

# 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 28, 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

**CONFESSIONS** — 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

<b>Rev. James Smith, FSSP</b>	<i>Pastor</i>	fr.smith@stlawrence.cc
<b>Rev. Cidrian Cortes, FSSP</b>	<i>Assistant Pastor</i>	fr.cortes@stlawrence.cc
<b>Rev. Ronald McCann, FSSP</b>	<i>Assistant Pastor</i>	fr.mccann@stlawrence.cc
<b>Mr. Paul Thomas May</b>	<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 28**

- Adult Catechism—12:15pm

## UPCOMING

**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
- Parish Office Closed

**Friday, January 2, 2026**

- First Friday Devotions
- No Friday Education Program (Christmas Break)

**Saturday, January 3, 2026**

- First Saturday Devotions
- Adult Inquiry Class—3:30pm

**Sunday, January 4, 2026**

- CCD Classes Resume

**Monday, January 5, 2026**

- Vigil of the Epiphany
- Blessing of Epiphany Water

**Tuesday, January 6, 2026**

- Feast of the Epiphany
- Mass Times: 7:10am, 12:15pm, 6:30pm
- High Mass—6:30pm

**January 7 to 14, 2026**

- Priests visiting homes for Epiphany blessings

**Friday, January 9, 2026**

- Friday Education Program Resumes

**Saturday, January 10, 2026**

- Altar Boys Meeting—10am
- Girls Sodality—10am

**Friday, January 16, 2026**

- Marriage Preparation Class Begins

**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

**Saturday, March 14, 2026**

- Confirmation

Sunday in the Octave of Christmas

MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Sun. Dec. 28</b> 7:30am 9:00am 10:30am 6:00pm	<b>Sunday in the Octave of Christmas, II</b> †Anthony Giacobbe, Esq., by John E. Czarnomski †Christopherson Cortes by Celine Gudelski <i>Pro Populo</i> Steve & Susan Grist
<b>Mon. Dec. 29</b> 7:10am	<b>Fifth Day in the Octave of the Nativity, II</b> †Walter & Mary Ellen Knowles by Mr. & Mrs. Knowles
<b>Tue. Dec. 30</b> 7:10am	<b>Sixth Day in the Octave of the Nativity II</b> Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces by Mr. & Mrs. Cunningham
<b>Wed. Dec. 31</b> 7:10am	<b>Seventh Day in the Octave of Nativity, II</b> Dan, Emily & Colby Grist by Steven Grist <b>No Evening Mass on Wednesday Dec. 31</b>
<b>Thu. Jan. 1</b> 7:10am 12:15pm 6:30pm	<b>Octave of the Nativity of the Lord, I</b> <i>Pro Populo</i> †Carolyn Victory by Charles & Mary Zambito †Matt Wildt by Joe & Joyce Mackin
<b>Fri. Jan. 2</b> 7:10am 6:30pm	<b>Feria in Christmastide, IV</b> John Dolis, Ph.D., by Sean T. Pendrak Maria Ritchie by Kevin Ritchie
<b>Sat. Jan. 3</b> 9:00am	<b>Saturday of Our Lady, IV</b> †Helen Kadar by the Gabig family
<b>Sun. Jan. 4</b> 7:30am 9:00am 10:30am	<b>Holy Name of Jesus, II</b> <i>Pro Populo</i> Special Intention by Christina Stoner Theresa Shibler by Lori Archer



**PARISH BOOKSTORE NOW ONLINE**—We are happy to announce that you can now go online at <https://bookstore.stlawrence.cc> to browse our products. You can also make your purchases online and pick them up in person. Thanks to everyone who has patronized the St. Lawrence Bookstore so far. If you’ve not yet visited us, please be sure to browse our books, sacramentals, and devotional aids during bookstore hours, or online at your convenience. Parishioners who make art and sacramentals and are interested in providing them for sale at the bookstore can reach Art and Nathan at [bookstore@stlawrence.cc](mailto: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
  - Children’s saints books
  - New and used books
- Theology
  - Hand missals
  - Scapulars

12.28.2025

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**DEC. 31: ORCHESTRAL *TE DEUM***—In gratitude for the many graces received in 2025, a plenary indulgence is available to those who publicly recite the *Te Deum*. Please join the choir in doing so, which will be accompanied by an orchestra. 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 5pm Vespers.

**DEC. 31: PLENARY INDULGENCE**— A plenary indulgence is granted to all those who publicly recite the *Te Deum* on Dec. 31. We will recite the *Te Deum* after all the Masses.

**HOLIDAY PARISH OFFICE HOURS**—Please note that the Parish office will be closed at noon on Wednesday Dec. 31, and on January 1, the Octave Day of Christmas.

**JAN. 1: HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**—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. 6: THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**—The Mass schedule for Tuesday, Jan. 6, 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](mailto:contact@stlawrence.cc).

**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. The First Penance final review will be on Feb. 28, 2026. The First Penance rehearsal will be on 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/Feb2026interview>

**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>



**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 (2026) connected with crosses: 20+C+M+B+26. The letters have two meanings. First, they represent the initials of the Magi; and second, they abbreviate the Latin phrase, Christus mansionem benedicat; “May Christ bless the house.”

Taken together, this inscription is performed as a request for Christ to bless the home, and that He abide with all those who dwell therein throughout the year. The Epiphany home blessing is a treasured Catholic tradition throughout the world, and a great practice whereby we dedicate our year to God from its very outset; asking His blessing on our homes and on all who live, work, or visit them there. Practicing traditions such as the Epiphany home blessing helps us live our Faith more concretely and serves as an outward sign of our dedication to the Lord. Our homes are the place where many of us will make the greatest strides in our spiritual growth, through observance of daily prayer, spiritual reading, and work offered as an oblation to God. This blessing encourages all of us to dedicate our life at home to God. Seeing the symbols over our doors can help remind us, while passing in and out on our daily routines, that our homes and all those who dwell there belong to Christ. This beautiful tradition serves as a reminder of the welcoming that the Magi gave to Jesus. We should strive to be as welcoming to all who come to our homes to visit us!

**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](mailto:contact@stlawrence.cc) if you are able to assist.

**HOLY NAME SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP**—Catholic men 18-years old and older are invited to join the St. Lawrence Holy Name Society. Information about this traditional confraternity can be found at [www.nahns.com](http://www.nahns.com). All eligible men are encouraged to consider this spiritual and social opportunity. Men interested or needing information about the activities of the Society may email [Holyname@stlawrence.cc](mailto:Holyname@stlawrence.cc). The Society will host a new member induction ceremony Sunday, Jan. 4, after the High Mass.

**BOOKSTORE: SCAPULARS**—A shipment of Scapulars has been received by parishoners of the Fraternity Parish in Nigeria. They are available for purchase in the bookstore.

## Notes on Today's Music

Processional hymn: *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*, 807  
 Recessional hymn: *Angels We Have Heard On High*, 812  
 Credo III, 776

Kyriale: *Missa Quaeramus cum pastoribus*, Cristóbal de Morales (c.1500–1553)

Marian Antiphon: *Alma Redemptoris Mater*, G.P. Palestrina (1525–1585)

Communion motet: *Quaeramus cum pastoribus*, Reverend Jean Mouton

The text for *Quaeramus cum pastoribus*—most famously set by **Reverend Jean Mouton**—is of uncertain origin, apparently first used by Mouton. This setting became so popular that it has been found not only in the Vatican but throughout the world. The poem has four distinct sections punctuated with the refrain of *Noe* or *Noel*, meaning Christmas, and it draws attention to the stable, shepherds, and the conditions Our Lord was in when he was first born. Mouton's motet also inspired the polyphonic setting of the Mass set by Cristóbal de Morales and sung today.

**Reverend Jean Mouton (c. 1459–1522)** was a French priest and composer of the Renaissance. He was famous both for his motets, which are among the most refined of the time, and for being the teacher of the famous composer Adrian Willaert, one of the founders of the Venetian School. Over 100 of his compositions survive today and Pope Leo X rewarded him with the honorary title, *apostolic notary* on the occasion of a motet he composed for the pope in 1515.

**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](mailto: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.

## Sunday Collections Week of December 28, 2025

	Cash	Online
Offertory	\$ 20,294.00	\$ 5,454.74
Building Fund	3,675.00	1,028.00
Vestments	—	328.00
Advertising	—	325.00
Immaculate Conception	115.00	—
Christmas Flowers	105.00	—
Basketball Tournament	40.00	110.00
Annual Diocesan Campaign	100.00	—
Religious Retirement Fund	70.00	—
Votives and Candles	45.00	—
Catechism	—	40.00
Coffee Social	3.00	—

**TOTAL: \$ 31,732.74**

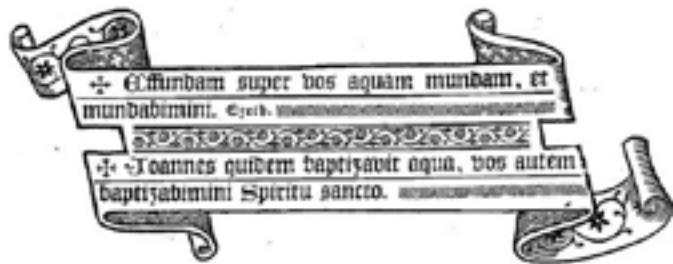
Congratulations to:

Duane & Lindsay Whitlock

On the Baptism of their Son

**Benjamin Pio Whitlock**

December 20, 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](mailto:kris@keckhealth.org) or 717-648-1269 to learn more about DPC at Keck Health.

### Marc Fisher, REALTOR®, ABR®

Marc Fisher Group of Northrop Realty

*Licensed in PA and MD*

443-386-6415

[marcfisher@northroprealty.com](mailto:marcfisher@northroprealty.com)  
[www.marcfishergroup.com](http://www.marcfishergroup.com)

### BAHRET RELIGIOUS GOODS

at West Shore Farmers Market, Lemoyne  
 717-412-0306

For all your religious needs! We carry rosaries, scapulars, veils, statues, jewelry, greeting cards, missals, bibles & other books, holy water fonts, First Communion and Confirmation items, and much more! [contactus@bahretreligiousgoods.com](mailto:contactus@bahretreligiousgoods.com).

### The Kole Group Insurance Agency

We specialize in Medicare, Pennie health plans, home & auto insurance, life insurance, and business coverage. Our mission is to make insurance *easy, understandable, and affordable*.

Visit us at [thekolegroup.com](http://thekolegroup.com).

### Catherine Dattoli, Salon MJM

Salon MJM is a full service salon offering a variety of services, such as haircuts, all color services, updos and more!

Book with Catherine and receive 10% off your first appointment.

Book your appt: call 717-335-2323 or message @hair.by.catherine on Instagram.

### Seán T. Pendrak, Member of St. Lawrence STP Premier Financial Group™

I provide a Catholic approach to your investing, & Legacy Planning as a Fiduciary, & CFP (2026)

**MDRT - Legacy Planner - Trust & Estates**

I appreciate the opportunity to earn your business.

570.815.3099 | [seanpendrak@gmail.com](mailto:seanpendrak@gmail.com)

PA | NJ | CA | NY | FL | MD | DE | VA | TX | UT