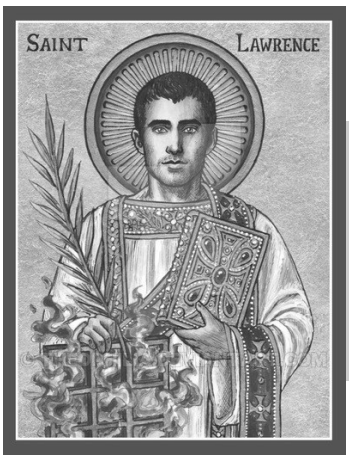


St. Lawrence the Martyr Church

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 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*

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 (Spanish)
Healing Mass: 7:00 pm every 3rd Wed. 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:
Dorothy Kudron, Shannon Rossi
Cynthia Vittitow— Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
Brian Flanagan — Confirmation
Kathleen Galdi — DRE, Youth Protection/Safe Environment
Music Minister: *Joseph P. Tamburro*
Youth Minister: *Shannon Rossi*
Mercy Minister: *Cindy Zeis*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN:

Gr. 1-7:	Sun.	9:00-10:50 am	(includes Mass)
Gr. 5-7:	Sun.	5:00-7:00 pm	(includes Mass)
Gr. 8-10:	Sun.	5:50-8:15 pm	(includes Mass)
CGS:	Sun.	9:00-11:00 am	OR Thurs. 4:45-6:00 pm
Gr. K-7:	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
Armata Bianca	Lorna Phillips	(617) 538-5567	Ushers	Bob Holl	(908) 876-3488
Moms & Tots	Meghan Mahoney	(732) 407-1618	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 Ministry	Shannon Rossi	(908) 879-6714
Women's Cornerstone	Lissette Howell	(973) 975-7343	Altar Servers	Kathleen Garrison	(973) 945-1518
Men's Cornerstone	Tommy Reynolds	(908) 463-0167	Evangelization	Robert 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	Robert Holl	(908) 876-3488
Barn Ministry	Ray Waugh	(908) 432-5046	Family Mass Social	Marc McFeely	(973) 222-9739
Mary's Moonflowers	Karen Jones	(973) 479-5271	Evangelical Catholic	Connie Wieczorek	(908) 879-6453

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

The Word of God teaches us that Heaven is our true home. To almost everyone, the thought of Heaven is appealing and I believe we are drawn to Heaven, in part, because we are hoping for a reunion there with our loved ones someday. God created us in His image and an element of the image of God is the unity of the three persons of the Trinity, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Made in the image of God, we want to be in communion with others, just as the three persons of God are in a loving communion with each other. We don't like separations, even temporary ones. We don't like the separations caused by being away at school or by job related transfers or by too many business trips or by other extended relocations. We miss our loved ones when we are separated for a long time. We especially don't like the separation caused by death. The separation caused by death can seem permanent, even when our faith in the Word of God tells us otherwise.

Today, we celebrate God's gift of family. It is part of being in the image of God and His Holy Trinity. Having a family and being a family is a tremendous gift of God to us. Living in communion, in family, does not take of itself. We need to work at being a family. But it is worth all the effort, isn't it?

CATHOLIC WATCHDOGS

A couple of weeks back, I referred you to a website that seeks to make us aware of violations of our freedoms as Catholic people of faith. The website is catholicleague.org. There are attempts by government and others to limit religious liberties and to remove all references to God and faith from OUR culture. The Catholic (Defense) League does a great job of keeping us informed. I highly recommend getting on their notification list.

God bless.

Father Nick

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.

OUR OFFICES ARE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS

The Parish Office and Faith Formation Office will be closed through **Wednesday, January 1** with phone messages/email checked periodically. If you have an emergency, leave a message for Father Nick at both the Parish Office (908-879-5371) and the rectory (908-879-1901).

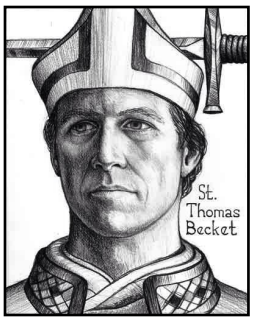
Offices will reopen on Thursday, January 2.

WE PRAY FOR PARISHIONERS IN THE MILITARY

Brianna Harmon, Kevin Phillips, Brad Carfaro

SAINT THOMAS BECKET (1118-1170)

December 29



To anyone who imagines conflict between religion and politics to be a modern phenomenon, history witnesses otherwise. Martyred under Henry VIII in 1535, Thomas More declared, "I die the king's good servant, but God's first!" Thomas Becket could have said the same four centuries earlier. As Henry II's closest friend and trusted chancellor, Becket, the king presumed, could be counted on if made archbishop to deliver the church to royal control. But Becket experienced a profound conversion confirmed by the ordination liturgy's rich symbolism of the bishop as Good Shepherd and the church as Bride of Christ. Renouncing secular responsibilities, distributing his wealth to the poor, Thomas became the church's uncompromising champion. Faced with this "new" Becket, the king's previous friendship turned into a ferocious, almost irrational hatred. Eight centuries later, Archbishop Romero would be martyred at the altar of Christ's sacrifice. Becket was slain before the altar of Canterbury Cathedral by royal agents, neither the first nor last good shepherd to lay down his life as the price of freedom for Christ's church and justice for Christ's sheep.

MEETINGS / EVENTS THIS WEEK

Thursday

- Adult Choir - 7:00 pm

Friday

- Divine Mercy Chaplet - 3:00 pm

2020 CALENDARS

Available in the church and Parish Center. Please pick one up at your convenience.

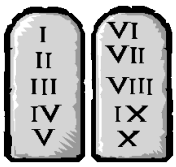
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEXT WEEK

Sunday (1/5)

- Classes - 9:00 am, 5:00 pm
- Confirmation - 5:50 pm

Thursday (1/9)

- Classes - 4:45 pm



THE TEN COMMANDMENT CHALLENGE

Week 9:

1. **I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods before me.**
2. **You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.**
3. **Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.**
4. **Honor your father and mother.**
5. **You shall not kill.**
6. **You shall not commit adultery.**
7. **You shall not steal.**
8. **You shall not bear false witness.**
9. **You shall not covet they neighbor's wife.**

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK . . .

Sister Eucharia, Father Joseph Farias, Father Joseph Garbarino, Father Gilberto Gutierrez, Father Daniel Kelly, Father Thomas Mangieri, Father Eugene Romano, Father Stanislaw Wajdziak, Msgr. Eugene Boland, Msgr. Peter McBride, Msgr. Peter J. McHugh, Msgr. Richard Rusconi, Deacon Hector Cassillas

Joe Cillo, Mary Lynn Cincotta, Aiden Cronin, Dorothy Diana, Wayne Farbanish, Daisy Hallock, Gemma Henderson, Claire Kingsley, Robert Konsig, Camille McQueen, Pat Nappi, MartinTully

Help us keep our sick list up to date!

Please call 908-879-5371 or email parish@stlchester.org to add or remove a name. All names will appear on the list for a month. Contact the Parish Office if you would like a name to be included for the next month.

THE NEW YEAR

May God be with you throughout
the new year,
and fill your life with
comfort, love and peace.
May this day and the days ahead
hold many blessings for you and yours.
Happy New Year!

Fr. Nick, Fr. Yohan,
Deacon Bill, Deacon Frank, Deacon Adam,
and the parish staff

NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

New Year's Eve Masses
5 pm, 6:30 pm (Spanish)

New Year's Day Masses
8 am, 11 am

THE BEACON

Do You Receive The Beacon?

If you receive The Beacon, your support to help underwrite the monthly subscription bill would be greatly appreciated. The annual subscription fee is $29.50. A check, made out to St. Lawrence Church, can be mailed to the Parish Office or dropped in the collection basket at Mass. You can also make your donation using the e-giving option by accessing on-line giving on the parish's home page. Thank you!

Would You Like to Subscribe or Cancel The Beacon?
Please contact Karen in the Parish Office:
908-879-5371 OR parish@stlchester.org

A MIGHTY NEW YEAR / A NEW DAWN

12 months of holiness,
52 weeks of joy & surrender to the Lord,
365 days of prayer,
8760 hours of good thoughts,
525,600 minutes of compassion,
31,536,000 seconds full of faith.
So we wish you a mighty New Year
Immersed in the presence of God.
~ Unknown

MARCH FOR LIFE
Friday, January 24, 2020
Washington, D.C.
Save the date!
Help us be the voice that supports life from conception to natural death.

DAY OF ADORATION & PRAYER

Friday, January 3, is a day of adoration and prayer. All are invited to come to Our Lady's Chapel from **9:30 am - 8:30 pm.** Adoration also takes place each subsequent Friday from 9:30-10:30 am in the chapel. Make it a New Year's resolution to spend more quiet time with the Lord.

10 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS TO CONSIDER MAKING:

1. **Resolve to stay faithful to Jesus Christ. He is the one Truth, Way and Life. There's no reason to look elsewhere.**
2. **Resolve to not let anything – a career, a significant other, social media, a house – become an object of worship.**
3. **Resolve to watch your language and not speak any destructive talk, especially involving the name of God.**
4. **Resolve to prevent burnout by putting aside work one day a week. Trust God to provide for your needs that day and just enjoy the time He's given you.**
5. **Resolve to talk to your parents on a regular basis and show them love and respect.**
6. **Resolve to be angry less. Channel any feelings of rage, which Jesus said are as severe as murder, into worshiping God and serving others.**
7. **Resolve to honor your commitment to your spouse. Whether in thought or in deed, stay pure and loyal in the union God made.**
8. **Resolve to not take anything that's not yours, including stuff you can hold and put in your pocket, and plenty that you can't, like music downloads and streaming movies.**
9. **Resolve to speak about others only with truth and love, not gossip.**
10. **Resolve to be content with what you have and not worry about what others are amassing.**

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2019
8:00 am - Spec. Int. of Spring Family
9:00 am - Nancy Richard

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2019 (New Year's Eve)
8:00 am - Bill McCormick
9:00 am - Basia & Gus Jaworski
5:00 pm - Sally Goron
6:30 pm - Spanish Mass

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2020 (New Year's Day)
8:00 am - Maureen Diana
11:00 am - Bill McCormick
- Conrad Spring

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2020
8:00 am - Conrad & Anna Spring
9:00 am - Stephen & Olga Farbanish

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 2020
8:00 am - Frank Fila
9:00 am - Parents of Elena & Mike Acerra

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 2020
9:00 am - Jim Sommer
5:00 pm - For the People of the Parish

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2020
7:30 am - Jim Pasapane
9:00 am - Jack McGovern
- John W. Dowbekin
- Bill McCormick
11:00 am - Joan McCann
12:30 pm - For the Souls in Purgatory
6:00 pm - Sally Goron

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Those who honor and comfort their parents shall never be forgotten (Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14).
Psalm — Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in His ways (Psalm 128).
Second Reading — You are called into one body. Bear with one another; forgive one another; let Christ's peace control you (Colossians 3:12-21 [12-17]).
Gospel — Joseph rose, took the child and His mother, and fled to Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23).

NEW YEAR

The object of a new year is not that we should have a new year, but rather that we should have a new soul.
—G. K. Chesterton

MASS READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18
Wednesday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
Thursday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28
Friday: 1 Jn 2:29 — 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34
Saturday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42
Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

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 December 22, 2019 **$_____***
Tithing Income December 23, 2018 $_____*
**Amount unavailable at time of bulletin printing.*

Reflection: ***"Wives, be subordinate to your husbands… Husbands, love your wives…Children, obey your parents in everything…Fathers, do not provoke your children…" (Colossians 3:18-21)***
Pope Francis said that families, through their life of prayer and love, become "schools of true human growth." Being credible witnesses of Christian love, especially that of family members, exerts the most positive influence on our children. We are all children of God, let us pray and love each other as God, Our Father, does for us.

From Father Nick: "I offer you my sincere thanks and ask God's blessings upon you for all of the help that you provide through your sharing of your time, talent and treasure."

A Testimony from a Member of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield, NJ: "I have been tithing for the past ten years and it is the best decision that I have ever made. God is good and God is faithful. Take the leap!"

NEXT HEALING MASS
Wednesday, January 15
7:00 pm (Rosary at 6:30 pm)

SALVATION IN DAILY LIFE

This Sunday is the feast of the Holy Family which comes on the first Sunday after Christmas Day. Today's feast celebrates how the humanity of Jesus (including His entire family life) has brought saving significance into the daily rhythms of our human family life.

The scriptures offer instruction and encouragement on how to share—within our families, parish families, and the wider human family—the love that God shares with us in Jesus. Selections from Sirach, Psalm 128, and Colossians encourage us to reflect divine love and thus find holiness in all our human relationships. The reading from Matthew's Gospel offers a living example of love in the actions Joseph took to protect his young family from danger and to nurture them within the larger family of faith of their time.