



St. Lawrence the Martyr Church

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2024

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.

Faith Formation/Religious Education:

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

Dorothy Kudron (Gr. K-4), Sr. Marie Luu (Gr. 5–Confirmation)

Vimala Justin — Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Music Minister: Joseph P. Tamburro

Youth Minister :

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

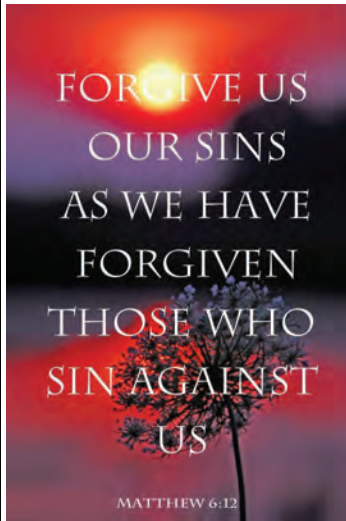
Parish Ministries and Ministry Facilitators

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	Angela Albano	908-365-4007
Barn Ministry	Camille McQueen	908-432-8554	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	Lisette Howell	973-975-7343
			Youth Ministry		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 NECESSITY OF FORGIVENESS



Jesus placed a great emphasis on forgiveness. When He gave us His prayer, the Lord's Prayer, He said, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Clearly here, Jesus is saying God's forgiveness is dependent on our forgiving others. In another place in the Gospels, Jesus said similarly, "If you forgive others' sins, your heavenly Father will forgive you yours. If you do not forgive others their sins, neither will your Father forgive you yours."

In addition, Jesus presented us with a parable about a man who owed a huge debt and is forgiven by his employer and then refuses to forgive a fellow worker who owes a much smaller amount.

Jesus is telling us that it is absolutely essential that we forgive others. I recently heard a Catholic teacher explain that the refusal to forgive makes our hearts hard. The choice to forgive requires that we choose love and love softens the heart. Our hearts are meant to be soft and are made for love.

In Jesus' parable about the man who is forgiven and then refuses to forgive his neighbor also reveals the man's choice of money over his neighbor. Love of money is idolatry. Money is a false god. St. Paul wrote to Timothy that the love of money is the root of all evil. Jesus also said that you cannot serve both God and Mammon. Mammon is the Syrian god of riches. God calls us to love both Himself and our neighbors, not money.

God bless.

Father Nick



WEEKLY ADORATION

During Lent, we are called to observe acts of fasting and abstinence as well as acts of denial. But the Church also calls on us to take positive actions, such as prayer, attending daily Mass, or attending Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

An Hour with the Lord

The Catholic Church has a tradition of spending "Holy Hour" with Jesus meditating on His sufferings in the Garden of Gethsemane. We honor and console His heart when we "stay awake" with Him and spend an hour in prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Although it can take place at any hour, Thursday or Friday is the preferred time because of the link to Christ's Passion. The Lord longs for us and our company more than we long for Him.

St. Lawrence Church invites you to visit Jesus during our Eucharistic Adoration every Thursday through Friday. The Adoration starts at 5 PM and continues until Friday at 5 PM. **While anyone can come at any time during Adoration, we need volunteers to fill all the time slots so that our Lord will be accompanied throughout the period.** This is especially important for the night hours from Thursday night to Friday morning. Spending time in quiet Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament could be a great Lenten sacrifice. If you have any questions, please email Aga at agamcfeely@gmail.com.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2024**

8:00 am - Arlene Wright
9:00 am - Victor TenBarge

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024

8:00 am - William McGrath
9:00 am - Isabel Fleming

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2024

8:00 am - Russell Cape
9:00 am - Kathleen Concannon

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024

8:00 am - Claire Kingsley
9:00 am - For the Souls in Purgatory

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2024

8:00 am - Martin Winkler
9:00 am - Rudolph Frolo

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024

9:00 am - Frank Moltane
5:00 pm - For the People of the Parish

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024

7:30 am - George H. Leopold
9:00 am - Peter & Maura Barrett
- Wilhelmina Debska
- Betsy Moltane
- George Barras
11:00 am - Antoinette Puliti
- George Barras
12:30 pm - For the Souls in Purgatory
6:00 pm - Brian Patrick Moore
- Laura Petrillo

SEEING JESUS IN OTHERS

A father recalls a lesson he learned from his daughter on one Holy Thursday when they stopped after Mass to pray at the altar of repose. His daughter, who was four years old at the time, watched fellow parishioners kneel to pray and look reverently on the Blessed Sacrament. As she and her father left she asked, "Why do they kneel down and look like that?" The father answered that it was Jesus and they were kneeling because they loved Him. She innocently replied, "But if Jesus is in all of us, why don't they look at each other that way?" His daughter's words remained with him, a gentle reminder to see the face of Jesus in others.

**WELCOME HOME TO HEALING**

If you have been reluctant to come to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, have been away for some time or just find it difficult to get to a Saturday afternoon Confession time, Lent is wonderful opportunity to re-connect with Christ.

Now through March 25, every parish in the Diocese of Paterson will have Confession available on Monday evenings from 7:00-8:30 pm. At St. Lawrence Church from 6:30-8:30 pm. Don't be afraid. Receive the gracious mercy 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 March 3, 2024 **\$23,071.00**

Tithing Income for March 5, 2023 **\$13,731.00**

A Word from Father Nick: "I thank you for the love that you show for God and others through your offerings each Sunday!"

From a Parishioner of the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen, NJ: "What we have is given to us through life, health and the ability to work. We are merely His stewards from whom tithes are due."

**MEN'S CORNERSTONE RETREAT**

April 19-20, 2024

**Sisters of Christian Charity,
Mendham**

Have you ever had the feeling that life is going by too fast? Consider giving yourself the gift of Cornerstone. Renew your faith and strengthen your relationships with Christ and each other. Registration forms are in the church and Parish Center. For more information, please contact Stanley Kudron at 973-464-3872.

CRS RICE BOWL

CRS Rice Bowl is Catholic Relief Services' Lenten faith-in-action program for families and faith communities. Pick up your family's rice bowl today at the entrances to the church and in the Parish Center. Remember that your Lenten sacrifices change lives.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

**Fridays of Lent
In the church**

6:30 pm (English)

7:30 pm (Spanish)

The Stations serve as a stark reminder of the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made for our salvation.

**NEXT HEALING MASS**

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

Come bring your prayers for healing.
All are welcome!



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