

december 13, 2020 third sunday of advent

# st. lawrence o'toole & sacred heart parishes



## Mass schedule

**St. Lawrence**

**Saturday Vigil**

5:30, 7:30 pm (Spanish)

**Sunday**

8:00, 9:30, 11:00 am, 12:30 pm (Spanish)

5:30 pm

**Monday-Friday**

8:30 am

**Wednesday**

7:00 pm

**Sacred Heart**

**Saturday Vigil**

4:00 pm

**Sunday**

10:30 am

**St. Lawrence Cemetery**

Plots and cremation niches are available for purchase.

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

[stlawrenceotoole.org](http://stlawrenceotoole.org)

31 Prospect Street  
Brewster, NY 10509  
845-279-2021

[sacredheartpattersonny.org](http://sacredheartpattersonny.org)

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

**Instagram:** stlawrenceotoole\_brewsterny

**Facebook:** St. Lawrence O'Toole  
& Sacred Heart

**Twitter:** St. Lawrence O'Toole Church

**YouTube:** Saint Lawrence



**Our Lady of Guadalupe**  
PAINTED BY NELLIE EDWARDS

# THE SHROUD OF TURIN

Dec 12-22, Jan 6-12 Exhibit in Gym

Sean Fitzgerald, Expert on the Shroud.

Conferences on “The Science Behind the Burial Cloth of Jesus”

Dec 18, 7 pm & Dec 20, 2pm



## a 2020 blessing - new life

Nicole and Gregory Kristensen had their baby blessed at St. Lawrence O'Toole on Sunday, Dec. 6

## rest in peace fr. travers

FR. RICHARD GILL



Fr. Gerry Travers, pastor of St. Lawrence O'Toole from 1986 through 1992, passed away quietly in his sleep Saturday, December 6 at the age of 82. He had been living at Holy Family Parish in New Rochelle in active retirement. He had also been pastor of St. Patrick's in Highland Mills.

Fr. Travers was born July 4, 1938 and ordained in 1965. He was assigned to St. Lawrence in the 1960's first as assistant pastor and later returned for a term as pastor. Many parishioners have fond memories of his tenure as pastor.

His wake will be Sunday from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm at Pelham Funeral Home, and Mass of Christian Burial will be at Holy Family in New Rochelle Monday at 10:30 am.



December 13, 2020

# while we're at it

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

Dear Friends,

This weekend we celebrate the feast of **Our Lady of Guadalupe**. She is a powerful symbol of the prolife movement, as she actually appeared to Juan Diego as pregnant with the Child Jesus. A new administration in Washington is intent on its promises to expand access to abortion and pressure Catholic and Christian organizations to support it as well. The Catholic Church will never stop fighting until everyone recognizes that human life is a precious gift of God, and sacred from the moment of conception to natural death. Through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, may God have mercy on our country.



We're blessed to have a fabulous **66 part exhibit of the Shroud of Turin** in our parish starting this weekend through December 22 and January 6-12. It tells the amazing story of the true burial cloth of Jesus, miraculously impressed with the image of Jesus Crucified. Stop over to see it in the gym when you can. We've also invited in a **Shroud expert** to give two conferences on the science behind the shroud. **Sean Fitzgerald** will be with us Dec. 18 at 7 pm and again Dec. 20 at 2 pm to explain this wonderful testimony to the Resurrection of Jesus.

We're doing our best to keep the Church sanitized and everyone safe and healthy. In order to space people out better, we'll add three live Masses in the gym (4:00 pm Christmas Eve, and 8:00 am and 9:30 am Christmas Day). The Holy Father has also granted permission this year because of Covid, that Christmas Eve Masses begin as early as 2:00 pm. So in the interest of safety for all, we will also add a 2:00 pm Mass. Be sure to check the many opportunities for Confession before Christmas, including **Confession Monday**, December 21 from 4:00 pm to 8:30 pm.

Finally, please pray for the repose of the soul of **Fr. Gerry Travers**, pastor at St. Lawrence between 1986 and 1992. He died peacefully in his sleep last Saturday. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

God bless,

Fr. Richard Gill

## HELP OUT THE THOSE IN NEED IN THE BRONX THIS CHRISTMAS.

Cleaning supplies, baby items, kitchen supplies, pantry food, winter gear, first aid basic items.  
**ALL ITEMS MUST BE NEW.**

Drop off toys for homeless children and essential items for homeless families in the Bronx  
**inside the entrance to our gym.**

ST **ANTHONY**  
OF **PADUA**



st lawrence o'toole  
sacred heart





## the search

Patrick Montuori



What is this life about? What makes it meaningful? Is there a God? And if so, what is our relationship with him? These questions are so important. As human beings our hearts long to answer them. But how often do we take the time to truly explore them and seek out meaningful answers? As Catholics we believe the answers can be found in our understanding of our faith. But how do we know this to be the truth?

In "The Search", a seven-part video series and discussion group I participated in this fall at St. Lawrence O'Toole, we set out to find the answers. Each week the "Searchers" gathered via Zoom and safely in-person at the Parish Dining Hall for discussion and fellowship. In the videos, interviews with philosophers, scientists, psychologists and many others were set to a backdrop of powerful images and music that captured the awe and wonder of life and inspired us to reflect on these big life questions. The small discussion groups we formed reminded us that we are not alone in our desire for a deeper conversation about the meaning of life and our relationship with God.

Through the course of the program our discussion group, which included a few friends I invited to join, developed a

sense of community. We got to know each other including what is important to each of us, how we understand our faith, and what we are seeking in life. At the end of each session we had a chance to share our take-aways and hear from each of the other groups, including those participating on Zoom, which helped us see different perspectives.



By the end of the series I had gained some meaningful insights into myself as it relates to my faith and my priorities in life. In a time when there is so much distracting us from what should be most important in our lives, "The Search" provides an opportunity to refocus on our faith by starting with the fundamental questions.



## human life is sacred: Catholic Politicians, Abortion, & Holy Communion

FR. RICHARD GILL

Now that the new President-elect claims to be a faithful Catholic, the very serious question of Holy Communion for a person in political office who publicly promotes abortion on demand has come up again.

The teaching of the Church is very clear from a Vatican statement in 2004:

*Regarding the grave sin of abortion or euthanasia, when a person's formal cooperation becomes manifest (understood, in the case of a Catholic politician, as his consistently campaigning and voting for permissive abortion and euthanasia laws), his Pastor should meet with him, instructing him about the Church's teaching, informing him that he is not to present himself for Holy Communion until he brings to an end the objective situation of sin, and warning him that he will otherwise be denied the Eucharist.*

Retired Archbishop of Philadelphia Charles Chaput recently wrote a helpful article applying this teaching to the present situation. From his article:

"The implications for the present moment are clear. Public figures who identify as "Catholic" give scandal to the faithful when receiving Communion by creating the impression that the moral laws of the Church are optional. And bishops give

similar scandal by not speaking up publicly about the issue and danger of sacrilege.

"By his actions during the course of his public life, Mr. Biden has demonstrated that he is not in full communion with the Catholic Church.... many of his actions and words have also supported or smoothed the way for grave moral evils in our public life that have resulted in the destruction of millions of innocent lives. Mr. Biden has said that he will continue to advance those same policies as president, and thus should not receive Holy Communion. His stated intention requires a strong and consistent response from Church leaders and faithful.

"This is not a "political" matter, and those who would describe it as such are either ignorant or willfully confusing the issue.... Moreover, there is also the pressing matter of pastoral concern for a man's salvation.... Reception of is not a right but a gift and privilege; and on the subject of "rights," the believing community has a priority right to the integrity of its belief and practice.

"Therefore, as pastor of the parishes of St. Lawrence O'Toole and Sacred Heart, I state that, in the highly unlikely event that Joseph Biden present himself for Holy Communion in our parishes, he will be respectfully denied and charitably admonished to repent for the sake of his eternal soul."

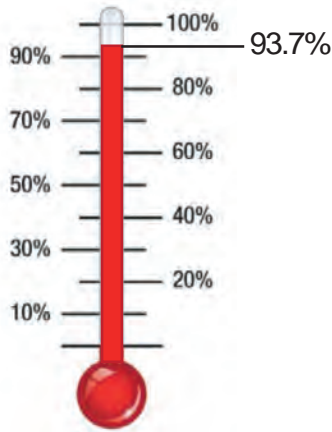
The same goes for other political figures purporting to be Catholic such as our Governor Andrew Cuomo, our Senator Kristen Gillibrand, and our Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney, among others.





# PARISH IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

SACRED HEART STRONG



Improvements to the Church Entrance:	\$40,000
Beautification of the Church Interior:	\$30,000
Replace Parish Center Gutters:	\$25,000
Outdoor Stations of the Cross:	\$20,000
Commemorative Shrine of First Chapel and Burial Site of the Hances:	\$20,000

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<b>Total</b>	<b>\$135,000</b>
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## COMMITMENTS

Gifts: 32

Total Committed: \$126,000

Average pledge: \$3,950

Remainder to reach our goal: \$9,000

Give your pledge today to keep Sacred Heart Strong! If we go over our goal, the remainder will be saved and dedicated to eventually resurfacing the parking lot (a \$100,000 project!)

WeShare: [sacredheartpattersonny.churchgiving.com](https://sacredheartpattersonny.churchgiving.com)

Due to Covid-19 challenges, instead of setting up a Giving Tree in the entrance of the church, St Lawrence and Sacred Heart parishes will assist the Sisters of Life help women in crisis pregnancies by utilizing an Amazon Gift Registry.

### It's easy!

Your gift will ship directly to the Sisters of Life by shopping from the registry using the link or QR scanning code below.

The Sisters of Life are so grateful for our generous participation in their Christmas gift collections each year. So many families benefit from our contributions!

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ACCEPTING DONATIONS THROUGH  
DECEMBER 14, 2020



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## the way

LYNDA HOLLER DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP



### Series 2: Obedience #4 – Obeying the Church

I think that all Christians acknowledge the fact that Jesus came to earth to save us from our sins, but it is equally important to understand that he also came to establish the Church. He chose key leaders, determined the hierarchal structure, taught them what they needed to know to get started, then sent the Holy Spirit to continue to inspire and instruct them and their successors in the decades, centuries, and millennia to follow. In Matthew 28:20, Jesus says, "...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

Since then Church leaders have had the unenviable task of teaching the hard Truth of Jesus, of not caving into popular opinion and shifting cultural norms. Jesus' teachings were tough for many of his listeners and they continue to be tough for people to accept today. But the key point is that Church teachings are Jesus' teachings and obeying the Church means obeying God. Conversely, disobeying the Church means disobeying God.

I have to admit that when I was younger, I didn't understand this clearly and I chose to disagree with some Church teachings, as if I knew better. But then I started to research and learn the reasons behind the teachings that troubled me and came to understand that Church teaching always make sense. Now I just accept that our doctrine is sound and that the Holy Spirit is more knowledgeable than I am.

There are many wonderful Catholic resources available for us to find the answers to our troubling questions. The Way to Jesus is by obedience to Him and his Church, so I invite you to check out some of these: The Catechism of the Catholic Church, catholic.com, ewtn.com, ascensionpress.com – Ascension Presents.

**Scripture:** Matthew 16:18-19.

Reflect on what God might be saying to you.

**Call to Action:** Choose one Church teaching that you struggle with and thoroughly research it using credible Catholic resources. If you still are unsure, talk to Fr. Rich or Fr. Tom.



## order your crèche

Made from PVC material and crafted by the Knights of Columbus. Lawn tie downs included. Free delivery in Brewster/Southeast. Price: \$70. To order contact Bruce Colombraro-845-279-6461 or Andrew Simmons 203-241-3746.

Checks payable to St. Lawrence Council #1495, Mail to St. Lawrence Council #1495, PO Box 268, Brewster, NY 10509.

## a night out on the knights

Tickets for the new '20-'21 program are now on sale. Contact Tom Radak at 845-279-7934 or any Knight of Columbus.

## we need your help

St Lawrence's Greeter and Usher team is looking for friendly people to join our team. Our role is to make every person who comes to church feel welcomed, help them find a place to sit and help them feel like they are one of us.

Prayerfully consider giving it a trial run during a Mass you regularly attend. Please contact Joe Massimo at 845-270-3480 for more information or to volunteer.



# Christmas Storytime

Saturday, December 19  
6:30 pm

Join us in the Parish  
**DINING HALL** after  
the 5:30 pm Mass for the  
story of Jesus's birth.

Register;  
[stlawrenceotoole.org/christmas\\_storytime](http://stlawrenceotoole.org/christmas_storytime)



## BECOMING CATHOLIC OR RETURNING CATHOLICS

Information meeting — December 14, 7:30 pm  
Jerusalem Room (second floor in Parish Center)

Classes run through to April 2021

Reception of sacraments on the Easter Vigil April 3, 2021

**Interested in joining the Catholic Church?** Then RCIA (Rite of Catholic Initiation for Adults) is for you! The RCIA process introduces you to the beliefs and practices of the Roman Catholic Church. It helps you explore what it means to be a Christian and prepares you to enter fully into our community of faith through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion. Becoming Catholic is more than just learning scripture and rituals, it's discovering how to be a disciple of the Lord.

We welcome all those who are new to the faith, the unbaptized or baptized, those that have not yet been confirmed in the Church and also those who are simply just searching for God.



## mass intentions

### Saturday, December 12

4:00PM *Sacred Heart* Gladys O'Connor  
5:30PM Michael Bozza  
7:30 PM Spanish

### Sunday, December 13

8:00AM Francis Joseph Hogan  
9:30AM Robert Rocco Russo  
10:30AM *Sacred Heart* Ralph Byrne  
11:00AM Gregory Taylor  
12:30 PM Elaine Healy  
5:30 PM Connie Wetzel

### Monday, December 14

8:30AM Fred Cullen

### Tuesday, December 15

8:30AM Carmelo Sottile

### Wednesday, December 16

8:30AM James Lynch  
7:00 PM Jimmy Sacato

### Thursday, December 17

8:30AM Alexander Thomson

### Friday, December 18

8:30AM Walter Sokolich

### Saturday, December 19

4:00PM *Sacred Heart* Bowe & O'Connor Families  
5:30PM Gregory M. Blank  
7:30 PM Spanish

### Sunday, December 20

8:00AM John Civetta Sr.  
9:30AM Michael Keegan  
10:30AM *Sacred Heart* Edward Richardson  
11:00AM Anna Chrippa  
12:30 PM Jack Moran  
5:30 PM Michael McKeown

## pray for

**Please remember our brothers and sisters in the Lord who have asked for prayers:**

Kaitlyn King • Mary McMahan • Joseph P. Massimo • Michael Brady • Betty Lou Lawlor • Maryann & Jackie Civita • Carol Garcia • Laura Faul • John Donovan • Hailey • Bonnie Grant • Andy Morehead • Robert Sarlo • Larry Tobin • Michael Taylor • John Curra • Angie Salas • Patrick Joyce • Dawn Sarlo • Amy Laura • Mary Kay Newman • Patricia Lichtenberger • Judy Bruen • Henry Joyce • Kayla Pinzur • Kathy Civetta

**Names will remain on the Prayer List for 90 days and then will be transferred to the prayer list in the Adoration Chapel.** To add names to or remove names from the Prayer List, please email:  
SLOT.SH.Office@gmail.com

## dedications

The **Blessed Mother Candle** at **St. Lawrence** is dedicated to **Michael Carleton** requested by his parents

## christmas and new years

### CONFESSIONS IN ADVENT

Monday, Dec 14  
4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Wednesday, Dec 16, 23  
4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

### RECONCILIATION MONDAY

Monday, December 21  
4:00 pm to 8:30 pm

### CONFESSIONS CHRISTMAS EVE

Thursday, December 24  
9:00 am to 12:00 pm

### CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

*To accomodate everyone safely, we are having extra Masses in the gym. Masses from the Church will also be livestreamed into the gym and to your homes.*

#### Thursday, December 24

St. Lawrence — 2:00 pm, 4:00 pm (Church), 4:00 pm (Gym),  
7:30 pm Spanish, 10:00 pm (Midnight Mass)  
Sacred Heart — 4:00 pm

### CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

#### Friday, December 25

St. Lawrence — 8:00 am (Church), 8:00 am (Gym)  
9:30 am (Church), 9:30 am (Gym), 11:00 am, 12:30 pm Spanish  
Sacred Heart — 8:30 am, 10:30 am

### NEW YEAR'S EVE MASSES

#### Thursday, December 31

St. Lawrence — 6:30 pm, 7:30 pm Spanish

### NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES

#### Friday, January 1

St. Lawrence — 8:30 am, 10:00 am  
Sacred Heart — 10:30 am



# st. lawrence parish support parish staff

**Weekend of**  
**December 6** In Pew Collection \$ 7,041.00  
 November WeShare weekly \$ 5,649.93  
**Total** \$ 12,690.93

- Rev. Richard Gill.....Pastor
- Rev. Thomas Berg.....Weekend Associate
- Mark Shkreli.....Deacon
- Julie Noce.....Pastoral Assistant
- Maureen Herbstritt.....Business Manager
- Lynda Holler.....Director of Discipleship
- Sally Silvestro.....Director of Communication
- Cecilia Britez...Director of Evangelization and Family Program
- Peter Ryan .....Director of Music
- Theresa Scorca.....Coord. of Religious Education
- Clara Segreti.....Family Program Assistant
- Janine Kristensen.....Family Program Coordinator Support
- Kim Santerre.....Director of Early Childhood Learning Center
- Irene Westin.....Adult Sacramental Administrator
- Eileen Stokes.....Cemetery Administrator

# sacred heart parish support

**Weekend of**  
**December 6** In Pew Collection \$ 2,319.00  
 November WeShare weekly \$ 503.87  
**Total** \$ 2,822.87

**Note:** Regardless of whether you attend St. Lawrence or Sacred Heart, for convenience on a particular weekend, be assured your collection envelopes will be returned to the parish in which you are registered.

# centennial renovations

**November**  
 Gold Envelopes \$ 3,791  
 Other Centennial II Gifts \$ 17,542  
 WeShare \$ 1,052  
**TOTAL** \$ 22,385

We thank all those contributing to our Centennial Gold either through envelopes or on **WeShare** - you are helping us reduce our **Centennial Renovation** loan. Our balance is now below \$550,000, down from \$3.8 million five years ago! We hope to have it all paid within five more years. Thank you!

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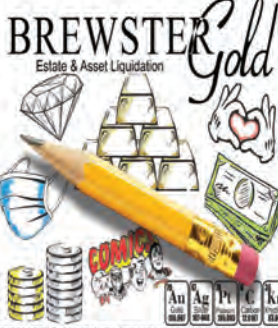
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