

St. Lawrence the Martyr Church

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2020

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. 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

Street Address: 375 Main Street Chester, NJ 07930

Mailing Address: PO Box 730 Chester, NJ 07930

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Yohan Serrano

Permanent Deacon: William DeVizio

Trustees: Phil Guidone, Margie Scobell

Parish Secretary: Karen Jaworski

Accountant: Sharon McCann

MASSSES:

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	Lisette Howell	(973) 975-7343	Altar Servers	Andrew Guido	(973) 479-5898
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 Wiczorek	(908) 397-5986

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

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**AT A MOST DIFFICULT TIME IN HIS LIFE,
KOBE BRYANT TURNED TO GOD AND RECEIVED GOD'S HELP**

Famed basketball player, Kobe Bryant, turned to God at a low point in his life and found the help he needed. Raised a Catholic and growing up in Italy, Bryant knew the basics of the Catholic faith. When he was accused of rape in Colorado in 2003 and arrested, he sought out a priest for guidance. The priest was very direct with him. The priest asked him whether he was guilty. Bryant replied "no." The priest then explained that it now was all in God's hands. "Turn it over to Him." Bryant did so and began to live his faith more earnestly. The woman, with whom he had had a sexual encounter, believed their encounter was non-consensual. He apologized to the woman who had accused him for any wrong he had done. The charges were dropped. He became regular with Mass and confession. His new approach to living helped to save his marriage. He improved in his efforts to be a good husband and father. His life improved when he placed his faith in God and began to faithfully meet with Jesus in the sacraments. Bryant's turnaround can serve as an inspiration for the value of a life of faith.

SOME GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR TEENS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Our diocese has a great blessing in the form of our own evangelization center in Madison, NJ. The center is called St. Paul Inside the Walls. During the month of February, St. Paul's is offering two most appealing events. One is on how to reconcile faith and science, most useful for the teen or college student who is struggling to retain his Catholic faith due to his studies in science. The second is an evening mini retreat for families that will give clear, simple teachings on God's plan for marriage and the family in an engaging and entertaining format. Below is more information on the two presentations:

On **Saturday, February 8th**, the Distinguished Research Professor from Georgetown University, Professor Haupt, will be at St. Paul Inside the Walls to address the topic, "Evolution and Faith: What is at stake?" Can theology bring together in harmony our basic Christian beliefs and the discoveries of science? Saturday, February 8th from 10 to 11:30 am at St. Paul's in Madison. Registration on line is required.

On **Thursday, February 13th**, Jason Evert, the popular Catholic speaker for youth and families, will present a mini retreat for families on the topic of love and family life at St. Paul Inside the Walls in Madison. This is for children 13 and up. Jason's presentation will be clear and easy to understand. The format of the evening will enable family discussion. The evening will include Benediction and confessions. Thursday, February 13th from 7 to 9 pm at St. Paul's in Madison. Registration on line is required.

I hope our parish families will take advantage of these great opportunities.

God bless!

Father Nick

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION THIS WEEK**Sunday**

- No classes

Thursday

- No classes

Sunday

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

SAINT AGATHA (died 251)**February 5**

“Of noble birth and great beauty,” so the ancient accounts describe Saint Agatha, martyred during an early persecution for refusing a powerful Roman’s offer of marriage, since she had consecrated her virginity to Christ. An early preacher, Saint Methodius, reflects instead on her name, noting that, in Greek, Agatha means “good,” goodness being something we can all strive for, nobly born or common, blessed with beauty—or not! So

brutal the tortures that violated her youthful innocence, Agatha, like Agnes and several other women martyrs, was honored from time immemorial by having her name inscribed in the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I). Long invoked as protector against earthquakes — Mount Etna erupted as she was being tortured — recent attention has focused on the particularly cruel torture decreed for Agatha, the cutting off of her breasts. This has inspired cancer survivors to promote Saint Agatha as patron and intercessor for women courageously facing breast cancer, for their families and the multitude of supporters who participate in fund-raising marches and races, and, of course, for the dedicated researchers who seek a cure.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY

Brianna Harmon, Kevin Phillips, Brad Carfaro,
Joseph Boyland IV

ALTAR SERVERS**February 8-9**

5:00 pm	7:30 am	9:00 am	11:00 am	12:30 pm	6:00 pm
CB - Justin Katz	CB -	CB - Cole Capuzzi	CB - Harlan Iversen	CB - Briana Carrera	CB - Stephen Howell
S1 - Julia Katz	S1 -	S1 - Curran Capuzzi	S1 - John Iversen	S1 - Erik Carrera	S1 - Aidan Howell
S2 - Amanda Katz	S2 -	S2 - Nicholas Leo	S2 -	S2 - Angel Carrera	S2 -

MEETINGS / EVENTS THIS WEEK**Sunday**

- Pancake Breakfast (after all morning Masses)

Monday

- Parish Advisory Board - 7:00 pm

Tuesday

- Women’s Cornerstone - 7:00 pm
- Beginner ESL - 7:30 pm

Wednesday

- Armata Bianca - 4:15 pm
- ESL - 7:30 pm

Thursday

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

Friday

- Divine Mercy Chaplet - 3:00 pm

Saturday

- Grade 8 Confirmation Retreat - 11:00 am

Saturday-Sunday

- Food Pack Drive

**INFORMATION REGARDING
YEAR END DONATION STATEMENTS****For Envelope Users**

Contact the Parish Office at 908-879-5371 or kjaworski@stlchester.org if you would like your statement mailed to your home.

For Online Giving Users

Statements will be e-mailed to everyone who has a valid e-mail address in WeShare. If that is not the case, contact the Parish Office and we will mail the statement to you.

MORE

Care more than others think necessary.

Trust more than others think wise.

Serve more than others think practical.

~Anonymous

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Sister Eucharia, Father John Connolly, Father Joseph Farias,
Father Joseph Garbarino, Father Gilberto Gutierrez, Father
Daniel Kelly, Father Thomas Mangieri, Father Eugene Ro-
mano, Father Stanislaw Wajdziak, Msgr. Eugene Boland,
Msgr. Peter McBride, Msgr. Peter J. McHugh, Msgr. Rich-
ard Rusconi, Deacon Hector Cassillas

Wayne Farbanish, Robert Konsig

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 this month.

PRE SCHOOL CHILDREN FOOD PACK PROGRAM

St. Lawrence Church continues to support the diocesan wide Pre School Food Pack Program which provides needy children of the El Mundo Del Nino School in Paterson with a supply of food and snacks and a meal for their family.

This year we are asked to supply 105 food packs to be delivered to Paterson by Friday, February 21.

A typical food pack for each child includes:

- 2 breakfast items (instant oatmeal packs)
- 2 lunch items (Chef Boyardee Micro Meal, Kraft Easy Mac & Cheese, can of Beefaroni)
- 1 milk (Horizon White Milk)
- 1 juice (Apple and Eve 100% Apple Juice Box)
- 1 fruit cup (diced peaches)
- 2 snacks (Rice Krispie Treat, granola bar)
- 1 meal to share with family (white rice-16 oz. bag AND tuna-5 oz. can)

Please try to stick to the items above.

Donations can be dropped off in the Church Hall on the weekends of February 8-9 and 15-16. Shoprite gift cards are also appreciated and will be used to purchase needed items. As always, thank you for your generous support.

MAILING ADDRESS FOR OUR CHURCH

Please use the following address when mailing correspondence to the parish:

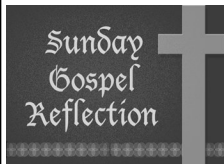
**St. Lawrence Church
PO Box 730
Chester, NJ 07930**

This will ensure that all mail will be received. The post office will not deliver any mail addressed to "375 Main Street". Thank you!

**WE SHARE**

WeShare, our online giving system, allows parishioners to donate to the parish electronically from their checking or savings account in a secure and convenient way.

If you've never donated online before, signing up is easy! Visit our church website at www.stlchester.org and click "online giving" to follow the step-by-step instructions. You can also call 800-950-9952, option 1, for additional help and information.

REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL READINGS

Lent is fast approaching. Please consider participating in a small group where we will journey with Jesus to the cross by prayerfully reflecting upon the Sunday gospel readings leading up to Easter. Sign up forms are in the church and Parish Center. Contact Connie Wiczorek at: conniew@stlchester.org for more information.

SHOP RITE GROCERY CARDS

ShopRite grocery cards are available after each Mass at the **upstairs main door** of the church. They are also available at the Parish Office during the week. Support the parish (5% of sales) as you buy your groceries.

Last week's sales: \$3,450.00

Last week's profit: \$172.50

families who purchased: 13

Food bank: \$200.00

Please consider donating grocery cards to our food bank which helps the needy in our community.

WE WERE ASKED TO ANNOUNCE**First Friday, Feb. 7, 2020 at the Blue Army Shrine**

Begin your new year with Our Lord. Honor His request to St. Margaret Alacoque to spread devotion in the world for nine First Fridays in reparation for the offenses against His Most Sacred Heart. Please join us - the world needs this. Confessions 10:00 am; Holy Rosary 11:30; Mass 12:00 N; Exposition 12:45; Benediction 1:30. 674 Mt. View Rd. E, Asbury, NJ 08802 908-689-1700, ex. 224.

Evolution and Faith: What is at stake?

Saturday, February 8, 10 am to 11:30 am

Dr. John Haught, distinguished Professor of Theology at Georgetown University, will discuss Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection and how it challenges religious trust in a providential God who purposefully creates, influences and cares for the world.

For more information or to register visit:

insidethewalls.org/evolution

"Purified" with Best Selling Author Jason Evert

Thursday, February 13, 7 pm to 9 pm

The innocence of the family is under attack like never before. Come hear best-selling author Jason Evert and discover how to protect and heal your family.

To learn more and to buy tickets visit:

chastity.com/purified

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2020**

8:00 am - Father Paul Knauer

9:00 am - Patti Hale

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2020

8:00 am - Howard MacDonald

9:00 am - Gus Jaworski, Jr.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020

8:00 am - Father Rafael Perez

9:00 am - Spec. Int. of Spring Family

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2020

8:00 am - Spec. Int. of Bob & Carol Farbanish

9:00 am - Frank Fila

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020

8:00 am - Albert Senger

9:00 am - Parents of Elena & Mike Acerra

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2020

9:00 am - Stephen & Olga Farbanish

5:00 pm - Ethel Forkell

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2020

7:30 am - Donato Casiero

9:00 am - Mary Heduva

- Cheryl Chapman

11:00 am - Carol Ann Albers

- Robert Flanek

- Daniel Ghizzone

12:30 pm - For the Souls in Purgatory

6:00 pm - For the People of the Parish

TODAY'S READINGS**First Reading** — There will come to the temple the Lord whom you seek (Malachi 3:1-4).**Psalm** — Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord! (Psalm 24).**Second Reading** — Jesus had to become like His brothers and sisters in every way to help the descendants of Abraham (Hebrews 2:14-18).**Gospel** — The just and pious Simeon proclaims the infant Jesus to be a revealing light to the Gentiles, the glory of the people Israel (Luke 2:22-40 [22-32]).**NEXT HEALING MASS****Wednesday, February 19****7:00 pm (Rosary at 6:30 pm)****MASS READINGS FOR THE WEEK****Monday:** 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13; Ps 3:2-7; Mk 5:1-20**Tuesday:** 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30 — 19:3; Ps 86:1-6; Mk 5:21-43**Wednesday:** 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17; Ps 32:1-2, 5-7; Mk 6:1-6**Thursday:** 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12; 1 Chr 29:10-12; Mk 6:7-13**Friday:** Sir 47:2-11; Ps 18:31, 47, 50, 51; Mk 6:14-29**Saturday:** 1 Kgs 3:4-13; Ps 119:9-14; Mk 6:30-34**Sunday:** Is 58:7-10; Ps 112:4-9; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16**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 January 26, 2020**\$12,407.00**

Tithing Income January 27, 2019

\$ 8,679.00

Reflection: “...they took Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord...” (Luke 2:22)

How seriously do you take being a Catholic? Is “being Catholic” something I just do when I attend Sunday Mass or attend one of my parish functions? It's easy to be Catholic then; it's harder to be Catholic when I am out in the world. Would someone recognize you as a Catholic by the way you act, dress, and talk? How do you present yourself to the Lord and to others?

From Father Nick: “I thank you all for your confidence in God as you follow His plan for giving!”

From a Parishioner of St. Augustine Parish, Seymour, CT: “Tithing has been my salvation. Returning to God part of my income made me realize that I must return more of my time to those around me. Doing this has been rewarding here and hopefully hereafter.”

THE ROAD TO GOD*There is but one road to lead us to God — humility.**All other ways would only lead astray,
even were they fenced in with all virtues.**~Nicolas Boileau-Despreaux***A CHRISTMAS REPRISE**

The Church's celebration three weeks ago of the Baptism of the Lord signaled the “official” end of the Christmas season. Today's feast of the Presentation of the Lord seems to extend the Incarnation celebration a bit longer. In fact, some have called this feast a “second Epiphany.” The first reading recalls the anticipation of Advent, as Malachi writes, “Lo, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me.” The reading from Hebrews reminds us of the Incarnation, proclaiming that Jesus had a “share” in our own “blood and flesh.” The Gospel finds the infant Jesus on His first visit to Jerusalem and His human parents once again surprised and in awe over the events surround His birth.

In the simplicity of the manger, in the grandeur of the temple, in the domesticity of Nazareth, Jesus comes. May we come to know Him and so be filled with “wisdom” and the “favor of God.”

20



20

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1 Morn. Prayer-8:25 Mass-9 Confession-4-4:45 Mass-5 Men's Cornerstone 7:30 am
2 PANCAKE BREAKFAST Mass-7:30 Mass-9 Mass-11 Mass-12:30 (Spanish) Mass-6	3 Morn. Prayer-7:25 Mass-8, 9 Confession-6:30 Parish Advisory Board-7	4 Morn. Prayer-7:25 Mass-8, 9 Beginner ESL-7:30 Women's Corner- stone-7	5 Morn. Prayer-7:25 Mass-8, 9 Armata Bianca-4:15 ESL-7:30	6 Morn. Prayer-7:25 Mass-8, 9 Moms & Tots-10 Adult Choir-7	7 Morn. Prayer-7:25 Mass-8, 9 Adoration 9:30-8:30 Divine Mercy Chaplet-3	8 FOOD PACK DRIVE Morn. Prayer-8:25 Mass-9 Confession-4-4:45 Mass-5 Gr. 8 Confirmation Retreat-11
9 FOOD PACK DRIVE Mass-7:30 Mass-9 Mass-11 Mass-12:30 (Spanish) Mass-6 FF-9, 5	10 Morn. Prayer-7:25 Mass-8, 9 Confession-6:30 1st Communion Parent Meeting- 10:30	11 Morn. Prayer-7:25 Mass-8, 9 Beginner ESL-7:30 Rosary Society-7	12 Morn. Prayer-7:25 Mass-8, 9 Armata Bianca-4:15 ESL-7:30	13 Morn. Prayer-7:25 Mass-8, 9 Moms & Tots-10 Adult Choir-7 FF-4:45	14 Morn. Prayer-7:25 Mass-8, 9 Adoration 9:30-10:30 Divine Mercy Chaplet-3	15 FOOD PACK DRIVE Morn. Prayer-8:25 Mass-9 Confession-4-4:45 Mass-5
16 FOOD PACK DRIVE Mass-7:30 Mass-9 Mass-11 Mass-12:30 (Spanish) Mass-6	17 Morn. Prayer-7:25 Mass-8, 9 Confession-6:30 Spanish Ministry- 7:30	18 Morn. Prayer-7:25 Mass-8, 9 Beginner ESL-7:30 Good Samaritans-7	19 Morn. Prayer-7:25 Mass-8, 9 Armata Bianca-4:15 ESL-7:30 Healing Mass-7 (Rosary at 6:30)	20 Morn. Prayer-7:25 Mass-8, 9 Moms & Tots-10 Adult Choir-7	21 Morn. Prayer-7:25 Mass-8, 9 Adoration 9:30-10:30 Divine Mercy Chaplet-3	22 Morn. Prayer-8:25 Mass-9 Confession-4-4:45 Mass-5 Gr. 9 Confirmation Retreat-11
23 Mass-7:30 Mass-9 Mass-11 Mass-12:30 (Spanish) Mass-6 FF-9, 5	24 Morn. Prayer-7:25 Mass-8, 9 Confession-6:30	25 Morn. Prayer-7:25 Mass-8, 9 Beginner ESL-7:30	26 ASH WEDNESDAY Masses-8, 4:30, 7 Armata Bianca-4:15 ESL-7:30	27 Morn. Prayer-7:25 Mass-8, 9 Moms & Tots-10 Adult Choir-7 FF-4:45	28 Morn. Prayer-7:25 Mass-8, 9 Adoration 9:30-10:30 Divine Mercy Chaplet-3 ANTIOCH	29 Morn. Prayer-8:25 Mass-9 Confession-4-4:45 Mass-5 ANTIOCH



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