

# The Parish of St. Lawrence the Martyr

## THE PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Brian J. Ingram, Pastor  
Rev. Thomas Pers, Associate Pastor  
Deacon Patrick J. La Bella  
Rev. Msgr. Thomas D. Candreva,  
Weekend Assistant  
Mrs. Loren Christie  
Parish Secretary  
Mrs. Maria Davidson,  
Director of Faith Formation  
Mr. Christopher Koch,  
Cemetery & Business Manager  
Mrs. Lorraine Magyar,  
Director of Parish Outreach  
Mr. Joseph Mankowski, Director of Music  
Mrs. Jean Rico,  
Assistant Director of Faith Formation  
Mrs. Gloria Ryan, Baptism Coordinator  
Mrs. Jeanmarie Smith, Pastoral Associate  
Mrs. Marie Winn, Parish Organist

## THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

Arrangements for preparation and celebration of infant baptism may be made by calling (631) 589-8934, Monday through Thursday.

## THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:

Arrangements should be made with the church at least six months prior to the wedding celebration. Either the bride or the groom, or one of their families, should be associated with the parish.

## THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: (Confession)

Celebrated each Saturday in church from 3:45-4:45 P.M., or by appointment with one of the priests.

## VISITATION TO THE SICK:

May be arranged through the rectory office for the purpose of Holy Communion or the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. For emergency sick calls, phone the rectory at any time.

## COMMUNAL ANOINTING OF THE SICK:

Celebrated communally immediately following the 9:00 A.M. Mass on the first Saturdays of December, February, April and August.

Third Sunday  
of Advent

December 17, 2017



## PARISH PHONE NUMBERS

RECTORY	(631) 589-0042
RECTORY FAX	(631) 589-5318
FAITH FORMATION OFFICE	(631) 589-3160
CEMETERY OFFICE	(631) 589-3887
OUTREACH OFFICE	(631) 589-6155

To place an announcement in the bulletin please email:  
bulletin@stlawrencesayville.org

240 West Main Street, Sayville, New York 11782

Parish Website: [www.stlawrencesayville.org](http://www.stlawrencesayville.org) (631) 589-0042 Email us at: [office@stlawrencesayville.org](mailto:office@stlawrencesayville.org)

**MASS SCHEDULE**

*The celebration of the Eucharist will be offered in a special way for each of the names or intentions listed below. The donation received for each of these Mass intentions helps support the work of the parish, and our priests who minister at the Lord's altar.*

<b><u>Saturday</u></b>		<b><u>December 16, 2017</u></b>	
9:00	Rose & George Candrea +		
5:00	The Intentions of the Beach, Schroeder, Callahan, DiMotta, DeVarso & Schoener Families Hugh Terrill + Isobel & Gerald Coughlin + Margaret & Alfred Barberis + Walter Rostkowski +		
<b><u>Sunday</u></b>		<b><u>December 17, 2017</u></b>	
7:30	All Our Parishioners		
9:00	Jim & Maria Fallon +		
11:00	Edward Ryder +		
<b><u>Monday</u></b>		<b><u>December 18, 2017</u></b>	
9:00	Rose Marie Aiello +		
<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>		<b><u>December 19, 2017</u></b>	
9:00	Rev. James R. Sullivan + James Folks Sr. + Maryann Schroeder +		
<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>		<b><u>December 20, 2017</u></b>	
9:00	Paula Cresciullo +		
<b><u>Thursday</u></b>		<b><u>December 21, 2017</u></b>	
<i>Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i>			
9:00	Joseph A. Gallagher +		
<b><u>Friday</u></b>		<b><u>December 22, 2017</u></b>	
9:00	Thomas Greene +		
<b><u>Saturday</u></b>		<b><u>December 23, 2017</u></b>	
No 9:00AM Mass			
5:00	Eileen Hake + Lee Goncalves + Philomenia McGovern + Charles Ruizi + All Our Parishioners		
<b><u>Sunday</u></b>		<b><u>December 24, 2017</u></b>	
<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>			
7:30			
9:00	Claire Jeanne Jackson		
11:00	Rafael Alba +		
<i>Christmas Eve</i>			
4:00	Donald Knappe + James Folks Sr. & Anna Flynn Fitzgerald +		
5:30	Ethel Ocedek +		
11:00	Michael C. Defede & Joseph Alberto +		
<b><u>Monday</u></b>		<b><u>December 25, 2017</u></b>	
8:00	The Deceased Members of St. Lawrence Knights of Columbus		
9:30	Philip Coffaro +		
11:30	Alan Schick +		

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**THE PARISH OFFICE:** Open Monday to Friday, from 9:00 A.M. to 12 Noon and 1:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.; Saturdays by appointment.

**THE FAITH FORMATION OFFICE:**

Open Monday through Thursday, from 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., and Friday by appointment.

**PARISH OUTREACH (SOCIAL MINISTRY):**

Open Monday through Friday, from 10:00 A.M. to 12 Noon; Closed on weekends and holidays.

**THE PARISH CEMETERY OFFICE:**

Open by appointment weekdays from 9:00 A.M. to 12 Noon

**SAINT LAWRENCE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:**

Meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month.  
Please call (631) 317-9027 for more information.

**SAINT LAWRENCE COLUMBIETTES:** Meet on the 2nd

Thursday of each month. for information or email  
stlcol.pres@gmail.com

**PARISH DEVOTIONAL LIFE****THE ROSARY:**

Prayed in common from Monday through Saturday immediately following the 9:00 A.M. Mass in the church.

**CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP:**

Meets in the school on Mondays at 7:30 P.M.

**QUEEN OF PEACE ROSARY AND MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA:**

Mondays in church 6 to 7:15 P.M.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:**

Come worship the Eucharistic Lord on the First Friday of the month, from 12noon to 3:30 P.M., with the Divine Mercy Chaplet recited at 3:00 P.M.

There is also a holy hour every Wednesday, dedicated to prayer for priests and priestly vocations, from 6 to 7:00 P.M.

**MINISTRY OF PRAISE:**

Members pray at home for the intentions of the Church and parish. Designed for the homebound, senior citizens, etc.

**CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER GROUP:**

An ancient form of prayer that sets aside words and images in favor of sitting silently and receptively in the presence of God. Please contact Mrs. Barbara Shea at (631) 589-5257.

## *A Message from Father Brian ~*

This weekend, with the lighting of the rose-colored candle on our Advent wreath, we enter even more deeply into this beautiful and meditative season of the year—a season that challenges us to put our relationship with Jesus at the very center of our lives, despite the heavy temptation to give first priority to shopping and wrapping and card-writing and party-going. That temptation can become almost irresistible, when so much of our culture is swept up in the more secular enticements of this “most wonderful time of the year.” But *we know* that there would be nothing special at all about late December, were it not for the birth of a certain baby boy some two thousand years ago, in a crude stable in Bethlehem of Judea.

Last Sunday, along with many of you I had the pleasure of watching a flock of our youngest parishioners gathering around their own replica of that stable for our Children’s Christmas Pageant. I’d been smiling from the night I saw the dress-rehearsal, and I’m still smiling now . . . the children presented us grown-ups with a fresh, poignant (sometimes funny), *simply wonderful* rendition of a Story we know so well, but can never get enough of. Of course, bringing the nativity story to life involved some real effort on the part of both kids and adults for weeks beforehand; I’m so grateful not only to the players, but also to the stage crew, to our young leader of song, Evan, to our moms and dads who labored so long over costumes and props, scripts and sets, programs and refreshments, and in a *very special way* to Mrs. Chris Folks, the director and cheerleader for the whole delightful production. *Christmas is work!*

John the Baptist, who is once again at the center of the Scriptures for this Gaudete Sunday, was no stranger to hard labor in service to the Messiah’s coming. That effort had nothing to do with baking cookies, checking the last few items off the gift list, or adding another display to the front lawn (though that stuff can be an awful lot of fun). No the work of Advent, the work that John still enjoins on us, has more to do with examining the terrain of our hearts and asking the Lord’s mercy; committing a bit more time each day to prayer; volunteering—as many of our parishioners do—to reach out to the needy in our community with gifts and food. If approached in the correct way, Advent can be something of a workout, allowing us the opportunity to flex our *spiritual* muscles in imitation of the Savior whose birth we will soon commemorate.

The work of Advent doesn’t have to be difficult or unpleasant (last Sunday’s Pageant was a joy), but it is a necessity if we’re going to arrive at Christmas with hearts and minds renewed. Many thanks to ALL who are “getting their hands dirty” during these grace-filled weeks (as Pope Francis so often urges us to do). May the fruit of our labor be an even more joyous celebration come December 25<sup>th</sup>.

May our brother and patron, St. Lawrence, pray for us! God love you.

## Please Pray for the Sick

**Michael Schindlar; Steven Michael Keenan; Peter Hlywa; Gina Blenk; Jim & Lorraine Mattimore; Andrew Wittman Jr.; Doreen DeRuiter; Everett Maxwell; Bruce Weiler; Eileen Devlin; Kathleen Yaccarino; Gloria Portman; Suzanne McCarthy; Brian Hunter; Sr. Barbara Gerardi; Donald Lang; Bill Beaudry; Jane Vlokhos; Jennifer Wittman-Cahill; and Joanne Loweth**

[Please call the Parish Office if you wish to place someone on our Sick List. The request to have a name placed on the list must be made by the sick person himself or herself, or by an immediate family member.]

## Remembering Our Departed Loved Ones

We lift up our hearts in prayer for our brothers and sisters who have died, in the sure hope that they will see the Lord face to face:

**Maureen Patricia Ryan**

## Weekly Collections

*How shall I make a return to the Lord, for all the good he has done for me?*

Sunday, December 10, 2017 ~ \$11,863.50  
(includes Faith Direct)

Amount budgeted for the current fiscal year:  
\$13,078.00

Immaculate Conception = \$978.00

Religious Retirement = \$2,068.00

## REMEMBER YOUR PLEDGE

Our last report on the **2017 Catholic Ministries Appeal** was great news—we had received 105.5% of our goal in pledges. As of today, the news is *better still*, with the number climbing to 107.1%! This has to be the most successful year we've seen with the Catholic Ministries Appeal in years, and it's owing entirely to *your generosity*.

With 2017 drawing to a close, please remember the pledge you've made, and submit your remaining payment(s) to the CMA Office as soon as possible. A figure like "107.1%" is amazing, but in the end we will only be credited for the donations that are actually received. Recall, too, that St. Lawrence will receive a rebate of 20% of our goal (which was \$74,500 this year), plus an additional **eighty percent** of everything received **over and above the goal**, making the CMA one of most helpful fundraisers we have for the parish.

As always, know that your generosity is greatly appreciated—by the thousands who benefit so tangibly from the CMA, and by our parish family.

## THE QUESTION BOX

*Just for fun—and some ongoing education—here's a question on our Catholic spirituality and tradition. Enjoy!*

**Q:** I've noticed that when we are reciting the Creed at Mass, some priests (and people in the congregation) will bow their head for a few seconds in the middle of it. What's that all about?

- Susan D.

**A:** With Christmas fast approaching, this is a very timely question! As you know, we profess our faith just after the homily at each Saturday evening or Sunday Mass (and for major feast days and solemnities). If you take a peek in our worship aids or in the missalette, you'll notice directions in small print that one should **bow** as we say the words, "*and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man.*" That brief sentence reaffirms our belief in **the Incarnation**—one of the foundational mysteries of Christianity.

It is the Incarnation that we celebrate in a special way each Christmas. The eternal Son of the Most High has become *a real flesh and blood person*, has entered into our human condition in every sense but sinfulness. So profoundly important is this belief of ours, that in reciting the Creed we are asked to bow our heads in acknowledgement of what God has done for us sending his Son into the world. It is an ancient gesture that too few Catholics are in the habit of making anymore, but one that can make our weekly profession of faith even more meaningful. Perhaps you might adopt this gesture as a resolution for 2018!

All HIGH SCHOOL and COLLEGE AGE  
students are invited

to sing at the

**11:00 PM Mass on Christmas Eve.**  
Your gift of talent on this holy night  
enriches us all!

We will have a rehearsal on  
**Tuesday, December 19th, 6:00PM**  
in the church.

Please RSVP to Joe Mankowski,  
Director of Music, at 589-0042 ext 32, or  
email [mtornabene@yahoo.com](mailto:mtornabene@yahoo.com)

## GIFT-BEARERS FOR CHRISTMAS

The Masses of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are especially beautiful ones to present the gifts of bread and wine. We encourage parishioners to **sign up this weekend to participate in the privileged way at the Offertory**. See the 3-ring binder on the long table in front of the "crying room." When you do sign up for a specific Mass, **please be sure to make yourself known to one of our ushers before that Mass begins**, and sit near the Offertory table.

## 2017 Christmas Schedule

Masses for the Solemnity of Christmas will be celebrated on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, at  
**4:00 P.M.**  
**5:30 P.M. &**  
**11:00 P.M.**

and on Christmas Day, December 25<sup>th</sup>, at  
**8:00 A.M.**  
**9:30 A.M. &**  
**11:30 A.M.**

Opportunities for the Sacrament of Penance are offered each Saturday, from 3:45 to 4:45 P.M., and on December 20<sup>th</sup> following the 9:00 A.M. Mass.

Do join us as we give praise to the Father for sending us his only Son!



## CHRISTMAS CONFUSION?

Christmas is considered “a movable feast,” meaning that it can fall on any day of the week (unlike Ash Wednesday, or Easter Sunday). When it falls on a **Monday**, as it does this year, things get a little confusing. Let’s try to spell out how December 23<sup>rd</sup> through 25<sup>th</sup> will unfold liturgically:

Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> is the last full day of Advent. There will be no 9:00 AM Mass that morning. But as usual on a Saturday, we will have a 5:00 PM Mass in anticipation of the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> is the tricky one! Sunday morning is still the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and Catholics are of course obliged to honor their Sunday obligation by participating in Mass—either the 5 PM on Saturday evening, or the 7:30, 9:00, or 11:00 AM on Sunday.

*Later that same day* (at 4:00 to be precise), we begin our celebration of the Solemnity of Christmas. Our Christmas Eve Masses will be celebrated at 4:00, 5:30, and 11:00 PM.

Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, is of course Christmas Day, with Masses being celebrated at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:30 AM.

So, is the Church asking us to go to Mass **twice** in 3 days? *Precisely.* Once in celebration of the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and once in celebration of the Lord’s birth on Christmas. Going to one of the Christmas Eve Masses (4:00, 5:30, or 11:00 PM) **does not** fulfill one’s Sunday obligation. We may see a lot of each other between Saturday evening and Monday morning! But that should be *glad tidings*, in-

## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT . . .

With only two weeks remaining before we celebrate the marvel of Jesus’ birth, you may already have very particular plans about Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Here at St. Lawrence we are DELIGHTED that you will be worshipping the newborn King here with us, and we anticipate “welcoming home” a huge number of our sisters and brothers who (sadly) may only join us for occasions like this.

Please be aware that the 4:00 PM Mass on Christmas Eve will be **very, very crowded**. “Standing room” doesn’t even begin to describe it. This may be even more the case **this year** because Christmas falls on a Monday. While there’s an excitement to seeing so many people coming together for Mass in one place, we also want everyone to be comfortable and safe. If you have the flexibility to attend one of the other 5 Christmas Masses (including one just 90 minutes later, at 5:30 PM), you might want to consider that. We look forward to worshipping with you!

## **Catholics Returning Home**

- Were you raised Catholic but seldom come to church anymore?
- Are you a Catholic who now feels separated from your church?
- Would you like to know more about the Catholic Church as it is today?
- Would you like to feel at home in the Catholic Church again?

**No matter how long you have been away and no matter the reason, we invite you to consider renewing your relationship with the Catholic Church.** Here, at St. Lawrence Church we have a special program to help Catholics who have left the practice of their faith return to the Church entitled, *Catholics Returning Home* which will begin on Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.

Please give us – and yourself- another chance. We would like to know your feelings and try to address your questions. If you have any questions about the program or would like additional information, please call Maria Davidson at 589-3160.

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### **Saint Lawrence Youth Ministry**

**Join Us Sunday Nights At 7:00 PM**

**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>—Open Gym & Pizza  
We will begin the night in the youth center  
with prayer.**

**All youth sixth grade and above  
are welcome!!!**

### **CHRISTMAS GIVING**

As we approach the great feast of the Lord’s birth, I want to thank the many members of our parish who have already demonstrated such marvelous generosity in donating food and gift cards for the needy in our area, as well as all the ministers, staff and volunteers who are lending their time and talent in preparation for the Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Part of my role as pastor (though hardly my favorite one!) is to promote our parish’s fiscal wellbeing, so allow me to ask that you be *as generous as possible* in this year’s Christmas collection. You might be surprised at **how much we depend** on the monetary support we receive at Christmas. Please give some thought to what you are able to contribute this year, and help our community get off to a robust start in 2018. *Thank you in advance!*

*Fr. Brian*

### **PANTRY REQUESTS**

Our **Food Pantry** is in need of the following items:

Beef Stew/ Chili (Canned), Boxed Milk (Dry or Shelf Stable), Cereal (Hot and Regular),  
Hot Chocolate

Gift cards to Stop & Shop, Dollar Tree and Best Market are also appreciated.

*Thank you for your on-going kindness and wonderful generosity!*