Nativity of Our Lord
- Mass of the Vigil of Christmas—7:10am
- Sung Prime with the Martyrology—8am
- First Vespers of Christmas—5pm
- Sung Matins of Christmas—9pm

Thursday, December 25

- Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord
- Solemn Midnight Mass—12midnight
- Mass of Christmas at Dawn—8am
- Solemn Orchestral Mass in the Day—10:30am
- Second Vespers of Christmas—5pm
- Parish Office Closed

Saturday, December 27

- Parish Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 31

- *Te Deum* after Vespers—Plenary Indulgence

Thursday, January 1, 2026

- Octave of the Nativity of Our Lord
- Holy Day Mass Times: 7:10am, 12:15pm, 6:30pm
- *Veni Creator Spiritus* before Masses—Plenary Indulgence

Monday, January 5, 2026

- Vigil of the Epiphany
- Blessing of Epiphany Water

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

- Feast of the Epiphany
- High Mass—6:30pm

January 7 to 14, 2026

- Priests visiting homes for Epiphany blessings

Friday, January 16, 2026

- Marriage Preparation Class

Saturday, January 17, 2026

- First Penance Interviews

Sunday, February 1, 2026

- Septuagesima Sunday

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

- Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

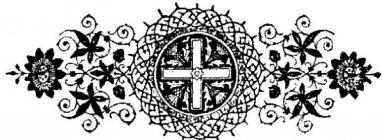
- Ash Wednesday

Sunday, February 22, 2026

- First Sunday of Lent

MASS INTENTIONS

Sun. Dec. 21	Fourth Sunday of Advent, I
7:30am	†Mary Frances Trudeau by John & Sharon Knowles
9:00am	<i>Pro Populo</i>
10:30am	†Eileen Ferguson
6:00pm	Elizabeth Kadar-Kallen by Fr. Smith
Mon. Dec. 22	Greater Feria of Advent, II
7:10am	Trey Keating by William & Stephanie Fonticoba
Tue. Dec. 23	Greater Feria of Advent, II
7:10am	†Mary Anne Frank by Joe & Joyce Mackin
Wed. Dec. 24	Vigil of The Nativity, I
7:10am	Mary Mediatrix of All Grace by Mr. & Mrs. Cunningham
Thu. Dec. 25	The Nativity of Our Lord, I
12midnight	Lexi & Jacob Pintar by Charles & Mary Zambito
8:00am	†Anna Terese Salva by Sean T. Pendrak
10:30am	<i>Pro Populo</i>
Fri. Dec. 26	St. Stephen, Deacon and Protomartyr, II
7:10am	George Gilmer by Lori Archer
6:30pm	†Anthony Ciucci by Andrew Oscilowski
Sat. Dec. 27	St. John the Evangelist, Apostle, II
9:00am	†Miriam Gorre by Kevin Ritchie
Sun. Dec. 28	Sunday in the Octave of Christmas, II
7:30am	†Anthony Giacobbe, Esq., by John E. Czarnomski
9:00am	†Christopherson Cortes by Celine Gudelski
10:30am	<i>Pro Populo</i>
6:00pm	Steve & Susan Grist



PARISH BOOKSTORE NOW OPEN—We are happy to report that the St. Lawrence Parish Bookstore is open and ready to provide parishioners with the opportunity to buy books, sacramentals, and devotional aids to strengthen their faith. We are very grateful to the dedicated team of volunteers, especially Art O’Dea and Nathan Kreider who have worked for months preparing the behind-the-scenes of the bookstore and planning for its future. We especially look forward to cooperating with parishioners who make art and sacramentals to provide them for sale at the bookstore. Those interested can call Art and Nathan. They can be reached by emailed bookstore@stlawrence.cc. All proceeds will support the parish.

December hours: Every Sunday, **8:45am to 1pm**

Location: Parish Center Basement, via State Street entrance.

- Biographies
- Theology
- Children’s saints books
- Hand missals
- New and used books
- Scapulars

Advertising in the Bulletin

advertising@stlawrence.cc	Nathan Kreider
altarlinens@stlawrence.cc	Kelly Jones
Bookstore	bookstore@stlawrence.cc
	Art O’Dea
Choir & Choristers	Practice weekly—music@stlawrence.cc..... Paul Thomas May
Church Cleaning	Rotates weekly—clean@stlawrence.cc..... Kristin Patterson
CCD: Sunday Catechism, K-12	Weekly—dre@stlawrence.cc..... Dr. Phillip Cuccia
Confraternity of Christian Mothers	Monthly—mothers@stlawrence.cc Pamela Kole
Confraternity of St. Peter	csp@stlawrence.cc..... Joseph Cunningham
Events Coordinators	events@stlawrence.cc..... Kris Keck
Flower Guild	flowers@stlawrence.cc
	Fr. McCann
Friday Education Program	K-12—fridayeducation@stlawrence.cc..... Dawn Forbeck
Greeters	greeters@stlawrence.cc
	Sharon Kaercher
Girls Sodality	Ages 9-14—girlssodality@stlawrence.cc..... Rebecca Mack
Guild of St. Stephen	Altar Servers
	altarboys@stlawrence.cc
Holy Name Society	Monthly—holynname@stlawrence.cc
	Jamison Jones
Knights of Columbus	Monthly—knights@stlawrence.cc
	Malakye Wilson
Legion of Mary	Weekly—legionofmary@stlawrence.cc
	Jerome Hall
Library	library@stlawrence.cc
	Sharon Knowles
Meal Train	mealtrain@stlawrence.cc
	Elizabeth Firoozmand
Parking Ambassador	parking@stlawrence.cc
	Dan O’Leary
Prayer Chain	prayers@stlawrence.cc
	Fr. Cortes
Pro-Life Group	Monthly—prolife@stlawrence.cc
	Kris Keck
Sunday CCD	Grades K-12, Weekly—dre@stlawrence.cc
	Dr. Phil Cuccia
Tuesday Adoration	Tuesdays
	tuesdayadoration@stlawrence.cc
Ushers	ushers@stlawrence.cc
	John Osuch
Wedding Coordinator	weddingcoordinator@stlawrence.cc..... Bridget Forbeck
Young Adult Group	Ages 18-35, Monthly—youngadults@stlawrence.cc. Fr. Cortes
Youth Group	Ages 13-18, Monthly—yg@stlawrence.cc....Joelle Riethmiller

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SECOND COLLECTION—There will be a second collection this week for the Building Fund.

DEC. 25: CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE—The schedule for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are as follows. (Note: There will be no 6:30pm Mass on Christmas Eve or on New Year's Eve both of which fall on Wednesday this year.)

Christmas Eve

7:10am	Mass of the Vigil of Christmas
8am	Sung Prime with Martyrology
5pm	First Vespers of Christmas
9pm	Sung Matins of Christmas

Christmas Day

12midnight	Solemn Midnight Mass
8am	Mass of Christmas at Dawn
10:30am	Solemn Orchestral Mass in the Day
5pm	Second Vespers of Christmas



DEC. 27: CHRISTMAS PARTY—The annual parish Christmas party will be on Saturday, Dec. 27, starting after the 9am Mass, with caroling in the Aula Magna (Room 315 in the Parish Center) and ending with Vespers at 5pm. Please RSVP via this link <https://bit.ly/slc-christmas-25> and sign up if you are bringing food to share or can help. Please contact christmasparty@stlawrence.cc for questions.

DEC. 31: SUNG TE DEUM BY FRANZ LISZT—In gratitude for 2025, the choir will sing Austrian composer Franz Liszt's setting of the *Te Deum* scored for choir, brass, organ, and timpani. Liszt uses the original plainchant as the inspiration for his composition supported by organ throughout with interpolations from the brass ensemble between verses. This setting of the great hymn of thanksgiving will be prayed following the 6:30pm Mass.

JAN. 1: OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY—The Octave of the Nativity of the Lord is a Holy Day, that brings with it the obligation to assist at Mass. The Mass schedule will be: 7:10am, 12:15pm, and 6:30pm.

JAN. 16: MARRIAGE PREPARATION CLASS—Couples planning to be married at St. Lawrence in 2026 need to complete a catechism class with the priests. The next class will begin Jan. 16, at 7:30pm, meeting in the Parish Center conference room (Room 215). To register for the class, please email contact@stlawrence.cc.

HOMEBOUND PARISHIONER VISITS—There are several homebound parishioners who are visited regularly by the priests and members of the Legion of Mary. If you would like to assist in this charitable work please contact the parish office.

PARKING GARAGE CHANGES—The South Street Parking Garage is doing away with paper tickets. All transactions are now done electronically. To use the parking garage, customers simply drive in and enter their license plate by scanning the QR code or using the link below. Validation must be done before your vehicle exits the parking garage or you will be charged. The validation must be entered every time a parishioner parks at the garage, as each validation is only valid for 24 hours. This validation is free and no account is needed. If there is any issue using the parking garage or link, please call 717-238-0496 and advise the attendant that you are a St. Lawrence parishioner. If the validate button does not appear when using the QR code or Link, adjust the font size on your browser. Link to validate: <https://bit.ly/SouthStreetGarage>



JAN. 17: FIRST PENANCE INTERVIEWS—Father Smith will meet with all First Communicants for an initial interview before First Penance. The interviews will take place on Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026 in the Parish Center. Please select an available time slot at the link below. First Penance final review will be Feb. 28, 2026. First Penance rehearsal will be Sunday, March 22, 2026 during the regularly scheduled CCD classes. First Penance will be Saturday, March 28, 2026 from 11am-12pm. First Holy Communion will be Sunday, June 7, 2026. <https://bit.ly/Febr2026interview>

SIGNUP FOR EPIPHANY HOME BLESSINGS—We are happy to offer again the possibility of having your home blessed with Epiphany water, incense, and chalk. To request this blessing during the time of Epiphany (on the days of Jan. 6 - 13), please sign up here: <https://bit.ly/stlawrence-epiphany>.

When visiting your home, the priest will sprinkle and incense your house, and mark the front door (or doors) with chalk. This tradition commemorates the visitation of the three Magi to the Holy Family in Bethlehem. A priest visits the home, blessing each room (or at least, whichever rooms you would like him to bless) with Epiphany water and incense. The main entrance of the home is then marked with the initials of the three Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, and a code of the current year (2025) connected with crosses: 20+C+M+B+25.

VOLUNTEERS FOR HOME BLESSINGS—On Epiphany and during its octave the priests of Saint Lawrence will offer house blessings to the faithful. We are in need of volunteers to drive the priests to the different houses during the octave. Drivers will not have to provide their own vehicle. Please contact the parish office at contact@stlawrence.cc if you are able to assist.

MASS INTENTIONS OPEN FOR 2026—Parishioners are welcome to submit requests for Mass intentions for the coming year. Once we've received several months worth, we will again suspend accepting intentions. Mass intention envelopes can be found on the shelf of the bulletin stand in the Narthex. Mass intentions should be requested by using the envelopes located in the church. Each family is limited to four intentions per month. You can submit Mass intention requests in the collection basket and the drop slots by the sacristy and in the Parish Center. Public Mass intentions are for Catholics only.

Notes on Today's Music

Processional hymn: *O Mother Blest, the Chosen Shrine*, 914

Recessional hymn: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*, 797

Kyriale: Mass XVII, 762; Credo III, 776

Hymn at Offertory: *Rorate Cœli De Super*, Christoph Dalitz (b. 1967)

Communion antiphon: *Ecce Virgo*, Johann Joseph Fux

Three of this Sunday's propers are shared in common with the Mass in honor of the Blessed Virgin called *Rorate*—which is the first word of the *introit* for both Masses. This Marian theme is present in the communion antiphon with the text taken from Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:23: *Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel*. **Johann Joseph Fux** sets this antiphon chorally and staggers each voice's entrance delaying a strong cadence until all meet on *Emmanuel* which gives a clear contrast from the music that precedes it and draws attention to the name of the Lord.

Johann Joseph Fux (c.1660–1741) was an Austrian composer, music theorist and pedagogue of the late Baroque era. His most enduring work is his treatise on counterpoint, *Gradus ad Parnassum*, which has become the single most influential book on the Palestrinian style of Renaissance polyphony. His work greatly influenced composers such as Haydn, Beethoven, and Mozart.

INQUIRY CLASS—If you are not Catholic and are interested in Catholicism, or if you know of anyone who is at all interested, we hold an Inquiry class every Saturday at 3:30pm in the 2nd floor conference room at our 112 State Street Parish Center. This is a no commitment class and all one needs to do is show up. If you have questions, you are welcome to email the office at: contact@stlawrence.cc.

LOST AND FOUND—If you have misplaced any items, please be sure to visit the Lost and Found bins in the basement of the Parish Center. Please make the time to see if any of the items might belong to you, as the bins are overflowing. Non-claimed items will be given to a donation center in the very near future.

Sunday Collections

Week of December 14, 2025

	Cash	Online
Offertory	\$ 4,608.32	\$ 3,920.25
Building Fund	300.00	1,093.00
Christmas Flowers	200.00	—
Vestments	—	118.00
Votives and Candles	32.00	—
Catechism	—	30.00
Bookstand	16.00	—
Basketball Tournament	—	10.00
Annual Diocesan Campaign	300.00	—
Religious Retirement Fund	1,001.00	—
Bookstore	80.00	—
TOTAL:		\$ 11,708.57

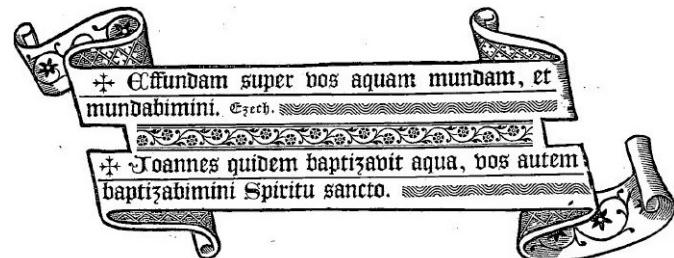
Congratulations to:

Aaron and Mary Rathbun

On the Baptism of their Son

Damian Robert Rathbun

December 13, 2025



Keck Health + HSA = Smarter Care

Good news! Starting January 1 2026, many patients may be able to use HSA funds to pay for their Keck Health Direct Primary Care (DPC) monthly subscription. Check with your HSA admin or tax professional.

Contact nurse practitioner Kris Keck at kris@keckhealth.org or 717-648-1269 to learn more about DPC at Keck Health.

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