



St. Lawrence the Martyr Church

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026

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. Jorge Castano
Permanent Deacons: 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:
 Susan Reilly — DRE, Youth Protection/Safe Environment
 K-Confirmation, OCIT
 Vimala Justin — Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
Music Minister: Donna Pedulla
Youth Minister : Sean Jenkins
Mercy Minister: Cindy Zeis

2025-2026 FAITH FORMATION:

Family-Centered Catechesis: Two in-person sessions each month on Sundays.
 Sunday sessions:
 7:50 am-8:50 am
 10:10 am-11:10 am
 11:20 am-12:20 PM
 4:50 pm-5:50 pm

For more details about the program and to register online, please use this link: <https://stlchester.org/faith-formation-for-youth>
 Faith Formation Office:
 Monday through Thursday, 10 am-3 pm
fft@stlchester.org; 908-879-6714

ADULT FAITH FORMATION:
 OCIA: Sundays (September-Easter)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:
 Saturday: 4:00-4:45 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. Jorge Castano	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	Camille McQueen	908-432-8554	Music Minister	Donna Pedulla	973-670-5687
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	Social Justice Ministry	Bob Coccoaro	908-548-7329
Eucharistic Ministers	Loretta Stewart	973-222-7492	OCIA	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	Jill Lattmann	908-209-7539	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	Sean Jenkins	908-879-6714

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

SOLEMNITY OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord Jesus. As we listen to the Gospel account of Jesus' baptism, we notice that actually two baptisms took place for Jesus that day. Jesus entered the river first to join others in participating in the baptism of repentance that was preached by John the Baptism. Of course, Jesus was sinless but He was humble and was leading by example. Jesus' second baptism came from His Father in Heaven. The Father baptized His Son in the Holy Spirit. In so doing, the Father was equipping His Son for His ministry with the Holy Spirit and His gifts and His power.

The baptism of Jesus informs us that there are two baptism in our Sacrament of Baptism. We likewise repent of our sins as John the Baptism explained to his followers. Also in Baptism, we are baptized in the Holy Spirit with His love, His power and His gifts.

With today's feast, we officially close the Christmas season! God bless you!

Father Nick

SELFLESSNESS REWARDED

*Help another's boat across, and lo!
thine own has reached the shore.*

~ Old Hindu proverb

PEACE

*We should have great peace if we did not
busy ourselves with what others say and do.*

~ Thomas à Kempis



**FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2026
IN WASHINGTON, D.C.**

“LIFE IS A GIFT”

This year's theme offers a fresh vision, inviting all people to rediscover the beauty, goodness, and joy of life itself. **Life is a Gift** emphasizes what lies at the heart of the pro-life movement — an unshakeable conviction that life is very good and worthy of protection, no matter what the circumstances. We invite you to be swept up into this movement of joy and celebration and come join thousands as we march together in Washington, D.C., joyfully declaring to the nation: **Life is a Gift.**

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026

- 8:00 am - For Persecuted Christians
- 9:00 am - For Those Who Do Not Believe

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026

- 8:00 am - For the Souls in Purgatory
- 9:00 am - For the Orphans

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2026

- 8:00 am - For the Immigrants
- 9:00 am - Rose & Frank Parco

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026

- 8:00 am - Charles Sullivan
- 9:00 am - Spec. Int. of Star Family

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2026

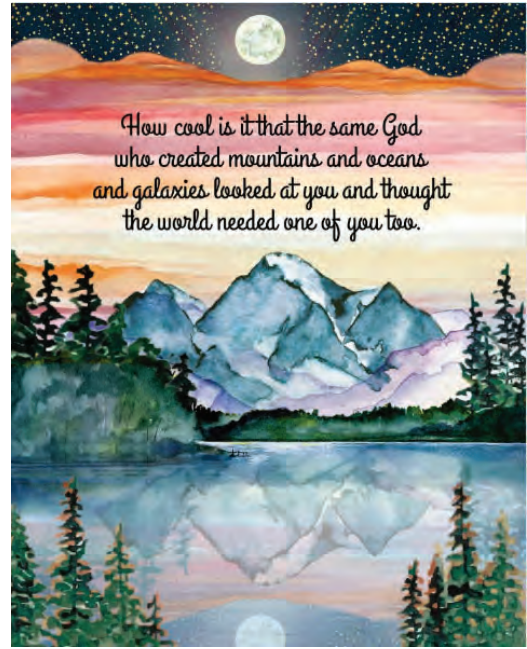
- 8:00 am - For the St. Lawrence Church Catechists
- 9:00 am - For the Faith Formation Team

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2026

- 9:00 am - For the Unborn
- Spec. Int. of Star Family
- 5:00 pm - For the Souls in Purgatory
- For College Students

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026

- 7:30 am - For the Souls in Purgatory
- 9:00 am - For the Homeless
- 11:00 am - For the People of the Parish
- Connie Gardner
- 12:30 pm - For the Souls in Purgatory
- 6:00 pm - For Recently Married Couples



REHEARSAL

Psalms are sung in the home and rehearsed in the streets.
—St. Ambrose



EILEEN GEORGE PRAYER GROUP
Sunday, January 18 at 3:30 PM
Parish Center (Room 12)

Eileen George is a candidate for sainthood that Father Nick personally knew. The one-hour meeting includes listening and discussion of one of her recorded teachings, prayers of petition and social time with refreshments.

All are welcome! Consider joining us!



NEXT HEALING MASS
Tuesday, January 20 at 7 PM
Begins with Rosary at 6:30 PM

Come bring your prayers for healing.

A PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

“I the Lord have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand, I formed you and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring prisoners out of confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness... ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’”

The description from Isaiah, the words of Peter, describing Jesus “going about doing good”, help us appreciate the scene of Jesus’ meeting John the Baptist at the Jordan. They help us appreciate Jesus as He initiates His public ministry. He would quote Isaiah later in Nazareth describing more clearly His pending mission. We who live as children of the covenant, whose eyes were opened through our baptism, who have been freed from original sin and are pleasing to the Father, are now sent on our mission, the singular task the Lord has reserved and entrusted personally to me.

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