

Saint Lawrence Catholic Church

April 5th, 2020 : Palm Sunday

Dear Parishioners,

I am writing this letter with sad news from Bishop William Callahan. Due to the uncertainty of the Covid-19 virus the Bishop has cancelled ALL MASSES and PARISH EVENTS until further notice.

I will continue to celebrate a private Mass praying for the Mass intention for the day and all parishioners. If you want to be present for your Mass intention, then you will have to call Kim at the office to have that Mass rescheduled. Tentatively the date set for resuming Mass is May 1. This could change at any time given the situation we are in. I am very aware how this difficult time will be depriving the faithful of Holy Communion and the Sacraments. Please be patient and understanding during this time of crisis.

I encourage you to continue supporting your parish during this crisis. Please send your offering envelope by mail or drop into one of three boxes (one at door in the building school, second at rectory, third at east door of church) or click on the link to pay your contribution online. The parish bills will still need to be paid.

The church will be open from 8 am – 12 pm throughout this time for private prayers and devotions. I encourage you to meet as a family especially on Sundays and say prayers. The Rosary is always a good prayer to pray. Remember your parish and parish family in those prayers as well.

As of today (March 17) I am saddened to say that all Easter public celebrations have been cancelled. The Chrism Mass and Easter Triduum will be live streamed on the Diocese of La Crosse website at <https://diolc.org>

If you have an emergency or an anointing that needs to be done you may reach me
715-456-1450 or the parish phone 715-421-5777.



God bless you all,
Fr. Janusz Kowalski

Confession Times

St. Lawrence Church
Tuesday 8am - 9am
And 5pm - 6pm

Please remember there can be no more than
10 people in the Church at a time.

St. Lawrence Directory

Rectory Hours- - - Mon-Fri, 8:00am – noon
Rectory Phone- - - - - 715-421-5777
Email - - - - - slparishwr@gmail.com
Website - - - - - saintlawrencewr.org
Facebook - - - - - “St. Lawrence Church”
DRE email
- - - -stlawrenceevangelization@gmail.com
Fr. Janusz’s contact information:
Emergency cell- - - - - 715-456-1450
Email - - - - januszek2002@yahoo.com

Parish Staff

Pastor - - - - - Rev. Janusz Kowalski
Deacon - - - - - Kevin Ray
Senior Deacon - - - - - Jim Landry
Parish Facilities Manager - - Tom Pankonen
Evangelization/Formation - - - - Dave Ecke
Secretary/Bookkeeper - - - - Kim Siegler

Church Open Times

St. Lawrence Church will be open
Everyday 8am - Noon
And 8am - 5pm all Holy Week
There will be adoration Easter Sunday 8am - 3pm

St. Philip Church will be open
everyday 8 am - Noon
And 8am - 3pm all Holy Week

530 Tenth Ave N, Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, 54495 715-421-5777

Matthew 21: 1-11

Philippians 2: 6-11

Matthew 26: 14-27:66

While this may be a very difficult time for all of us financially, I would ask that we all do what we can to continue to contribute to the offertory either online, by mail, or dropping off envelopes or offertory to the church offices during office hours.

Give Online Safe and Secure at: <https://diolc.org/st-lawrence-wi-rapids/>

A few days ago, I came across an article titled "Why Catholic Faith in Holland Died". The interview is a conversation with Cardinal W. Eijk, Archbishop of Utrecht; the topic being the disappearing faith in the Netherlands and Western Europe. There are many reasons and numerous events that have happened over the years; from World War II through the Second Vatican Council. The cardinal recalls the past, saying "The first signs of the fall of the Catholic Church in the Netherlands appeared immediately after the last war. The Catholic Church in the Netherlands was an organization based more on social ties than on the content of faith shared by its members. It was the same in other Western European countries, although to a slightly less extent. Many believers did not have personal relation and connections with Christ. In fact, the only connection that Catholics had with the Church was the social - life organized around the Church, especially Catholic schools, Catholic sports clubs, and Scouts". It was a time of individualism progress. People began to grow businesses, the economy grew, and they began to notice that you can live longer and better; that you don't have to count on others. The society itself, though, lost strength. There was no group, no community... an "individual man" appeared with his ideas for life, trying to be independent of the other. At the same time, the church presented itself to many as a set of commands and prohibitions. What can I do or I can't I do? It became the time of law and time without love and relationship with God. This crisis has escalated and is increasing now. It is being experienced by people living today in our times. Consequently, the generation of the 60s did not pass the faith to their children. This is a sad truth, but today we are dealing with grandchildren and young people who have little to do with the church. Their knowledge of the Catholic faith is minimal or even nonexistent. Many young people are no longer being baptized, and they are living without the sacraments. These are people who no longer know Christ and His work - the Church.

At the end of the interview, he adds "This is also true in the Roman Catholic Church. Parishes with a strong identity and a worthy Sunday liturgy have the greatest attraction. Families can be seen there, young people are looking for them. The number of believers certainly decreases, but those who choose faith today are usually active believers and engage in religious ceremonies. "

Looking at our place, here and now, I think we can say the same. The number of believers is falling, because the older people are dying. What we try to pass on unfortunately does not reach the younger generation. I believe something must change. Our assessment of reality must change; our moral assessment, life, and our daily choices. Pope Benedict XVI wrote that "in the modern world, in the age of our lives, so much has changed and it has never been back". In 1996 he pointed to its affects in two very different contexts. The first of which was the emergence of a strong internally differentiated, but influential movement, known as the New Age. The second - in contrast to the New Age - the intensification of the attitude, described by Ratzinger, as "pragmatism in the life of the Church. The consequences, of which, are pastoral, pastoral matters, as well as liturgical." I think that Holy Week is a great opportunity to reflect on our testimony of life... Who am I? What do I pass to my children, what is it that they feed on? What values am I choosing? What and who is most important to me? The authentication of Life... But what kind of life?

In the end, the article helps to highlight and identify several of many reasons why our Churches look and feel so empty. Why our celebration of baptisms and marriages are so few. And why our lines to the confessionals are non-existent anymore. Use this information to help our parishes and to build up our families; to help ourselves towards more self-reflection and contemplation.

If you wish to read the article in full you can find it at:

<https://www.fronda.pl/a/kard-willem-eijk-dlaczego-w-holandii-zanikla-wiara-katolicka.142297.html>

Please note... It is not in English but you can translate via your computer by copy and pasting the article into google translate.

Please promote the TV Mass as you can using your parish website and social media.

The Cathedral Live Stream Schedule is available at diolc.org/live

Live Palm Sunday with Bishop Callahan – 9:30 a.m.
 Live Holy Thursday with Bishop Callahan – 5:00 p.m.
 Live Good Friday with Bishop Callahan – Noon
 Live Holy Saturday with Bishop Callahan – 7:00 p.m.
 Live Easter Sunday with Bishop Callahan – 9:30 a.m.
 Live Daily Mass (Monday-Saturday) from the Cathedral
 Mass in English – 8 a.m.
 Mass in Spanish – 8:30 a.m.

Please note that live and prerecorded Sunday Mass is available via diolc.org, the diocesan YouTube channel, Facebook, and televised at Wisconsin Rapids (Public Access), Channel 985 and Channel 3 at 6:00 a.m. and 1:00 pm. Sunday.

Intentions for the Week

Monday, April 6th - Eugene and Marguerite Dorshorst
 Tuesday, April 7th - Alex and Fern Schiferl
 Wednesday, April 8th - Ann Stout
 Saturday, April 11th - Ed and Caroline Nikolai
 Sunday, April 12th - Parish

For health and healing for Theresa Zanetti,
 Jim Balzer, Mel Sullivan
 and all whose names appear on the prayer list,
 we pray to the Lord.

We are perishing for lack of wonder, not for lack of wonders. - G.K. Chesterton

Know Holy Week

The beauty of this Holy Time of Lent is coming to an end. Before us now is Holy Week. It is the time starting from Palm Sunday to Holy Thursday, followed by Good Friday, then Holy Saturday which at night we celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus. The time of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday is called the Easter Triduum. The oldest testimonies of the Holy Week liturgy come from the 4th century from Palestine. It began with a solemn procession with palms from Bethany to Jerusalem in memory of Christ's entry into the holy city to redeem people through His passion and death on the cross.

Palm Sunday begins the Holy Week Holy Week is what commemorates the Passion of Christ's death and resurrection. Every Christian should make total effort to understand the rites of Holy Week, take an active part in them, and above all, through the mortifications and holiness of life, give evidence of a living faith. On Palm Sunday, the Church remembers the commemoration of the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem for the Paschal mystery of the Passion and Resurrection. This is the day that the palm branches are blessed.

The Paschal Triduum follows, consisting of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

Holy Thursday is the celebration of two Masses. In the morning the bishop concelebrates, together with all priests from the entire diocese, a solemn Mass with the dedication of Chrism (olive oil mixed with balsam) used during Confirmation and Baptism and for the oil of the sick. During this time there is also a renewal of priestly promises. This mass is celebrated only in the cathedral. In all other churches, only one Mass can be celebrated on that day, in the evening. We call it the "Lord's Supper". For the Jews this is Passover. This celebration is not only a reflection on the history, but present time as well. The first celebration was in the desert before they left Egypt. The Last Supper took place on the night of Thursday to Friday. It belonged to the Jewish count of time until Friday; the day lasted from sunset to sunset. Therefore, the day of both the first Eucharistic Sacrifice and the Sacrifice of the Cross is the same day - Good Friday. And here we see the close relationship between the Cross, Resurrection, and Eucharist.

Good Friday is the day we gather to commemorate the passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. The liturgy invites us to reflect on the biblical description of the Passion of the Lord, and then to adore and celebrate the Holy Cross. No Mass is celebrated on this day. After the Eucharistic liturgy, the Body of Christ is solemnly moved to adoration in the Holy Sepulcher.

Holy Saturday is the day when Mass is not celebrated nor are there other services in the morning or afternoon. Easter Vigil, Saturday night, is fulfilled by the risen Christ. It is really a Great Night; it is the most important event in the history of the world and humanity. Jesus passed from death into a new life through the resurrection. The whole dynamics of the Paschal night revolves around life in Christ, which is why its entire liturgy is full of symbols of life: light - word - water - feast; transition - exit - Promised Land - and return. Easter Sunday begins with the Easter Vigil, or Mass. The resurrection of the Lord is celebrated on a late Saturday evening or at night.

Anyone who has Gun Raffle tickets, sold or unsold, please return them to the parish office. Thanks!

Dear Parishioners,

Please keep in mind that if you need any assistance or help, especially during these uncertain days, please call the parish office at 715-421-5777. We are more than happy to comfort and aid you.

MAKE ME LAUGH

One Sunday morning, a priest saw a little boy staring intently at the large plaque on the church wall. The plaque was covered with names, and flags hung on either side of it.

"Father," asked the boy, "what's this?"

He replied, "It's a memorial to all the men and women who died in the service." They stood together in silence for a moment. Finally, the boy asked with genuine concern: "Was it at the eight or the ten-thirty Mass?"

Pope Francis' Prayer to Mary during the Corona Virus Pandemic

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen. Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.



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far better
things ahead
than any we
leave behind

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