



St. Lawrence the Martyr Church

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 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 Furnal

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	Stanley Kudron	973-464-3872
Armata Bianca	Lorna Phillips	617-538-5567	Moms & Tots		
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 Furnal	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

A CHALLENGE FOR PARENTS KEEPING LIFE BALANCED FOR THEIR CHILDREN



When I was a boy, I can remember lessons in health class about how to balance one's diet. We students were reminded that we needed protein, vegetables, carbohydrates, some fats and other nutrients.

Similarly, the children of God need a balance in their lives, too. As children of God, we need time with Jesus in the sacraments, time for conversational prayer with Him, time for family, time for healthy activities like exercise and sleep. Today, many different groups vie for our precious time. A factor in our lives that demands a great deal of our children's time is sports. Children and youth can be asked to be a part of three different leagues in the same season. In addition, they may need time with a personal trainer and time for personal exercise.

Yes, sports are important for exercise, for socializing, as a release, and for collaboration skills. But we need everything in balance. No one aspect of our lives should overwhelm and elbow out the other equally important parts of life. Without a doubt, it is a challenge to maintain balance in our children's lives. I am writing this note to encourage parents to help our children to pray daily and to attend Mass every Sunday. I recently saw a clip on YouTube with Mother Teresa being asked what the greatest source of sadness in life is and she replied, "A wanting for prayer and a wanting for closeness". Family prayer can bring much happiness. She also repeated a wise saying, "A family that prays together, stays together." God bless you all!

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



"Rejoice always, never cease praying, render constant thanks; such is God's will for you. Do not stifle the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test everything; retain what is good. Avoid any semblance of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect in holiness. May you be preserved whole in spirit, soul and body, irreproachable at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls us is trustworthy, therefore He will do it."

Living the final days of Advent, Saint Paul offers a game plan for prayer and action. We have heard the prophet speak. We have met John the Baptist and accepted his message of repentance and renewal. What more can be done? It is something we dare not avoid — our personal call to holiness.

Set aside a few minutes each day, look into your heart, see what the Lord sees, thanking Him for His blessings. But also ask help to set aside whatever can block the Lord giving you His peace. Come Lord Jesus.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2023**

8:00 am - Jean & Phillip Allatta
 9:00 am - Robert Allatta

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023

8:00 am - Jim Sommer
 9:00 am - Frank McNally
 7:00 pm - Spec. Int. of Justin Steven

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2023

8:00 am - Camille McNally
 9:00 am - Anne Ennis

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023

8:00 am - Robert Wade
 9:00 am - Ed Wiczorek

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2023

8:00 am - Matthew Wayne Miele
 9:00 am - Diana Garzano

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2023

9:00 am - Kathleen Allatta
 5:00 pm - For the People of the Parish
 7:00 pm - Spanish Mass

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023

7:30 am - Anne Ennis
 9:00 am - Brian Spring
 11:00 am - James Walsh
 12:30 pm - NO MASS

4:00 pm - Claire Kingsley
 - John DeAmicis
 - Don Jones
 6:00 pm - Spec. Int. of the Styke & Kratochvil Families
 - Catherine & William Mackey
 - Spec. Int. of Welsh & Hartmann Families
 8:00 pm - Spanish Mass
 10:00 pm - Elaine Stewart Tyrrell

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 10, 2023 \$11,654.00

Tithing Income for December 11, 2022 \$10,764.00

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE****Confession**

Friday, December 22 7 pm
 Saturday, December 23 7 pm

Christmas Eve Masses

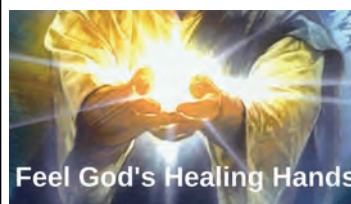
Masses in English 4 pm, 6 pm, 10 pm
 Mass in Spanish 8 pm

Christmas Day Masses

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

**2024 CALENDARS**

Calendars for the new year are available in the church and Parish Center. Be sure to pick up yours if you haven't done so already.

**NEXT HEALING MASS**

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

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." You don't want to miss it! For more information, contact Carol Bsarany 973-271-9252.

Choose 'n Cut Christmas Trees

St. Paul's Abbey on 289 Route 206, Newton.
 Fresh Christmas trees ready to cut.

7 days a week now through December 21

10 am – 3:30 pm

Stop by Abbey Gift Shop for many gift items.

Companion Needed

Companion needed for good-natured dementia patient. Someone who can sit with my husband a few hours a week and occasional hours on weekends while I manage some chores. Willing to split shifts with 2 people if necessary. Please contact me with availability and pay schedule. Thank you. Rosanne 908-887-1522

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



ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED

FOR BOYS AND GIRLS GRADE 3
AND OLDER



FRIDAY
9 FEBRUARY



TIME
5:00

PLACE : CHURCH

CONTACT FATHER ANGEL
ATORRES@STLCHESTER.ORG



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POPE FRANCIS



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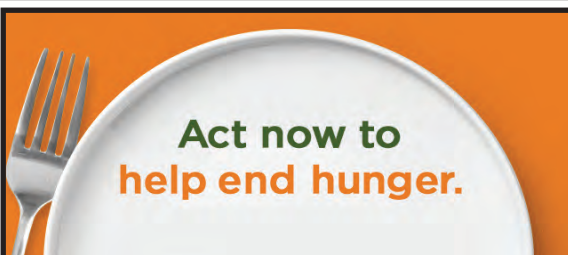
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