Ash Wednesday
Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 6, 2016, 4:30 pm
John Shkreli, †Holy Souls in Purgatory, †Tony Lombardi, †AI Ludeman, †Barbara Ballard, †Stanley Kups, †Stanley Sycko, †Mary Learnihan Bertolini

Sunday, February 7, 2016, 8:00 am
People of St. Lawrence, John Shkreli, Mike Hoste, †Helen Ugorowski, †Nora Dilorenzo

Sunday, February 7, 2016, 10:00 am
†Frank Palazzolo, Eric Kuelske, †Marvin Voss, †Domenica & Tulio Copioli, †Clar & Pete Copioli, †Peppa & Antonio Selva

Sunday, February 7, 2016, 12:00 pm
The Homeless and Unemployed

Monday, February 8, 2016, 8:00 am
John Shkreli, Bert and Elaine Lozen

Tuesday, February 9, 2016, 8:00 am
†Patricia “Mike” Downey/Bittner

Wednesday, February 10, 2016, 9:30 am
†Mary Pasieczny

Thursday, February 11, 2016, 8:00 am
John Shkreli, David Mateja, †Edward & Adella Duda, †Juanita Selewski, †Andy & Mary Cole

Friday, February 12, 2016, 8:00 am
†Kathy Ray, †Michael Bartz

Saturday, February 13, 2016, 4:30 pm
John Shkreli, Altar Society Living & Deceased, †Leona DeBaker, †Stanley Kups, †Patrick Learnihan, †William Bohlen, †John Bozicbich, †Grazia Marra, †Mary Michael Waitkus, †Mary Lou Keller

Sunday, February 14, 2016, 8:00 am
†Josephine “Jo” Davis, †Stanley & Grace Pollum, Mike Hoste, †Marie Jozeff, †Joseph Ciaramitaro, †Frances DeFrancesco, †Robert & Mary DeCook, †Omer & Laura DeCook,

Sunday, February 14, 2016, 10:00 am
People of St. Lawrence, †John Adamo, †John Stajniger, Natalie Evans & Family, †Anna Crocenzi, †Mary Ann Harper, †Sylvestor Konwinski, †Valentina Figurski & all deceased children, †Lawrence Verlinde, †Richard Kolpasky, †Mary Ann Harper, †Michael Bartz, †Rita M. Rzepka

Sunday, February 14, 2016, 12:00 pm
†Gerry Nikoloucsyk
"The season of Lent during this Jubilee Year should also be lived more intensely as a privileged moment to celebrate and experience God's mercy. How many pages of Sacred Scripture are appropriate for meditation during the weeks of Lent to help us rediscover the merciful face of the Father!" [MISERICORDIAE VULTUS, N. 17  Pope Francis]

Wednesday, February 10th, Ash Wednesday, begins LENT 2016. Hard to believe. As we immerse ourselves in this Jubilee Year of Mercy, announced by Pope Francis, we will journey through LENT at St. Lawrence under the guidance of the theme “Living Lent with Mercy”. The five weeks of Lent will focus on:

A Time for PRAYER  
A Time for CONVERSION  
A Time for TRUST  
A Time for FORGIVENESS  
A Time for RECONCILIATION

During the third, fourth and fifth weeks of Lent the Readings for the Sunday Masses will be taken from Liturgical Year “A”, which are consistent with the RCIA Scrutinies.

I will often speak of and reference materials from Pope Francis during Lent, who leads us through this Jubilee Year of Mercy.

“You shall remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that He might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.” [Deuteronomy 8:2]

Fr. Roman
As you all know Pope Francis has declared this year the Year of Mercy. What he continues to say time and time again is that the “name of God is Mercy”. Our father who loves to forgive. That is all He desires to do, is forgive and expose His merciful heart. The way the father wishes to forgive us is for us to come back to confession. No matter how long it has been since we went to confession and no matter the gravity of our sin--the Father awaits us with His merciful heart waiting to forgive. As Lent approaches quickly it always calls to mind our repentance from sin. At the end of this article you will see the times for our vicariate confession schedule. Please, in the name of Our Father--who is Mercy--come back to confession and allow Jesus’ Precious Blood to wash away our guilt, shame, and chains to sin. Here now is a beautiful 16th century reading on Mercy, sin and what Jesus has done for us by St. Bernard.

Where can the weak find a place of firm security and peace, except in the wounds of the Savior? Indeed, the more secure is my place there the more he can do to help me. The world rages, the flesh is heavy, and the devil lays his snares, but I do not fall, for my feet are planted on firm rock. I may have sinned gravely. My conscience would be distressed, but it would not be in turmoil, for I would recall the wounds of the Lord: he was wounded for our iniquities. What sin is there so deadly that it cannot be pardoned by the death of Christ? And so if I bear in mind this strong, effective remedy, I can never again be terrified by the malignancy of sin.

Surely the man who said: My sin is too great to merit pardon, was wrong. He was speaking as though he were not a member of Christ and had no share in his merits, so that he could claim them as his own, as a member of the body can claim what belongs to the head. As for me, what can I appropriate that I lack from the heart of the Lord who abounds in mercy? They pierced his hands and feet and opened his side with a spear. Through the openings of these wounds I may drink honey from the rock and oil from the hardest stone: that is, I may taste and see that the Lord is sweet.

He was thinking thoughts of peace, and I did not know it, for who knows the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor? But the piercing nail has become a key to unlock the door, that I may see the good will of the Lord. And what can I see as I look through the hole? Both the nail and the wound cry out that God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself. The sword pierced his soul and came close to his heart, so that he might be able to feel compassion for me in my weaknesses.

Through these sacred wounds we can see the secret of his heart, the great mystery of love, the sincerity of his mercy with which he visited us from on high. Where have your love, your mercy, your compassion shone out more luminously that in your wounds, sweet, gentle Lord of mercy? More mercy than this no one has than that he lay down his life for those who are doomed to death.

My merit comes from his mercy; for I do not lack merit so long as he does not lack pity. And if the Lord’s mercies are many, then I am rich in merits. For even if I am aware of many sins, what does it matter? Where sin abounded grace has overflowed. And if the Lord’s mercies are from all ages for ever, I too will sing of the mercies of the Lord for ever. Will I not sing of my own righteousness? No, Lord, I shall be mindful only of your justice. Yet that too is my own; for God has made you my righteousness.

God bless you,
Fr. Steve Mateja
### St. Lawrence Parish

#### 150th Anniversary Celebration

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, February 7, 2016</td>
<td>&quot;150 Years of Grace&quot; Following the 10 a.m. Mass - Fun Shrove Tuesday theme with activities for the children, plus visit the display which takes a look back over the years of St. Lawrence Parish sacramental celebrations!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, April 8, 2016</td>
<td>150th Anniversary Dinner Dance at Penna's An evening event for Adults. Tickets will be available for pre-sale only! Watch the Forum and screen for details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 23, 2016</td>
<td>5K Fun Run/Walk - Sponsored by St. Lawrence Athletic Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 1, 2016</td>
<td>150th Anniversary Celebration Mass 10:00a.m. (note time change from previous announcement). Reception immediately following in the gym. The Most Reverend Allen Vigneron, Archbishop of Detroit, will be the Presider. NO NOON MASS ON THIS DAY.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>There will be no 12:00 noon Mass on May 1, 2016.</td>
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A big "Thank You" to Michelle Sammartino for taking the wonderful pictures of the students included in last week’s “Catholic Schools Week” Forum. We appreciate Michelle sharing her time and photography talent with St. Lawrence!

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### 2015 Catholic Services Appeal

A word of thanks to all Parishioners who designated their year-end offerings or provided pledges to our CSA campaign. It amounted in approximately $15,000 of additional pledges. We have received $179,205 in pledges to-date, but have an outstanding balance of $56,401 to reach our $235,606 target. Some parishioners have been submitting their weekly offering designating it to CSA. Simply write the words “CSA” or “Additional CSA” on the face of the envelope. This is a way to provide your weekly offering to the Parish and work away at our CSA remaining pledge balance. In addition, this supports Fr. Roman and the Finance Council as we move closer to the target and minimize/eliminate the shortfall, leaving our Parish operating budget intact. Pledges can be made until the 2016 Appeal begins in late April - early May. Only 20% of the registered Parishioners have contributed thus far. If you are one of the 80%, please consider designating one of your weekly offerings towards CSA. No amount is too small! Thank you St. Lawrence Parishioners for your prayerful support and your continuing generosity!

Marie DeArment
2015 CSA Chairperson

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### CSA 2015 Goal $235,606.00

Have you made your pledge yet?

- **Amount Pledged**: $179,205
- **Amount Remaining**: $56,401

**24%**

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**Thank You!**
As Catholics, we are called to put the Two Feet of Christian Service -- Charity and Justice --- into action!

We step with the foot of charity when we work to assist others with their immediate, short-term needs. We step with the foot of justice when we work to address the root causes of problems facing our communities.

Jubilee Year of Mercy
February Moments of Mercy

Each month, we will share Moments of Mercy, brief reflections on mercy and concrete suggestions of how we can live out the mercy that God offers us all. These are perfect for busy days since they help us to slow down for just a few minutes and think about the gifts God has blessed us with and how we can share them.

Lent begins this Wednesday, February 10th, Ash Wednesday and our parish theme is Living Lent with Mercy. Pope Francis says, “The season of Lent during this Jubilee Year should also be lived more intensely as a privileged moment to celebrate and experience God’s mercy.”

As we think about Pope Francis’ words let us be grateful for the forty days we have during Lent to draw closer to Jesus. Forty days for our Heavenly Father to shower us with mercy, love and healing. God wants to do wonderful things in our lives, and it’s more likely to happen if we take the time to ‘return’ to him.

So let us be aware of and use wisely this privileged time we have during Lent to celebrate and experience God’s mercy.

PBJ Ministry

“For I was hungry, and you fed me.”
- Matthew 25:35

The PBJ Ministry needs your help! We will serve peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to the homeless people in Detroit.

If you would like to learn more about this new ministry, please contact Terri Irvine at 810-343-4598.

If you are interested in making a monetary donation, please make payable to PBJ Ministry and place in the collection basket. This helps us with our purchases of bread, bananas and other items.

This is sure to be a rewarding experience as we answer Jesus’ call to feed the hungry.

Rest in Peace

Richard Kolpasky
Born to Life: October 5, 1933
Born to Eternal Life: January 29, 2016

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
School News

School Mission

We are a Catholic School family dedicated to nurturing and celebrating a love for Jesus Christ and educating the whole child with academic excellence.

Mon. Feb. 8

- NEW FAMILY Online Enrollment continues for IN-PARISH & OUT of PARISH (Nursery-8th Grades)
- Buffalo Wild Wings Fundraiser 5:00-9:00 PM - Mound & Hall Road (Benefits Pre-K & KN)

Tue. Feb. 9

- NEW FAMILY Online Enrollment continues for IN-PARISH & OUT of PARISH (Nursery-8th Grades)
- 4th Grade: Healthy Kids - Healthy Hearts (Social Hall) Sessions: 9:45-10:45 AM 1:30-2:30 PM 2:45-3:45 PM
- Chess Tournament Practice 4:00-5:00 PM (Room 107)
- 5th & 6th Grades: Forensics Team Awards Luncheon

Wed. Feb. 10

- NEW FAMILY Online Enrollment continues for IN-PARISH & OUT of PARISH (Nursery-8th Grades)

Thu. Feb. 11

- NEW FAMILY Online Enrollment continues for IN-PARISH & OUT of PARISH (Nursery-8th Grades)

Fri. Feb. 12

- IN-SCHOOL Families with NEW Students (Forms must be returned example: Transfer of Records, Bus)
- Drama Club: Mandatory Dance Rehearsal for ALL CAST 4:00-6:00 PM

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

New Family Enrollment Applications

AVAILABLE ONLINE ONLY

Enrollment Application and Required Documents MUST be completed online and printed out.

These forms, along with all other required documentation, will be accepted during regular school office hours Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM-4:00 PM

DOCUMENTS MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR APPLICATION.

We will not accept any applications without the required documents.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:

Printed Enrollment Application Form
Copy of Birth Certificate, Copy of Baptismal Certificate and
Copy of most recent Report Card (only if child currently attends school).

Please include a copy of your child’s current immunization records if available.

Seeing Miracles

I will never forget being stranded on the Lodge Freeway on a foggy, snowy evening. Downtown Detroit was a parking lot and it took a long time to access the entrance ramp. But then I ran into a massive puddle of icy water. I knew the distributor cap must have gotten drenched and the car was probably going to stall. Sure enough, not 15 feet further the engine died. I was stranded on the freeway with cars swerving to avoid re-arranging my bumper. I was crying in fear and praying. Two minutes later, a miracle happened. My brother had gotten turned around trying to get home and found himself on the Lodge Freeway. He doesn’t know how he ended up in downtown Detroit as he was miles to the north. He noticed my yellow Nova and stopped to help. He dried the cap, got my car started and followed me home while I prayed my thanks. Every day miracles happen all around us. God puts miracles in our lives to ensure his order is achieved and to help us on our road back to him. Miracles are also God’s way of showing us that if we pray for intercession, he will answer us. If we look deeply at our lives, we will find the miracles God has worked for us.

Talking with a Stephen Minister can help in so many ways. If you or a loved one need someone to listen to you during a life crisis and would like to have your own Stephen Minister to talk to, call St. Lawrence Catholic Church at 586-731-5347 to speak with one of the Stephen Leaders.

We would like to welcome, into our faith community, those baptized

on January 30, 2016, by Rev. Steven Mateja

Lillianna Nicole Palimino, daughter of Joseph Palimino and Amber Moore

on January 31, 2016, by Rev. Roman Pasieczny

Eleanor Doris Olczak, daughter of Phillip and Nicole (Demiglio) Olczak
A Word . . . From the D.R.E.

Sharing the Good News of Jesus is just as difficult today as it was for the Apostles. The Corinthians, like us, needed encouragement and correction. Sometimes we get tangled up with life and overlook the core message of faith: Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and rose on the third day. Baptism gives us a mission, like the Apostles, to be fishers of men and share our faith. Often we work hard and feel like nothing happens. We trust the Lord when we go out to deep water that we will be effective.

This weekend we celebrate 150 Years of Grace in our Parish family. The sacramental life of St. Lawrence has yielded a great catch:

- 14,259 Baptisms
- 13,345 First Communions
- 11,233 Confirmations
- 3,739 Weddings

Thousands of lives have indeed been blessed by the Good News! Imagine how many more have been blessed by the faithful witness of our parish members. As we begin Lent this week, let us remember God’s Mercy as He continues to bless St. Lawrence Parish. Like Isaiah, we can boldly respond to His call and say, “Here I am, send me!”

Please mark your calendars for these Important CRE Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 8/9</td>
<td>CRE Classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 15/16</td>
<td>NO CLASSES - Winter Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 22/23</td>
<td>Reconciliation at 6:30p each night</td>
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<td>KN, 1, 2 will have class at 6:30p</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 29/Mar. 1</td>
<td>CRE Classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 7/8</td>
<td>CRE Classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 14/15</td>
<td>CRE Classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 21/22</td>
<td>CRE Classes (Holy Week)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 28/29</td>
<td>NO CLASSES - Easter</td>
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Peace and Blessings,
Lisa Rajnicek (pronounced “ray-na-chek”) (586) 731-5072
CRE@stlawrenceparish.com
www.stlawrenceparish.com/religionseduc.html

Youth Ministry—6th thru 12th Grades

CHECK OUT YOUTH MINISTRY!
WE HAVE...

- Youth Group
- Service Projects
- Social Activities

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 14th: Youth Group Meeting</td>
<td>7:00-9:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 21st: Passion Play Rehearsal 1:00-3:30pm and February 21st: Youth Group Meeting 7:00-9:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 28th: Passion Play Rehearsal 1:00-3:30pm</td>
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Contact Deann, Coordinator of Youth Ministry, for more details: DSitler@stlawrenceparish.com

Passion Play—Good Friday (3/25/16)

Passion Play
Grades 6th-12th

Once again we will be putting on the Passion Play for our parish. We need your help to make this possible! If you are interested in a part please fill out this form and bring it with you to Youth Group, or drop it at the CRE office.

I am interested in being a part of the Passion Play 2016. Rehearsals are in February and March.

Name:_________________________
Email:_________________________
Phone Number__________________

Questions/Return to:
Deann Sitler, Youth Minister
CRE Office
731-5072 x244

Divine Mercy Prayer Line

As Jesus revealed to St. Faustina, “I have opened My Heart as a living fountain of mercy. Let all souls draw life from it.” If you or others would like to receive prayer for your intentions, contact Eileen at the Divine Mercy Prayer line: (586) 725-0944.

YOUTH MINISTER’S NEW NAME AND EMAIL

PLEASE NOTE THAT MY NAME HAS CHANGED TO DEANN SITLER AND MY NEW EMAIL ADDRESS IS DSITLER@STLAWRENCEPARISH.COM
Congratulations, Honor Roll Student!

Austin Catholic High School is proud to announce that Peyton Weingartz (9th Grade) has achieved academic success during the fall semester at Austin Catholic High School, earning her honor roll distinction. St. Lawrence, along with Austin, commends Peyton and her family for their commitment to academic and spiritual growth and success.

Coffee and Donuts

Would you/your group like to host the coffee and donut hospitality after the 8:00 am or 10:00 am Sunday Mass? If you are interested, please sign-up in the “Coffee and Donuts Host’s Manual” in the social hall kitchen or call the parish office, 586-731-5347. Thank you!

Emergency/Crisis Hot Lines

Alcohol/Substance Abuse: 1-877-337-0611
Crisis Hot Line-mental health: 586-307-9100
Domestic Violence: 1-800-799-7233
Food and Shelter: 211
Pregnancy Help/Right to Life: 1-800-579-6626
Project Rachel/Post Abortive Support: 1-888-722-4355
Suicide Prevention: 1-800-273-8255

We need your help! Volunteers are needed in many areas to help with our Friday Lenten Fish Frys. Please see an usher after Mass for more information or to sign up!

Little Flock Prayer Group

“LITTLE FLOCK” CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

Prayer Group meeting every Wednesday in the School Library, 7:30 pm

NO PRAYER MEETING THIS WEDNESDAY, 2-10-16 - ASH WEDNESDAY.

The “NOW” Word discerned by the DCCR Assembly - November, 2015 for prayer during the next 6 months of 2016 - is divided into 4 categories. We shared the “Call”, “Proclamation”, and “Promise” sections over the last 3 weeks. We are sharing the “Directions” this week. Please review and pray about them to see how these fit into your life.

DIRECTIVE:
• Come sit with Me and tell Me the day’s events
• I will wipe away every tear and we will laugh together.
• Melt into My arms.
• Let My love wash over you. Accept My love.
• Let My word resound in you.
• Trust in Me and do not be afraid - believe.
• Let Me set the timetable for you.
• Know who you are in Me and never be ashamed of it.

For Information, contact:
Jim /Shirley Brodi -----------------586-739-3802
Mary Sackey------------------------586-731-4914
Bob Hurlbert -----------------------586-412-1029

Please note:
There will be no slide show announcements, prior to Mass (in the gym), during renovation of the Church.
Disposal of American Flags

In case you are not aware, there is a proper and honorable way to dispose of frayed and torn American flags.

If you have a flag that you no longer fly due to its poor condition, please bring it to St. Lawrence and give it to an Usher before one of the weekend Masses. They will see to it that it is disposed of properly. This is an ongoing program so please feel free to turn in your flag(s) on any weekend!

Thanks!
St. Lawrence Ushers

The 2016 Lenten Fish Fry Fridays begin on February 12th!
We look forward to seeing you there!

St. Lawrence Pro-Life Group Presents:

“Sidewalk Counseling and Training”

**Saturday, February 13, from 1:30pm to 3:30pm in the St. Lawrence School Cafeteria**

Presented by Guadalupe Partners, a non-profit partnership of pro-life people who help abortion-minded women to make life-affirming choices.

This training session will help individuals:

- Who pray at abortion facilities
- Who would like to pray at abortion facilities
- Who volunteer in pro-life activities
- Who want to know how to lovingly reach out to abortion-minded individuals

*Lunch will be provided.*

Please RSVP by Wednesday, February 10 at: profoundlyprolife@yahoo.com or to Sharon Gill at 586-254-9481, with your name and contact information.

A free-will donation will be accepted.
Healthy Hearts

You are invited to the next Women’s Club meeting in February. We scheduled a special guest speaker, Dr. Thomas Bering, because February is Heart Health Month. The doctor is a member of the parish. He will educate us about Coronary Heart Disease in Women discussing the symptoms, risk factors, treatment and prevention.

Dr. Bering is in Private Practice in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics with privileges at William Beaumont Hospital in Troy and Royal Oak. He is a professor at both Wayne State University and Oakland University Schools of Medicine. The Faith and Wellness Ministry is sponsoring this meeting with us. We’re sure that it will prove to be an informative and meaningful evening for us.

St. Lawrence Women’s Club Meeting
Healthy Hearts
Wednesday, February 17, 2015
7:30-9:00 PM in the Cafeteria

Hope to have you join us. Questions please call Cathy Scanlan, Vice President, 586-739-5992. Refreshments are provided.

*The meeting will be cancelled if St. Lawrence School is cancelled that day due to the weather.*

It might interest you to know that the St. Lawrence Women’s Club is on Facebook. Check us out and become a friend!

CSA Update: Youth and Young Adult Ministry

“Mercy is Falling,” a retreat for those who minister to our youth and young adults, will be held February 19-20 at the Capuchin Retreat Center in Washington, Michigan.

The retreat offers youth and young adult ministers the opportunity to join together, and reflect and pray as they deepen their understanding of God’s mercy in their lives. Retreatants will hear from Father Tony Fox, OFMConv., who is currently the campus minister for the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

Because of your gifts to the Catholic Services Appeal, the Office for Youth Ministries is able to minister to those who foster the spiritual and personal growth of our youth, and empower them to become disciples of Jesus Christ and actively witness their faith. The Office for Young Adult and Campus Ministry continues this important work as they enter college and life in the secular world.

For more information about CSA-funded ministries, programs, and services, go to [www.AOD.org](http://www.AOD.org).

St. Lawrence K of C Vocation Update

“Thank You” to everyone who attended the “Leo C. Niedzwiecki Memorial Seminarian Benefit Dance” and who supported raffle. A great time was had by all! $8,000 profit was realized from the dance, raffles and $100 Club Members.

A Special thanks goes to Weingartz & Utica Antiques Market for sponsoring the raffle. Another “Thank You” goes to Fr. Steve and the many Seminarians who attended the dance.

The Following are the $100 Club members. Thank you once again!!!!


The Seminarians are VERY appreciative. Check out the Vocation board in the Gathering Space for some of the “Thank You’s.”

Sincerely
Dale Niedzwiecki
Vocation Chairman
Tips on Parenting a Child who has ADD/ADHD

• Stay positive and healthy yourself. Taking care of yourself is the most important thing you can do for your child.

• Establish structure and clear expectations and stick to them. Make sure you communicate expectations to your child. Even though they may not be met every time, make sure that everyone knows what the expectations are and strives to meet them. Praise your child every time he/she tries to meet them.

• Encourage movement and sleep. Exercise improves concentration, decreases anxiety and depression and helps them sleep better!

• Help your child eat right. Monitoring what and when your child eats can help decrease symptoms of ADD. Prevent unhealthy eating habits by scheduling regular nutritious meals or snacks for your child no more than three hours apart. Physically, a child with ADD/ADHD needs a regular intake of healthy food; mentally, meal times are a necessary break and a scheduled rhythm to the day.


Parish participation in Walk to Jerusalem has been and continues to be amazing. Our focus this week is performing a Spiritual Work of Mercy by praying for the living and dead. Remember these people as you dedicate your sacrifices of prayer and exercise. As we near Mardi Gras, let us pray for moderation in our life choices.

We will be modifying our route to Jerusalem, so watch for weekly updates as we have the opportunity to visit some very spiritually meaningful sights along the way. Listen closely to the Announcements at the end of mass, and check out the World Map in the Gathering Space to learn about these holy places.

The Last Stand

In 2004, Edmund Miller, a teacher at Spiritus Sanctus Academy in Ann Arbor, organized a peaceful prayer protest outside a local abortion facility. One protest turned into many, with teachers, parents and students regularly attending. It wasn’t long before Alicia Wong, a parent and now teacher at the Academy, helped convince a young mom seeking abortion to change her mind. Inspired by this, Edmund, Alicia, and a few others, continued to meet and pray at the facility, and two years later the abortion clinic closed its doors.

Out of this success, Guadalupe Workers was established to help abortion-minded women make life-affirming choices. Since then, this small army of prayer warriors has helped over one hundred moms change their minds about abortion.

Guadalupe Workers devotes itself to affirm the mother’s innate dignity, by first defending the child, and then defending the mother. They provide personal and individual assistance as needed in the form of rent and utility assistance; diapers and other necessities; help with certification and degree completion programs; and even housing and transportation. They are a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization who rely on the generous support of others.

They also provide sidewalk counseling and training for those interested in learning how to lovingly reach out to women seeking abortion. On February 13, Guadalupe Workers will be giving a training session here at St. Lawrence. (See flyer in bulletin or contact Sharon Gill at profoundlyprolife@yahoo.com for more info and to RSVP).

In a world that is hostile to motherhood, Guadalupe Workers understand that the frontline of this battle against evil is at the abortion facility. It is the last chance to save a life, to stand up for those who cannot speak for themselves. It is the last stand in the face of overwhelming odds. Armed with the Holy Spirit to guide them, they boldly confront the darkness, to “rescue those being led away to death, hold back those staggering toward slaughter” (Prov. 24:11-12).

For more information on this organization please contact Alicia@guadalupeworkers.org. To send a donation please mail to: Guadalupe Workers, 67919 W. Eight Mile Rd., South Lyon, Mi., 48178.

If you feel you are being called to the pro-life ministry and would like to join us, please contact Sharon Gill at profoundlyprolife@yahoo.com.
**The Living Stone—News from the Holy Land**

**A Lenten Journey** Do you know why Lent lasts 40 days? In the early church, those seeking Baptism took part in a long period of preparation. The time immediately before the Easter celebration became a 40 day “retreat,” modeled on the time Jesus spent in the desert.

Over the centuries, the rituals for initiating adult Christians fell into disuse, and the baptismal character of Lent took a back seat to the penitential aspect of the season. Lent’s 40 days are meant to take the Christian on a spiritual pilgrimage into the desert with Jesus. After the time in the desert, Jesus begins His public ministry. In like manner, Christians emerge from Lent to live their Christian commitment in their public witness to Christ.

The physical desert where Jesus experienced temptation, Mount of Temptation, is found in the Judean wilderness of Jerusalem and the Dead Sea. Nearby are Jericho and the Jordan River where John baptized Jesus. In the same area, is Wadi Qelt, located in the West Bank and stretching 22 miles from a point near Jerusalem, east to Jericho. Wadi is the Arabic word for valley, and a wadi usually has a dry river bed running through it. The wadi—seen from the Wadi Qelt overlook—is traditionally the place of “the valley of the shadow of death” of Psalm 23.

Wadi Qelt is a deep gorge with hills all around it. The streambed is below, cliff tops tower above. Trails snake along the sides of the wadi. An ancient aqueduct meanders along the hillside, parts of the waterway dating from the second Century before Christ. The wadi’s bed contains green shrubs and grasses, fed by water seeping from the aqueduct. Otherwise, anything growing in the wilderness struggles to survive. Hikers are keenly aware of anyone walking alone through such desert faces a challenge.

The desert plays a significant part in the story of salvation. Here, the people of God encountered God. Travelers to the Holy Land experience the Judean wilderness. As spiritual pilgrims, we can enter the Lenten desert as we examine our baptismal commitment to Christ. Lent provides a time to focus as a traveler in the desert must do. The desert focuses you as you search for the means of survival. In the Lenten desert, we see ourselves as vulnerable, fragile, and limited. We soon realize our dependence on God. All the illusions we cling to in our comfortable world fade away in the heat of the desert sun, the harsh dry winds, and the rocky terrain underfoot.

The desert is a place for testing. The time in the wilderness reminds us of the challenge of desert living plus the stark loneliness. In our inner life, challenges lead us to make choices, letting go of control over our environment.

**The Living Stone (cont.)**

(such as the desert), and seeking to accommodate ourselves to the One True God. Once you are focused, you are prepared for an encounter in the desert. As we walk through the wilderness, we become closer with our fellow travelers. The desert is a place to open ourselves to others and to the Other who is God.

The Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving tie in closely with the desert journey. Prayer focuses the pilgrim on God as the source of sustenance along the way. Fasting reminds us that, in the desert, we must be aware of our resources and recognize that all we have comes from God. Almsgiving brings us into solidarity with fellow travelers and evokes the hospitality which is central to the life of the desert nomads.

**Source:** "A Lenten Journey: Entering the Lenten ‘Desert’” by Greg Friedman, OFM; The Holy Land Review, Spring 2015; pp.13-17.

/Mike Butkiewicz

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**Abigayle Ministries Fundraiser**

Abigayle Ministries Annual Fundraising Banquet will be held on March 15, 2016, at The Palazzo Grande Banquet Center in Shelby Township. This year’s event will include an elegant dinner, ministry highlights, client testimonies, thoughts from keynote speaker and local Christian radio host Robin Sullivan, and an opportunity to support our outreach to homeless pregnant women and their babies.

No charge for tickets. Reservations required. Reserve seats at [www.abigayleministries.org](http://www.abigayleministries.org) or call (586) 323-1411 by February 23.

**THE JOURNEY WITHIN ... The Experience Of Lent**

**Managing Chronic Pain**

The St. Lawrence Faith & Wellness Ministry is hosting a seminar on “Managing Chronic Pain.” The speaker will be nationally known Pain Management Nurse Practitioner Linda Vanni, MSN, RN-BC, ACNS-BX, NP Providence-Providence Park Hospital

Date: Wednesday, March 9, 2016

Time: 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Where: St. Lawrence School Cafeteria

Mark your calendars for this event!
Basketball

An end to end, grueling flat out defensive performance from the 6th-8th Grade Varsity Girls #1 and an undefeated St. Hugo #1 team, led to a classic finish last Saturday at St. Lawrence. The Mustangs trailed 8-2 after quarter one in this much anticipated rematch with the Vikings, and narrowed it to 8-4 by shutting out St. Hugo in the 2nd quarter and scoring a last minute basket by Rachel Whitehead. After a few adjustments at halftime, St. Lawrence score the first two baskets in the 3rd quarter to knot the score at 8-8! The Mustangs defense played at an incredible level, shutting out the Vikings AGAIN in the 3rd quarter as their offense warmed up. Two baskets from Megan Gleason and one each from Brooke Imrick and Whitehead gave the Mustangs a tight 12-8 lead after 3 quarters. St. Hugo refused to go away, wiping out the short lead with 2 baskets midway in the final stanza. Lauren Gumma then came thru with a huge triple and Whitehead dropped in a bucket and 2 free throws, before a wild and crazy last 30 seconds of the game saw St. Lawrence prevail, 19-17.

The 5/6th Grade JV Girls #2 played an incredible game last Saturday 1/30, at their last home game in the gym this season. They jumped out to an early lead, but saw the game remain in a close heat with baskets coming from Alyssa Samartino, Noelle Ermiger, Mia Daher, Jackie Orlando and Gabriella D’Agostini. With foul shots sprinkled in by Ava Baxa and Orlando, the game was tied 12-12 at the end of regulation, leading to a a 3-minute overtime. Samartino was fouled in overtime, and scored both foul shots, and came back again with a basket, ending the game to a cheering crowd, 16-12. This game marks their 7th win of their Regular Season, remaining undefeated in League play.

The 5th-7th Varsity Girls #2 played their last home game this season at St. Lawrence last Saturday as well against visiting Our Lady of Refuge and perhaps played their best game of the year, coming up just short in a thrilling 20-19 loss. The girls came out strong, taking a 6-0 advantage through the 1st quarter, but their aggressive defense cost them as they quickly got into some foul trouble. The Ravens responded with 8, 2nd quarter points to take an 8-7 halftime lead. The offense came out strong in the third with the Mustangs putting up 11 and taking an 18-12 lead into the 4th quarter behind 6 of her game high 9 points from Breann Piechocki. Refuge responded with a quick 3-pointer, followed by another basket, and in the blink of an eye, the score was 18-17. Our Mustangs continued to play tough but couldn't get shots to fall late, as the Ravens pulled ahead 20-17.

Piejchocki hit a free throw down the stretch to close the lead to 1, but that's as close as they got. It was a great overall game from both teams! Fiona Gasperoni had 7 points, Megan Adamczyk, 3. Great tenacious team defense, all over the court, was led by Maria Murphy, Carly Kolassa, and Gisella Djokic.

Other scores to report:
1/30
at 5/6th Gr JV Boys #3 38 St. Hugo #3 10
St. Hugo #2 30 at 5/6th Gr JV Boys #2 16
at 5/6th Gr JV Boys #1 31 St. Hugo #1 25
at 7/8th Gr Var Boys #2 35 St. Hugo #2 24
at 7/8th Gr Var Boys #1 40 St. Hugo #1 30

Bowling

Varsity #1 won all seven points on Saturday 1/23, starting with a fine 147 baker game. Led by Andrew Rowinski’s 191 game, supported by David Balanón’s 128, they captured game two with ease. Game 3 was again led by Rowinski’s 145 and Balanón’s 125, to bring their record to 12-9 for the season.

Varsity #2 lost early in the baker game by 2 pins to Notre Dame Marist. Recovering from the unfortunate loss Alec Yaldo picked the team up with a 128, and a 119 by Giovanni Plosinelli helped win game 2. Game 3 was a close game all the way into the 10th frame, with Plosinelli and Noah Jusko’s throwing 125 games, but the team just fell short. The split score match brought the team record to 12-9.

Last Saturday 1/30, Varsity #1 bowled a very good team from Holy Family and lost the baker game. The entire team then bowled over average to win the next game as Rowinski, bowling as pacer, shot a beautiful 200 game. In their final game the team bowled very well but not enough to keep up with the strong bowlers from the Wildcats. St. Lawrence was able to take 2 of 7 points to bring their record to 14-14.

Varsity #2, bowling against a solid St. Anne team, lost the baker game. Despite a hard fought game 2, with Plosinelli bowling a 125 and Adrian Carreon’s season high 110, it wasn’t enough to win the game. Game 3 saw Noah Jusko throw a 115, but St. Anne prevailed with all 7 points, bringing the Varsity #2 record to 12-16.

Coaches needed

Athletics is in great need of Baseball and Lacrosse coaches for the upcoming spring season. If interested in getting involved in one of these two Spring Sports programs, please contact the Athletic Director, Greg Mangold at 586-850-0410.
Jubilee Year of Mercy Pilgrimage
TO
POLAND
WITH FR. JOHN RICCARDO & FR. STEVE MATEJA
OCTOBER 9 - 18, 2016

ONLINE BOOKING AVAILABLE
For Information, please call Corporate Travel at 313-565-8888
Prayer List

Jesus, you are God's Gift of healing love. While on earth, you healed those who came for help. We believe that you continue to heal today. Heal all those for whom we pray, especially those on our list. Amen.

If you would like to add someone to the prayer list you may call the parish office or email your request to parish_secretary@stlawrenceparish.com

Pray for Those Serving in the Military

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. Amen.

Date/Time	Presider*	Altar Servers	Lectors

Saturday, February 13, 2016
4:30 pm	Fr Steve	Marco Giulianielli, Haley Iacona	Benjamin Iacona
Austin Masalskis-Hardie
Mary Jo Szlaga
Teri Flores

Sunday, February 14, 2016
8:00 am	Fr Steve	Michael Huiskens, Tommy Whitehead	Rachel Whitehead
Felicia Welch

Sunday, February 14, 2016
10:00 am	Fr Roman	Julia Kroha, Michael Kolpasky	Elizabeth Blaine, Thomas Blaine
Michael Coraci
Ron Naborczyk
Tom Naborczyk

Sunday, February 14, 2016
12:00 noon	Fr Roman	Angelo Reyes, Will Weingartz	Abby Weingartz, Laelan Reyes
Gary Graham
Dan Mack
Dan Weingartz
Parish Office
(586) 731-5347
Fax
(586) 731-5393

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Mike Roth, Music Director
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Lisa Rajnicek, Religious Education
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Cathy Ciolino, School Principal
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Rev. Steven Mateja, Assoc. Pastor
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Monica Thimm, Business Manager
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Deann Reusche, Youth Minister
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Lisa DiMercurio, Asst. Principal
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Community Support Staff
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ksabelhaus@stlawrenceparish.com
Stephen Ministry (586) 731-5347
Greg Mangold, Athletic Director (586) 850-0410

Parish Council
parishcouncil@stlawrenceparish.com
Annmarie Iacona, Chairperson
Lorri DeAngelis, Vice Chairperson
Sherry Berry, Secretary

Parish Council Members-At-Large
Cathy Scanlan
Brett Valentine
Cheryl Lloyd
Lawrence Higgins
Greg Padley

Open
Hannah Gianfermi
Marion Lelito
Greg Burnick
Catherine Karim and
Cathy Scanlan
Lisa Ann Roth
Mary Kraus
Rosemary Reilly
Jeff Blaine
Diane Costie

Sacraments
Baptisms are the 2nd Saturday of the month at 5:45 pm and the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month at 1:15 pm. A Baptismal Preparation Class is required for both parents and godparents and is held on the fourth Monday of each month in the Social Hall at 7:00 pm. The Church requires that at least one of the parents and one of the godparents be practicing Catholics, that is, they actively participate in Mass each weekend. Please call the Parish Office to register for classes or if you have any questions.

Marriage arrangements require a six-month parish registration and active Mass participation. Wedding dates are not given out over the phone or before you have been active parishioners for at least six months. Please call the Parish Office for details.

Questions about the Sacrament of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation will be answered by our Religious Education Office. Please call (586) 731-5072 for further information.

School Information
Questions about tuition rates for parish members and non-members, applications to attend the school or any other school related matters will be answered by the St. Lawrence School Office. Please call (586) 731-0135 for further information.

Parish Office Hours
Monday, Tuesday, Friday: 9:00 am to 6:00 pm
Wednesday, Thursday: 9:00 am to 8:00 pm
Saturday: 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Sunday: 9:00 am to 1:30 pm

School Office Hours (During School Year)
Monday through Friday: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Religious Education Office Hours (During CRE Year)
Monday and Tuesday: 9:00 am to 8:00 pm
Wednesday through Friday: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Religious Education Office Hours (Summer)
Monday: 9:00 am to 6:00 pm
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

www.stlawrenceparish.com