



february 26, 2023 first sunday of lent

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

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

sacredheartpattersonny.org

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

Instagram: [stlawrenceotoole_brewsterny](#)
[sacredheartchurch_pattersonny](#)

Facebook: St. Lawrence O'Toole
& Sacred Heart

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Learning about Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto

Ever wonder
your purpose?

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You're invited to Alpha for a time of great food,
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#TryAlpha

WEDNESDAYS
ENGLISH & SPANISH

March 8 - May 17
7:00 pm -9:00 pm

FREE Dinner
FREE Childcare



LENTEN SERIES

Seasons of Praise



st lawrence o'toole
sacred heart



7 PM
MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 27

The Jewish Roots of the Eucharist

FR. RYAN MULDOON
St. Patrick's Church, Yorktown, NY

6:30 ROSARY IN THE CHURCH
CONFESSION 4 PM - 7 PM



February 26, 2023

while we're at it

Dear Friends,

The question for **Lent** isn't so much what you or I decide to "give up." It's what Jesus wants us to do to turn from our sinful habits and grow closer to him. Let's spend some time in prayer and listen to what he tells us in the quiet of our souls:



So here are seven things you can ponder:

Lent isn't **Lent unless you make a good Confession**. That's the bottom line in turning from sin and turning back to God. Confession is Mondays and Fridays from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. If you're rusty, we've got a Confession "how to" guide, examination of conscience. And the priest will help you.

Feed your soul: **Seasons of Praise Holy Hours** start tomorrow Monday, February 27th. We're bringing in good priests from all around to lead us with a spiritual talk at 7 pm every Monday and a holy hour... if you do nothing else for Lent, attending this each Monday will renew your soul and your relationship with God. Put it on your weekly calendar.

I remember my dad going to **Mass daily** during Lent. A great tradition... come at 8:30 am each day for the next 40 days.

Stations of the Cross – a beautiful devotion that keeps us rooted in Jesus's love for us through his suffering and death on the Cross. Every Friday evening in Lent at 6:00pm; 8:00 pm in Spanish.

Bring someone back to God. **Alpha starts Wednesdays on March 8**... pick a friend or family member who drifted away and invite them back. Alpha is a welcoming, friendly, easy way to reconnect them to a life of faith. Bringing someone back to God is one of the best things you can do for your own soul. Sign up. Yes, we've got babysitting.

Married couples need renewal too – **Alpha Marriage** is a Saturday night out for couples with dinner, a video on marriage, and a chance for just the two of you to talk privately. It gives amazing "quality time" together and makes marriages stronger. Give it a try. Are kids holding you back? We'll babysit them while you invest in your marriage.

If you want to bulletproof your faith, there's one way that works wonders: **weekly adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**. We've got 24/7 adoration in our Divine Mercy Perpetual Adoration Chapel. Sign up for your hour at stlawrenceotoole.org/adoration. Questions, call Paul at 914-318-8523.

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.



Navigate life together

Seven sessions to help couples strengthen their relationship

starts **March 4**
6:30 pm-9:00 pm

Childcare Available
Register at:
BrewsterAlpha.com



st lawrence o'toole
sacred heart

Every Friday in Lent beginning February 24.
Confessions from 4:00pm to 7:00pm

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

6:00 pm St. Lawrence O'Toole
8:00 pm Spanish
6:00 pm Sacred Heart



SACRED HEART

Goal	\$ 11,000.00
Pledge	\$ 3,960.00
Number of Gifts	15
Average Gift	\$ 264.00

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Goal	\$77,100.00
Pledge	\$28,520.00
Number of Gifts	63
Average Gift	\$ 452.70



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Special Occasions

SHOPPING SPREE

Saturday, March 11

10:00 am ~ 3:00 pm

Sunday, March 12

11:30 am ~ 2:00 pm

Sacred Heart Gymnasium
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Drop-off Dates:

March 5 11:30 AM ~ 1:30 PM

Sacred Heart Church Hall

March 8, 9, & 10 5:00 PM ~ 8:00 PM

Sacred Heart Gym



This fundraising event is sponsored by the Catholic Daughters Our Lady of the Lake Court #2585, Patterson, NY



a powerful grotto

CECILIA BRITZ, DIRECTOR OF THE FAMILY PROGRAM

February 11th was the Feast Day of **Our Lady of Lourdes**. Our families learned about Saint Bernadette and Our Lady. After reviewing the story of the apparitions of Our Lady in Lourdes, France, we learned about the message of the Immaculate Conception and how Mary is our help in becoming holy and staying away from sin. She is God's most potent instrument to distribute graces to everyone, especially little children, who are her favorite people in the whole wide world!

Our families were blessed to receive bottles of water brought directly from Lourdes. The children also received rosaries made in Lourdes, as well as the opportunity to send their prayer requests for miracles and graces directly to the Grotto. All this was possible thanks to the work of the

"Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers" Office 315-476-0026

Since memories are better created when the senses are involved, we not only heard the message of our Lady of Lourdes, but we also colored, folded, and crafted paper into grottos. And to make our time together with Our Lady even more memorable, we also got our hands busy with chocolate chips, sprinkles, M&Ms, and rice crispy treats in order to create a 3D model of our Lady of Lourdes Grotto!

We enjoyed every piece of our Grotto and every minute of our time as a family of God learning more about our Mother Mary.

Would you like to be a part of our community?

We are praying that you will say yes and decide to join us soon! **Registration for 2023-2024** opens on March 1. For more information and to stay up-to-date with our events, please email us at familyprogrambrewster@gmail.com.



never embrace evil!

LYNDA HOLLER • DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP

A few weeks ago, I shared a quote from a parishioner's childhood priest, "When we first encounter evil we are horrified; then, we start to tolerate it; next, we accept it; and finally, we embrace it." That couldn't be truer than what is taking place with the legalization of Euthanasia. Just as Hitler was able to redefine words and convince the German people that his policies were good for society, so are our influencers and legislators today.

Assisted Suicide, eloquently renamed Medical Aid in Dying, came into force in 1997 in Oregon. Since then, nine other states and Washington DC have allowed terminally ill adults with less than six months to live, to ask doctors for a lethal dose of drugs that they then ingest themselves, typically at home. As disciples, we know that euthanasia in any form is murder, whether doctors administer the lethal drug, or they prescribe it for the patients to take themselves. Such an act is particularly dangerous for some of our most vulnerable neighbors: the elderly, poor, depressed and people living with disabilities. They can feel pressured into choosing death over life for financial, emotional, or psychological reasons.

You all know people that were given six months to live and went on to live three or six or twenty years. Statistically, doctors' estimates are only correct 20% of the time. The procedure that a patient takes to get suicide pills is alarming too. A patient finds a doctor willing to prescribe the pills, and it doesn't have to be a doctor that knows them. Unlike narcotic prescriptions that are issued in triplicate with one copy going to the state to oversee doctor and patient abuse, there are no records kept; therefore, no accurate statistics on which and how many doctors are issuing the lethal drugs and how many patients actually ingest them. You see, once the pills leave the pharmacy, a patient can decide not to take them and just store them in their cabinet. A self-serving caregiver could crush the pills into the patient's food and commit the perfect crime, or a visitor to the house could steal the pills. Or if the patient dies naturally, whoever cleans out the house can do whatever they want with them.

Proponents pull on heartstrings by claiming they don't want to see people in pain, but statistics show that pain is not even in the

top five reasons patients choose assisted suicide. They are: losing autonomy, being less able to engage in activities making life enjoyable, loss of dignity, losing control of bodily functions, and being a burden on family, friends/caregivers. These are the same problems disabled people experience and can be addressed with proper services.

In fact, a "bait and switch" process is already happening in states that have legalized Assisted Suicide. Laws are passed with certain supposed "safeguards" in place, but then later, proponents claim that those are barriers to patients, so they amend the laws to eliminate wait times, extend to a twelve-month prognosis, allow non-terminal illnesses etc. Last year, a doctor in Colorado issued lethal drugs to three women who were battling anorexia. In Canada euthanasia is free-for-all; people with as little as hearing loss can opt for a state-sanctioned death. They saw 10,000 people euthanized in 2021, and lawmakers could soon allow children and the mentally ill to get a doctor-sanctioned death.

Suicide in any form is a contagion. States like Oregon, which has a culture of assisted suicide, also have higher than average suicide rates in the general public. Many of our parish families have experienced the heartache of suicide in their families. We cannot normalize suicide.

Our NY State legislators have legalized abortion up to delivery and most recently human composting. It is clear that they do not respect human life and the human body. But it isn't too late to stop Assisted Suicide legislation. We must speak up and tell our lawmakers that their proposed Medical Aid in Dying Act is unacceptable. They do listen to us. Our state senator, Peter Harckham has been a co-sponsor of the bill for several years. He told me that he was looking at it more carefully this year. Call him and tell him you do not support this bill, and that you do not want to see him sponsor or vote for it. Euthanasia is evil, and we must never embrace it. God is the author of life; only his infinite wisdom knows when our earthly life is complete.

Scripture: Read 2 Timothy 3:12-14. What stands out?

Call to Action: Pray without ceasing that this law will not be passed. Call Senator Peter Harckham at 518-455-2340. Assemblyman Matt Slater at 518-455-5783.



pope benedict XVI's very concrete advice for being a little holier every day

MATHILDE DE ROBIEN

Far from the image some people have of a theologian disconnected from the realities of life, Benedict XVI had a very clear perception of the difficulties encountered in living daily in God's presence. In an Advent homily in 2009, he noted: *"In our daily lives we all experience having little time for the Lord and also little time for ourselves. We end by being absorbed in 'doing.'"* Who hasn't experienced periods when things we have to do overwhelms us and we no longer have the time or the availability of mind for what's truly essential?

What is essential?

For Benedict XVI, it's our encounter with Christ. *"Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction,"* he wrote in his first encyclical, ***Deus caritas est***.

Faith is above all a relationship, an encounter with God. The new decisive direction is to become holy. And the way we advance on the path of holiness is by spending time with Christ regularly, by allowing ourselves to be caught up in his love: "(O)nce you enter into friendship with God, everything in your life begins to change. As you come to know him better, you find you want to reflect something of his infinite goodness in your own life," he said in his address to teachers and religious at Twickenham University, UK, September 17, 2010.

And in order to become a friend of God, Benedict XVI recommends a few habits that are quite accessible and easy to put in place.

1. Twice a day, have brief contact with God

Every relationship dies if it's not maintained. This is true for couples, families, and friends, but also for the Lord. That's why Ben-

edict XVI said, *"It means never beginning and never ending a day without at least a brief contact with God."* Not necessarily a prayer, but a thought, a heartfelt gesture, a word of praise or gratitude, at the beginning and end of the day.

2. Every morning, thank the Lord for the gift of faith

In his last general audience on February 27, 2013, Benedict XVI shared a beautiful short prayer and encouraged reciting it daily in the morning to express love for the Lord and to thank him for the gift of faith. Here's the prayer: *"I adore you, my God, and I love you with all my heart. I thank you for having created me and made me a Christian."* For Benedict XVI, the gift of faith is *"our most precious possession, which no one can take from us!"*

3. Every day, find an opportunity to rejoice

"A yearning for joy lurks within the heart of every man and woman," Benedict XVI said on the 27th World Youth Day in 2012. *"Far more than immediate and fleeting feelings of satisfaction, our hearts seek a perfect, full and lasting joy capable of giving 'flavor' to our existence."* In order to savor it, we must identify the simple joys that the Lord offers us. Benedict XVI points out to us some reasons for rejoicing: *... the joy of living, the joy of seeing nature's beauty, the joy of a job well done, the joy of helping others, the joy of sincere and pure love. If we look carefully, we can see many other reasons to rejoice. There are the happy times in family life, shared friendship, the discovery of our talents, our successes, the compliments we receive from others, the ability to express ourselves and to know that we are understood, and the feeling of being of help to others.*

4. Every Sunday, encounter Christ in the Eucharist

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." (Jn 6:51). As a promise of Christ himself, every Eucharistic celebration sacramentally makes present Jesus' gift of his life. That's why, for Benedict XVI, *"The essential means never leaving a Sunday without an encounter with the Risen Christ in the Eucharist; this is not an additional burden but is light for the whole week."*

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 ◦ Mary Patricia ◦ Denise (Dee) Vanaria ◦ Anthony Zeoli ◦ Celia Martin ◦ Garry Oakes ◦ Robbie Shisler ◦ Edna O'Hanlon ◦ John McGuire ◦ Monica Rolston ◦ Stephen Martin ◦ Shawn & Patricia Lyons ◦ Ava DeBenedetto ◦ Kevin Palmer ◦ Jenny Palmer ◦ Thomas Palmer ◦ Steve Distefano ◦ Noah Martinez ◦ Michael Bonilla ◦ LoriJean Rooney ◦ Keira Koval ◦ Ted Rozzi ◦ Joe Piteo ◦ Julie & Jullianna Sejfijaj ◦ Thomas Blackman ◦ Michael McCluskey ◦ Stacy Holliday ◦ Luca Gargiulo ◦ Francine O'Connor ◦ Angel Piteo ◦ Joseph J. Piteo III ◦ Tom Garrity ◦ Mike Debeauvermet ◦ Kelly Guzman ◦ Chris Greene ◦ Sara, Luke & Jaxson Greene ◦ Thomas Cople ◦ Eddie Dabrowski

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: SLO.T.SH.Office@gmail.com

dedications

St. Lawrence O'Toole

The **Pascal Candle** is dedicated for **Kathleen Pellecchia** at the request of C. Durante

The **Blessed Mother Candle** is dedicated for **Bill Henry** at the request of Jessica Vrabel.

st. patrick's dinner "TO GO"

The Knights of Columbus Council 1495 will be providing a St. Patrick's dinner To GO on **03/16/2023**.

Meal includes: Corned beef and cabbage, carrots and potatoes, rye bread, Irish soda bread, and dessert.

\$25 per person.

PreOrder by March 14
at KofCReservations@gmail.com
or contact:
Tom Healy 845-490-8799



heartfelt thank you

The CDA Court Bernadine #185 would like to give a heartfelt thank you to all the parishioners who sponsored a **Heartfelt Gift Bag for Cancer patients** and/or **donated items for the gift bags**. We appreciate your support of this worthy cause and wouldn't be able to continue without your help. God Bless You! **A recent Thank you from a patient at Putnam Hospital Cancer Center...** *I have just finished radiation for breast cancer, and was so touched by the tote bag with all the treasures. I loved the picture drawn by the 5 year old, and the message in the card. I appreciate your thoughtfulness.*

mass intentions

Saturday, February 25

5:00 PM Joseph Derasmo
7:30 pm Spanish

Sunday, February 26

8:00AM Mary Gasparini
9:30AM Intentions of Thomas & Louisa Bisogno Anniversary
10:30AM *Sacred Heart* John McDonnell
11:00AM McCluskey & Ebert Families
12:30PM Spanish
5:30PM Felomina LaMark

Monday, February 27

8:30AM Scott Holland

Tuesday, February 28

8:30AM Marie Brady

Wednesday, March 1

8:30AM Rose Arduino

Thursday, March 2

8:30AM St. Lawrence O'Toole Society

Friday, March 3

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

Saturday, March 4

5:00 PM Patrick & Kathleen Stokes
7:30 pm Spanish

Sunday, March 5

8:00AM Carnela Picquadio
9:30AM Maiorino Pellecchia & Durante Family
10:30AM *Sacred Heart* Bill & Joseph Lewis & Marianne Gallacher
11:00AM John D. Cordil
12:30PM Spanish
5:30PM Glen Bisogno

get your tickets



The Sacred Heart Evangelization team will be selling \$5 Raffle tickets after each Sunday Mass during February and March. Proceeds will be used to support programs like Alpha, Transformed, The Search, and our weekly coffee and donuts. **Prize winning drawings** will be awarded daily April 1-30. \$25 daily, \$50 on Sundays, and \$100 Easter Sunday.

no greater love



NO GREATER LOVE is presented by the Xavier Company. The Passion of Christ in drama, song & dance.

Friday March 31 at 7:30 PM at Sacred Heart Church, 414 Haviland Drive Patterson, NY 12563, 845-279-4832 • Donations Accepted

Do you know someone who is carrying the grief of a past abortion?

There is always hope. The pain and sorrow of abortion does not need to endure for a lifetime.

A **Day of Prayer and Healing** offers the opportunity to experience the love and mercy of God and to respond to His invitation to begin the journey of healing the wound of abortion. Upcoming dates in the NYC area are: **March 11** and **May 20** in **English**, and **April 29** in **Spanish**.

For more dates, locations, and confidential registration, or just to talk to a Sister, please call the Sisters of Life at **(866)-575-0075** (toll free) or reach us by email at hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org.

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parish support st. lawrence parish support

Weekend of February 19

In Pew Collection	\$	7,222.00
January <i>WeShare</i> weekly	\$	6,971.94
Total	\$	14,193.94

sacred heart parish support

Weekend of February 19

In Pew Collection	\$	979.00
December <i>WeShare</i> weekly	\$	467.12
Total	\$	1,446.12

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.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3



Come and pray before the Blessed Sacrament, participate in Mass and pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet together for Our Lord to spread his mercy to his Church and to the whole world.

CONFESSIONS 4-7 PM

7:00 pm — Mass

7:45 pm — Adoration

8:00 pm — Benediction

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 Britez.....	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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