

Saint Lawrence Catholic Church

April 26th, 2020 : 3rd Sunday of Easter



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 - 3 pm

St. Philip Church will be open
Everyday 8 am - 4 pm

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.**

**Thank you to all who have continued to support
Saint Lawrence both by your prayers and donations!**

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.

OFFERTORY

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/>



SUNDAY READINGS

Acts 2: 14, 22-33

1 Peter 1: 17-21

Luke 24: 13-35 (46)

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

Easter 3-A

Even the most casual religious observer is compelled to admit that something happened during that Passover weekend two thousand years ago. After all, with their teachers' arrest and humiliating death, the disciples sort of came apart at the seams. Fearing they would be next on the authority's hit list, some went into hiding. Others, embarrassed that they had let their hearts get carried away, headed for home to face the inevitable and painful "I told you so's" of their friends who chose to be more practical. Then suddenly, inexplicably these hopeless, hiding.... fearful followers ...resurfaced... preaching a word that their master...was alive....and that through Him, God was bringing new life to the world. Whether listeners bought their story or not, everyone who bumped into these guys.... had to admit something had happened. And while all may make their guesses, the New Testament is quite clear in its explanation the disciples were transformed because they had met the risen Lord.

In all seven stories of Jesus' Easter appearances made it into the Gospels but at a distance, seven stories don't reach very far. That's the common predicament we all share Luke, those Peter was writing too today, you and I. None of us were there. So, is there more than hearsay to go on? "Sure", our ancestors said, and they offered their cherished story of the road to Emmaus. And while the story doesn't answer the "How did God raise Jesus from the dead?" question or even the "Why did he rise?" question, it does deal with the "so what?" question of what Easter means to us. You see, on the way to Emmaus, Easter gets personal. You've all been there. Emmaus is the place you go when hope dies... when the pain is too great.... when you can't imagine a new future. For some, it's a cottage by the lake, for others, a handful of pills or a bottle, a locked bedroom door or maybe a trip to the mall to do some binge shopping. It need not be a sinister or permanent place, but it still represents that place to which we run when life has dealt us more than we can bear.

Everyone has an Emmaus. And if Emmaus is the place where we go when hope dies, Easter is the story of how we get back from there. Jesus didn't join Cloepas and his friend on the way to scold them for their despair, but to rescue them from it. And he does it in three steps. First, they let a stranger join. In their disillusionment, our travelers didn't close others off. They allowed a stranger to come alongside as they poured out their misery. It's typical of us, especially us males, to hide our problems behind stony silence. On the way to Emmaus we learn a lesson. It's important to look beyond ourselves. Perspective is rarely gained without reaching out, without stretching. Good to know, of course, but there is more.

The second thing is a scripture lesson. In response to their tail of hope and betrayal, the stranger reminds them of things...things they already knew....like...how it is that God acts in the world....that faith does not protect us from life's slings and arrows, but at times prompts us to seek them out that God's sense of victory is not comfort, but trial overcome. And our real friends are those to whom we sing our song, and who, on days when we have forgotten it, sing it back to us. That's why we keep quotation books and underline passages in our Bibles. It's why we keep journals and read daily devotionals. So that when the bubble bursts, we can return to a place where it all made sense, to look at God's promises and remember.

Finally, there's a meal. So ardently they had been looking down and back.... "we had been hoping" were their exact words. They hadn't recognized who'd been walking with them all along. When they arrive at their village and he shakes their hands goodbye, they invite him to stay and he does. But he's an odd guest. It's their house, their table, their food, but when they sit down he acts as the host, reaching for the bread and then saying the blessing and braking it and handing it to them. Maybe it was the oddness of that which made their blinders fall away. Or maybe the familiarity, something they has seen on a green grassy hillside with five loaves and two fish. Or maybe they recognized what they had seen in an upper room with unleavened bread and Passover wine. In any case, through the torn, fragrant edges of the bread, they recognized him. You see, they had forgotten. And then, he was gone.

So, do you want the address of the living God? Make the journey to Emmaus, beginning to end. First, there's the closeness of the two and the sharing of their brokenness. Next, there's the way their hearts burned as the scriptures were opened, and finally, how they knew him in the breaking of the bread. Today we are asked to count the ways Christ promised to be with us. In fellowship, in confessing our poverty, in the word and in sacrament. All of which of course, happen to be on the agenda every time we meet. So, take heart. We did not lose him for good. This is the place he promised to be, the place he returns to meet us again and again, the place where we are asked to remember his promises and to recognize that He is with us here and now and, finally to recall that... here he gives his all again.... for us.

Church

What is my place in this church? Do I need the Church, and if so, why is so important to me? It's about my choice, and everything else associated with it. So we ask, how I find myself in this world. It is through the church, this is where I can hear and meet God!

How do I see the church, what does it remind me of? What does this, our church, remind me of? The church is a large family. There are relations in this family between family members. It is a division of duties and privileges. The church is everyday life. There are joys and sorrows, but there is much more. It is comprised of people who come and go, are born and die. They are born again, through baptism, through the sacraments. They are born for eternal life - heaven.

The church gives me the opportunity to live through Jesus. I can come and receive the gift of life - the Eucharist. Every day we become stronger if we feed on the body and the word of God. We become mature and our love grows and matures. The family is home. A place where I am happy to return because I know what I can find in it and who I can find. A warm place where the door is always open. This place is safe. There is the same and consistent message in this house because it comes from God Himself. My church - I take care of her and she remains close to me.

Changes Starting April 27th

Mass will be broadcast live at St. Lawrence and St. Philip Church via the Facebook pages at:

Tuesday 6:00 pm – St. Lawrence

Wednesday 8:45 am – St. Philip

Thursday 7:00 am – St. Lawrence

Friday 7:00 am – St. Lawrence

Friday 8:45 am - St. Philip

Sunday 8:30 am – St. Philip

Sunday 10:30 am – St. Lawrence

According to the Wisconsin authorities, 10 people can attend Mass. Doors will be open to the first 10 people I invite you cordially to participate.

- Fr. Janusz -

If anyone has questions about the live stream or needs help creating a Facebook Profile in order to stay connected to Saint Lawrence or others feel free to call the office. And please call or email the office with updated emails. Thank You!!!

Intentions for the Week

Tuesday, April 27th - Larry Winter

Wednesday, April 28th - Stanley and Regina Raflik

Thursday, April 29th - Philip Haines

Friday, April 30th - James Morman (7:00)

Marlene Janz (8:45)

Saturday, May 1st - For the Parish

Sunday, May 2nd - Roy and Leona Thiemke (8:30)

Health of Courtney (10:30)

For health and healing for Theresa Zanetti,

Jim Balzer, Mel Sullivan, Marie Kaszuba

and all whose names appear on the prayer list, we pray to the Lord.

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.

MAKE ME LAUGH

A father was reading Bible stories to his young son: "Lot was warned to take his wife and flee from the city, but his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt."

The son asked, "But what happened to the flea?"



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