

St. Lawrence the Martyr Church SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2017

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Lawrence the Martyr Church is a community of Catholic Christians who gather together to celebrate the Eucharist, their love of Jesus Christ and their love of one another as children of Christ. We are a diverse community focused on creating an enthusiasm for our faith and enriching the lives for all who come to worship in our parish. Inviting and welcoming liturgies, multiple youth and young adult activities and adult enrichment programs all help make the Word of Christ a living reality at St. Lawrence.

Rev. Nicholas Bozza, Pastor 375 Main Street, P.O. Box 730, Chester, New Jersey 07930

Rev. Rolands Uribe, Parochial Vicar

Deacon William DeVizio, Permanent Deacon Trustees: Phil Guidone, Jeanne McCormick

Parish Secretary: Karen Jaworski Accountant: Sharon McCann Business Manager: Bill McCormick

MASSES:

Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 12:30 pm (Spanish), 6:00 pm

Daily Mass: Mon.-Fri. 8:00 am & 9:00 am, Sat. 9:00 am

Holy Day Vigil: 7:00 pm

Holy Day: 8:00 am, 4:30 pm, 7:00 pm (bi-lingual)

Healing Mass: 7:00 pm every 3rd Tuesday of month. Rosary at 6:30 pm

BAPTISMS:

Baptism Preparation Class: Please call the Parish Office to schedule. Baptisms: Please call the Parish Office to schedule.

SPANISH BAPTISMS:

Baptism Preparation Class: Please call the Parish Office to schedule. **Baptisms:** Please call the Parish Office to schedule.

MARRIAGES:

Please contact the Priest/Deacon whom you wish to officiate at your wedding one year in advance to arrange for Marriage Preparation Sessions.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP:

Every family moving into the parish is requested to register. If you move to another parish or change your address, please notify the Parish Office.

Coordinators of Religious Education:

Carla Fuscaldo, Dorothy Kudron, Terry Leing Cynthia Vittitow— Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Brian Flanagan — Confirmation

Kathleen Galdi — DRE

Music Minister: Joseph P. Tamburro Youth Minister: Brian Flanagan Mercy Minister: Cindy Zeis

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN:

Gr. K-4 & CGS 1: Sun. 9:00-10:45 am

Gr. 1-8: Thurs. 4:30-5:45 pm

Gr. 5-8: Sun. 4:30-5:45 pm *OR* Mon. 7:00-8:15 pm

Gr. 9-10: Sun. 5:40-8:00 pm

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

RCIA: Sundays (September-Easter)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturday: 4:00-4:45 pm, Monday: 6:30-7:00 pm & on request.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK:

Please call the Parish Office anytime for communion calls or visitation of the sick and elderly. Keep us informed so that we can be attentive to those who are ill at home or in the hospital.

Parish Email: parish@stlchester.org
Parish Web Site: www.stlchester.org

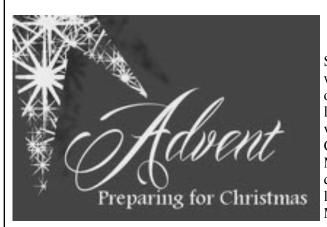
Web Master: Joanne Franklin (908-879-6222)

Parish Ministries and Ministry Facilitators

Welcome	Janet Villafane	(908) 879-3032	Haiti Twinning Program	Christine Colannino	(201) 314-9824
Bereavement	Don Martone	(908) 879-7957	Lectors	John Kennington	(908) 872-0575
Good Samaritans	Patsy Soden	(908) 879-3374	Eucharistic Ministers	Loretta Stewart	(973) 222-7492
Grocery Cards	Jean Ward	(908) 334-3442	Ushers	Bob Holl	(908) 876-3488
Moms & Tots	Melissa Altieri	(908) 797-0676	Music Minister	Joe Tamburro	(908) 453-3302
Arimathaea	Arlene McDonald	(973) 584-7319	Spanish Ministry	Louis Villafane	(908) 879-3032
Liturgical Environment	Joanne Carr	(908) 879-5543	Youth Minister	Brian Flanagan	(973) 946-8770
Women's Cornerstone	Judy Irwin	(201) 400-7847	Altar Servers	Chuck Feller	(908) 768-2838
Men's Cornerstone	Marc McFeely	(973) 222-9739	Evangelization	Bob Holl	(908) 876-3488
Pastoral Adv. Board	Jerry Frech	(908) 377-2900	RCIA	Jan Richards	(908) 975-3555
Rosary Society	Marie Holl	(908) 876-3488	Respect Life	Connie Wieczorek	(908) 879-6453
Media Ministry	Jeanne McCormick	(908) 879-6884	Barn Ministry	Ed Wieczorek	(908) 300-0098
Mary's Moonflowers	Karen Jones	(973) 479-5271			

Parish Office: 908-879-5371 Priests' Home: 908-879-1901 Religious Ed.: 908-879-6714 Youth Minister: 973-946-8770 Fax: 908-879-7701

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



AN IMPORTANT QUESTION – CAN WE CELEBRATE ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT THE SAME TIME?

Starting with the 5 pm Mass on Saturday, December 2, we begin, with Christians from around the world, the holy and joyful season of Advent. Each year, this season is between three and four weeks long. Advent is a time of preparing for the celebration of the anniversary of the birth of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. On Christmas Day, we will meet the Lord in Holy Communion at Mass. This is the heart of the day. The anniversary of the birth-day of the Savior is called Christmas or Christ-Mass Day, highlighting the importance of our encounter with the Lord during the Mass on December 25.

The preparation for this Day is a preparation of our minds and hearts. Foremost in our Advent preparation is the cleansing of our hearts with a good celebration of the Sacrament of Confession or Reconciliation during the season of Advent. Through Confession, we receive the beautiful gifts of forgiveness and peace. In this Sacrament, too, we refocus our lives on love of God and of neighbor. This is a wonderful Sacrament of conversion. Conversion here means to reset the course of our lives. In this Sacrament, we are resetting our sights on living for God and for others. This is truly living, as life is about self-giving.

Advent is also a time to do penance for our own sins and for the sins of the world. We can treat our Advent penance as an offering of little gifts to God. Just as we try to prepare special gifts for our loved ones to be given on Christmas Day, we can also prepare little gifts for the three persons of the Most Blessed Trinity. These gifts prepared and offered with love will deepen our bonds with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The color for the season of Advent is violet. This color connects Advent with the colors of the holy Season of Lent (reddish purple) and of the upcoming feast of the Birth of the Lord (the royal blue of the King of Heaven and Earth).

I am of the opinion that we cannot celebrate Advent and Christmas at the same time. Advent deserves our attention and efforts. Christmas deserves a good celebration of Advent. I believe that we should resist the pressures to celebrate Christmas now, during the season of Advent. I believe that Christmas will be so much better if try to leave Christmas until December 24, Christmas Eve. Advent is the time to prepare as well as we can to meet the Lord at Christmas. Preparing well, with love, will make our Christmas mean so much more! Happy Advent!

AN ADVENT CALENDAR FOR YOU

The USCCB (the National Conference of Catholic Bishops) has prepared an on line calendar for Catholics. Please log in to "Advent 2017, USCCB" to find a great Advent calendar that will assist you and your family to have a fruitful Advent.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL

Today, December 3, the Diocesan Choir will present their annual Christmas Concert at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson. The Cathedral is located on the corner of Main and Grand Streets in Paterson. There is free parking available in the County Parking garage directly across from the Cathedral on Grand Street. The concert begins at 4 pm. The program includes pieces from many periods and cultures. Bishop Serratelli and I invite you all to a lovely afternoon of sacred music in a most beautiful setting.

Father Nick

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION THIS WEEK

Sunday

- CGS
- Gr. K-4
- Gr. 5-8

Monday

• Gr. 5-8

Thursday

Gr. 1-8

Sunday

CGS



CYO MASS Sunday, December 10 at 9:00 am

Hope to see many of the families and players there! What better way to start off the basketball season!

ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

Wednesday, December 6, 7:00 pm
In the Church
Individual confessions will be heard afterwards.

CHRISTMAS CAR MAGNETS

Next weekend, **December 9-10**, the Knights of Columbus will be selling "Keep Christ in Christmas" magnets after all Masses. Please consider making a donation of \$5 each and help spread the true meaning of Christmas.



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT Thursday, December 14 4:30 - 5:30 pm Church Hall

In celebration of the upcoming Christmas season, all children of our parish (up to the 4th grade) are invited to participate in the retelling of the nativity story. Our music minister, Joe Tamburro, will lead the children in song. Cookies and hot chocolate will be served. Sign up information to follow.

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE December 9-10

5:00 pm	7:30 am	9:00 am	11:00 am	6:00 pm
CB Declan	CB –	CB Patrick	CB – Trevor	CB – An-
Mulligan		Kudron	Connolly	drew Guido
S1 – Nora	S1 –	S1 – Daniel	S1 Mercedes	S1 – Ali
Mulligan		Kudron	Lombardo	Wallace
S2 – Aidan	S2 –	S2 Thomas	S2 – Mili	S2 – Sofia
Mulligan		Bulzacchelli	Lombardo	Uribe

MEETINGS / EVENTS THIS WEEK

Monday

• Haiti - 7:00 pm

Tuesday

• Tutoring - 4:30 pm

Wednesday

- Advent Penance Service 7:00 pm
- BOLD PST 7:30 pm
- ESL 7:30 pm

Thursday

- Moms & Tots 10:00 am
- Bell Choir 6:00 pm
- Adult Choir 7:00 pm
- Men's Cornerstone 7:00 pm

Friday

Divine Mercy Chaplet - 3:00 pm

Sunday

- CYO Mass 9:00 am
- Parish Christmas Concert 3:00 pm



TRAVELING MARY

Our "Traveling Mary" is a statue of Our Lady of Fatima which will spend the week in your home. We are asking that families/individuals say the rosary during that week. Along with the statue are some pamphlets on how to say the Rosary, a DVD for younger children and some rosary beads for you to use. Let's keep "Mary" traveling throughout the parish! Please contact the Faith Formation Office (908-879-6714) if you are interested.

WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THE SICK . . .

Kirsten Mumma, William Ware, Julio Carrera, Sebastian Quinn, Ralph Bozza, Sister Eucharia, Bishop Frank Rodimer, Father Rolands Uribe, Father Eugene Romano, Father Paul Knauer, Father Rafael Perez, Msgr. Martin Rauscher, Msgr. Richard Rusconi, Msgr. Peter McBride, Patrick John Moran, Ann Kelly, Lloyd Matsamoto, Helen Crowe, Jane Alt, Patrick Pronio, Allison Spina, Lesley Pawar, Tom Walsh, Steve Briggs, Brian Graham, Colleen Saito, William Kelly, Mary Norwood, Mary Lanzara, Rocco & Ruth Colantuono, Diane Verge, Cade Feitel, Christine Ambrosino, Carole Stessl, Kathy Bollwork, Dick Goodwin, Nicholas Brown, Jane Rufino, Kevin Callahan, Judith Stampone, Jeanette Mahoney, Paul Fitzgerald, Charlotte Poth, Colleen Looby, George Serafin, Charlie Romano, Salman Javed, Joe Cillo, Jerry Green, Mary Constantinople, Dan McGuigan, Patricia Gilvey, Daisy Hallock, Robert Snow, Ryan Menzel, Vincent & Giuliana Petane, Betty Macaluso, Dorothy Powers, Ellie Cowie, Wesley Snawder, Jeanne McCormick, Tom Murray, Eidelia Jimenez Martinez, Mila Balicki, Timothy Gearty, Karen Curley, Consiglia Erdenberger, Arnold Family, Connie Dziomba, Bonnie Lieberworth, Barbara Drive, Jack Ratti, Finn Michael, Olivia Gill, Maureen Diana, Teresa Smith, Linda Colligan, Frances Ferreri



FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

This day celebrates the saving work of God in preserving the Blessed Virgin Mary from the stain of original sin. Because of His foreknowledge that Mary would consent to bear Christ, God kept Mary free from origi-

nal sin from the moment of her conception in the womb of her mother, Saint Anne.

Friday, December 8 Holy Day of Obligation Masses will take place in the church:

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Aging religious need your help. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others by educating the young, comforting the sick, seeking justice for the oppressed. Today, many are frail, elderly and in need of assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to furnish medications, nursing care and other necessities. Please give generously when this **collection is taken up next weekend, December 9-10.**

MASS BOOK 2018

Now open for your Mass intentions.

THANK YOU FROM LITTLE SISTERS OF POOR

We wish to express our gratitude for allowing us to visit the parish and talk about the work we do with the elderly of low income. Your generous giving amounted to over \$5,200.00! We pray that the Lord will return your kindness with many blessings.

> DIOCESAN CHRISTMAS CONCERT Today, Sunday, December 3, at 4:00 pm Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Paterson

NEW PARISHIONERS We welcome you!

Thomas & Jaclyn Siano of Drakestown Road, Long Valley.

Dennis Falco and his daughter Juliana of East Fox Chase Road, Chester.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREES

Our Annual Christmas Giving Trees are displayed in the Church Hall and Vestibule. Please take a tag and return the gift with the original tag attached by Sunday, December 17. It is important to remember this deadline date as the Good Samaritans need to distribute the gifts to the participating organizations before Christmas.

We will be supporting these organizations this year:

- St. Peter's Orphanage/Village
- Family Promise of Morris County
- Birth Haven
- Catholic Family & Community Services of Paterson
- Local Parish Families

Thank you for helping so many children and families during this blessed time of year. Your generosity is very much appreciated and will help make a joyous Christmas for someone else!

2017 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL In Giving, We Receive

As you plan to celebrate the joy of the Christmas season by giving gifts to your friends and loved ones, there is one gift that you can give to tens of thousands of people. It does not require ten thousand names tags or ten thousand bows. All that's needed is a completed pledge card to the Bishop's Annual Appeal or an on-line gift at www.2017appeal.org. Say "Merry Christmas" to so many of your brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Paterson who need some hope and joy in their lives by participating in the Bishop's Annual Appeal today. May God bless you for your generosity!

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS



Parish Christmas Concert

The parish Christmas concert takes place on **Sunday**, **December 10**, at 3:00 pm in the church. Come enjoy the sounds of the season performed by our adult and children's choirs accompanied by our bell choir and instrumentalists.



Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be celebrated at St. Lawrence Church on Tuesday, December 12, with Mass at 6:00 pm.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2017

8:00 am - Margaret Derewicz

9:00 am - Catherine Chianca

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2017

8:00 am - Robert Elder

9:00 am - Rosalie Kleaver

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2017

8:00 am - Jason Stringfellow

9:00 am - Thomas W. Chan

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2017

8:00 am - Walter J. Liska

9:00 am - Spec. Int. of George Somody

7:00 pm - Caroline Bozza

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2017 (Immaculate Conception)

8:00 am - Teresa Gaffney

- Ellen & Thomas Donohue

4:30 pm - Spec. Int. of Jeanne McCormick

7:00 pm - For the People of the Parish

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2017

9:00 am - Angelo Collazo

5:00 pm - Spec. Int. of Jeanne McCormick

- George Horvath

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017

7:30 am - Judy Tully

- Spec. Int. of Jean Allatta

9:00 am - Teresa Gaffney

- William G. Schwartz

11:00 am - Nancy Strampfer

- Margaret Cogger

12:30 pm - Rafael & Josefina Gonzalez

6:00 pm - For the People of the Parish

NEXT HEALING MASS Tuesday, December 19

Rosary at 6:30 pm followed by Mass at 7:00 pm

Tithing: God's Plan for Giving.

Tithing Income November 26, 2017 \$10,856.00 Tithing Income November 27, 2016 \$10,526.50

FROM THE PASTOR: "I know that the experience of tithing with God can help people to grow in faith. I am happy that a good number of our people are taking advantage of this plan from God that is explained in the Bible."

A TESTIMONY FROM A MEMBER OF ST. ELIZA-BETH CHURCH, WASHINGTON HTS., NY:

"Regarding tithing, nothing better has happened at St. Elizabeth's in years. Thank you for following what the Spirit is saying. We must continue to teach the spirituality of tithing so that the joy of giving may be experienced."

GOD HAS A DIFFERENT PLAN

We begin the season of Advent with a heartfelt call for our own repentance. We remember God's faithful love for us, and call upon God to help us to turn back. For "behold, you are angry, and we are sinful" (Isaiah 64:4). In the first reading and in the psalm, we recall God's promises and lament our unfaithfulness and our guilt. We call upon God's might and power in order to save us. With Isaiah, we ask God to "rend the heavens and come down, / with the mountains quaking before you" (Isaiah 63:19).

Yes, God is faithful to us, because we are the work of God's hands. God is the potter, we are the clay. And yet, our concept of how God will come to save us is rooted in our own expectations of a warrior God who crushes mountains and thunders into our lives with great noise and glory. But God has a different plan: the Incarnation.

LIKE A CHILD

One who aspires to the grace of God must be pure, with a heart as innocent as a child's.

~St. Nicholas

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — We are the clay and you, O LORD, are the potter: we are the work of your hands

(Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7).

Psalm — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).

Second Reading — God is faithful; by God you were called to fellowship with the Son (1 Corinthians 1:3-9).

Gospel — Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. (Mark 13:33-37).

GOD'S LOVE

The great thing to remember is that though our feelings come and go, God's love for us does not.

~ C.S. Lewis

MASS READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37 Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a;

Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4;

Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6;

Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14;

Mk 1:1-8



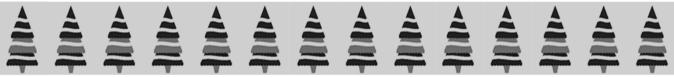
Mon Tue Wed Thu Sun Sat Fri Morn. Prayer-7:30 Morn. Prayer-8:30 Mass-8, 9 Mass-9 Confession-4-4:45 Adoration Mass-5 9:30-8:30 Gr. 9 Retreat-12-6 **Divine Mercy BOLD Middle-7** Chaplet-3 9 CAR MAGNETS IMMACULATE 3 Morn. Prayer-7:30 CONCEPTION Mass-7:30 Morn. Prayer-7:30 Morn. Prayer-7:30 Morn. Prayer-7:30 Mass-8, 9 Morn. Prayer-8:30 Mass-9 Mass-8, 9 Mass-8, 9 Mass-8, 9 Morn. Prayer-7:30 Mass-9 Moms & Tots-10 Mass-11 Mass-8, 4:30, 7 Confession-4-4:45 Mass-12:30 (Spanish) Tutoring-4:30 Penance Service-7 Confession-6:30 Gr. 1-8 Adoration Mass-5 Mass-6 Bell Choir-6 9:00-10:00 Gr. 5-8 BOLD PST-7:30 CGS **Adult Choir-8 Divine Mercy** K-4, 5-8 Men's Cor.-7 ESL-7:30 Haiti-7 Chaplet-3 Advent Wreath Sale Vigil Mass-7 10 CAR MAGNETS 13 Mass-7:30 Morn. Prayer-7:30 Morn. Prayer-7:30 Morn. Prayer-7:30 Morn. Prayer-7:30 Morn. Prayer-7:30 Morn. Prayer-8:30 Mass-9 (CYO) Mass-8, 9 Mass-8, 9 Mass-8, 9 Mass-8, 9 Mass-8, 9 Mass-9 Mass-11 Tutoring-4:30 Moms & Tots-10 Confession-4-4:45 Mass-12:30 (Spanish) Confession-6:30 Mendham HS Adoration Mass-5 Mass-6 Messiah Concert-9:30-10:30 **OL** Guadalupe **Christmas Pageant-**Good Sam.-7 7:30 Mass-6 4:30 CGS **Divine Mercy Christmas Concert-**Wom. Cor.-7 Bell Choir-6 ESL-7:30 Chaplet-3 Adult Choir-7 17 GIVING TREE DUE 20 22 23 Mass-7:30 Morn. Prayer-7:30 Morn. Prayer-7:30 Morn. Prayer-7:30 Morn. Prayer-7:30 Morn. Prayer-7:30 Morn. Prayer-8:30 Mass-o Mass-8, 9 Mass-8, 9 Mass-8, 9 Mass-8, 9 Mass-8, 9 Mass-o Mass-11 Moms & Tots-10 Adoration Confession-4-4:45 Mass-12:30 (Spanish) Tutoring-4:30 BOLD TNL-7:30 Confession-6:30 9:30-10:30 Mass-5 Mass-6 Gr. 1-8 **Healing Mass-7 Divine Mercy** Gr. 5-8 ESL-7:30 (Rosary at 6:30) CGS, K-4, 5-8 Bell Choir-6 **Chaplet-3** Conf. Session 6 Adult Choir-7 Adv. Confession-7 24 CHRISTMAS EVE 25 CHRISTMAS DAY 26 27 28 30 Sunday Masses-Masses-Morn. Prayer-7:30 Morn. Prayer-7:30 Morn. Prayer-7:30 Morn. Prayer-7:30 Morn. Prayer-8:30 7:30, 9, 11, 12:30 7:30, 9, 11 Mass-8, 9 Mass-8, 9 Mass-8, 9 Mass-8, 9 Mass-9 Confession-4-4:45 Christmas Eve Adoration Mass-5 Masses-9:30-10:30 4, 6, 8 (Spanish), 10 ESL-7:30 **Divine Mercy** Chaplet-3 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE NEW YEAR'S DAY Sunday Masses-Masses-8, 11:30 7:30, 9, 11, 12:30 New Year Masses-5, 6:30 (Spanish)



TNL Christmas Party Wednesday, 12/20 7:30-9pm - Church Hall

Attention High School Teens:

Wear an Ugly Christmas Sweater and bring a fun gift for our White Elephant Gift Exchange (no more than \$10 and wrapped in advance). Come celebrate with BOLD!





2/2-4 2/23-25 **Ski Trip Antioch**@ Gore Weekend

6/24-30 Catholic Heart Work Camp

BOLD&MIDDLE

BOLD Middle Ice Skating!

(Grades 6, 7, 8)

Friday, 1/5, 6-10pm

Bridgewater Sports Arena

Download the form at boldym.com/SLM/forms



For more information, please contact: Brian Flanagan StLawrence@boldym.com | 973-946-8770