



St. Lawrence the Martyr Church

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 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

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	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

THE VALUE OF SMALL GROUPS IN A PARISH



This Lent, our parish invites you to be a part of a small group for the holy season of Lent. During Lent, which by the way begins on February 26th, we journey with Jesus spiritually on His way to the cross. Jesus invites us all during Lent to share in His dying to selfishness and sin and to share with Him afterwards in the new life that God offers us in the Holy Spirit.

One of the ways to enter into the spirit of the season of Lent is to join in a small group. The St. Lawrence small groups will prayerfully read and pray with the readings of the coming Sunday in Lent. The readings of Lent help us to appreciate the sacrifice of Jesus and invite us to participate in His saving death. Participation in small groups also helps us to get to know a number of our fellow parishioners better and to pray with them for our and their special needs and concerns.

The small group experience helps us all to pray with the Gospels, to grow in faith and love, and to grow closer in friendship to our fellow parishioners here at St. Lawrence Church.

THE 1 % CHALLENGE

Last year, during Lent, we invited all to participate in the 1% challenge during Lent. This prayer exercise was very well received by the members of our parish. It was so well received that we are going to offer it again. The 1 % Challenge invites us to pray with suggested readings from the Bible each day for about 15 minutes (15 minutes is 1% of our day). The 1% card even gives step by step instructions on how to pray with the Bible. It is very helpful! I hope that you will consider participating in the 1 % Lenten Challenge this year, too!

God bless.

Father Nick

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION THIS WEEK**Sunday**

- No classes

Thursday

- No classes

Sunday

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

THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER THE APOSTLE**February 22**

In brushing up for "Catholic Jeopardy," it might help to know that there is only one feast on the calendar for a thing, rather than a person or mystery. It's for a chair: Saint Peter's chair in fact.

After the Resurrection, there can be no doubt that the disciples reserved a special place for Simon Peter in the upper room. Later, Peter became the bishop of Antioch in today's Syria, the place where we were first called Christians. From there, he went to Rome, the center of the Empire, where it is said that Peter sat in a chair in the house of Priscilla and Aquila to instruct his flock. Jesus, in entrusting the keys of the Kingdom to Peter and his successors, entrusted his compassion and mercy to them, and charged them with pointing to the Kingdom of God. Compassion and mercy are to resonate through their teaching.

Since the ancient sign of a teacher is the chair ("disciple" literally means one who sits at the feet of a teacher), Peter's chair has long been treasured. Today there is a symbolic shrine of Peter's chair above the main altar of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. This monument is the last work of Bernini, a huge bronze throne supported by four doctors of the Church: Augustine and Ambrose from the Western Church, and Chrysostom and Athanasius from the East. High above it is the alabaster window of the descent of the Holy Spirit.

ALTAR SERVERS**February 22-23**

5:00 pm	7:30 am	9:00 am	11:00 am	12:30 pm	6:00 pm
CB - Justin Katz	CB -	CB - C. Iannuzzelli	CB - Harlan Iversen	CB - Briana Carrera	CB - W. Mayhood
S1 - Julia Katz	S1 -	S1 - Liam Brandt	S1 - John Iversen	S1 - Erik Carrera	S1 - A. Mayhood
S2 - Amanda Katz	S2 -	S2 - K. Blackwell	S2 -	S2 - Angel Carrera	S2 - J. Mayhood

MEETINGS / EVENTS THIS WEEK**Monday**

- Spanish Ministry - 7:30 pm

Tuesday

- Good Samaritans - 7:00 pm
- Beginner ESL - 7:30 pm

Wednesday

- Armata Bianca - 4:15 pm
- Healing Mass - 7:00 pm (Rosary at 6:30 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 9 Confirmation Retreat - 11:00 am

Sunday

- Antioch Team Meeting - 7:15 pm

BEGINNING AGAIN

*If I were to begin life again, I would want it as it was.
I would only open my eyes a little more.*

~Jules Renard

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY

Brianna Harmon, Kevin Phillips, Brad Carfaro, Joseph Boyland IV, John Thompson, Christopher O'Melia, Christopher DarConte

THANK YOU: FAMILY PROMISE PROGRAM

Thank you very much to all who helped host homeless families enrolled in the Family Promise program at First Congregational Church of Chester, especially since a second week was added. Volunteers from St. Lawrence parish prepared dessert, dinner or were hosts of the guest during the day, evening or over night.

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Sister Eucharist, Sister Mary Ann Cirillo, Father John Connolly, Father Joseph Farias, Father Joseph Garbarino, Father Gilberto Gutierrez, Father Daniel Kelly, Father Thomas Mangieri, Father Eugene Romano, Father Stanislaw Wajdzak, Msgr. Eugene Boland, Msgr. Peter McBride, Msgr. Peter J. McHugh, Msgr. Richard Rusconi, Deacon Hector Cassillas

Dorothy Diana, Wayne Farbanish, Claire Kingsley, Robert Kingsley, Robert Konsig, Richard Nyman, Laura Riss, Bob Summers, Jean Ward

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.



COLLECTING OLD PALMS

Please bring back your old palms and place in the receptacles found at the church entrances and in the Parish Center. We will burn these palms and use the ashes on Ash Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday is February 26
Easter Sunday is April 12

BAD COMPANY

People who live solely for themselves are eventually corrupted by their own company.

~ Anonymous

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: \$1,950.00

Last week's profit: \$97.50

families who purchased: 12

Food bank: \$100.00

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

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.

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 this weekend. Shoprite gift cards are also appreciated and will be used to purchase needed items. As always, thank you for your generous support.

RECENTLY JOINED OUR PARISH

We welcome you!

Christopher Pacilio of Kings Village, Budd Lake.

Ernel & Lillian Purisic and their daughter Olivia of Cromwell Drive, Chester.

WE WERE ASKED TO ANNOUNCE

Assumption College for Sisters, Denville, will host their Nineteenth Annual Caring Basket Gala on March 26, 2020, honoring Brother Paul, Diveny, OSB, Louis and Julianne Modugno, and Thomas Anselmi. The event will be held at the Hanover Marriot from 6:30-10:00 PM.

Featured during the event are a 50/50 cash raffle and basket raffle along with a silent and live auction. **All proceeds are primarily for the support and education of the 20 international Sisters from developing nations who are attending the college where we say, "Teach a Sister...Touch the World".**

For more information and for the invitation, visit www.acs350.org/events-2/

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2020**

8:00 am - Spec. Int. Carol Farbanish

9:00 am - Ruth Colantuono

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2020

8:00 am - For Those Grieving a Loved One

9:00 am - Elaine Morsch

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2020

8:00 am - Ruth & William Novick

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

7:00 pm - Spec. Int. of Wayne Farbanish

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020

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

9:00 am - Irene Ciccarino

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2020

8:00 am - Peggy Martone

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2020

9:00 am - Frank Fila

- Jim Sommer

5:00 pm - Carol Sundin

- Rocco Colantuono

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2020

7:30 am - For the People of the Parish

9:00 am - Rita Kohn

- John Wallace

11:00 am - Maureen Diana

- Frank Nacchio

12:30 pm - For the Souls in Purgatory

6:00 pm - Deceased Members of Catherina & Riposta Families

- Sgt. James Flaherty

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — God allows us to make choices, but we are not to choose injustice or sinfulness (Sirach 15:15-20).

Psalms — Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord! (Psalm 119).

Second Reading — God's wisdom is mysterious and hidden (1 Corinthians 2:6-10).

Gospel — Jesus has come not to abolish but to fulfill the law and the prophets (Matthew 5:17-37 [20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37]).

NEXT HEALING MASS**Wednesday, February 19 7 pm (Rosary at 6:30 pm)****MASS READINGS FOR THE WEEK****Monday:** Jas 1:1-11; Ps 119:67-68, 71-72, 75-76; Mk 8:11-13**Tuesday:** Jas 1:12-18; Ps 94:12-13a; 14-15, 18-19; Mk 8:14-21**Wednesday:** Jas 1:19-27; Ps 15:2-4ab, 5; Mk 8:22-26**Thursday:** Jas 2:1-9; Ps 34:2-7; Mk 8:27-33**Friday:** Jas 2:14-24, 26; Ps 112:1-6; Mk 8:34 — 9:1**Saturday:** 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6; Mt 16:13-19**Sunday:** Lv 19:1-2, 17-18; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13; 1 Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48**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 February 9, 2020	\$10,508.00
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Tithing Income February 10, 2019	\$12,150.00
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Reflection: *"For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:20)*

The scribes and Pharisees lived according to the letter of the law, and they used this to elevate themselves above the other people. Jesus is clear – it's the love that you have in your heart that will get you to heaven. Simply following church rules out of obligation, not love, does not put you on the path to heaven. Attending Mass on Sunday and then gossiping about a fellow parishioner in the parking lot is an example of a modern day Pharisee.

From Father Nick: "Once again I thank you sincerely for the sacrifices that you make out of love for God and for the support of God's work in our parish!"

A Testimony by a Parishioner of St. Columba Parish in Bloomsburg, PA: "With tithing, we also are teaching our children that they, too, have an obligation to give back to God and be thankful for all that is given to them with their hands, hearts and monies."

CHOICE

"If you choose you can keep the commandments," Sirach tells us. God "has set before you fire and water; to whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand" (Sirach 15:15, 16). This is a great mystery: God does not control us so completely that we cannot choose our own path. We have certain boundaries, of course, but no one but we can choose our way within those boundaries.

In today's reading from Matthew's Gospel, Jesus reminds us of our freedom and our responsibility for our lives. He calls us to look beyond the words of the commandments, all the way to their meaning. Look beyond the adultery to the selfishness that poisons our love. Look beyond the murder to the anger that eats away at our compassion. Look beyond the perjured testimony to the lies and deception that drive our behavior.

Our vocation is to choose life for ourselves and to choose a path through our part of the world that helps make life possible and more abundant for others as well.