

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

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

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



st. lawrence o'toole & sacred heart parishes



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





December 20, 2020

while we're at it

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

Dear Friends,

It's Christmas time finally, in the worst year ever. So many have fallen ill, so many of us lost loved ones in the pandemic. We had to go to lock-down with no Mass and no Eucharist for months. We don't even know the mental and emotional health cost of the separations, of not seeing loved ones, of not celebrating holidays together. And it's not over yet.

But there is hope on the horizon, and not just with the arrival of a vaccine - though that is critically important.

The hope on the horizon for a Christian is always Jesus Christ. This week we celebrate his birth in our world, his fulfillment of the promise God made to send a Savior, and to give us hope that this world, no matter how broken or dysfunctional, always has him as the answer to our cries.

When times are good we tend to forget some important truths and we think everything will continue to sail along. Most important among those truths is that this world is a broken one, and we will always struggle and fight until the day when the Lord comes and puts an end to all time.

As Christians, we have to keep that faith perspective alive. It helps us be realistic about how much hope we put in this world, and grounds our hope more in the promise of Jesus Christ. He is the Lord of History and of the universe. Hope is not about tomorrow being better than today and the next day even better. It factors in the sin and the chaos caused by humans. It deals with the world realistically – there is a real possibility things can get worse: persecution and war and economic crashes.

But our Christian hope looks for redemption from the only real source – from God himself. He is allpowerful, and he is always faithful to his promises.

This week we celebrate his greatest promise: to send "...his only Son, that the world might not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3: 16)

A Blessed Christmas to all!

God bless,

6 Rielard Sil

Fr. Richard Gill





going to church is good for your mental health

Americans who attend religious services weekly are the only demographic group appearing to show improved mental health in 2020, despite the stresses of the coronavirus pandemic and other events, says a new survey.

The survey otherwise shows significant self-reported mental health declines among those previously in excellent health.

In 2019, about 42% of those who reported attending religious services weekly told Gallup that their mental health was excellent. In 2020, 46% said the same, an increase of 4 percentage points. Only 35% of those who attend services nearly weekly or monthly reported excellent mental health, down 12 percentage points from last year. Among those who attend seldom or never, 29% reported excellent mental health, down 13 percentage points.



seeking God's face

BOB O'DONNELL

This fall my wife, Carrie, and I took the **Prayer: Seeking the Face of God** program with Brian Sullivan. In this turbulent time I felt I personally needed more prayer in my life. We're all so isolated and cut off from one another, even in the mist of this technology age.

Brian's knowledge on Scripture and his interpretation of the passages is nothing short of a God send. I have never been comfortable with prayer; I have struggled to make a personal connection with it. I say the words and my intentions are good but there always seemed to be something missing.

After taking this class I feel I have deepened my understanding of the spiritual nature of prayer and what it means, and even what it's not supposed to mean. I find myself praying the rosary with joy rather than going through the motions.

The class was small and very versatile. Brian spoke to all levels of understanding of prayer from the veteran Catholic to the recently enlightened and to the struggling Catholic. The class helped me truly understand the importance and significance of daily prayer and meditation. It also gave me some avenues to explore further and how to get a deeper perspectives on prayer.

I would recommend this class to anyone. Whether you're a Catholic who goes to daily Mass and or weekly Adoration or if you're just starting your Catholic journey. Prayer is powerful and it needs to be fully appreciated in order for us to meaningfully communicate with our Father in heaven.



advent by candlelight

CARRIE O'DONNELL

Every Christmas is joyful. Even Christmas 2020.

Our first Advent By Candlelight womens evening, **For Such a Time as This: An Advent Retreat** was recently held at St. Lawrence O'Toole, with speaker Jennifer Edwards. We listened to her words by candlelight, with advent wreaths lit across the room as a reminder of the season and the reason for our meeting. Those words were a reminder of our strength and joy in the Lord. A joy that is permanent, gifted to us by a loving God.

In this difficult year, we are called to prepare our hearts for the birth of our Lord. We are called to remain steadfast through all of the trials and hardships that are put in front of us. But we are not alone. God strengthens us and is always faithful, providing us any number of ways to connect with him during this holiday season, through prayer, adoration, daily and weekly Mass, and rosaries to our Holy Mother.

We were given time to reflect on these topics in small groups, with fellowship over dinner and drinks. This was such a special time and a reminder that He not only has provided us with women role models in the bible, such as Mary and Esther, but also in everyday life through our mothers, sisters, and friends.

Let us remember to love, trust, and be joyful in this advent season. Even in 2020.

Joyful, all you nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies; With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" -Tradition Christmas Hymn

creating an advent tradition

TRISH TRAYCHEFF

About 20 unique and artistic Advent wreaths were created by family and friends on Nov. 29. An Advent wreath of evergreen branches represents God's infinite love and hope for eternal life. The evening was peaceful and many previously undiscovered talents were revealed.

Each wreath had three purple and one pink candle to count the four weeks of Advent while we wait to



receive the light of God. Hope, peace, joy and love are our focus as we wait for the birth of Jesus. Each candle marks another week closer.

As an accountant, I am no DaVinci but with supplies from Cecelia Britez and Clara Segreti, my Advent wreath developed into a lovely centerpiece. Every newly created wreath made with different types of evergreen, embellished with colorful ribbons, brought a harmony to the beginning of what can sometimes be a commercial and frenetic season.

The evening was peaceful and light and deepened our sense of community. The activity was calm and relaxing and everyone had a chance to put their own personal touch on this most wonderful time of the year. What a beautiful way to gather to prepare for Christmas.





-	
90% —	
-	— 80%
70% —	-
-	60%
50% —	
30% —	40%
30%	20%
10% —	_
-	
6	

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		

Total

\$135,000

COMMITMENTS

Gifts: 35 Total Committed: \$132,500 Average pledge: \$3,785 Remainder to reach our goal: \$2,500

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

HELP OUT THOSE IN NEED IN THE BRONX THIS CHRISTMAS.

Cleaning supplies, baby items, kitchen supplies, pantry food, winter gear, first aid basic items. **No previously used items - only new, please.** Drop off toys for homeless children and essential items for homeless families in the Bronx **inside the entrance to our gym by Dec 22.**

ST ANTHONY OF PADUA



st lawrence o'toole sacred heart



Living without basic shelter during winter is especially dangerous. As part of our mission to serve others, Brewster Cares is providing an Emergency Homeless Shelter this winter. Offering shelter, food, and basic hygiene for those in need. A warm bed, a hot meal, and a shower. Everyone is important.

Please donate or give your time if you can.

Because of you someone won't sleep outside this winter.

To give or volunteer:

A little from you makes a big difference Visit http://weblink.donorperfect.com/BCShelterGive http://weblink.donorperfect.com/BCShelterHelp



the way

LYNDA HOLLER DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP



Series 3: Which Way? #1 - The Slow Road

When I was a girl, my grandparents were retired and they would spend a few weeks in the winter with family in Florida, escaping the brutal cold and snow of Western NY. They would pack up their sedan, head east to the Atlantic, and then

south on Route 1. Rather than take I- 95, the superhighway, they preferred the slow-moving path through towns and farmlands. For the several days it took them to reach the Sunshine State, they stopped in mom-and-pop restaurants and family motels meeting new people and appreciating the Americana culture that historic roadway offered. The journey to them was as important as the destination. That was almost 50 years ago and I wonder how many people drive from New York to Florida via Route 1 these days. We are all in a hurry, tightly scheduling every minute, but is choosing the widest, fastest route always the best one? And might our choice of highways be symbolic of other life choices we are making?

This brings to mind the prophet Isaiah's words, "And your ears shall hear a word behind you: 'This is the way; walk in it,' when you would turn to the right or the left."

Have you noticed that when you slow down, interesting things happen? A chance meeting with a delightful stranger? A radiant sunset over a hill you have never passed before? A quaint little store previously unnoticed? Jesus wants to lead us through a compelling and captivating life full of wonder and opportunity. He wants us to stay attuned to Him and be open to his nudgings.

When we jump on the superhighways of life, what opportunities, what people, what experiences do we miss? Can we hear those quiet words: "This is the way..." in the speed of our life today? The fast road or the slow road: which way do you choose?

Scripture: Read Isaiah 30:21. What is God saying to you?

Call to Action: Decide to get off the superhighway at least once during the week and keep an eye out for a message or experience.

pray for

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

Kaitlyn King

Mary McMahon

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

Clifford Gale

Brian Seibert

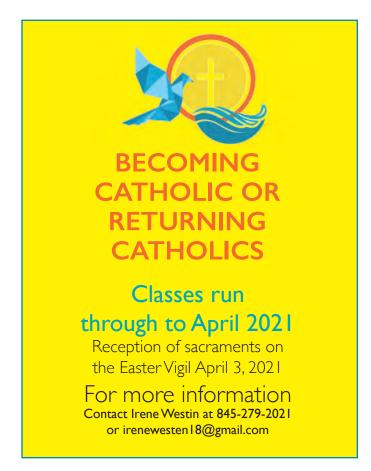
Names will remain on the Prayer List for 90 days and then will be transferred to the prayer list in the Adoration Chapel. To add names to or remove names from the Prayer List, please email: SLOT.SH.Office@gmail.com

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.



mass intentions

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 9:30AM 10:30AM *Sacred Heart* 11:00AM 12:30 PM 5:30 PM

John Civetta Sr. Michael Keegan Edward Richardson Anna Chrappa Jack Moran Michael McKeown

Monday, December 21 8:30AM

Tuesday, December 22 8:30AM

Josephine Coviello & Eleanor Caserta

Deceased Duff Daly & Kinirons Families

Eugenio LoMedico

Wednesday, December 23

8:30AM

7:00 PM

8:00AM

9:30AM 9:30AM GYM

11: 00 AM

12:30 PM

8:00AM GYM

Thursday, December 24

8:30AM 2:00 PM 4:00PM *Sacred Heart* 4:00 PM 4:00 PM GYM 7:30 PM 10:00 PM

Friday, December 25

8:30 AM Sacred Heart

10:30 Sacred Heart

Kathleen Civetta I Thomson & Radak Family Myles Tombline Bill & Joseph Lewis Peter Esposito

Sr Robertine Griffin Spanish Eugenio LoMedico

Suzanne Vemette Kathleen Civetta Eleanor Ball The Johnson Family Intentions of those alone at Christmas Julie Danile William & Mary Hanrahan Thomson & Radak Family

Saturday, December 26

4:00PM Sacred Heart Mike McDermott 5:30PM Intentions of Msgr. McCabe Scholarship Fund

7:30 PM

Sunday, December 278:00AMFrancis Joseph Hogan9:30AMMichael John Keegan10:30AM Sacred HeartVincent Stefano11:00AMGiovanni Malandruccolo12:30 PMBridget Higgins5:30 PMFranco Lamorte & Family

Spanish

dedications

The **Tabernacle Candle** at **St. Lawrence** is dedicated to **Michael Keegan** requested by Geraldine & the girls

The **Blessed Mother Candle** at **St. Lawrence** is dedicated to **Michael Keegan** requested by Geraldine & the girls

christmas and new years

CONFESSIONS IN ADVENT

Wednesday, Dec 23 6:00 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 accommodate 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 3 I St. Lawrence — 6:30 pm, 7:30 pm Spanish

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES

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

st. lawrence parish support parish staff

Weekend of December 13		
In Pew Collection	\$ 6,619.00	
November WeShare weekly	\$ 5,649.93	
-	Total \$ 12,268.93	

sacred heart parish support

Weekend of December 13

In Pew Collection		\$ 2,178.00	
Novembrer WeShare weekly		503.87	
-	Total	\$ 2,681.87	

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.



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 BritezDirector of Evangelization and Family Program				
Peter Ryan	Director of Music			
Theresa Scorca	Coord. of Religious Education			
Clara Segreti	Family Program Assistant			
Janine KristensenFamily Program Coordinator Support				
Kim SanterreDirector of Early Childhood Learning Center				
Irene WestinAdult Sacramental Administrator				
Eileen Stokes	Cemetery Administrator			



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