# st. lawrence o'toole & sacred heart parishes



#### Mass schedule

#### St. Lawrence

Saturday Vigil 5:30, 7:30pm (Spanish)

Sunday

8:00, 9:30, 11:00am, 12:30,

5:30pm (Youth Mass) Monday-Friday

8:30am

Saturday

9:00am

#### Sacred Heart

Saturday Vigil

4:00pm

Sunday

10:30am

#### St. Lawrence Cemetery

Plots and cremation niches are available for purchase.

Cemetery office 845-279-2021 x201 call to schedule an appointment.

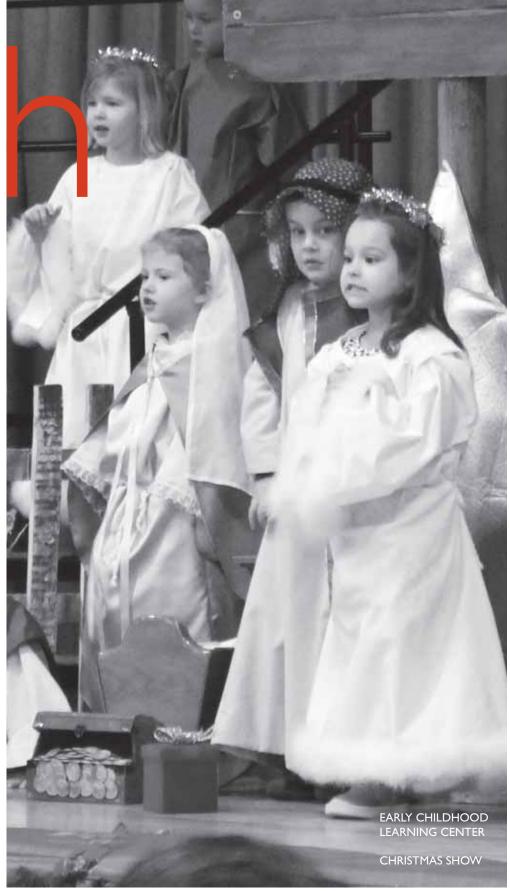
#### stlawrenceotoole.org

31 Prospect Street

Brewster, NY 10509 845-279-2021

#### sacredheartpattersonny.org

414 Haviland Drive Patterson, NY 12563 845-279-4832





## **Dedications**

### **Sacred Heart**

The **Sanctuary Candle** is dedicated for: **Mary & Thomas Hughes**At the request of Meg & Scotty Cairney

The **Advent Candle** is dedicated for: **Paul Shisler** 

At the request of Mark & Ann Marie Shisler

### St. Lawrence O'Toole

The **Tabernacle** candle is dedicated for: **Mafalda & Giovanni Palmerini**At the request of the Palmerini Family

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The candle before **Our Lady** is dedicated for: **Rudy Belobradova** 

At the request of the Palmerini Family

**ተተተተተ** 

The Paschal Candle is dedicated for:

Pasko Markovina

At the request of the Kesich Family

## **Prayer List**

Please remember our Brothers and Sisters in the Lord who have asked for Prayers:

Maria Racano ° Robert O'Hara ° Mort Kealy ° Linda Puglise ° Harold & Patricia Willis ° Stella Chico ° Socorro Marin ° Nosh Shkreli ° Angela Millman ° John Moran ° Larry Tobin ° Jane Cirino ° Michael Taylor ° Sr. Celestine Costello, OSU ° Karen McIlvenny-Schlick ° Kathy Tolan ° Terri Ciarmello ° Diana Westin ° Mark Gearing ° Christopher Sarlo ° Mary Kelly ° Maria Lopane ° Sofia Larocca ° Mary McQueeney ° Terry Dress ° Natalie Williams ° Susan Klemm ° Sharon Misyak ° Raymond Flynn ° Elizabeth Daly ° Hanora Campbell ° Joan Bemis ° Frank Monteleone ° Eileen McBride ° Lorraine Kucmierowski ° Julie Gargiulo ° Fr. Frank Meccia

If you or a loved one has returned to good health, please call the Parish Office and ask that your name be removed from our list.

#### **Mass Intentions**

Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>

9:00AM Michael Carleton 4:00PM Sacred Heart Mike McDermott 5:30PM George Durmer 7:30PM Spanish Mass

Sunday, December 24th

8:00AM Maureen McDonald 9:30AM Marty Murray 10:30AM Sacred Heart Nina Lopane 11:00AM John Murawski 12:30PM **Emily Paquette** 4:00PM Marco Broadway 4:00PM Sacred Heart Bill & Joseph Lewis 5:30PM **Rick Patterson** 7:30PM Spanish Mass 10:00PM Alice & Robert Croft

Monday, December 25th

8:00AM Caroline & Leonard Schneider 8:30AM Sacred Heart Bowe & O'Connor Families

9:30AM Galileo Maragni

10:30AM Sacred Heart Natalie & Vincent Stafano

11:00AM Emilia Zamboli 12:30PM Johnny Keefe

Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>

8:30AM Deceased Duff, Daly & Kinirons

Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>

8:30AM Susanne Imperioli

Thursday, December 28th

8:30AM Mary Calise

Friday, December 29<sup>th</sup>

8:30AM Johnny Keefe

Saturday, December 30<sup>th</sup>

9:00AM Jack Carey
4:00PM Sacred Heart Julie Danile
5:30PM Angelo DeCarlo
7:30PM Spanish Mass

Sunday, December 31st

8:00AM Monica Boscia

9:30AM Caitlin Giamundo Cardona

10:30AM Sacred Heart Julie Danile 11:00AM Eleanor Lasch 12:30PM Rick Patterson

5:30PM Ronnie & Joseph Paduano

our vision



Create a parish of missionary disciples whose personal relationship with Jesus Christ inspires others into a life-changing relationship with Him.

# while we're at it

December 24,2017

Dear Parishioners,

A Blessed Christmas to everyone. We especially welcome all our guests and relatives from out of town, and any visitors to St. Lawrence or Sacred Heart this Christmas. We are delighted to have you all join us to worship our Lord on this most holy day. May the peace of Christ be with you all throughout the New Year.

St. John, in the opening to his first Letter in the New Testament, expressed better than anyone what this day is all about:

"We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands — concerning the Word of Life- this Life was revealed, and we have seen it, and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us — we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so our joy may be complete.

"This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all."

1 John 1: 1-5

Christmas is the celebration of that Word of God – Jesus Christ- becoming flesh and living among us... something the first Christians could "look at and touch with our hands". God has dwelt among us and he is light, a light the pierces whatever darkness that might envelope the world or our particular lives.

When God is with us, among us we need not fear but be filled with joy because he is here to reclaim his world.

Merry Christmas to all.

God bless,

Fr. Richard Gill



## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT ™ DECEMBER 24, 2017**

#### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

## Christmas Eve Vigil Mass of Christmas

**St. Lawrence:** Sunday, December 24th 4:00PM, 5:30PM, 7:30PM Spanish & 10:00PM (Midnight Mass)

Sacred Heart: Sunday, December 24th-4:00PM

### Christmas Day Mass of Christmas Day

**St. Lawrence:** Monday, December 25th 8:00AM, 9:30AM, 11:00AM & 12:30PM

Sacred Heart: Monday, December 25th 8:30AM & 10:30AM

#### Masses

St. Lawrence: Saturday, December 30th 5:30PM & 7:30PM Spanish Sunday, December 31st 8:00AM, 9:30AM, 11:00AM, 12:30PM & 5:30PM

Sacred Heart: Saturday, December 30th-4:00PM Sunday, December 31st- 10:30AM

#### New Year's Day

St. Lawrence: Monday, January 1st 8:30AM & 10:00AM

\*\* Since Christmas Day is a Holy Day of Obligation, we are obliged to attend Mass twice—for Sunday and for Monday (Christmas). Evening Masses on the 24th count as Christmas Masses, so everyone should also attend Mass Saturday the 23rd or the morning of Sunday the 24th.

#### ATTENTION SENIORS: YEAR END GIVING

Many people may still need to take their required minimum distributions from their IRA and also are thinking about giving something special to the parish for Christmas. There is a way to do this and minimize taxes that would be due.

Rather than taking the money out of the IRA and getting hit with taxes, you can donate directly from the IRA to the Church and not pay any tax on the amount you donate. If you would like to maximize your giving tax free, call the parish office (279-2021) and someone from the Finance Council will help you with this easy transfer.

#### THE POWER OF PRAYER

Join the parish in praying for the following daily prayer intentions

Dec. 23—Men's Ministry

Dec. 24—All Parishioners attending Mass on Christmas Eve

Dec. 25—All Parishioners attending Christmas Mass

Dec. 26—Safety of Parishioners traveling to see family

Dec. 27—Residents of Brewster who are far from Christ

Dec. 28—Night in Bethlehem Christmas VBS Camp

Dec. 29—Give all the Glory to God Basketball Camp



Our lives change when our habits change.

Matthew Kelly

## Hours Still Available:

Thursday Iam-2am • Friday 9pm • Saturday 5am.
Saturday and Sunday

Contact Angela to schedule your hour 914-482-0325 or slotadore@aol.com

#### REMINDER THAT IN CHURCH...

Out of respect for God's house and the Blessed Sacrament, and in order to keep the one hour Eucharistic fast required before receiving Holy Communion, we should not chew gum or eat anything in Church. Thanks for observing this detail of Catholic life.

## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT ™ DECEMBER 24, 2017**

## Christmas Candles Fr. William Saunders

Placing lit candles in windows arises from the British persecution against the Catholic Church in Ireland. Since the time King Henry II invaded Ireland in 1171,



persecution against the Irish has existed. This persecution increased tremendously in the wake of the Protestant movement, especially under Elizabeth I and then Oliver Cromwell. The logic was simply this: the British conquerors were Protestant and the Irish people were Catholic; therefore, to totally subjugate the Irish people, the British had to crush their religion, and that meant crushing the Catholic Church.

With this in mind, we find the use of candles in windows. During Christmas, every faithful Irish Catholic family hoped to have a priest visit their home so that they could receive the sacraments and in return offer him hospitality. They would leave their doors unlocked and place candles in the windows to signal a priest that he was welcome and would be safe. Sometimes, a single candle would appear in several windows, or three candles in one window, one each representing Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Of course the British persecutors became suspicious and asked purpose of this action. The faithful Irish Catholics responded, "Our doors are unlocked and candles burn in our windows at Christmas, so that our Blessed Mother Mary, St. Joseph, and Baby Jesus, looking for a place to lodge, will find their way to our homes and be welcomed with open hearts." Of course, the British considered such a display another sign of superstition and "silly popery."

The origin of this custom, of placing candles in the windows was brought to America by the Irish immigrants, and has since become very popular. We must never lose sight of its meaning and historical background. As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, may we also open our hearts and homes to Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Christ is our light, who entered this world to scatter sin and darkness. Having been enlightened by Christ through Holy Baptism, we must have a strong loyalty to our Church. We too must realize that the greatest gift of all is our faith, a faith which enabled the Irish to triumph over the most heinous persecutions.



My name is Christine Tomassetti and I have been a parishioner at St. Lawrence for the



past 18 years. During the past 5 years I have been a Core member of the Edge program. My first year was when my daughter was preparing for her Confirmation. I trusted the Holy Spirit to guide me through this new journey of teaching other children to grow in their faith. I have found this journey one of the most rewarding experiences. I have seen so many children learn to trust their faith and want to learn more about God and it makes me proud to know I had a small hand in their journey.

Our children are our future so I believe it is so important to give them a good foundation of our Catholic faith. What they learn from us as disciples of God will help guide them through their live.

This year I am able to do the same with my son who will be making Confirmation. I have been with his grade since they were 6th graders and it has been amazing watching these kids mature and grow in their faith over the past three years. They truly have grown a love of God.

This past weekend I had the honor of being part of the 8th grade Edge class attend a 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  day Confirmation retreat held at Kennedy Catholic High School. It filled my heart to see the power of the Holy Spirit work through over 300 students. It brought me such joy to see children from our Parish go in front of Jesus to kneel and pray during their own free time. They were all eager to participate in the events during the weekend to help them become closer to God.

I plan to continue teaching our children the love of God for many years to come.

### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT № DECEMBER 24, 2017**



Family Christmas traditions are a great way to connect, make memories, and grow closer to Christ.

Family Christmas traditions are a great way to connect with one another, make memories to last a lifetime, and grow closer to Christ. Whether you're just

starting out or you already have set family traditions, this year, consider trying out some of the Catholic Christmas traditions and customs listed below.

#### **Midnight Mass**

The very word Christmas comes from the Old English words Crīstes mæss, or Christ-Mass. From ancient times, Mass has been at the heart of the celebration of Christ's birth. Accordingly, Christmas is a holy day of obligation, on which the Church calls all Catholics to celebrate Mass.

Midnight Mass is the most elaborate celebration of Christmas. At some point in the life of your family, your kids should get to experience it. While it may be later and longer than a typical Mass, it is often less crowded.

#### Pray before the baby Jesus

"No one, whether shepherd or wise man, can approach God here below except by kneeling before the manger at Bethlehem and adoring him hidden in the weakness of a newborn child." So says the Catechism of the Catholic Church (#563).

You can take that to heart by encouraging your kids to pray before the baby Jesus in the nativity scene at your church or at your home, either after Christmas Mass or right away on Christmas morning, before opening gifts. Encourage your kids to make up their own prayer.

#### Make and light a Christ candle

If your family has enjoyed lighting the Advent wreath, extend the practice by making a Christ candle. Purchase a large white candle, ideally one made for liturgical use (at least 51 percent bees' wax), and decorate it with the *chi rho* (the first two letters in the Greek).

#### **Celebrate Twelfth Night**

Twelfth Night is a largely forgotten traditional celebration held on the twelfth night of the Christmas season, January 6. Have a Twelve Days of Christmas themed dinner feast that features twelve courses, including partridge in a pear tree pie.



## Gospel Reflection: Luke 1:26–38

Ed Morrissey

"Thy will be done." When Mary gave her full and knowing consent to the angel of the Lord, she provided the apotheosis of human embrace of divine will. She placed all of her trust in the Lord, willingly and without any reservation, even though she knew full well what the difficulties that assent would produce. An unwed teen mother in those days would have been much more than just an embarrassment; it would disgrace the family and could have led to her death. The marriage her parents had arranged for her would be at an end, and she might have to travel on her own to escape the shame of the constant rejection of her community.

The literal sense of the story starts with this reading, in which God condescends to make Himself part of humanity through Jesus Christ, who will live a life fully human and fully divine. To be fully human, Jesus had to experience all that humanity experiences, and comes as a lowly infant in poverty to Mary, who becomes the vessel of the Lord. The first reading, 2 Samuel makes this point in discussing the Ark of the Covenant and David's plans for a temple, which the prophet Nathan eventually warns against. Rather than build a house for the Lord, the Lord will build a house for David, and it will be his children who build themselves into the Lord's house as a light for all nations. Those children produce both Mary and Joseph.

The cultural celebration of Christmas is a lot of fun, but it takes us away from the real preparation and formation of Advent. To follow the example of Mary's Fiat and make ourselves into willing and joyful disciples of Jesus, with complete trust in the Lord as to His will. We have the gift of free will, which means we have our own ideas about how our lives are to go. That is our gift from God, and the manner in which we are made in His image. C. S. Lewis wrote in The Screwtape Letters, God does not want slaves to do His bidding under His command, but sons and daughters who willingly and joyfully join in His work. Free will leaves us with constant choices about how we live our lives, and whether we live them only for ourselves or for the Lord.

## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT ™ DECEMBER 24, 2017**





#### **TEEN MATTERS**

#### Part 2...

Teen reflections from the 8th grade Confirmation Retreat continued ...

"I overall had a great time at this retreat. It was a great time to be with God, be close with Him and confess to Him. It was a very peaceful two days and this was a great retreat." – 8th Grade Boy



"I thought that the reflections and times of prayer were very helpful. It gave me time to think about my faith and about everything I believe in. Also, the procession, following the body of Christ, was nice. The songs in the retreat were very nice and it was fun to sing on the walk and every chance we got... The retreat was very fun." – Grace

"My favorite part [of the retreat] was when we took a walk in the snow with the monstrance because it was so peaceful and it was so nice." – 8th Grade Boy

"This was an amazing experience! I loved the talks some of the priests and sisters made, they were really insightful and strengthened my relationship with God...I would love to do it again in the future." – Katie "This weekend was overall a good weekend...I loved the singing, the singing in the snow, and the snowball fight. [Saturday night's] adoration made me cry and really spoke to me. The whole weekend was fun and getting to spend it with my friends made it even better. I made better friends with new people." — Sophia

"I liked this trip because I was with my friends and I was able to grow in my faith." – 8th Grade Boy

"I really liked the trip and my favorite part was when we went around the [Adoration altar] and prayed. The part that spoke to me the most was that the negative voice in our head is from Satan." — Makayla



"This retreat is amazing, you should do it next year and the year after that. I feel like people really connected to God." – Emily



# 十

## ❖ Pasta Dinner ❖

Saturday January 20th at 5pm

Snow Date: Sunday Jan. 21 at 2pm at Sacred Heart Dining Hall Reservations required • No tickets at the door

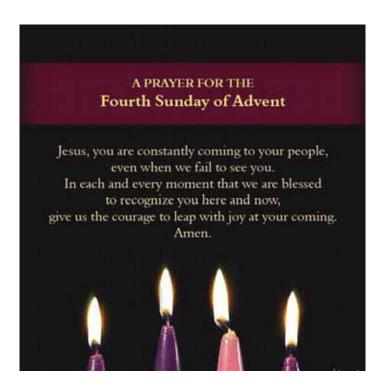
> ticket will be sold after Masses on Jan 6-7 and Jan. 13-14

> > \$10 per person \$5/child 12 and under

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#### Sacred Heart







## Explore Bethlehem

at our Vacation Bible School

#### December 27-29th

9:00am - 12:00pm

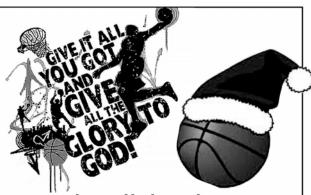
PreK 4 to 5th Grade

# Teen Volunteers: 6th grade to 17 years old, FREE Adult Volunteers: 18 and up, FREE

This Christmas program will have children wander through the bustling Bethlehem marketplace and create unique keepsakes as they interact with local shopkeepers who share the Christmas story. They'll hear about the miracle of Jesus's birth from Mary and Joseph at the stable.

#### Register your child at:

stlawrenceotoole.org/Christmas\_Camp Fee: \$75



## give all the glory to God basketball clinic

December 27th-29th 12:30pm-3:30pm PreK 4 to 5th Grade

Teen Volunteers: 6th grade to 17 years old, FREE Adult Volunteers: 18 and up, FREE

During the Basketball Clinic, children will have the opportunity to sharpen their basketball skills, and strengthen their prayer lives. Multiple camp discount available.

Register at: stlawrenceotoole.org/Basketball\_Clinic Fee: \$50.

#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT M DECEMBER 24, 2017





#### SETON PILGRIMAGE TO THE CZECH REPUBLIC, POLAND & AUSTRIA - JUNE 11-21, 2018

Join Fr. Quarato on an II-day Čatholic Pilgrimage Tour to the Czech Republic, Poland & Austria, including: Prague (Infant Jesus Shrine & St.Vitus Cathedral), Svata Hora (Marian Holy Mountain), Krakow, Wadowice (Pope Saint John Paul II), Czestochowa (Black Madonna), Lagiewniki (Divine Mercy), Vienna, the Melk Abbey, Mariazell (Marian Shrine) & more! \$3,695 from New York (JFK) / \$595 single supplement, includes city center 4\*+ hotels, air, all breakfasts, eight dinners and all fees and tips. Daily Mass. For a brochure contact:

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For reservations contact: Pilgrimage Tours,
1766 Scherersville Rd., Allentown, PA 18104.
1-800-278-1351•PilgrimageTours@aol.com.



Losing a child under any circumstances is terrible. Focusing on the spirituality of the grieving process can help tremendously.

The Emmaus Ministry: for parents whose children of any age have died by any cause.

# Please join us. All are welcomed. Saturday retreats offered throughout the Archdiocese in 2018.

January 13: Capuchin Youth & Family Ministries, 791 Route 9D, Garrison, (Putnam) 9:30 am - 7:30pm

**February 24**: Church of the Magdalene, Sleepy Hollow (Westchester), 9:30 am - 7:30 pm

Cost: \$25 per person, \$40 per couple\* Includes breakfast, lunch, dinner. Scholarships are available. \*special 2018 rate

#### To register online:

emfgp.org/2018-archny or contact Sue DiSisto, Parenting and Family Life Education: susan.disisto@archny.org or 646-794-3191

#### PARISH STAFF

Rev. Richard Gill	Pastor
Rev. Thomas Berg	Weekend Associate
Rev. Frank Meccia	Weekend Associate
Mark Shkreli	Deacon
John Baffa	Deacon
	Deacon
Julie Noce	Pastoral Assistant
	Youth Minister
	Coord. of Youth Evangelization
	Coord. of Religious Education
	Coord. of the Family Program
Eileen Stokes	Cemetery Administrator
Meg Cairney	Coord. Religious Ed. Sacred Heart
	Principal, Early Childhood Center
	St. Lawrence Parish Trustee
Paul Lavelle	St. Lawrence Parish Trustee
Lou Milano	Sacred Heart Parish Trustee
John Neubauer	Sacred Heart Parish Trustee

#### **SACRAMENTS**

**BAPTISM:** Baptisms are scheduled for the first Sunday of the month at 2:00PM at St. Lawrence. Spanish Baptisms are scheduled for the fourth Sunday of the month at 2:00PM. Contact Deacon Mark Shkreli at 917-335-5607.

**MARRIAGE:** Call the Parish Office to arrange an appointment. Plans should be made a minimum of six months in advance.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** Please call the Parish Office anytime someone is seriously ill at home or in the hospital.

#### **CONFESSION:**

Mondays	4:00 - 7:00 PM—St. Lawrence
Saturdays	3:30 - 4:00 PM—Sacred Heart

#### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

Monday - Friday......24 hours daily at **St. Lawrence** Holy Hour of Praise&Worship ....Third Monday,7:00 - 8:30PM *Contact Angela Morelli at 582-0573 to register for regular hours.* 

#### **DEVOTIONS TO OUR LADY:**

Monday - Saturday	8:00 AM Rosary - <b>St. Lawrence</b>
Monday & Tuesday	7:00 PM Rosary - <b>St. Lawrence</b>
Saturday9:30 AM	Miraculous Medal Novena- <b>St. Lawrence</b>
Monday - Saturday	9:00 AM Rosary - Sacred Heart
Tuesday	6:30 PM Rosary - Sacred Heart

#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT M DECEMBER 24, 2017

#### ST. LAWRENCE PARISH SUPPORT

Weekend of December 17

In Pew Collection \$8,232.50 WeShare \$3,284.77

#### SACRED HEART PARISH SUPPORT

Weekend of December 17

In Pew Collection \$ 2,585.00 WeShare \$ 340.46

## how to sign up for We Share automatic giving

It's simple and easy and takes just a minute. You can go back in at any time and change your amounts.

- I. Go to: stlawrenceotoole.org/WeShare or sacredheartpattersonny.churchgiving.com
- 2. Click "Give Online"
- 3. Click on the collection you wish to donate to.
- 4. Click "Recurring Donation," then enter your donation amount and frequency.



### Brewster Ecumenical Shelter Partnership

## volunteers needed

St Lawrence O'Toole is preparing for the 12th year of BESP and is seeking volunteers to serve those in our community who are not as fortunate.

This year for one week per month during January through March our parish will offer a safe place that provides shelter, food, clothing and warmth for those who are without these basic necessities.

#### We need volunteers for the weeks at St Lawrence O'Toole Parish Center

- \*to cook & serve meals in the Parish Center Dining Hall at
- overnight hosts from 9pm-6am working with the BESP
- •supply donations: toiletries, laundry detergent, new socks and underwear, cleaning supplies, paper goods, etc

Monday-Sunday Jan. 8-14, Feb. 5-11 and Mar. 5-11

For more information contact: Cathy and Chris Quaranta at 845-278-7116 or BESP10509@gmail.com

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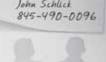
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