

Saint Lawrence Catholic Church

March 22nd, 2020 : Forth Sunday of Lent

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 7 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

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 7am - Noon

St. Philip Church will be open
everyday 8 am - Noon

Confession Times by Appointment

St. Lawrence Church
Tuesday 6 pm and Thursday 7 am

St. Philip Church
Wednesday 9 am and Saturday 3 pm

Please call the church rectory first so that we can schedule the confessions in order to keep the numbers in the church to under 10.

Sunday Readings:

1 Samuel 16: 1B, 6 - 7, 10 - 13A

Ephesians 5: 8 - 14

John 9: 1 - 41

4th Sunday of Lent

A student approached his master with a big problem. He said, "I'm totally depressed. I don't get anything out of your teaching and I never get good results. I cannot do anything. Everyone says I am useless and I think the same. I am losing hope. Please, help me!" The master answered, "I am busy now, I am having difficulties and things to do, come back later." The student replied, "Master, I have no more strength!"

And so the master said, "I have an urgent matter, can you help me? If you help me then I will help you." The student replied, "How can I help you?" The master said, "I have to give one ducat to a certain creditor tomorrow, I have no money but I do have a ring. If you can take the ring and sell it on the market for no less than one ducat then I will help you; but you can't take less than one ducat." This seemed simple to do and the student thought that if I did this then the master would change his mind about me. So, he took the ring and went. The student asked at one place, then at the next. He went to a hundred places, but everywhere they only offered him 25% of the value of the ring. He returned to the master sad and explained what had happened to him at the market. The master said, "You know what, there is another buyer, the best of the best. Go to him." The resigned pupil went thinking that it would only be the same as in the market. But when the new buyer took the ring in his hand he began to observe it. He checked,

and measured. Finally, he told the student to tell his master that I can give 75 ducats. The student was surprised and said, "How?" The buyer then added, "I can do even better and do 85 ducats today but that is all I have." The student took the ring and returned to the master. He was amazed, and smiling said to the master, "You will not believe what happened!" The master replied, "Know exactly what happened. As long as you look for people who don't know the value of what you are trying to give them, they underestimate it. That is why you have become discouraged and depressed. To know your value you have to follow and be with others who know your value as well."

When we are looking for our value, we try to find it in people who don't know us or know much about us. They do not know our hearts. The only expert who knows everything is God. Only He can tell us how much we are worth! And that worth is much more than you could ever expect.

In today's gospel, a blind man must make a life decision. The choice is who he wants to follow and who is most important to him. The same choice was given to all the Pharisees, scribes and people. The final decision, made by the blind man, was not with his eyes but with his heart that Jesus is the one he wants to follow. God's grace comes to everyone; you can be blind, or sighted. The question is whether I see this grace, and do I use it? Am I grateful to Him from whom I received!!!

Intentions for the Week

Tuesday 24th: Robert and Mary Schwobe

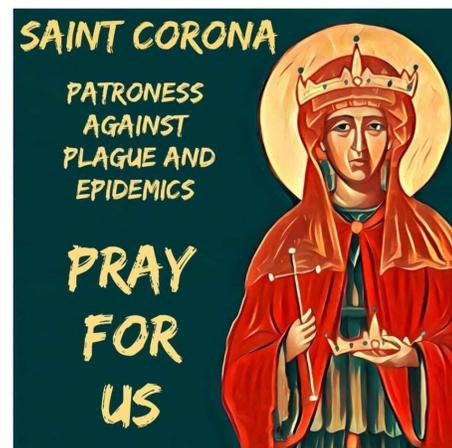
Thursday 26th: Dick Thomas

Friday 27th: For the Health of Courtney

Saturday 28th: Parish

Sunday 29th: Den Jim

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.



Holy Communion of Desire

Saint John Paul II mentions spiritual encouragement from Saint Teresa of Jesus: "When you do not receive Communion and do not participate in Mass, the most beneficial thing is the practice spiritual communion (...)" It seems that since the Holy Father mentions this kind of Holy Communion (for the first time after Vatican II), in some way recommending it, we could apply this practice in our spiritual life, of course remembering that sacramental communion is to be first.

How to receive it;

Just desire, this is why we also call it a communion of desire. Such a request and such a desire I have in my heart that the Lord Jesus would come to me and be with me, although I cannot receive him sacramentally. I can ask him such a request, listening to a radio or television mass, or praying. It is good to confess your unworthiness to the Lord Jesus first and only then ask Him to come to the soul.

Formulas for spiritual communion:

I want to receive you, Lord, with the same purity, humility and devotion as Your Holy Mother received you, with the spirit and ferventness of the saints.

O my Jesus, I believe you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all and I want to have You in my soul.

Since I can't hold you sacramentally right now, come to my heart spiritually.

I love You already present in my heart and I unite myself completely with You; never let me move away from you.

Lord Jesus the secrets and perfection of your paths. O Lord, I believe, I trust, I praise You. I regret all my sins. O Blessed Sacrament, Divine Sacrament, always be Your glory and thanksgiving.

My Jesus, I believe in You in this Blessed Sacrament! I hope in Your Grace and Mercy! I love you above all! For the love of you I regret all my sins! I'd rather die a thousand times than offend you. I want you.

Come, my Jesus! Come to my soul!

Diocesan Annual Appeal Update

We have received gifts and pledges of \$34,799 towards our goal of \$42,155. That's 82% of our goal!

Thank you to the 119 families who gave! We only need \$7,286 to reach our final goal!!!

AND PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO MAIL OR DROP OFF YOUR WEEKLY OFFERINGS, THANK YOU!!!

EMERGENCY ORDER #5

PROHIBITING MASS GATHERINGS OF 10 PEOPLE OR MORE

- Under the authority of Wis. Stat. § 252.02(3) and at the direction of Governor Tony Evers, I, Andrea Palm, Secretary-designee of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, order a statewide moratorium on mass gatherings of 10 people or more to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. This order supersedes any previous Emergency Order that conflicts with this order.
- Effective at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, all public and private mass gatherings are prohibited in the State of Wisconsin.

"Mass gathering" is any planned or spontaneous, public or private event or convening that will bring together or is likely to bring together 10 or more people in a single room or single confined or enclosed space at the same time.

All gatherings that bring together or are likely to bring together less than 10 people in a single room or confined or enclosed space at the same time must:

- Preserve social distancing of 6 feet between people, and
- Follow all other public health recommendations issued by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and Centers for Disease Control.

Voluntary cancelation, closure, or limitations on size of gathering beyond the requirements of this order are permitted.

- Effective at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, all bars and restaurants shall close in the State of Wisconsin, except as provided below for restaurants.

2020 GUN RAFFLE

Tickets are going FAST! Get yours today
at the script table or
call Kim at 715-421-5777.

\$50 per ticket and ONLY 500 tickets being sold. Gun values range from \$350-\$1440 with a chance to win more than once!!!

Tickets and money can be dropped off at one of the three drop boxes at the Church, Rectory, and Office.



Keep on Laughing!!!

A laywoman was driving down the street in a sweat because she had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place. Looking up toward heaven, she said, "Lord, take pity on me.

If you find me a parking place I'll go to Mass every Sunday for the rest of my life and give up drinking wine."

Miraculously, a parking place opened up right in front of her destination.

The woman looked up to heaven again and said, "Never mind, Lord; I found one on my own."

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