



St. Lawrence the Martyr Church

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 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

MARY AND THE MIRACULOUS



On December 12th, we celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Lawrence Church. As I meditated on the story of Mary's visit to Mexico, I was struck by the regular use of miracles by God during Mary's visits at different times and places. In Mary's visit to the Aztec and Spanish people at Guadalupe, Mexico, God worked a great miracle in the appearance of the Castilian roses in December and in the imprinting of Mary's apparition on the tilma of Juan Diego in the home of the Bishop of Mexico in 1531. In addition, Mary would heal the uncle of Juan Diego.

As a part of Mary's visits to St. Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes in France in 1858, God and Mary would do the miraculous with the appearance of the spring of healing waters in Lourdes that bring healing to this day. And again, in 1917, Mary would appear to three little shepherds in Fatima, Portugal, to bring a message about God's plan for world peace through the rosary, prayer and sacrifice. During Mary's sixth visit to the children, God and Mary would work another miracle with the dramatic "dance" of the sun on October 13, 1917.

Using miracles to initiate and deepen faith is regularly a part of God's work of bringing the Gospel of God's love and mercy. Jesus worked miracles to help the people of His time to believe in God's work of salvation. And in the three stories of Mary's apparitions mentioned above, the stories of Guadalupe, Lourdes and Fatima, we can see how God used the miraculous to help people to believe. The methods of Jesus, of Mary and of other evangelists are very similar. God's demonstrations of love help people of all times and places to believe in His love for us.

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



"And they shall remain, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace... Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and cried out in a loud voice: 'Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. But who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me?'"

Micah the prophet tells us the Lord is reaching out to us. We are now at the edge, recalling the great event of salvation, as He comes to us. Advent draws to a close as we celebrate the Savior's birth. But wait!

We meet the third critical person of advent in Mary's visitation to Elizabeth. How frequently we pray the *Hail Mary*, but do we realize we are reciting the very words of scripture? Our prayer is quoting the gospel of Luke. The question of Mary's relative can be ours today – 'Who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me?' On this eve of Christmas may I ask, "Who am I that the Savior should come to me?" The answer - I am loved, chosen and blessed by God with those around me. Come Lord Jesus.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2023 (Christmas Day)**

- 7:30 am - Denis Lamb
 - Spec. Int. of Waugh Family
 - Michael Zonfrillo III
 - William Hockenbury
 9:00 am - For the People of the Parish
 11:00 am - Walter Michura
 - John W. Niemasz, Sr.
 - Thiago Perin

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2023

- 8:00 am - Conrad & Anna Spring
 9:00 am - Donna McNally

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2023

- 8:00 am - Stephen & Olga Farbanish
 9:00 am - Theodore & Heidi Wenz

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2023

- 8:00 am - Peter & Maura Barrett
 9:00 am - Richard & Patti Hale

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2023

- 8:00 am - Gus & Basia Jaworski
 9:00 am - Spec. Int. of Cathy Schmetter

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2023

- 9:00 am - Spec. Int. of Mangione Family
 5:00 pm - John Connolly
 - James & Elizabeth Welch

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

- 7:30 am - For the People of the Parish
 9:00 am - Maureen Morris
 11:00 am - Wayne Farbanish
 12:30 pm - For the Souls in Purgatory
 6:00 pm - Spec. Int. of Julie Denberg

**REJOICE!**

*The Blessings of Peace
 The Beauty of Hope
 The Spirit of Love
 The Comfort of Faith*

May these be your gifts this Christmas and throughout the Christmas Season!

**Fr. Nick, Fr. Angel, Deacon Bill, Deacon Greg,
 Deacon Dave, Deacon Frank, and the Parish Staff**

CHRISTMAS

A young mother, her eyes shining with fatigue, who is arranging her hair; a father who finds himself alone with his pretty wife and baby, straightening the stable to make himself useful in some way; shepherds who bring cheese and perhaps also some curdled milk; sheep who look at their shepherds while bleating; a donkey who is eyeing his manger changed into a cradle; an adorable swaddled baby whom one calls Savior, Christ and Lord: This is the manifestation of the goodness and the tenderness of God.

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 17, 2023 \$ _____ *

Tithing Income for December 18, 2022 \$ _____ *

* Amount unavailable at time of bulletin printing.

From Father Nick: "I offer you my sincere thanks and ask God's blessings upon you for all of the help that you provide through your sharing of your time, talent and treasure."

BOUNDLESS LOVE

*Because of His boundless love,
 Jesus became what we are
 that He might make us to be what He is.*

~Irenaeus

MOVING?**LOCAL ADDRESS CHANGE?**

Please notify the Parish Office by phone or email if you are moving or if your address has changed. We appreciate your help in keeping our parish directory up to date.

**NEXT HEALING MASS**

**Tuesday, January 16 at 7 pm
 Begins with Rosary at 6:30 pm**

Come bring your prayers
 for healing.

All are welcome!

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY**

Monday, January 1

On this day, we are reminded of the role that the Blessed Virgin played in the plan of our salvation. Christ's Birth was made possible by Mary's fiat: "Be it done unto me according to Thy word."

Masses celebrated in the church.

Sunday, December 31 6 pm
Monday, January 1 ... 7:30 am, 9 am, 11 am (English)
..... 7 pm (Spanish)



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