january 2, 2022 the epiphany of the lord



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

Sacred Heart

Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm Sunday 10:30 am Daily Rosary 9:00 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

 $\label{eq:listagram:stawrenceotoole_brewsterny} Instagram: stlawrenceotoole_brewsterny$

Facebook: St. Lawrence O'Toole & Sacred Heart

Twitter: St. Lawrence O'Toole Church

YouTube: Saint Lawrence



st. lawrence o'toole & sacred heart parishes





ST. LAWRENCE & SACRED HEART

sign up today

Join us on the bus to Washington DC Cost \$40 JANUARY 21, 2022

stlawrenceotoole.org/MarchForLifeBus

march for life schedule JOIN US ON FRIDAY, JAN. 21, 2022

- 3:30 am Coach Bus Leaves Brewster, NY
- 10:30 am Cardinal Dolan Mass for the NY Pilgrims
 - 1:00 pm March up Constitution Avenue to Supreme Court and Capitol Building
 - 3:00 pm Finish marching
 - 3:30 pm Bus back to Brewster, NY
 - 9:10 pm Arrive at St. Lawrence O'Toole

Register at stlawrenceotoole.org/MarchForLifeBus For more information contact Maureen at 845-279-2021 Reserve Your Seat: \$40



January 2, 2022

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,

We've all been in turmoil for the better part of two years with lockdowns, sickness, deaths, quarantines. Of course, we're all very tired of it. Now finally, we turned the corner on 2021... and we're praying 2022 promises the fading of Covid and a return to normalcy.

The past couple of years can make us reflect on our condition here as mere humans on this planet. There's an important sense in which we never really get to "normal." What I mean is the usual way of things in life is a mix of confusion, chaos, and conflict. One after another we find ourselves in wars, caught up in political divisions, threatened by plagues, bad economies, and inflation and unemployment, suffering under the wrong leaders at times, threats to personal freedom and to a religious liberty and cultural challenges to our values as Christians. We often fear what the future will bring, and we are not always so optimistic for our families.

Even the public opinion polls suggest 2/3 of us feel the country is going in the wrong direction. That's pretty sad.

It seems to be the human condition for us here below – we never quite escape the chaos we create and the forces our divisions unleash to turn against us.

The year we are beginning will bring new problems, perhaps new ones we haven't imagined yet. And yet as Christians, we don't get discouraged and despairing. We renew our hope and we see the world, while maybe not a place we can build a paradise, but nevertheless is the place where God's grace works. It works through us, and we are the people God calls to shape this world and make it better.

We always keep in mind what we learned so long ago as kids... because it is true now as ever: that God made us for himself, and he has plans for us in eternity, in the world to come. The passing of the years marks the time until we encounter that new world, his world, the world he has made, and into which he invites us all if we would only accept Jesus and follow him there.

That's why as Christians we are the people of hope, a hopeful place in our all-powerful and all loving God.

Happy 2022!

& Rielard Sil

Fr. Richard Gill



2022 faith formation

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

SUNDAYS Jan 9 – Feb 20 8:00 am – 9:30 am Jerusalem Room IN PERSON



Our Story: A Basic Introduction to the Bible for Catholics This program is a perfect opportunity for busy men who are curious about the Bible but haven't had the time to take a Bible study before. Mark Hart walks you through an overview of the Story of Salvation recommending the chapters that will best illuminate for you God's love story with his children. REGISTER: **stlawrenceotoole.org/MensBibleStudy** Fee: \$20



HEBREWS: THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT THURSDAYS Jan 27 – Apr 7 9:30 am -11:30 am Large Conference Room 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm New York Room IN-PERSON & ZOOM

Embark on a guided tour of the "Holy of Holies" of biblical theology. The book of Hebrews is like a little Catechism. Most importantly, Hebrews will help Catholics appreciate the astounding generosity of God as they see the wonders he has given us in the Church.

REGISTER: **stlawrenceotoole.org/Hebrews** Fee: \$35

CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH: THE WONDERS OF OUR SPIRITUAL FATHER SUNDAYS

Feb 13 – Mar 19 (Consecration Day) 9:30 am -10:30 am New York Room IN-PERSON & ZOOM



In the midst of crisis, confusion, and a world at war with the Church, it's time to come home again to our spiritual father, St. Joseph. In this richly researched and lovingly presented program of consecration to St. Joseph, Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, brings to life the wonders, the power, and the ceaseless love of St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church and the Terror of Demons.

REGISTER: stlawrenceotoole.org/StJoseph Fee: \$20

THE SEARCH: FINDING THE MEANING OF LIFE

THURSDAYS Mar 31 – May 19 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm *ST. LAWRENCE* ENGLISH-Dining Hall SPANISH-Large Conference Room *SACRED HEART* ENGLISH-Dining Hall

This innovative video series tackles the key questions of every human heart. In seven beautifully filmed episodes, Chris Stefanick and experts from multiple fields of science, medicine, psychology, art, and religion examine our place in the larger story of existence. Life's questions demand to be answered. Are you ready for The Search?



Register: **stlawrenceotoole. org/Search** Fee: \$20



How God Changes Us

Be transformed by the renewing of your mind ...

ROMANS 12:2

Transformed will challenge you by exploring what the Bible has to say about every essential area of our lives: Spiritual, Physical, Mental, Emotional, Relational, Financial, and Vocational. The world is shouting for our attention with answers to our relationship struggles, solutions to our financial trouble, and explanations for our search for meaning. But the world's promises leave us empty and searching for more. God's Word is the only answer that promises to transform our lives from the inside out.

THURSDAYS

January 27 – March 24 7:00 pm-9:00 pm *St. Lawrence* ENGLISH-Dining Hall SPANISH-Large Conference Room *Sacred Heart* ENGLISH-Dining Hall

REGISTER: stlawrenceotoole.org/Transformed Fee: \$20.



VISIT THE CEMETERY AND PRAY FOR THE SOULS.

Single or double plots or columbarium for interment of ashes are available.

Contact the Cemetery Office at 845-279-2021 x201 for more information

ST. LAWRENCE CEMETERY 20 Turk Hill Road, Brewster, NY 10509



FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

TUESDAYS Jan II – Mar I5 7:00 pm-9:00 pm LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM

REGISTER: fpu.com/1142494

Paycheck-to-paycheck living is no longer an option. Dave Ramsey and his team of financial experts will teach you how to take control of your money.



auld lang syne

TINA GRANT

Every New Year, we reflect on the past year, what we have done, what we meant to do, the losses sustained, the struggles faced, the joy experienced, and the blessings bestowed upon us. We promise ourselves that next year will be better. Every year we are faced with new challenges. The last couple of years with COVID was no different, yet we hold tight to our faith.

The early parishioners were no different than us. An I879 newspaper article reflected on the New Year. "In a few days, another year will have passed into eternity and be numbered with those beyond the flood. How quickly it comes and goes, and yet how powerful is its influence in molding our eternal destiny. Has the year been well or ill-spent? Have we resisted temptation? Have we advanced in knowledge and virtue? It appears something like a cloud on the sky, ever and anon changing its aspect – sometimes dark – sometimes bright – sometimes threatening – sometimes mild and serene. But we may rejoice that above and beyond is the unchanging God and the Eternal Son.

The year has faithfully accomplished its mission and has taken its departure never to return. The word spoken can never be unspoken – the deed done, cannot be undone. How appropriate the prayer of the Psalmist 'So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.' How thankful we should be that we have lived to see the close of the year. That around many a table and in many a pleasant home during these holidays there will be many vacant chairs, silent voices, and missing forms. Yet God has preserved us, and we come to the close of the year surrounded by many comforts and blessings."

Despite the I50 years that have passed since the building of our wooden church, many of our thoughts remain the same. During this past year, in honor of our I50th Anniversary, I researched our history to learn more about our church. It was a blessing to me. The knowledge I acquired, the friends I encountered, the stories shared – all invaluable. The people that made our history what it is, became personal. I remain more grateful than ever for their existence, generosity, and faith. The Gilroys, Fr. McKenna, and Fr. Phelan to name just a few hold a special place in my heart.

Never before have I felt the history of our church as I do now when I ascend it's stone steps, reflect on the beauty of the stained glass windows, touch it's stone walls, or look at the cornerstone which are all part of our legacy.

The traditional song for ringing in the New Year is Auld Lang Syne, which is about old friends who have parted and met again. The basic message is that we should not forget old friends. We should remember our early priests and parishioners for it is because of them, we are so blessed. Fr. Gill is always reminding us that we need to carry our legacy forward. Perhaps that is the best way to remember our "old friends" - to make sure we carry our legacy forward so future generations can be just as blessed. A perfect New Year's resolution for our parish.

We need to be *better than ever* because those who walked before us gave us their very best.



relics of the saints

TINA GRANT

On Sunday, December 19, we experienced the **Sacred Relics** of the Saints.

Fr. Carlos Martins, the Director of Treasures of the Church (a ministry of evangelization) gave a moving presentation in St. Lawrence O'Toole church. Fr. Martins travels the world with a large collection of relics of Saints to churches, schools, and prisons. He indicated that the favorite part of his position is sharing the relics with people so that they may experience, as he calls it, a "Walk with the Saints."

Fr. Martins gave us two experiences. The first was of a man paralyzed since birth who placed his hand on top of a relic. He got up from his wheelchair and walked home. The second was of a nineyear-old girl dying of cancer. She had a large tumor in her stomach. She placed her hand on a relic. While she noted no change at the time, on the ride home with her parents, she noticed her tumor was gone. Fr. Martins reflected "God touched her so gently she did not perceive it at the time. This is what God does through the relics of the Saints. The Holy Spirit will show up – he always does – it is our job to let him inside."

Fr. Martins spoke of how God brings about healing using material objects. Relics have no power. Any good that comes from a relic is from God. We may venerate relics because they are connected with the Holy Spirit, and we only venerate them for the sake of worshiping God.

A relic is displayed in a theca, a small locket with a glass window where the relic can be seen and it is sealed with string and wax, and imprinted with the Bishop's Coat of Arms. There are three kinds of relics:

First Class: Body or fragment of the Saint. **Second Class**: Something the Saint owned eg. Clothing **Third Class**: Something the Saint touched.

Fr. Martins also shared the touching story of Maria Goretti. She is one of the youngest Saints to be canonized. Maria was born to a farming family and had five siblings. Her father died young, her mother took over his farming obligations and Maria took on her mother's (Assunta) role. Alessandro, a 20-year-old neighbor, made sexual advances on Maria. She refused him and he stabbed her I4 times. She was only 11 years old. Maria died forgiving him. Alessandro was arrested and during imprisonment, he repented. After 27 years he was released and visited Assunta who also forgave him. The next day they attended Mass together and received Holy Communion side by side. Maria was beatified in 1947 and canonized in 1950. Assunta was present at both ceremonies along with her remaining children and Alessandro. It was the only time in history that a parent was present for the beatification and canonization of their child. Alessandro became a lay brother of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin, living in a monastery until he died in 1970. It is a beautiful story of forgiveness and the presence of God. Fr. Martins reminds us how God will always forgive sinners, and He asks us to forgive as well.

pray for

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

Bridget Kenny · Betty Dobbins · Garecht/Pinzur/Sarlo Families • Patricia Willis • Catherine Slootmaker • Demario Creaco Barry Newman • Jerry Davis • Danny Hernandez • Russell Snyder · Cindy Agosto · Vincent Lambino · Michael Tarr · Lettie Friis · JoAnn Montalbano · Joan DiGioia Lucas · Robbi Blacharski · Judy McDermott · John McCabe · Ava DiBenedetto

Noah Martinez

Thomas Consolato
John Taylor
Marie Carole Manley · Michael Taylor · Larry lazzetti, Sr. · Kevin Val-Ramirez • Jerry Ranieri • Arlete Turturro • Daniel Lyons • Andy Quinn, Sr.º Rene Phoche º Karen Scott º Thomas Pavia º James McCaughey • Dulio Prado • Robert Schacht • JoAnna Dey • Tony Greco • Jackie Pasquale • Michael & Luise Lyons · Mark Mariano · Donna Tarr · Charles Gallagher · Jim Puck-Antoinette Heit

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

THE MAGI'S GIFTS: POINTING TO THE ULTIMATE GIFT

The gifts of the Magi illuminate the different aspects of Christ's identity. He is king, he is God, and, in his marvelous grace, he died, so that we might live. As the Magi actively pursued Jesus, so too should we follow Christ without hesitation, letting him be our guiding star. As Pope Francis stated:

It is not enough to know where Jesus was born, as the scribes did, if we do not go there. It is not enough to know that Jesus was born, like Herod, if we do not encounter him. When his place becomes our place, when his time becomes our time, when his person becomes our life, then the prophecies come to fulfillment in us. Then Jesus is born within us. He becomes the living God for me. Today we are asked to imitate the Magi. They do not debate; they set out. They do not stop to look, but enter the house of Jesus. They do not put themselves at the center, but bow down before the One who is the center.

mass intentions

Saturday, January 1

10:00AM 4:00PM Sacred Heart 5:30 PM

7:30PM Sunday, January 2

8:00AM 9:30AM 10:30AM *Sacred Heart* 11:00AM 12:30 PM 5:30PM

Monday, January 3 8:30AM

Tuesday, January 4 8:30AM

Wednesday, January 5 8:30AM

Thursday, January 6 8:30AM

Friday, January 7 8:30AM

7:00PM

Saturday, January 8 4:00PM Sacred Heart 5:30PM 7:30PM

Sunday, January 9

8:00AM 9:30AM 10:30AM *Sacred Heart* 11:00AM 12:30 PM 5:30PM Sarah Huerstel Intentions of Judy McDermott Ann Holstein Spanish

John & Muolatanasia Donovan Simon Lacey Bill & Joseph Lewis Nancy Colgan Spanish Dominick Santarelli

Alex Bullentini

Mary Ann & Jim O'Brien

Bridget & Tom Duff

St.Lawrence O'Toole Society

Souls of St. Lawrence O'Toole Cemetery Sacred Heart of Jesus Society

Ann Holstein Joseph Ciancio Spanish

Edward Barry Morrissey Jane & Carmine Pellecchia Theresa Less McCluskey & Ebert Families Spanish John Brian Hansbury

dedications

St. Lawrence O'Toole The Paschal Candle is dedicated for Mary & Louis Ortiz at the request of Lillian Markowitz





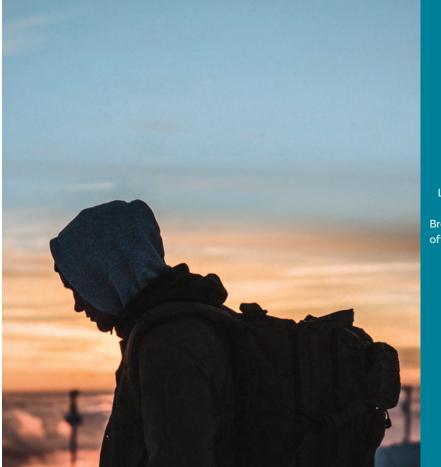
LYNDA HOLLER DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP

HOLY ORDINARY



Last weekend we read about Mary and Joseph losing Jesus then finding Him in the Temple. When we read between the lines, this Gospel seems to reveal how normal Jesus' early years may have been.

The story begins by telling us that Joseph and Mary traveled with their son and other relatives and neighbors from Nazareth to Jerusalem annually for the feast of Passover. That is 91 miles and would have taken four to seven days one-way by caravan; so, they would have been away from home for two or more weeks. That would take a lot of preparation by the adults and most likely



was an exciting event that everyone in their community looked forward to each year. The fact that Mary didn't know Jesus was missing until a day into their return trip tells us that He commonly socialized with the other families.

Think about Mary's statement to Jesus when she found Him: "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." Today we identify God the Father as Jesus' father, so Mary's statement reveals a lot about her thinking at that time. It was natural for her to refer to Joseph as Jesus' father, which seems to suggest that they had been living as a normal Jewish family. The normalness of day-to-day chores, relationships, and interactions may have been identical to the ones of all their neighbors. As they sank into the routine of life, Jesus' extraordinary birth, Simeon's prophetic message, and their years hiding out in Egypt may have slid into the background and Mary and Joseph blended into society and raised Jesus in the same manner they had been raised.

I like to envision the Holy Family that way: mother, father, child, each living their lives, fulfilling their roles, interacting with their neighbors as we do. Jesus lived on earth for 33 years. His birth and public ministry were extraordinary, but he had 28-29 years of ordinary. It validates our ordinary. Now let's work to make our ordinary holy.

Scripture: Read Luke 2:41-52. What stands out? **Call to Action**: Don't underestimate the value of your ordinary life. Just work unceasingly to make it holy ordinary.

With your help Brewster will be much warmer this winter.

Living without basic shelter during winter is especially dangerous. As part of our mission to serve others, Brewster Cares provides a **Homeless Shelter** every winter offering shelter, food, and basic hygiene for those in need.

> Please donate a meal or volunteer. Every contribution is appreciated. Sign up here:

signupgenius.com/ go/60b0448aba629a3fe3-brewster2



parish support

st. lawrence parish support

Weekend of December 19

In Pew Collection	\$ 7,461.00
November WeShare weekly	\$ 5,948.89
	Total \$13,409,89

sacred heart parish support

Weekend of December 19	
In Pew Collection	\$ 1,448.00
November WeShare weekly	\$ 379.07
	Total \$ 1,827.07

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.

MAYBE YOU'RE **® NE OF US**

parish staff

Rev. Richard GillPastor
Rev. Thomas BergWeekend Associate
Fr. Art MollenhauerWeekend Associate
Mark ShkreliDeacon
Julie NocePastoral Assistant
Maureen HerbstrittBusiness Manager
Karen DiTarantoDatabase Administrator
Lynda HollerDirector of Discipleship
Sally SilvestroDirector of Communication
Cecilia BritezDirector of Evangelization and Family Program
Dominick RussoYouth Minister
Juan de Dios GonzalezDirector of Music
Melody Salas-CurraSacred Heart Director of Music
Theresa ScorcaCoord. of Religious Education
Clara SegretiFamily Program Assistant
Kim SanterreDirector of Early Childhood Learning Center
Irene WestinAdult Sacramental Administrator
Gabby RamírezOffice Support
Eileen StokesCemetery Administrator



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