

Saint Lawrence Catholic Church

March 29nd, 2020 : Fifth 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 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://dioc.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 8am - Noon

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

Confession Times by Appointment

St. Lawrence Church
Tuesday 6 pm and Thursday 8 am

St. Philip Church
Wednesday 9 am and Saturday 3 pm

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

SUNDAY READINGS

Ezekiel 37: 12-14

Romans 8: 8-11

John 11: 1-45

5th Sunday of Lent

Two monks lived in a monastery. They were very pious, and read a lot of theological books. Their favorite place was the library. They read such an enormity of books that they seemed to have read everything in the library. One day they came across a very interesting book. It was a small, with several pages and pictures. In this book, they discovered evidence that there is a point on earth where heaven meets the earth. There is also a door at that point, and if you open this door, you will meet God. The two monks continued to search for confirmation in other books, and after researching more it turned out to be true. And so, they set out from the monastery on a long journey. The monks wandered for a very long time; they passed mountains, lakes, forests, rivers and finally came to the place where heaven meets the earth. The two monks saw the door described in the book they had read. The door was inconspicuous, modest, and a little old. The monks went to the door and asked each other, "If we open this door and meet God, are we ready for it?" The friar replied, "Let's do it!" They opened the door were very surprised. Behind the door they saw their own rooms back in the monastery.

We travel all over the world to find what is right next to us. Today's gospel is about the man next to Jesus. The master asks the man if he wishes to be healed. A sick man is asked if he wants healing, but he did not understand what Jesus is truly asking him! Do you want to be healthy or do you want to discover what you have been searching for truly? The sick man answers, "I can't find anyone to help me". We are often so gazed at our gaps in our lives that we do not see God's plan for us. We do not notice His presence that is always there. How sad it is that we attempt to decide for ourselves what our life should be. But let's ask ourselves, where is God's path inscribed on my path? Maybe I'm trying to put my life in God's plan - and that's the problem. I can be healed by accepting Jesus in my life. I can become his brother, sister, and member of the family.

Lent Reflection

During Lent we rediscover the gift of faith. Initially, in the early church, Lent was defined as a time when catechumens prepared themselves for the sacraments of baptism and the Eucharist, given during the Easter Vigil. History treated Lent as a time of 'becoming Christians' which did not happen immediately, but required a long path of conversion and renewal. People baptized also participated in this preparation, commemorating the received sacrament and preparing for renewed communion with Christ in the joyful celebration of Easter. Lent, therefore, had and still is a road that requires constant work on us. God is giving us a boat during our baptism, and after Confirmation we can develop our sail for the boat and start to navigate. This is very important for us to remember; that I am responsible for navigation and my daily choices will guide the boat to the promise land. So, where is it? Well, we must work toward our spiritual goals. The best things we can do are to be happy, joyful, and try to be a blessing for others. It is also good to refer and reflect on the Bible to read about Abraham, Jacob, and David... Time has been given to us by God, there is no doubt. And this time is the most precious gift of all, so why did we receive it? We received it from God so that we can use it well; to make good use of our boat. And if God wants us to make good use of time, what does he expect from us? Does God care more that we pursue our worldly goals; to gain what we consider the most important? I don't think that's the objective! We must use the time given to you and me for God's service, with the intention of not wasting that time but to give God glory. Loving another man and myself.

*****SCAM ALERT*** Father Janusz does not need anything bought from the store, if you receive a phone call asking to buy him items or food please do not respond!**



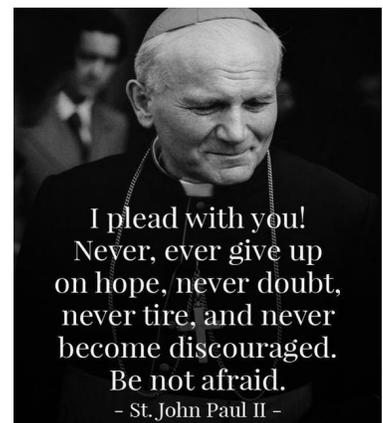
Intentions for the Week

Tuesday 31st: Alex and Fern Schiferl

Friday April 3rd: James Morman

Sunday April 5th: 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.



I plead with you!
Never, ever give up
on hope, never doubt,
never tire, and never
become discouraged.
Be not afraid.
- St. John Paul II -

Praise be Jesus Christ!

I trust everyone is doing everything they can to be safe and healthy during this unprecedented health emergency. As you know we are not having faith formation or sacramental preparation classes for the remainder of this year. This does not mean that we are stopping our efforts to share the faith with your children. We are simply looking for different, interesting and maybe even better ways to reach everyone.

Starting immediately, we are opening a private group on Facebook called ‘**Kids of Saint Larry**’ where we will share information about our programs as well as ideas and projects we can do at home and later, after this health emergency is over at church. This will give us a great way to connect with each family so please look for us on Facebook.

We also have ‘formed’ for your whole family. If you are not already using Formed, PLEASE go to formed.org/signup, find Saint Lawrence parish to sign up and check it out! We have already paid for this service and there is something for everyone! There is a section for kids, for Bible stories, lives of Saints, teens, for movie night and more.

From time to time, we will be watching something on formed and having discussions about it in our Facebook group. Also, we can do live broadcasts about specific topics and discussions will be in the form of typed comments.

This could be an exciting new development in our faith formation program that will greatly enhance our current programs. Please join us on Facebook and spend some time on formed. We are literally pumping all kinds of junk into our heads by watching TV and movies anyway, why not add some quality, faithful movies and programs to our daily routine. It will be good for all of us.

Contact me anytime if you have any questions or concerns about moving forward in this time of uncertainty. You are all in my prayers, Dave Ecke.

Call to Prayer | Friday, March 27
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
May the Lord give you peace.

The unprecedented actions of the past weeks, though challenging for each of us, highlight our need for spiritual sustenance.

Let us use this time by placing Our Lord at the center of our lives. Our Diocesan website, diolc.org, offers links and resources as we pray for help, protection, and healing. I heartily encourage you to check it out.

In addition, I urge you to participate in the special prayer of Pope Francis taking place in Saint Peter’s Square this Friday, March 27. This event will be broadcast and streamed on the website of the Vatican News, www.VATICANNEWS.VA, at 12:00 p.m. (noon) Central Daylight Time. The Holy Father will grant to all participants a Plenary Indulgence before imparting the Urbi et Orbi Blessing, the special blessing to the City of Rome (Urbi) and the World (Orbi).

The Holy See’s March 20 Decree explains that the current Plenary indulgence at this time of pandemic is “granted to the faithful suffering from Coronavirus, who are subject to quarantine by order of the health authority in hospitals or in their own homes if, with a spirit detached from any sin, they unite spiritually through the media to the celebration of Holy Mass, the recitation of the Holy Rosary, the pious practice of the Way of the Cross or other forms of devotion; or, they may simply recite the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer and a pious invocation to the Blessed Virgin Mary, offering this trial in a spirit of faith in God and charity towards their brothers and sisters, with the will to fulfil the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer according to the Holy Father’s intentions), as soon as possible.”

An indulgence, Pope St. John Paul II explained, is “the expression of the Church’s full confidence of being heard by the Father when—in view of Christ’s merits and, by his gift, those of Our Lady and the saints—she asks him to mitigate or cancel the painful aspect of punishment by fostering its medicinal aspect through other channels of grace” (General Audience, September 29, 1999).

I pray for each of you during this crisis, that you and your loved ones are safe and healthy through the intercession of our Mother Mary and our patrons, St. Joseph and St. Francis of Assisi. Imploring God’s blessings on you in this time of need, I am
+William Patrick Callahan, OFM Conv.
Bishop of La Crosse

Send Your Angel To Holy Mass

O Holy Angel, at my side,
Go to the church for me,
Kneel in my place, at holy Mass,
Where I desire to be.
At Offertory, in my stead,
Take all I am and own,
And place it as a sacrifice
Upon the Altar Throne.
At holy Consecration’s bell,
Adore with Seraph’s love,
My Jesus, hidden in the Host,
Come down from heaven above.
And when the priest communion takes,
Oh, bring my Lord to me,
That his sweet Heart may rest on mine,
And I His temple be.

Keep on Laughing!!!

A laywoman who was taking a Scripture course discovered a burglar in her kitchen. Since she had no weapon to scare him off, she raised her hand and shouted, “Acts 2:38.”

The burglar froze and didn’t move, so the woman called 911. The police arrived and were amazed to find the burglar still frozen where he stood.

“What did you say to him?” they asked her.

She replied that she had just quoted scripture to him: “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven.”

As the cops put the burglar in the squad car, they asked him, “Why did her scripture verse scare you so much?”

“Scripture?” said the burglar, “I thought she said she had an axe and two 38s!”

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