

March 24, 2024 – Palm Sunday of the Passion of The Lord

Saturday – March 23th – Vigil Mass

5PM: Intentions of Ginna LaBar (Mary Senior)

Sunday – March 24th – Mass is Streamed Live

9:30: Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

Monday – March 25th – Weekday – Holy Week

9AM: World Peace

Tuesday – March 26th – Weekday – Holy Week

9AM: Vietnam War Veterans Day- March 29 (Ted/Janet Achuff)

Wednesday – March 27th – Weekday – Holy Week

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament – 9:30AM – 11AM

9AM: Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

7-8PM: **Lenten Confessions**

Thursday – March 28th – Holy Thursday

9AM: **NO Mass**

7PM: Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

Friday – March 29th – Good Friday

9AM: **NO Mass**

3PM: Stations of the Cross

7PM: Stations of the Cross

Saturday – March 30th – Holy Saturday

9AM: **NO Mass**

7:30PM **Easter Vigil** – Incense Used – Tom Murphy – Usher – Altar Rosary Society

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

Church of Saint Lawrence

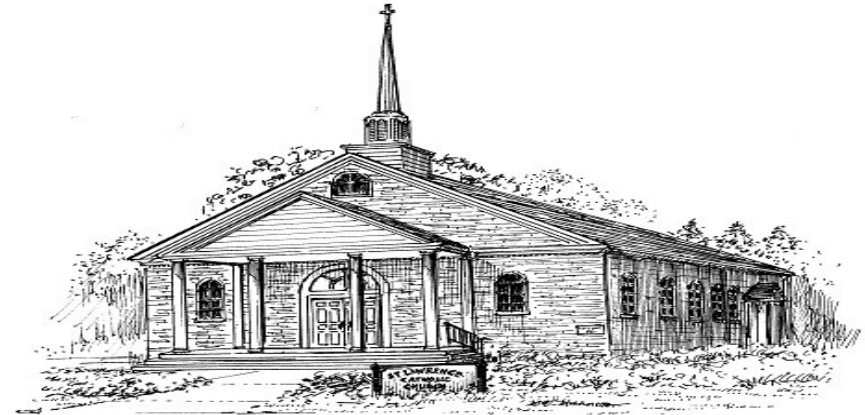
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[Website: saint-lawrence-church.org](http://saint-lawrence-church.org)



Mass Schedule: Saturday Evenings @ 5PM; Sunday Morning @ 9:30AM; Holy Days @ 9AM & 7PM; Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday @ 9AM, Thursday No Mass, Communion Distribution Only @ 9AM

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 Thurs. @ 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 24, 2024

We begin the most solemn week in Christianity.....Holy Week! There is so much to reflect on, and those who fail to take the time to reflect on them do themselves a great disservice. I would like to focus on one of the many moments of Holy Week, the Passion of Our Lord, celebrated on Good Friday. The version we hear this weekend is from the Gospel writer Mark. When you have the opportunity, please read it. You will notice that even though the Passion account is supposed to be about Jesus, Mark spends very little print on Jesus: there is one sentence about His scourging, a passing reference to the Crown of Thorns, and seven words that reference His carrying of the Cross ["and they led out to crucify him."] Who does Mark spend most of his ink on? The answer to that question is that Mark covers everyone who had been exposed to Jesus' goodness, His innocence, His selflessness, His courage to speak up for the powerless, the imperfect, sinners, for those who were minorities in that society: namely, women, children, the sick, the poor, those who had a reputation and non-Jews like the Samaritans. Mark's Passion Account focuses on those who witnessed Jesus translating the Father's love into action but failed to have the courage on Holy Thursday and Good Friday to live it. They wouldn't muster the love to stand by Our Lord and His non-stop acts of the Father's love. Why does Mark do this? Two

reasons: #1 Mark is writing his Gospel about 30 years after Our Lord's public life and Passion. During that time, the Jewish people attempted a revolt to free themselves from the Romans. The Romans took a few years to put the revolt down, but they did. As a sign to the rest of the Empire that such behavior would not be tolerated, the Romans destroyed the Temple, leveled Jerusalem to the ground, and deported many of the people. It would be an understatement to say that this was a traumatic experience for all Jews. On top of that, being the newest group on the scene, the Jewish Christians were blamed by both the Romans and the Jews. Jewish Christians were no longer welcomed anywhere, including in their synagogues. Initially, these Christians continued their concept of home churches to celebrate the Eucharist. Still, as their numbers increased dramatically, celebrating the Eucharist became the notion of churches as we know them today. This is the background against which Mark is writing his Gospel for his people. Their life was one of persecution. Like the Master, they lived their lives following the teachings and example of the Master; they were kind, respectful, and peaceful in the face of prejudice; they were faithful citizens of the Roman Empire and, until excluded from the synagogues, loyal to their Jewish heritage. Like Our Lord, they too were cruelly slandered as being a threat to the emperor, the civil order of the Empire, and heretical within the Jewish Church. To help

them endure such suffering, Mark was anxious to remind them of the suffering and faithfulness of the Master, to look to the witness of His trust in the Father as their model, and more importantly, to look to the Father's Resurrection of Jesus, as His promise to those would follow His Son. This is why we hear about the Apostle's criticism of the women who anointed Jesus' head with "costly genuine spikenard oil," Judas' betrayal, the Apostles abandoning the Lord in the Garden, and Peter's denial of the Master [3x's], about the religious authorities repeated betrayal of the Truth; the cruel treatment of Jesus at the hands of the soldiers, the cowardliness of Pilate, the criminals "who were crucified with him also kept abusing him."

Mark is trying to impress upon them that it is understandable to be afraid, to be tempted to step back from Our Lord, and to betray Him when they and their loved ones are threatened by the authorities, their neighbors, and even members of the family.

My brothers and sisters certainly live in such times. They might not be as overt as it was in Jesus' times or the times of Mark's parishioners, but they are there, and Evil has no intention of going away. #2 As a Lenten exercise during Holy Week, spend time with Our Lord in prayer, reflecting on the responses of any one of these characters. Like a stencil or template, lay it over the choices and values of your daily life and see

what they reveal. Then be quiet, and just as the Apostles needed to be on Easter Sunday morning, let Our Resurrected Lord speak to you about where you go from here. Your brother in Christ,



Collections: March 17 Parish @ \$1629, Easter Flowers @ \$160 Church in Latin America & Africa @ \$60, Fuel @ \$20. Thank You.

PALM: will be distributed in vestibule of Church on Palm Sunday.

Special Collection; Holy Land: on Good Friday, March 29.

Stations of the Cross: all Fridays during Lent @ 12 Noon & 7PM followed by confessions.

Lenten Soup Suppers: every Friday of Lent 6PM-7PM

Easter Egg Hunt: for children on rectory lawn following 9:30AM Mass. Bring your basket:>

Holy Name Society: meeting April 8 @ Ceader Hall @ 7PM

Coffee & Donuts: April 14 @ Ceader Hall following the 9:30AM Mass.

Night at the Races: Saturday, April 27. Doors open @6PM. Races start @ 7PM

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being held on Saturday, April 27th. Doors open @ 6PM with races starting @ 7PM. This is a family friendly event open to everyone. Consider inviting friends & neighbors. Donation of door prizes & backed goods are greatly appreciated. Horses available for purchase @ \$10 each with a 1 in 10 chance of winning \$50. Thank you for supporting this annual Holy Name Society fund raiser providing a helpful hand to those in need throughout our Parish Community.

2024 Night At The Races!

Our annual parish **Night at the Races** is Saturday evening, April 27, 2024; it begins at 6 PM. It is always an enjoyable evening filled with good food, numerous prizes, and especially cash winnings. The Holy Name Society has been planning this event for the last few months and are anxious to provide everyone with another great night. In addition to this, the audio and video systems of Ceadar Hall have been given an upgrade that should increase your enjoyment of the races. Details can be found in flyers in the vestibule of the church. Fr. Benn.

Mother's Retreat!

JoAnne Diaz of Easton is a Catholic mother of 10 children. She has come to appreciate the challenges and blessings of motherhood, and the importance of Our Lord in a mother's life. Over the past few years, JoAnne has conducted a Spring retreat for mothers and grandmothers. Her next retreat will be offered on Saturday, April 13th {8:30 AM – 3 PM} in **Fellowship Hall, 2012 Sullivan Trail, Easton, Pa.** For details and registration info consult the parish website.



Financial Assistance: Action Item:

Forms now available in vestibule for the Fall 2023/Spring 2024 school year provided by the Ceadar Trust Trustees. Time sensitive, act now. **Deadline April 7, 2024.** For previously registered parishioners of St. Lawrence only!!

Children's Liturgy of the Word!

Four years ago, we attempted to include a *Children's Liturgy of the Word* program within our weekly 9:30 AM Sunday Mass. Two gracious parishioners stepped forward and began their preparation for this Ministry. Unfortunately, we weren't able to pull it off. No doubt you have noticed the growing

number of young parents joining our celebrations, and they wonderfully bring their children. We want to establish this Program again. *Children's Liturgy of the Word* is simple. One does not have to be a theologian; it lasts for about 20-25 minutes or less on any given Sunday if the little people are getting antsy. The focus groups are Pre-School, Kindergarten, and 1st Graders. As much as they may want to participate, we feel older children need to experience the Eucharist with the adults, particularly since they are preparing for their First Holy Communion. We might concede if the younger child is willing to go if their older sister or brother participates.

The goal of the Program:

We want to impress upon our children that they are unique and that there is a special place in Mass for them. We also want to expose them to the experience of *community* with the adults of our parish and their peers.

The children receive the opportunity to listen to scripture on their level.

It gives mothers and fathers a break where they don't have to wrestle with their restless child.

How does the program work?

After the priest prays the *Opening Prayer*, he will invite any children who want to participate in the Children's Liturgy of the Word to come forward. The children and the adult leaders go into the main aisle. Father will hand their book to one of the children, give them a short blessing, and the adults lead

them downstairs to Ceadar Hall. They will remain there while the adults listen to the Scripture Readings and Homily. Sometime during the Profession of Faith, Apostles' Creed, or the Prayers of the Faithful, the children return upstairs to be reunited with their parents.

The Adult Leaders:

In a perfect world, we would like 2-3 adults each Sunday to lead children. That is unlikely, however, because of Child Protection Protocols. There must be a minimum of two adults with the children.

The adults will be provided with a set program to follow. Sometimes, the Program provides a Bible story on the child's level. Other times, it will be a religious topic such as prayer, forgiveness, or respect for another person, such as your friends.

All adults will be required to participate in the standard child protection protocols required of anyone working with children. Included among these are acquiring a State Police check, fingerprinting, participating in a brief lecture that can be done online, and finally, participating in one in-person group session. This sounds like a lot, but you will be surprised how easy it is.

Having this Program as a part of our parish spirituality will be such a blessing. I ask that those of you who are attracted to it pray about it and not hesitate to contact me or speak with a PREP catechist or a teacher from a Catholic school. Please think of how this Program can only enrich our parish.
Fr. Walter Benn