



St. Lawrence the Martyr Church

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of St. Lawrence the Martyr Church is to continue to build a loving and welcoming community, to encourage our members to grow in holiness and to bring all people to Jesus.

Rev. Nicholas Bozza, Pastor

Street Address: 375 Main Street Chester, NJ 07930

Mailing Address: PO Box 730 Chester, NJ 07930

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Angel Torres

Permanent Deacons: Bill DeVizio, Greg Szpunar, Dave Galdi

Trustees: Phil Guidone, Margie Scobell

Parish Secretary: Karen Jaworski

Accountant: Sharon McCann

Business Manager: Robert Holl

MASSES:

Saturday: 5 pm

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

Daily Mass: M-F: 8 am & 9 am. Sat.: 9 am Mon.: 7 pm (Spanish)

Holy Day Vigil: 7 pm (Spanish)

Holy Day: 8 am, 9 am, 5:30 pm, 7 pm **(Call office for latest changes.)**

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

Healing Mass (Spanish): 7 pm every 4th Mon. of month.

BAPTISMS:

Baptisms: Please call the Parish Office to schedule.

Baptism Preparation Class: Clergy will contact family to schedule.

SPANISH BAPTISMS:

Baptisms: Please call the Parish Office to schedule.

Baptism Preparation Class: Clergy will contact family 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 (Gr. 1-4), Sr. Marie Luu (Gr. 5–Confirmation)

Vimala Justin — Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Sr. Marie Luu — Confirmation

Sr. Marie Luu — DRE, Youth Protection/Safe Environment

Music Minister: Joseph P. Tamburro

Youth Minister : Allison Farnald

Mercy Minister: Cindy Zeis

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN:

Sunday EARLY AM 8:50am-10:15am

Grades K, 1 & 2

Sunday AM 9:00am-11:15am *includes 9am Mass

Grades 1 - 6

Sunday PM 4:45pm-7:15pm *includes 6pm Mass

Grades 2 through YEAR 1 Confirmation

Sunday LATE PM 6:00pm-8:15pm *includes 6pm Mass

YEAR 2 Confirmation and High School Confirmation

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

RCIA: Sundays (September-Easter)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturday: 4:00 pm, Monday: 6:30 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

Parish Ministries and Ministry Facilitators

Altar Servers	Fr. Angel Torres	908-879-5371	Mary's Moonflowers	Karen Jones	973-479-5271
Arimathaea	Arlene McDonald	973-229-9697	Men's Cornerstone	Tommy Reynolds	908-463-0167
Armata Bianca	Lorna Phillips	617-538-5567	Moms & Tots	Meghan Mahoney	732-407-1618
Barn Ministry			Music Minister	Joe Tamburro	347-213-0621
Discover Gifts/Talents	Robert Holl	908-876-3488	Pastoral Adv. Board	Jerry Frech	908-377-2900
Eileen George Prayer Gr.	Fr. Nick Bozza	908-879-5371	Racial Justice Ministry	Bill DeVizio	732-236-3361
Eucharistic Ministers	Loretta Stewart	973-222-7492	RCIA	Jan Richards	908-975-3555
Family Mass Social	Marc McFeely	973-222-9739	Respect Life	Robert Holl	908-876-3488
Formation for Apostolates	Connie Wiecezorek	908-397-5986	Rosary Society	Marie Holl	908-876-3488
Good Samaritans	Patsy Soden	908-879-3374	Spanish Ministry	Louis Villafane	646-895-2753
Haiti Twinning Program	Christine Colannino	201-314-9824	Ushers	Bob Holl	908-876-3488
Knights of Columbus	Robert Holl	908-876-3488	Welcome	Michael & Lunden Scheller	973-908-9719
Lectors	Brian Curley	908-879-2090	Women's Book Club	Laura Star	254-640-6848
Liturgical Environment	Joanne Carr	908-879-5543	Women's Cornerstone	Lissette Howell	973-975-7343
			Youth Ministry	Allison Farnald	908-879-6714

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 FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY



We believe that we can know with certainty that our mother, Mary of Nazareth, was immaculately conceived. This means that Mary was preserved by the grace of the death and the resurrection of Jesus from the effects of the sin of Adam and Eve. What are those effects? They are suffering, death and a universal tendency toward sin. Her immaculate conception is a grace that was sent to humanity through Jesus as a part of God's Divine Mercy initiative. However, just as Adam and Eve were created without a tendency toward sin, so Mary was created without that tendency toward sin that would come to Adam and Eve and all their descendants as a result of the sin of our first parents. Of course, Mary was capable of sin just as we are because God created us all with a free will. With our free will, we can choose sin and we can choose virtue. Our Blessed Mother never chose sin. She is our model. Mary would also experience temptations just as Jesus and we are tempted by Satan and the demons. Mary would resist all temptations. We are happy for her and we are proud of her. She is our protector and mother.

OUR PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY

It is not too late to sign up for our May 2024 pilgrimage to the Catholic shrines of Italy which includes stops in Pietralcina, San Giovanni Rotondo, Loretto, Assisi, Bolsena and Rome. Seats are limited so please sign up soon. Brochures are available at the doors of the church.

God bless.

Father Nick

A PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

"Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you, while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for, such as they had not heard of from of old. No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you doing such deeds for those who wait for him... Yet, O Lord, you are our father; we are the clay and you are the potter: we are all the work of your hands."

The prophet Isaiah, one of the principal figures for advent, speaks for us, longing for the needed Messiah, not His first coming, but for today. Can I not see that our world needing His presence, desperate to make things better? The God who made us, the potter, needs to refashion us in His image as we live the days of this holy season. He will remake us in His image, by our prayer for all around us, beginning with His reworking who we are and what He wants us to become. 'Come Lord Jesus.'



MASS BOOK 2024

**Now open for your
Mass intentions**

Call or visit the Parish Office.



NEW TO THE PARISH
We welcome you!

*Daniel & Kendra Pierre and their
daughter Madison of
Paddock Court, Long Valley.*

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023**

8:00 am - David Schoenfeld

9:00 am - John Vieira

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2023

8:00 am - Joe Staigar, Sr.

9:00 am - Margaret Smith

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2023

8:00 am - Brenda Reaves

9:00 am - Spec. Int. of Jose Fernando Flores

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023

8:00 am - Maureen Makris

9:00 am - Denis Lamb

7:00 pm - Holy Day Vigil (Spanish)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2023 (Immaculate Conception)

8:00 am - Sonja Zagar

9:00 am - Ellen & Tom Donohue

5:30 pm - Spec. Int. of Ennis Family

7:00 pm - Spec. Int. of Spring Family

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2023

9:00 am - Federico de la Riva

5:00 pm - Edward Stephen Dixon

- John DeAmicis

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023

7:30 am - For the Souls in Purgatory

9:00 am - Frederick Fox

- Suzette Mifsud

11:00 am - Cathy Moseley

- William LoRusso

- Spec. Int. of Terry Michura

12:30 pm - For the People of the Parish

- Julio Mario de la Riva

- Julio Carrera

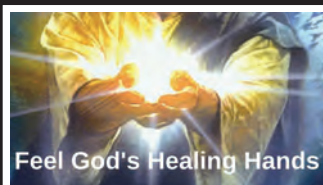
6:00 pm - Maria Armada Amaral

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.

Tithing Income for November 26, 2023 \$10,543.00

Tithing Income for November 27, 2022 \$ 9,998.00

**NEXT HEALING MASS**

**Tuesday, December 19
7:00 pm
Begins with Rosary
at 6:30 pm**

**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 she would consent to bear Christ, God kept Mary free from original sin from the moment of her conception in the womb of her mother, Saint Anne.

**Masses celebrated in the church.
*This is a Holy Day of Obligation.***

- **December 7 . . . 7 pm (Spanish)**
- **December 8 . . . 8 am, 9 am, 5:30 pm, 7 pm**

FORGIVENESS

*God forgives like a mother who kisses the offense
into everlasting forgiveness.*

—Henry Ward Beecher

**CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE**

There are still some tags left on the Giving Trees. If you are able to help out, please consider participating and help make someone's Christmas special this year!

Also, please remember to return your gift with the original tag attached by Monday, December 11. Gift Cards can be placed in the regular collection at Mass or mailed directly to the church office. (Please do not leave cards in the box outside the Parish Center.)

Thank you so much for helping to make this Christmas a joyous one for so many. The Good Samaritans wish you and your families a very Blessed Christmas season.

STRENGTH AND COURAGE

*Prayer infuses the weak with strength
and the fainthearted with courage.*

—Anonymous

WE WERE ASKED TO ANNOUNCE**Christmas Open House**

Villa Pauline

350 Bernardsville Road, Mendham

Sunday, December 10, 1-5 pm

The Sisters of Christian Charity welcome you to a Christmas Open House. Come and see Christmas splendor in a 19th century mansion. Live music and refreshments. Free will offering.



LOCATION:

St. Lawrence The Martyr Church

375 Main Street, Chester, NJ

DATES:

Monday, Dec. 4th 2023 - 7:00pm

Tuesday, Dec. 5th 2023 - 7:00pm

Wednesday, Dec. 6th 2023 - 7:00pm

Mass at 7:45pm

Array of Hope offers, in collaboration with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, a 3 night encounter with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

The nights include talks, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, music provided by AOH Music and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

The "BEHOLD" nights look to be very bright lights which the Lord will use to pour out streams of grace to those who attend [and] tie in very well with the Bishops' recent document on the "Holy Eucharist: The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church."

— Bishop Andrew Cozzens

(Chairman of the USCCB committee on Evangelization and Catechesis and leader of the National Eucharistic Revival)

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INCLUDING



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DR. DAVID HAJDUK



www.arrayofhope.org

NIGHT *of Candles*

AND PRAYERS FOR FAMILIES

**VIGIL MASS FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF
THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**



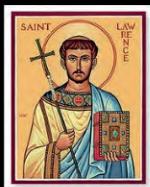
THURSDAY

12/07/2023

TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE: CHURCH

**FELLOWSHIP AFTER THE
PRAYERS: HOT CHOCOLATE,
BREAD AND EMPANADAS**



**SAINT LAWRENCE THE MARTYR CHURCH
375 MAIN STREET, CHESTER, NJ 2023**



The St. Lawrence Faith Formation Students Present:

The Christmas Story

You are invited to our
Annual Christmas Pageant!

Sunday, December 10th
10:15am
In the Church directly after the
9am Mass

All children of our parish are
welcome to join our play!
Email fft@stlchester.org for
details.

SAINT LAWRENCE CHRISTMAS CONCERT



COME SHARE IN THE JOYFUL
CELEBRATION OF THE SEASON AS
WE MAKE MUSIC, SING AND
REFLECT ON THE GREAT MYSTERY
OF CHRISTMAS.

REFRESHMENTS
TO FOLLOW THE
CONCERT.



DEC **10** SUNDAY
3:00 PM

SAINT LAWRENCE THE MARTIR CHURCH
375 MAIN STREET, CHESTER, NJ 07930



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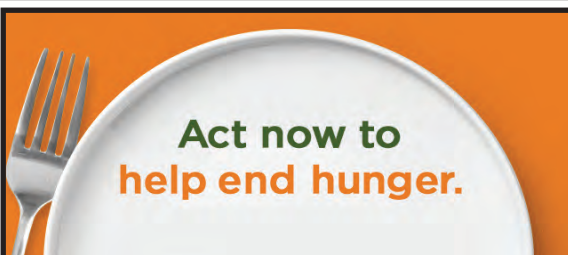
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