

january 1, 2023 solemnity of the blessed virgin mary, the mother of God

## st. lawrence o'toole & sacred heart parishes



### Mass schedule

#### St. Lawrence

##### Saturday Vigil

5:00, 7:30 pm (Spanish)

##### Sunday

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

5:30 pm

##### Monday-Friday

8:30 am

##### Rosary

7:45 am M-F

6:30 pm Monday

8:30 am Saturday

##### Confessions

4:00 pm- 7:00 pm M & F

#### Sacred Heart

##### 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](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](#)  
[sacredheartchurch\\_pattersonny](#)

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

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

**YouTube:** Saint Lawrence



# MARCH FOR LIFE

Jan 20, 2023  
ST. LAWRENCE & SACRED HEART



## march for life schedule

JOIN US ON FRIDAY, JAN. 20, 2023

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

Sign up today

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

For more information contact Maureen at 845-279-2021

Reserve Your Seat: \$45



January 1, 2023

# while we're at it

Dear Friends,

Remember the old children's story about Chicken Little crying out "the sky is falling" when he was just hit on the head by an acorn? The point was we shouldn't jump to conclusions before checking things out carefully. It's good advice, but sometimes the sky really is falling. We all feel that these days.

Seventy percent of people feel our country is on the wrong track as we start this new year. We've got wars and huge national debts, economic uncertainty, and widespread confusion about sex, gender, and marriage. We've got instability in families and marriages, 40% of children born out of wedlock, abortion as part of the political culture, and anti-family ideologies being pushed on school kids. Fewer people are willing to have families and we face a declining birth rate. Meanwhile, our leadership can't form a consensus or lead us to deal with the problems. Even in the Church, we lack the conviction to communicate the Gospel without fear, to inspire the faithful, and give hope.



My prayers for our parishes in the year 2023 are the following:

1. That we learn to pray and be drawn into the heart of Jesus ever more completely, so he may give us confidence and strength: "I am with you always, to the end of the world!"
2. That those who are away, return to Mass and Confession and put their trust in Jesus once again.
3. That we build up small groups of disciples who develop missionary hearts and support each other in living the Faith as a witness to all of the power and mercy of Jesus.
4. That we allow the Holy Spirit to guide us to the full truth of Jesus and make us strong in holding to all he taught us even in a culture that rejects faith and religion.
5. That we all spend more and more time in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to experience the closeness and the love of Jesus.
6. That we live our faith fully and radiate out to the world the joy of a relationship with Jesus transformed by his love and mercy.
7. That we inspire others to long for Jesus, who is the answer to every human question and who reveals to us the great things God created us for.

That might be a lot for just one year, but we've got to get started.

Happy New Year to you and all your families!

God bless,

Fr. Richard Gill

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





## BECOMING CATHOLIC OR RETURNING CATHOLICS

Classes run  
January 15 to April 2, 2023  
New York Room • 9:30 am - 10:30 am

Reception of sacraments on  
the Easter Vigil April 8, 2023

For more information  
Contact 845-279-2021

**ONE DAY RETREAT**  
SATURDAY: IN-PERSON  
Jan 14  
8:30 am – 4:00 pm  
DINING HALL



Who Do You Say  
*that* I AM?

The Great Story of Jesus  
*in nine acts*

REGISTER:  
[stlawrenceotoole.org/AllDayRetreat\\_Jesus](http://stlawrenceotoole.org/AllDayRetreat_Jesus)  
FEE: \$30



Eternal rest grant unto them,  
O Lord...

**NEW SECTION** opening soon  
at the cemetery with 900 new single  
and double depth graves.  
In-ground and Columbarium interment  
of ashes also available.

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for more information

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# winter faith formation 2023



**THE BIBLE AND THE VIRGIN MARY**  
THURSDAYS: IN-PERSON  
Jan 12 – Feb 16  
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM



We can't fully understand Christ, without understanding Mary. Following the authors of Scripture and the Fathers of the Church, **The Bible and the Virgin Mary** examines the role of Mary in Salvation History. Join us to gain a fuller understanding of her role in our life and how she longs to lead us to her Son.

**REGISTER:** [stlawrenceotoole.org/BibleandVirgin](http://stlawrenceotoole.org/BibleandVirgin)  
**FEE:** \$25

**GAINING CONTROL OF YOUR MONEY**  
WEDNESDAYS: IN-PERSON  
Jan 11 – Feb 15  
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
NEW YORK ROOM



Learn how to save, reduce debt, and achieve your financial dreams in this 6-week immersive class that gives you practical, easy-to-use, biblically compatible tools and ideas to get the most of your income for immediate peace of mind, and future wealth. In addition to the 6 group sessions, the program includes a personalized consultation with the financial expert.

**REGISTER:** [stlawrenceotoole.org/GainControl](http://stlawrenceotoole.org/GainControl)  
**FEE:** \$50



**WOMEN'S GIFT**  
(GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER)  
**WINTER BOOK DISCUSSION**  
**AT HOME IN MITFORD** BY JAN KARON  
Jan 10, and 17  
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM



Episcopalian, Father Tim, a cherished small-town rector, is the steadfast soldier in this beloved slice-of-American-life story. The rector's forthright secretary worries about her employer, as she sees past his Christian cheerfulness, ministering to his diverse flock, into his aching loneliness. This homespun tale provides great food for discussion, so read the book and join us for this 2-evening discussion program.

**REGISTER:** [stlawrenceotoole.org/GIFT\\_BookClub](http://stlawrenceotoole.org/GIFT_BookClub)  
**Purchase a book on your own**

**FROM MOURNING TO JOY**  
**BEREAVEMENT PROGRAM**  
SATURDAYS: IN-PERSON  
Jan 7 - ongoing  
9:00 am – 11:00 am  
BOARD ROOM



Our Christian faith is the very key to healing after the death of a loved one and it is vital to living a life filled with promise, peace, and joy. St. Lawrence O'Toole's Bereavement Ministry meets weekly to help you work through your loss with group support and the GriefShare program. Practical strategies will help you move through the grief process with the goal of rebuilding your life while experiencing significant healing and growth in faith.

**REGISTER:** [stlawrenceotoole.org/GriefShare](http://stlawrenceotoole.org/GriefShare)  
**FEE:** \$20



# snow flake tea

DANIELLE THOMPSON

St. Lawrence O’Toole’s Catholic Daughters of Americas Court Bernadine #185 celebrated its 110th anniversary with a Snowflake Tea Fundraiser. On Saturday, December 10, over 60 women attended a joyful celebration of the CDA’s core values of Unity and Charity. Reflecting on the poem, *The Meaning of the Snowflake* by Holley Gerth, was a beautiful start to the festive afternoon of teas, wonderful savory and sweet treats, and lovely companionship.



The Catholic Daughters at St. Lawrence O’Toole pride ourselves in supporting our parish and community in both the little and big things. Our membership provides hand-made Baptismal Bibs for each new member of our parish. We, along with St. John’s the Evangelist, Mahopac, create Heartfelt Bags for cancer patients. These bags provide cancer patients with items to replenish, reflect, relax and refresh their spirits. We also support many Respect Life efforts. In addition, this year we were able to provide the parish with over 300 Bibles – so each family in the Family Program would have a Bible in their home. Court Bernadine #185 meets monthly at 6:30 pm, on the 2nd Monday of the month, in the New York Room at the Parish Center. New members are always welcome.



## *The Meaning of the Snowflake* HOLLEY GERTH

Every new snowflake comes to earth as a picture of our Savior’s birth, because they are sent from up above and remind us of God’s care and love. Each one is so intricate and small because Christ sees the details of us all, and just as two are never the same the Lord knows and calls us each by name. Snowflakes gently cover the world in white and hide what’s unlovely from our sight, showing us how He covers our sin and gives us His grace when we come to Him. So may every snowflake bring Christ to mind and in every bit of white may you find a reason to celebrate anew and a reminder of his love for you.



## joyful song

Children at Sacred Heart’s Kidz Chapel Sang a Song for the parishioners on Sunday, December 18 at the 10:30 am Mass.

## giving trees

DOMINICK RUSSO

**For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, “You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.”** (Deuteronomy 15:11)



Sacred Heart Gift Tree

Thank you to all who generously participated in this year’s giving trees! We collected more than 500 packages between our two churches, Sacred Heart in Patterson and St. Lawrence O’Toole in Brewster.

This year your donations will go to benefit the Sisters of Life and the many mothers and children they work to help. Other donations will go to needy families through the Department of Social Services.

We also collected some items that will benefit the Brewster Cares Homeless Shelter.

Again, thank you to the many people who contributed. Your generosity does not go unnoticed and it has many far reaching benefits.

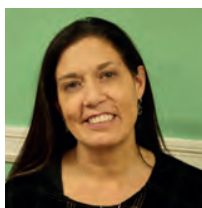


St. Lawrence O’Toole Gift Tree



## rejoice!

GINA SINON



Every year I tell myself that I am going to make this Advent the best ever - one that is meaningful and makes me feel truly prepared to meet Jesus when Christmas arrives. I want to understand the fullness of the holy holiday, apart from the commercialism that exists, and feel trans-

formed by God in a new way. Every year I try different ways to meet that goal by reading, watching videos, and having meaningful scripture delivered to my inbox. Each year it does bring me a bit closer to Jesus, but I always come away wanting a little more.

This year I saw that the parish was offering **Rejoice, an Advent Preparation Bible Study** one night a week for each of the four weeks leading up to Christmas. Having been moved by a similar Ascension Press program for Lent, I decided not only to sign up, but to enroll my husband as well (and tell him that later). Each week involved listening to the readings for the upcoming Sunday, watching short videos, discussing it as a group, and praying - together and independently - letting the words move us in the way God is trying to speak to each one of us. It was incredible how the simple daily activities made me feel more prepared for Mass on Sunday and more prepared to hear what God might be trying to say to me.

Not only did we learn a lot from Lynda, our instructor, and Fr. Toupes who wrote the program, but we also learned a lot from each other. For some of us, it was an introduction to new ways to pray. Some learned to hear God more clearly than ever. For me, not only did I experience the most meaningful Advent ever, but as a new parishioner, I really felt welcomed as a new member of the community and made some new friends. Although everyone's journey is unique, we all found ourselves moving closer to Jesus and more prepared for His coming.

This experience definitely made Advent and Christmas more meaningful.



## a franciscan christmas



MAUREEN HAEGE

The manger scene that we have in our home at Christmas originated from St. Francis of Assisi's love for Christmas and how he celebrated it in the year 1223. To celebrate his great love of the Incarnation, while visiting a hermitage in Greccio, Italy, Francis desired to celebrate Christmas with great joy. The chapel of the hermitage was too small to invite the many guests he wished to invite for such a great feast, so Francis found a cave, and asked residents of the village to prepare a manger scene. Together they refashioned the stable of Bethlehem. Over the manger, containing a figure of the baby Jesus, he put the Altar, where the Christmas Midnight Mass was to be celebrated. The whole town came! St. Francis preached about the Humility of God shown in the Incarnation (God become flesh in Jesus). As Francis approached the babe in the manger under the Altar, and, as he knelt down to pay homage, the babe seemed to come alive!

Each year the San Damiano Fraternity of Secular Franciscans recalls this night in 1223, when the Babe of Bethlehem came alive in the hearts of that whole town. This year as part of the evening, they told the legend of "**The Christmas Path**" and how the lighting of lanterns or candles beside walkways and around homes has become a cherished tradition during the Christmas Season. The evening included the singing of many familiar Christmas carols.

It was no coincidence that St. Francis placed the Altar directly above the manger during that first nativity scene. It is in the Eucharist that the Incarnation continues each time Mass is celebrated. St. Francis shows us that each time we celebrate Mass, we celebrate Christmas!!





## pray for

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

Amy Neary ◦ Genevieve Gallagher ◦ Carmen Sidari ◦ Carol Ann Vaccarelli ◦ Thomas Joseph Kelleher ◦ Hilton Perez ◦ Silverio Calisi ◦ John F. Noone ◦ Nancy Streiton ◦ Stephan Martin ◦ Richard & Margarete Alexander ◦ Megan Gersh ◦ Joe Turturro ◦ Mark Shisler ◦ AJ Cuccio ◦ Joyce Bothe ◦ Sandy Kawecki ◦ Christine Cunningham ◦ Nick Vaccarelli ◦ Patsy Wanstedt ◦ Thomas Williams ◦ Lisa Moore ◦ Tommy O'Brian ◦ Amy Neary ◦ Mary Patricia ◦ Denise (Dee) Vanaria ◦ Anthony Zeoli ◦ Celia Martin ◦ Gary Oakes ◦ Robbie Shisler ◦ Monica Rolston ◦ Edna O'Hanlon ◦ John McGuire

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](mailto:SLOT.SH.Office@gmail.com)

## dedications

### St. Lawrence O'Toole

The **Pascal Candle** is dedicated for the intentions of **Carmen Sida** at the request of Marie McCluskey

The **Tabernacle Candle** is dedicated for the intentions of **Michael McCluskey** at the request of Marie & John McCluskey

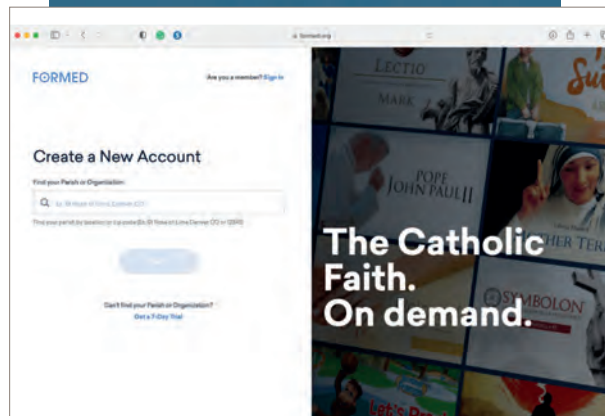
The **Blessed Mother Candle** is dedicated for the intentions of **Genevieve Gallacher** at the request of John & Marie McCluskey

## watch formed

Go to: <https://www.formed.org>

To sign on, choose **SIGN UP as a Parishioner** and put in **10509** zip code.

Then choose **St. Lawrence O'Toole** and create your own account so you can watch all sorts of wonderful Catholic videos on demand.



## mass intentions

### Saturday, December 31

5:00 PM John Harley  
7:30PM Spanish

### Sunday, January 1

8:00AM Louise & John A Cordil  
9:30AM Joellen Bukovsqui  
10:30AM *Sacred Heart* Christian Schlachter  
11:00AM Pat Quinlan & family members  
12:30PM Spanish-Efrain Javier Posadas  
5:30PM Pat Quinlan & family members

### Monday, January 2

8:30AM Gerry Green

### Tuesday, January 3

8:30AM Gerry Green

### Wednesday, January 4

8:30AM Cathy Casey

### Thursday, January 5

8:30AM St. Lawrence O'Toole Society

### Friday, January 6

8:30AM St. Lawrence O'Toole Cemetery  
7:00 PM Sacred Heart of Jesus Society

### Saturday, January 7

5:00 PM Mary McGreevy  
7:30PM Spanish

### Sunday, January 8

8:00AM Vincent R. Luccarelli  
9:30AM Vincent DiTarranto  
10:30AM *Sacred Heart* Bill & Joseph Lewis  
Marianne Gallacher  
11:00AM Kathleen Pellicchia  
12:30PM Spanish  
5:30PM Brian Hansbury



## today's feast day of mary

The use of the word "solemnity" here is not a statement about Mary's personality. It is a designation used for certain days within the liturgical (church-based) calendar of the Church. Solemnities are the highest rank of liturgical celebration, higher than feast days or memorials. By celebrating a solemnity dedicated to Mary's motherhood, the Church highlights the significance of her role in the life of Christ.

There's a beautiful spiritual significance in celebrating her during the heart of the Christmas season. Pope Paul VI, in his apostolic exhortation *Marialis Cultus* (1974), called the Solemnity of Mary "a fitting occasion for renewing adoration of the newborn Prince of Peace, for listening once more to the glad tidings of the angels (Luke 2:14), and for imploring from God, through the Queen of Peace, the supreme gift of peace."





LYNDA HOLLER  
DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP

**MOTHER MARY**

This weekend we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. This honor reminds us of the role that the Blessed Virgin played in the plan of our salvation. As a cradle Catholic, I find it curious that other strong Christians dismiss Mary as unimportant. Many believe that we should pray only to Jesus and that it is disrespectful to Him to pray to his mother. Kimberly Hahn, a famous convert from Protestantism, tells that they would even revise the Christmas hymns to remove Mary's name. Over two thousand years, the Catholic Church has carefully developed its doctrine on Mary - no organization is more cautious and articulate in forming its teaching. I trust its wisdom and insight and that its conclusions make sense.

The Church teaches that Mary herself was immaculately conceived, born without sin. How could the Father conceive his own perfect son into the womb of a sinful woman? All of us born after Eve carries the burden of sin. Jesus' mother needed to be pure like Eve was before the fall, to have that intimate relationship with God that Eve originally had. Mary is the new Eve, a fresh start for humanity, and she was able to carry and then raise Jesus perfectly. That makes sense, right?

Jesus must have had a very close relationship with his mother and after Joseph died, I expect their bond grew tighter. After my husband died eight years ago, my two sons and I grew even closer. They instinctively want to help and protect me, and I want to support and encourage them. They respect me and are offended when someone shows me disrespect. I believe Jesus feels the same. No one else on earth spent 30 years, day in and day out with Jesus, who could possibly know and love Him more?

St. Augustine said, "The Blessed Virgin Mary still labors today, but no longer with Jesus, with each one of us, until we are born into eternity." I love that image. Mary has enwrapped each of us within her and wants to deliver us into a new life – eternal life in heaven with her Son. Learn more about our Blessed Mother in our upcoming 6-week program, ***The Bible and the Virgin Mary***, and embrace Jesus' mother as your own.

**Scripture:** Read Luke 2:25-35. What stands out?  
**Call to Action:** Register for ***The Bible and the Virgin Mary***, [stlawrenceotoole.org/BibleandVirgin](http://stlawrenceotoole.org/BibleandVirgin). Thurs, Jan 12 – Feb 16.

**parish support**

At the time of print the collection numbers were not available.

**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 ONE OF US**



**parish staff**

- Rev. Richard Gill.....Pastor
- Rev. Thomas Berg.....Weekend Associate
- Fr. Jim Lynch, MM.....Weekend Associate
- Julie Noce.....Pastoral Assistant
- Maureen Herbstritt.....Business Manager
- Lynda Holler.....Director of Discipleship
- Sally Silvestro.....Director of Communication
- Beatrice Jacobsen.....Director of Evangelization
- Cecilia Britz.....Director of the Family Program
- Dominick Russo.....Youth Minister
- Kim Santerre.....Director of Early Childhood Learning Center
- Denise Bassett.....Director of Music
- Melody Salas-Curra .....Sacred Heart Director of Music
- Gabriela Ramirez.....Office Assistant
- Savannah DeFelice.....Family Life Coordinator
- Janine Kristensen.....Administrator
- Karen DiTaranto .....Database Administrator
- Clara Segreti.....Early Childhood Assistant
- Eileen Stokes.....Cemetery Administrator
- Tom Healy.....Parish Trustee
- Joe Massimo.....Parish Trustee

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