

**March 1, 2026 – Second Sunday of Lent**

**Saturday – Feb 28th – Vigil Mass**

5:00PM Joseph Bonk (Dolores Bonk)

**Sunday – Mar 1<sup>st</sup> – Mass is Streamed Live**

9:30AM Intentions of Therese & Pat Johnsen (Culichia Family)

**Monday – Mar 2<sup>nd</sup> – Lenten Weekday –**

9:00AM Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

**Tuesday – Mar 3<sup>rd</sup> – Lenten Weekday – St. Katharine Drexil, Virgin**

9:00AM Intentions of Therese Johnsen (Scripture Study Group)

**Wed. – Mar 4<sup>th</sup> – Lenten Weekday – St. Casimir**

9:00AM World Peace

**Thurs. – Mar 5<sup>th</sup> – Lenten Weekday –**

9:00AM Readings & Communion Distribution Only

**Friday – Mar 6<sup>th</sup> – Lenten Weekday – Abstinence**

9:00AM Souls in Purgatory (Helfant Family)

**Saturday – Mar 7<sup>th</sup> – Lenten Weekday – St. Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs**

9:00AM David Newcomer (Lay Carmelite Community)

**Please Pray for Our Sick and Housebound, Deceased Members, for an End to Abortion and Respect for all Life!**

Lynda Stefanski, Peter Libasci, Joseph Bonk, Tom Trotter, Dave Blessing, Jeff Olimpo, Matt Sebastiano, Maria Middleton, Fern & John Gibson, William Merkle, Russ Funkhouser, Joseph Jones, Elizabeth Ann Schlotter, Andrew Schlotter, Bethany Steinberg, Joann Thaler, Julie Petry, Steven Fusco, Greg Gambino, Patrick D. Brown, Douglas Defreest, Jr., Benny LoScalzo, Steve Ombalski, Jane Burger, Ginny LaBar, Michael Gawronski, Marciano Alves Viera, Bernadette Maszczak, Shawn Kelly, Beth Collins, Nikia Helfant Messier, Anthony Libasci, Louis Cortese, Faith Marie Messier, Ann Lewis, Alvin LaBar, Emma Jones, **Bernie Boylan**

**Church of Saint Lawrence**

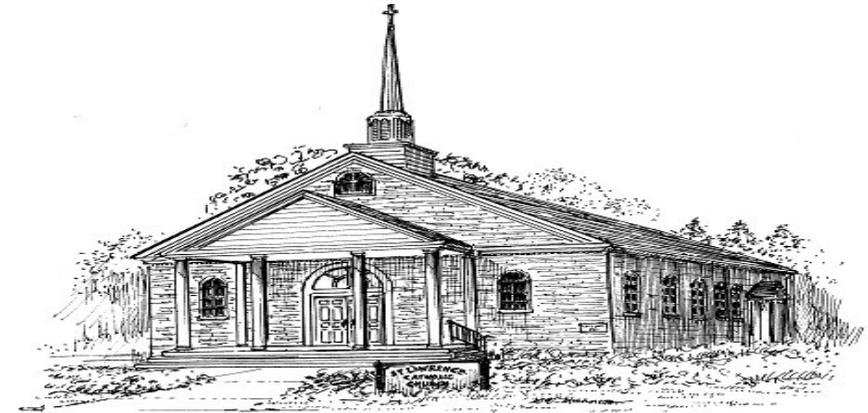
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**Rev. Walter J Benn, Pastor**

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**Mass Schedule:** Saturday Evenings @ 5PM; Sunday Morning @ 9:30AM; Holy Days @ 9AM, 12 Noon & 7PM; Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday @ 9AM, Thursday Readings & Communion Distribution Only.

**Eucharistic Adoration:** Wednesday @ 9:30AM – 11AM

**Confessions:** Saturday @ 3:30PM - 4:30PM @ Church. Via Appointment - Contact Rectory

**Holy Name Society:** Meets Monthly; Second Monday @ 7PM @ Ceader Hall (Sept – May)

**Altar Rosary Society:** Meets Monthly; Second Thursday @ 7PM (Sept – May)

**Lay Carmelite Community of St. Teresa of Jesus of Los Andes:** Meets Monthly, First Saturday Following the 9AM Mass in Ceader Hall.

**Marthas & Marys Ministry:** Faith based group, meets First Friday @ 11:30AM @ Ceader Hall

**Weddings:** Contact Rectory for Details. Plans Preferred Minimun 6 Months in Advance.

**Parish PREP Classes & New Parishoners:** Contact Rectory via Phone or email.

**Rectory Office:** Mon-Fri @ 9:30AM – 12 noon

## Pastor's Corner March 1, 2026

As Christians, we should marvel at the skill of the Gospel writers. What they remember of the Lord during His public life, what He taught and the circumstances of each event. Yet, the Gospel writers are skilled spiritual directors, in that they know what they want to teach their people about Jesus and how to go about accomplishing this. A good example of this is today's Gospel. Matthew is a devout Jew, who firmly believes that Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah, whom God the Father promised to Israel. Not surprisingly, Matthew's community are also devout Jews. As he writes his Gospel, he includes everything from the public life of Jesus that fulfills the prophecies of the Messiah in order to reinforce their faith in Jesus. Today's Gospel story is known as the Transformation. It is a very unique and rare moment, when God would be experienced by humans in this world and in a way they could comprehend. Matthew does two things which every devout Jewish would see as legitimizing the divinity of Jesus. #1 where does all of this happen? Answer: on a mountain, a high place. Every devout Jew would know that it was usually on a mountain that Moses interacted with God. When Moses was *called* by God to represent and lead the Israelite slaves in Egypt. Remember, how God got Moses attention while he was herding sheep on the mountain. He used the phenomena of a burning bush, that was not burning up, telling Moses to remove his sandals, because Moses was

standing on holy ground; i.e. in the presence of Almighty God Himself. Each time Moes left the Israelite camp to meet with God, he went up a mountain. Moses received the 10 Commandments from God on a mountain. #2 God reveal Himself though His Voice. Location + Voice.

In Matthew's Gospel, Matthew presents Jesus as beginning His public life, when as He is emerging from His baptism by His cousin John the Baptist. He tells us that Heaven was open to Him, and that a voice was heard to speak *"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am pleased."* In today's Gospel, Jesus is near the end of His public ministry and about to face His Passion. Where do Jesus, Peter, James and John go? Answer: Up a mountain to pray, were not surprisingly they experience God the Father, who proclaims *"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him"* Once again, the basic dynamic of *Location + Voice* comes into play. In both instances, these experiences were intended primarily for Jesus' benefit. He is about to experience a cruel and lonely death. Just as we would need the encouragement of loved ones, when we would be facing a life experience that is terrifying, so did Jesus, because He would accomplish all of this through His *humanity*. Matthew concludes this section in his Gospel with Jesus instructing the three Apostles *"Do not tell the vision to anyone until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."*

My sisters and brothers, I would encourage you to hold on to this story and use it as a starting point for your prayerful reflection throughout this week. Surely, we can see ourselves in the Apostles; men who love Jesus, but are always playing catch-up to the level of His holiness and His mission, which in time will become their Mission. But at this stage in their spiritual lives, they are still on baby food. In time, and once they come to grips with how faulty they are, and how unworthy they are of God's love, the Holy Spirit will bring them along. In our reflections, we should put ourselves on that mountain, and ask ourselves how often Jesus has called you to His mountain to be alone with Him in prayer and you wasted the opportunity or refused to create that opportunity. How often and under what circumstances has God spoke the words to you *"This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased, listen to Him."* And you didn't....you wouldn't. This is why Lent is so important. If you and I have the courage and the humility, we will let Jesus take us with Him up the mountain. And as scary as it might be, as with Peter, James and John, we will never be the same! Don't waste this Lent! Your brother in Christ,



**Collections**: February 15 Parish @ \$2791, Fuel @ \$100, Ageing Priests @ \$525, Catholic Foundation @ \$2003, Donation @ \$5000, Choir Music Program @ \$255; Feb 22 Parish @ \$3011, Catholic Charities @ \$25, Fuel @ \$47, Donation @ \$500. Thank You.

**Special Collection**: Church in Africa, February 28<sup>th</sup> & March 1<sup>st</sup>

**Holy Name Society**: meeting March 9<sup>th</sup> 2 7Pm @ Ceader Hall.

**Religious Education Financial Assistance**: forms available in vestibule for Fall 2025 & Spring 2026. **Deadline March 1, 2026**

**St. Patrick's Day Celebration**: Saturday, March 14 @ Ceader Hall. Must purchase tickets in advance @ \$10 by March 8. Children under 12 years old are free. BYOB. Flyers in vestibule.



**Food Drive**: with focus on Children's Lunch Box items, Feb 28 – Mar 1. See flyer in vestibule.

**Lenten & Easter Season + Abstinence** flyer available in vestibule.

**Lenten Soup Supper & Stations of the Cross**: every Friday of Lent from 6PM to 7PM prior to Stations of the Cross @ 12 noon & 7PM each Friday of Lent.

**Confessions**: in addition to our regular schedule on Saturdays @ 3:30PM – 4:30PM; also, during Lent immediately following Stations of the Cross and a Special Evening Confessions Wed., April 1 @7PM-8PM