



St. Lawrence the Martyr Church

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 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

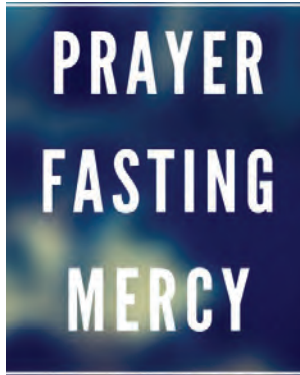
Parish Ministries and Ministry Facilitators

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

LENT PRAYER, FASTING AND WORKS OF MERCY



On Ash Wednesday, the Gospel lesson announced the three great activities of Lent, namely, prayer, fasting and works of mercy. So far in Lent, I have emphasized the prayer activities of Lent, like Mass, confessions and the Stations of the Cross. However, fasting and works of mercy are likewise important. Fasting serves a few purposes. Fasting clears our minds, just as in contrast, overeating clouds our minds and our thoughts. Fasting also allows us to be more careful with our use of our resources. This care in our use of resources provides us with more to share with persons in need. Finally, fasting gives us the opportunity to strengthen our wills. It is not easy to fast. We need to concentrate and focus in order to fast and this effort causes us to exercise and to strengthen our wills. In other words, fasting helps us to advance in the Christian life.

Works of mercy are also a part of Lent. It is easy to become attached to our possessions. A humorous illustration of this was a gag of the famous comedian, Jack Benny. Mr. Benny would joke about his own stinginess. I remember a stunt he would do where he would lay a tip down on a table and then pull it back to himself with a nearly invisible line that he attached to the dollar he was offering as a tip. Works of Mercy are an important part of Lent. Catholic Relief Services provide us with a good Lenten practice that is a "work of mercy." At the doors of the church are paper "rice bowls." Operation Rice Bowl invites us to contribute to Catholic Relief Services which in turn provides food to the hungry of the world in the name of Jesus and His church. There is still time to engage in the Lenten practices of fasting and works of mercy in addition to our Lenten praying.

May God bless your Lenten efforts!

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 18, 2024**

8:00 am - Father George Gothie
 9:00 am - Phillip James Tangorra

TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2024

8:00 am - Ralph Bozza
 9:00 am - Father Leo Ryan
 7:00 pm - Special Intention of Justin Steven

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024

8:00 am - Kathy Steidle
 9:00 am - Sara Bozza Mulder

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024

8:00 am - For the Souls in Purgatory
 9:00 am - Caroline & Ralph Bozza

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2024

8:00 am - Father Nicholas Negola
 9:00 am - Charles Brinamen
 - Joan Comiskey

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024

9:00 am - For the Souls in Purgatory
 5:00 pm - Cheryl Brandt

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024

7:30 am - For the People of the Parish
 9:00 am - Joe Mahoney
 - Eileen Sullivan
 - Cheryl Brandt
 11:00 am - Kenneth P. McGuire
 - George Barras
 12:30 pm - For the Souls in Purgatory
 6:00 pm - Theodore & Heidi Wenz



**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.

**ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH
 WOMEN'S BOOK AND SOCIAL CLUB INVITE**



Our next gathering is on **Friday, March 22, at 7:30 pm in the Parish Center**. It is an opportunity to get together with similar, like-minded women for social and book discussions. We hope you can join us!

EILEEN GEORGE PRAYER GROUP

Eileen George is a candidate for sainthood that Father Nick personally knew. The one-hour meetings will include listening and discussion of one of her recorded teachings, prayers of petition and social time with refreshments. All are welcome! **The next**

meeting is today, Sunday, March 17 at 4:00 pm in the Church Hall.

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 10, 2024 \$12,420.00

Tithing Income for March 12, 2023 \$ 9,654.00

Father Nick: "May the Lord bless you abundantly for your efforts to follow His plan for giving! I know it is a sacrifice. Thank you!"

Parishioner of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Manville, NJ: "This a real act of faith for me! One thing that I have discovered about myself is that I never brought God into my finances. This is a very important area for me and I am glad that now God is a part of it."

**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!

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.

**WELCOME HOME TO HEALING**

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!



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