



St. Lawrence the Martyr Church

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 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 Wiczorek	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

ADVENT PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE LORD



Advent is the first season in the Church's year. The name Advent refers to the coming of the Lord. During this season, we prepare for our great meetings with Jesus. During Advent, we remember that Jesus has already come into the world as the Son of God. We remember that after His death and resurrection, He promised us that "I will be with you always, until the end of the Age."

We know that we can meet with Jesus whenever we celebrate the sacraments. The Church teaches us that we should prepare well for our meetings with Jesus, by avoiding sin, by repenting when we do sin, by growing in charity and by doing good works. Our faith is based on our knowledge that we can meet Jesus now in conversational prayer and in the sacraments. These meetings now lead us to union with Jesus.

We know, too, that we should prepare for our meeting with the Lord that comes after our death. We know that someday, Jesus will come to judge the living and the dead. This post life encounter requires the same kind of preparation in order to enter heaven as soon as possible after we die. Advent is a season of preparation. Frequent Mass, daily prayer and frequent confession help us to prepare for these meetings with Jesus. Prepare the way for the Lord!

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

"Here begins the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In Isaiah the prophet it is written: 'I send my messenger before to prepare your way': a herald's voice in the desert crying, 'Make ready the way of the Lord, clear Him a straight path.' Thus it was that John the Baptizer appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance which led to the forgiveness of sins...One more powerful than I is to come after me. I am not fit to stoop and untie His sandal strap. I have baptized you in water; He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit."

We meet John the Baptist, the second principal figure of advent, exhorting us to take seriously the need for preparing for the Lord in our lives today. We begin with ourselves, making sure that with the Lord's help, that we are living the life of grace, His plan and gift for us. We seek His gift in the sacraments of Penance and the Eucharist.

While we become preoccupied with Christmas preparations, how sad that we sometimes fail to prepare ourselves or fail to encourage others to join with us in what really matters — our readiness to discover anew the presence of Christ. John's reference to Isaiah provides the direction that we all need: make ready, clear the path. 'Come Lord Jesus.'

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023**

8:00 am - David Schoenfeld

9:00 am - Jim Pasapane

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2023

8:00 am - Anna Houlihan

9:00 am - Frank Fila

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2023

8:00 am - Barbara Davero

9:00 am - Katherine McMullen

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023

8:00 am - Helen Ike

9:00 am - Don Jones

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2023

8:00 am - Patricia Dray

9:00 am - Anne Ennis

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2023

9:00 am - Joseph Magin

5:00 pm - John DeAmicis

- Josef Schneider

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023

7:30 am - Margaret & Steven Roman

9:00 am - Nina Gangi

- Betsy Moltane

- Joyce DeMartino

11:00 am - Beverly & Greg Pickering

- Dolly Cillo

- Louise Giordano

12:30 pm - Julio Carrera

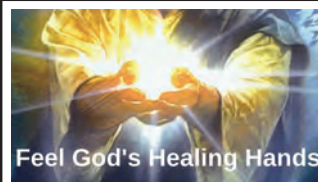
6:00 pm - For the People of the Parish

- Joan Griffin

**CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE**

This is the final weekend we are collecting for the Christmas Giving Tree. The Good Samaritans would like to thank everyone for their donations. Thanks to your generosity, many families will be able to share in the joy of the Christmas season.

Please return your donations by this Monday, December 11, as we will be distributing the gifts early this week for delivery in time for Christmas.

**NEXT HEALING MASS**

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

**THOSE WHO USE ON-LINE GIVING:
PLEASE NOTE**

If you currently use WeShare for your weekly offering to St. Lawrence Church and are receiving donation envelopes in the mail, please contact the Parish Office at 908-879-5371 so that we can stop delivery. This also applies to envelope users who would like to switch to WeShare. Thank you for your help! It is greatly appreciated.

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 December 3, 2023 \$11,238.00

Tithing Income for December 4, 2022 \$ 8,861.00

**MASS BOOK 2024**

**Now open for your
Mass intentions**

Call or visit the Parish Office.

**CHRISTMAS
SCHEDULE****Confession**

Friday, December 22 7 pm

Saturday, December 23 7 pm

Christmas Eve Masses

Masses in English 4 pm, 6 pm, 10 pm

Mass in Spanish 8 pm

Christmas Day Masses

Masses in English 7:30 am, 9 am, 11 am

WE WERE ASKED TO ANNOUNCE**St. Therese Ministry Presents: Free Christmas Concert**

On Tuesday, December 19, we will offer a free Christmas concert performance by **Dan Yates**, a NYC Broadway professional singer, at St. Catherine of Siena Church, 10 N. Pocono Road, Mountain Lakes, NJ at 1:00 pm. His performance will be spectacular and definitely put you in the "Christmas spirit." Come join us for fellowship and meet some wonderful people. You don't want to miss his performance!! Any questions, please contact Carol Bsaryny 973-271-9252.

Choose 'n Cut Christmas Trees

St. Paul's Abbey on 289 Route 206, Newton.

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7 days a week now through December 21, 10 am – 3:30 pm.

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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



December
12th at
6:00 pm



Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Place: Saint Lawrence of the Martyr Church

HORA: 6:00 PM (PROCESSION OUTSIDE THE CHURCH)

COME AND CELEBRATE OUR LADY OF
GUADALUPE FEAST

Saint Lawrence the Martyr Catholic Church
375 Main Street, Chester, NJ 07930

Christmas POSADAS

All are welcome to celebrate the Posadas.
We will have Christmas carols during the
nine days previous to Christmas. Every day
will hold a fellowship after the prayers at
the Church Hall.

Dates: Friday, December 15th to
Saturday, December 23th

Place: Chapel at Parish Center

Time: 6:00 pm



Welcome!



Saint Lawrence the Martyr Church
375 Main Street, Chester, NJ 07930



< KID'S > KORNER

Gospel Today

Second Sunday of Advent | Mark 1:1-8

BE AWARE, PREPARE!

John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin, was sent to Baptize many people and prepare them for the coming of Jesus, the True Messiah.

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SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

ARRIVAL OR COMING OF CHRIST

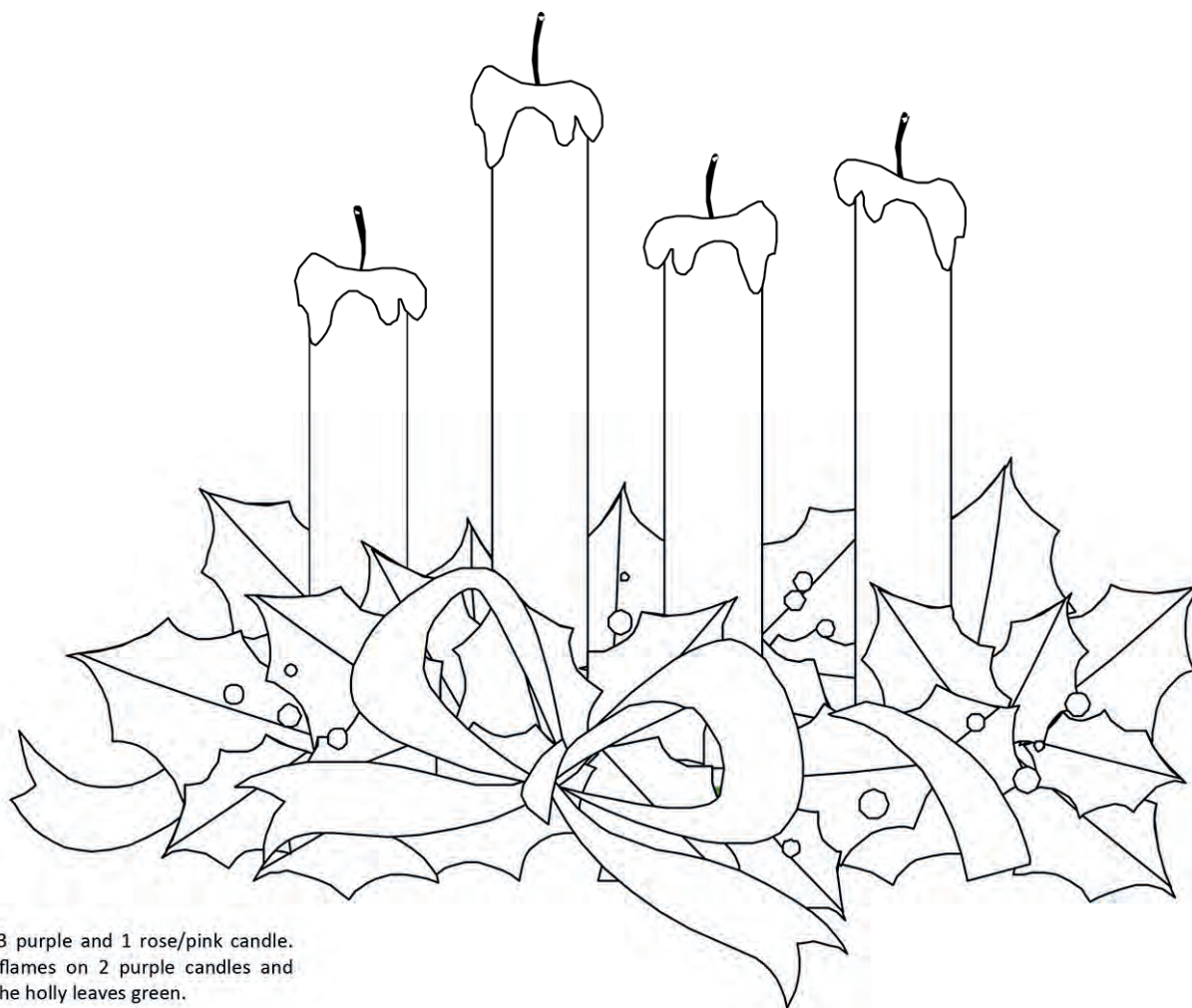
We begin the second week of Advent preparing ourselves for the Messiah. Our Advent wreath has 4 candles (3 purple, 1 rose/pink) for the four Sundays, or weeks before Christmas. The more candles we light, the brighter it gets, and the closer we are to the birth of Christ.

WEEK 2, evening lighting prayer

Prayer said by Father or head of household

"O Lord, stir up our hearts that we may prepare for Thy only begotten Son that through His coming we may be made worthy to serve Thee with pure minds. Through Christ our Lord, Amen".

Oldest child lights 2 purple candles.



Color 3 purple and 1 rose/pink candle.
Draw flames on 2 purple candles and
color the holly leaves green.



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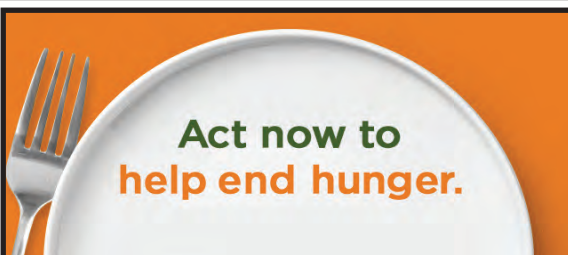
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