

St. Lawrence the Martyr Church

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2019

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Lawrence the Martyr Roman Catholic Church is a loving and welcoming community of disciples of Jesus who invite you to join us in becoming disciples of Jesus. As disciples, we are faithful to prayer, to listening to God's Word, to meeting with Jesus in the sacraments, to building community, and to serving others.

Rev. Nicholas Bozza, Pastor

375 Main Street, P.O. Box 730, Chester, New Jersey 07930

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Yohan Serrano

Permanent Deacon: William DeVizio

Trustees: Phil Guidone, Margie Scobell

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. 1-8: Sun. 9:00-10:45 am (includes Mass)

Gr. 5-8: Sun. 5:00-7:00 pm (includes Mass)

Gr. 9-10: Sun. 5:50-8:15 pm (includes Mass)

CGS: Sun. 9:00-11:00 am OR Tues. 4:30-5:45 pm

Gr. K-8: Thurs. 4:45-6:00 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	Rosemary Lohrmann	(973) 214-4806	Haiti Twinning Program	Christine Colannino	(201) 314-9824
Bereavement Resource	Don Martone	(201) 274-9723	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	(347) 213-0621
Arimathaea	Arlene McDonald	(973) 229-9697	Spanish Ministry	Louis Villafane	(908) 879-3032
Liturgical Environment	Joanne Carr	(908) 879-5543	Youth Minister	Brian Flanagan	(973) 946-8770
Women's Cornerstone	Lisette Howell	(973) 975-7343	Altar Servers	Kathleen Garrison	(973) 945-1518
Men's Cornerstone	Don Scobell	(908) 507-3145	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 Wiczorek	(908) 879-6453
Media Ministry	Carla Fuscaldo	(908) 879-6714	Barn Ministry	Ed Wiczorek	(908) 300-0098
Mary's Moonflowers	Karen Jones	(973) 479-5271	Family Mass Social	Marc McFeely	(973) 222-9739

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

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO BEGIN LENT!

Today, we begin our third week of Lent. I want to remind you that Lent is a season of repentance, a time when we change our hearts and our lives with the help of God's grace. On Ash Wednesday, we recalled the three principal activities of Lent, prayer, fasting (sacrifice), and almsgiving (helping the poor). The Church has been inviting us since Ash Wednesday to be active in the spirit of this holy season.

With our busy lives, we may have not yet come up with a plan for Lent 2019. I want to encourage you to be a part of this Lent, even if you have not yet begun to engage the works of prayer, fasting or works of mercy. **IT'S NOT TOO LATE! YOU CAN BEGIN TODAY!** I am going to reprint now the list of opportunities that we have here at St. Lawrence the Martyr Church.

LENT AT ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH

Holy Week celebrates the foundation of our faith, the death and the rising of Jesus. During Holy Week, we recall the Last Supper in the Upper Room, the suffering and the death of Jesus in Jerusalem and on Calvary and His resurrection at the tomb. During Lent, we apply to our lives the lessons of Holy Week.

At St. Lawrence Parish during Lent, we will offer a number of opportunities for spiritual growth:

- Daily Mass at 8 am and 9 am (Monday to Friday; 9 am only on Saturdays)
- Daily Morning prayer at 7:25 am (8:25 on Saturdays)
- The Divine Mercy Chaplet at 7:45 am daily (8:45 am on Saturdays)
- Marian Novena on Saturdays following the 9 am Mass
- The Stations of the Cross each Friday at 7 pm (in church in English and in Our Lady's Chapel in Spanish)
- Confessions on Saturdays at 4 pm and on Mondays at 6:30 pm
- Divine Mercy service at 3 pm on Fridays in church
- "The One Percent Challenge", a parish initiative
- Fish Fry and Stations of the Cross on April 12

SCAMMERS SENDING TEXTS

In the last few months, a scammer or scammers have been sending texts in my name and in Father Yohan's name to ask parishioners for money, gift cards and other items. It appears that they have been using the names and phone numbers from the ministry list on the front of the bulletin to try and bilk our good hearted people. Please be aware of this criminal activity.

NEED FOR HELP IN OUR MINISTRY AT KESSLER REHABILITATION CENTER IN CHESTER

Each Monday afternoon, a group of parishioners goes to Kessler Rehab in Chester to celebrate Mass and bring communion to some of the patients there. We would like to increase the number of volunteers in this ministry. We have various teams that take turns serving on Mondays. Could you let me know if you can help with this ministry?

DO YOU TITHE?

Each Spring, we review the Biblical teaching on Stewardship. We will need two witnesses this Spring to help make the presentation on tithing. Please consider helping the Lord and the parish with this work. The "work" is a five minute presentation that addresses the following three questions: When did you first hear about tithing? What was your first reaction to the message? And how have you been blessed by God because of your tithing? Please let me know if you can help with this presentation. I thank you in advance.

God bless.

Father Nick

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION THIS WEEK**Sunday**

- No classes

Thursday

- No classes

Sunday

- No classes

HURDLING

*God's grace within me and God's strength behind me
can overcome any hurdle ahead of me.*

~Anonymous

THANK YOU FROM LITTLE SISTERS OF POOR

What a joy to be at your parish and share Liturgy with you. How grateful we are for the home run we made as we slid into God's house and received such a warm welcome. How thankful we are for your generosity. It was overwhelming as the collection was over \$4,665.00! At the return of envelopes taken, we will send a total sum in 2-3 weeks. The coffee and donuts were delicious after our adventurous traveling. We were exceptionally grateful that the snow and rain only prevented us from getting to the 7:30 am Mass. God is good. The almsgiving par excellence!

RECENTLY JOINED OUR PARISH

We welcome you!

Kenneth & Mary McGuire of Beecher Lane, Flanders.

Pasquale Zinno of Settlers Road, Sussex.

HOMEBOUND OR HOSPITALIZED

Please notify our priests if you know of someone who is homebound or hospitalized. Many would appreciate a visit and the opportunity to receive Communion.

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

March 30-31

5:00 pm	7:30 am	9:00 am	11:00 am	6:00 pm
CB – Nora Mulligan	CB Sinclair Stevens	CB – Sofia Varua	CB – Harlan Iverson	CB – Andrew Guido
S1 – Aidan Mulligan	S1 – Blake Stevens	S1 – Kylie Blackwell	S1 – John Iverson	S1 Stephen Howell
S2 – Declan Mulligan	S2 –	S2 – Nick Weah	S2 – Trevor Connolly	S2 – Aidan Howell

MEETINGS / EVENTS THIS WEEK**Tuesday**

- Beginner ESL - 7:30 pm

Wednesday

- Reconciliation (Gr. 5-8) - 5:30 pm
- ESL - 7:30 pm

Thursday

- Moms & Tots - 10:00 am
- Spanish Choir - 5:30 pm
- Adult Choir - 7:00 pm

Friday

- Divine Mercy Chaplet - 3:00 pm

WOMEN'S CORNERSTONE RETREAT

"We Are Called"

Friday and Saturday, April 26 - 27
Save the date!

For more information, please contact
Lisette Howell at (973) 975-7343.

Brochures/registration forms available in church
and Parish Center.

WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THE SICK . . .

Kirsten Mumma, William Ware, Julio Carrera, Sebastian Quinn, Sister Eucharist, Father Eugene Romano, Father Daniel Kelly, Father Joseph Farias, Father Thomas Mangieri, Father Gilberto Gutierrez, Msgr. Richard Rusconi, Msgr. Peter McBride, Msgr. Eugene Bolland, Deacon Hector Cassillas, Patrick John Moran, Ann Kelly, Lloyd Matsamoto, Helen Crowe, Jane Alt, Patrick Pronio, Allison Spina, Lesley Pawar, Tom Walsh, Brian Graham, Colleen Saito, William Kelly, Mary Norwood, Mary Lanzara, Cade Feitel, Carole Stessl, Dick Goodwin, Nicholas Brown, Jane Rufino, Kevin Callahan, Judith Stampone, Paul Fitzgerald, Charlotte Poth, Colleen Looby, George Serafin, Charlie Romano, Salman Javed, Joe Cillo, Jerry Green, Mary Constantinople, Dan McGuigan, Daisy Hallock, Ryan Menzel, Vincent & Giuliana Petane, Betty Macaluso, Dorothy Powers, Wesley Snawder, Tom Murray, Eidelia Jimenez Martinez, Mila Balicki, Consiglia Erdenberger, Arnold Family, Bonnie Lieberworth, Barbara Drive, Jack Ratti, Finn Michael, Olivia Gill, Teresa Smith, Frances Ferreri, Teresa Colamonaco, Baby Gianni Mazza, Carol Mattone, Anna Birsilli Garich, Anne Owens McGrath, Janet Courtland, Jack Arnold, Lily Barbero, Hunter Barbero, Robert LeFrancis, Moire Riley, Brian Spring, Jim Robertiello, Barbara Davis, Jim Kielley, Jimena Garcia, Jorge Lombardo, Janice Thurston, Matt Adonis, Jim Balicki, Bill Renzetti, Bill Pigot, Rosa Salgado, Vera Sax, David Goulart, Christine Clark, Winnie Knapik, Kolbe, Paul Maurer, Joanne Seiller, Gail Anderson, Phillip Heery, Frank Loprest, John Memora, Buddy Black, Annerys Castillo, Jesus Serrano, Teresa Toro Penagos, Kitty, Susan Novick, Stephanie Gonda, Bob Sircovich, Camille McQueen, Brayden Michael, Cassie Bollwork, Julie Hasbrouck, Stanley Kudron, Michael Mooney, Ed Poto, Thomas Kennedy, Gary Ross, George Resotka, Ann Valles, Wayne Farbanish, William Hockenbury, Carol Senatore, Sara Brandt, Dorothy Diana, Frank Carfaro

**Please help us keep this list up to date! Call 908-879-5371
and let us know if a name should be added or deleted.**

GOD WON'T ASK . . .

God won't ask what kind of car you drove, but He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.

God won't ask the square footage of your house, but He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.

God won't ask about the clothes you had in your closet, but He'll ask how many others you clothed.

God won't ask about your social class, but He'll ask what kind of class you displayed.

God won't ask how many material possessions you had, but He'll ask if they dictated your life.

God won't ask what your highest salary was, but He'll ask if you compromised your principles to obtain it.

God won't ask how much money you spent on yourself, but He'll ask how much you gave back to Him.

God won't ask how much overtime you worked, but He'll ask if your overtime was for yourself or for your family.

God won't ask how many promotions you received, but He'll ask how you promoted others.

God won't ask what your job title was, but He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.

God won't ask what you did to help yourself, but He'll ask what you did to help others.

God won't ask how many friends you had, but He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.

God won't ask what you did to protect your rights, but He'll ask what you did to protect the rights of others.

God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived, but He'll ask how you treated your neighbors.

God won't ask about the color of your skin, but He'll ask about the content of your character.

God won't ask how many times your deeds matched your words, but He'll ask how many times they didn't.

God won't ask if His Son loved you, but He'll ask if you loved His Son.

BARN MINISTRY NEWS

Barn opens on Monday, April 1

Donated Items

The Church Barn will accept donations of all gently used, clean clothing and household items. Items can be left 24/7 **inside** the brown shed next to the Barn. Donation receipts are available inside the shed.

PLEASE:

NO furniture, mattresses, baby beds, car seats, large televisions, computer monitors, large exercise equipment, men's suits, VHS tapes, magazines, text books, stuffed animals

First Sale: Saturday, May 4, from 9:00-2:00 pm

All proceeds from sales support the charitable donations of the Parish.

Barn Volunteers Needed

Help is needed Monday-Friday from 8:30-11:00 am and on sale days. Drop by after April 1 to find out more. Please contact Ray Waugh (908-432-5046) or Cathy Waugh (908-209-4264) regarding help with sale days.

WE WERE ASKED TO ANNOUNCE

Bereavement Group (April 2-May 14 on Tuesdays)

St. John Neumann, Califon, NJ at 7:00 pm

Six non-denominational, interrelated and supportive bereavement seminars

John Cole, a professional in the transitioning process, will facilitate the sessions. The conversations extend from understanding loss and normal reactions to steps, guided by faith, towards acceptance and the recreation of hopeful lives. While a primary focus is the death of a significant other, those who have experienced severe loss because of divorce, separation, or other substantial life altering events are welcomed.

Please note that each session builds on the prior one. Attendance at all six sessions would be best to derive optimal benefit. At this time, all sessions will be in the upper floor of the parish office building, unless participant mobility issues arise.

Registration: France Kennedy at 908-832-2513 on or before March 29. Questions: John Cole at 908-399-4234.

Villa Walsh Academy Presents "Cinderella"

Saturday, March 30, 7 pm

Sunday, March 31, 3 pm

Tickets are \$12. This timeless tale of a young girl with a wish, a glorious ball, and a pair of magical glass slippers comes to life with the beautiful music of Rodgers & Hammerstein.

Questions: (973) 538-3680 or www.villawalsh.org.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2019**

8:00 am - Spec. Int. of Wayne Farbanish

9:00 am - Spec. Int. of Fr. Yohan Serrano

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2019

8:00 am - Spec. Int. of Brian Spring

9:00 am - Spec. Int. of Grace Varua (Gratitude)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2019

8:00 am - Spec. Int. of Conrad Spring

9:00 am - Fr. Rafael Perez

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2019

8:00 am - Virginia Murphy

9:00 am - Spec. Int. of Sr. Rachel & Sr. Janna

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2019

8:00 am - Spec. Int. of Bialas Family

9:00 am - George S. Resotka

SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2019

9:00 am - William Carlstrom

5:00 pm - John Szmak

SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2019

7:30 am - For the People of the Parish

9:00 am - John Jeska

- Carrie Kisner

11:00 am - Scott Matthews

- Jeannette Barnish

12:30 pm - Maureen Makris

6:00 pm - Kazimierz Raczkowski

TODAY'S READINGS**First Reading** — "I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt and have come to rescue them"(Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15) *or* Exodus 17:3-7.**Psalms** — The Lord is kind and merciful (Psalm 103) *or* Psalm 95.**Second Reading** — Those who think they are standing secure should take care not to fall (1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12) *or* Romans 5:1-2, 5-8.**Gospel** — I shall cultivate the ground around the fig tree and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future (Luke 13:1-9) *or* John 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42].**MASS READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6-7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Lk 11:14-23

Friday: Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-11ab, 14, 17; Mk 12:28-34

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-21ab; Lk 18:9-14

Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12; Ps 34:2-7; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Alternate readings (Year A):

1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-6;

Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41[1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]

TITHING IS GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING.

Biblically a tithe means 10%. All are asked to consider tithing and return 10% of our income to the Lord (5% to the parish, 5% to God's other charities) in gratitude. The spiritual practice of tithing disposes us to make God first in every area of our lives! The aim is to secure not the tithe, but the tither. Not the gift, but the giver — for God!

Tithing Income March 17, 2019**\$10,584.00**

Tithing Income March 18, 2018

\$ _____ *

*Amount unavailable at time of bulletin printing.

Reflection: "*He said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree, but have found none.'*" (Luke 13:7)

We can all be like the barren fig tree at times. Do you cling to what you have or do you generously share with others? How will you respond when God asks you what you have done with all the gifts He has given you? Remember, not only are we called to be generous, we are called to develop and nurture our gifts and return with increase.

Father Nick: "May the Lord bless you abundantly for your efforts to follow His plan for giving! I know it is a sacrifice. Thank you!"

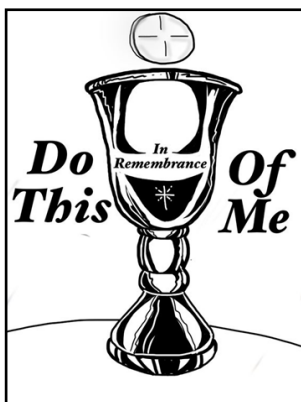
Parishioner of Epiphany of Our Lord Church in Plymouth Meeting, PA: "As a convert to the Church, I knew of tithing as a child in the Baptist Church. My financial resources are not great, but I do intend to be certain to include my parish in my giving."

NEXT HEALING MASS**Tuesday, April 16, 7:00 pm****Rosary at 6:30 pm****All are welcome!****MID-LENT CHECK-IN**

God says to Moses, "This is what you shall tell the Israelites: I AM sent me to you . . . The LORD, the God of your [ancestors], the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob" (Exodus 3:14, 15). As Jesus would later say, God is not a God of the dead, but of the living, and so we believe that the dead will one day rise. At this mid-point of Lent, we pause to consider how our repentance is leading us to the Resurrection, to our reunion with the great "I AM." Part of our repentance involves working to secure justice for all and helping our neighbor to live in God's ways. We encourage each other and nurture each other, like the compassionate gardener of today's Gospel, who tells the owner of the orchard that he will nurture the tree, fertilize it, and perhaps it will bear fruit.

EUCCHARIST RETREAT

FOR FIRST COMMUNICANTS



On Saturday, March 16, in preparation for their First Holy Communion, the children of St. Lawrence Parish participated in a Eucharistic Retreat run by Sr. Rachel and Sr. Janna, two Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco order and brought to our parish by our pastor, Fr. Nick. The retreat was two and a half hours of excitement, captivity and teaching of our traditions delivered in a very interactive and engaging setting. The children traveled 3,000 years back in time to explore the life of the oppressed Israelites in Egypt, led by God through Moses into freedom, and the challenges of trusting God as they wandered in the desert for 40 years. They then visited and explored the significance of the Holy Tent for the Israelites and made the connection of how it relates to the Tabernacle for us today, followed by a re-enactment of the Last Supper and Jesus's gift of Himself in the Eucharist. The children observed how flat bread is made and using this special machine, they were able to punch the circular wafers and use them to practice receiving. During the retreat, the children also explored the Mystery of the Holy Trinity, Consecration and Transubstantiation.





Please keep our First Communicants in your prayers as they come closer to receiving Jesus in the Holy Eucharist for the first time on Saturday, May 11, 2019.

Brian Altieri	Chloe Downs	Thomas O'Neil
Vera Benigno	Sabrina Duffy	Santiago Peña Escobar
Vincent Bono	Luca Forte	Emma Rosario
Jenna Briganti	Kayla Frascella	Zachary Schror
Thomas Bruno	Chiara Graziano	Charles Shoulberg
Camila Caceres	Christopher Guzman	Connor Simon
Juliet Caffrey	Kayleigh Hatton	Max Star
Alan Calix-Calix	Zoe Herrling	Jessica Torres Leal
Colleen Capuzzi	Mallory Howell	Audrey Vince
Zachary Castiglione	Gracielynn Leo	Daniel Webster IV
Mary Chidgey	Maggie Macias	Gavin Wilk
Angela Clark	Cian Manning	Charles Wood
Colby Connors	Anne McBreen	Liam Wood
Reece Crowell	Audrey Mikos	
Olivia Cuiffo	Marco Musolino	

We also pray for Sr. Rachel and Sr. Janna as well as all the Salesian Sisters who serve the needs of our young people and adults who gather in the name and spirit of Christ. May God bless them and give them strength to continue God's work.

For more information on their on-site programs and sacramental retreats, please visit the website for Sacred Heart Spirituality Center located in Newton, NJ.