

# † Saint Lawrence Church

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## MUSINGS

*By Father Lee Chase*

Thirty years ago this Monday, June 5, I was ordained to the priesthood at the Sacred Heart Cathedral at 10:30 a.m. Bishop Matthew Clark, our late Bishop Emeritus, presided. I was weeks away from my 30th birthday. Gathered in that cathedral were friends, family members, parishioners from the parishes that my classmates, Fr. Brian Cool and Fr. Lance Gony and I, had served. Classmates from the seminary came to be at that Mass, coming from all over the country. The Diocesan choir led the music for the Mass. After the proclamation of the Gospel, we were called by name to present ourselves for ordination. We stood and said confidently, "Present!" The bishop inquired whether we were sufficiently educated and did those in charge of our formation attest to our readiness for the sacrament. Bishop Clark then said the words of election: "We rely on the help of the Lord and our Savior Jesus Christ and we choose these men, our brothers, for priesthood in the presbyteral order." (*Rites of Ordination, 13*) Bishop Clark preached a homily, we were then questioned about our willingness to serve Christ and the Church, to faithfully discharge the office of priesthood, to celebrate the sacred mysteries of Christ with reverence, to proclaim the Gospel, to consecrate our lives to God in union with Christ the high priest. When asked each question, we responded with "I am." We promised obedience, prayer, and respect to our bishop and his successors. We prostrated ourselves before the Altar as the community invoked the intercession of all the saints in the sung Litany. This was followed by the essential act of ordination—the laying on of hands. This was done in absolute silence. The choir began the Gregorian Chant "Veni Creator Spiritus" as all priests present came forward to lay hands on the heads of the Ordinandi. When finished, the bishop chanted the Prayer of Consecration. That was followed by the Investiture of the Priestly Stole and Chasuble, the anointing of our hands with the Sacred Chrism, the Presentation of the Gifts and the Kiss of Peace. The Mass continued as usual, with the three of us concelebrating for the first time the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Even as I write out this description, I fear my words do not capture the power and majesty of that Ordination Mass that I experienced. The emotions I felt were so strong and the awareness of being ordained for the Church, for the Diocese, to carry on

this ministry in His Name...even now I am sometimes overwhelmed.

In thirty years, so much has changed. The numbers of my brother priests in the Diocese of Rochester have gone down dramatically. So many of the priests with whom I worked have gone on to the Lord. The scandals of abuse done to minors and vulnerable adults by priests revealed in the past decade scandalizes me and saddens me and angers me. The daily actions of my priesthood have changed so much in three decades, it's hard to even imagine that back in 1993, that was what I did! In my first few years, I celebrated far more baptisms, First Communions, and Marriages than funerals. That is now not the case. Each person for whom I offered the Mass of Christian Burial is within my heart, and their families. At that most vulnerable time in their lives, I realize the gravity of the priestly ministry as well as the fact that I am only the vessel through whom Christ himself acts to ease the pain of grief.

The Rector of my seminary, Fr. Bob Leavitt, P.S.S., remarked often that the call of the priest is to sanctify those who sanctify the world. More plainly said—make holy the People of God, for they make the world holy. The priesthood is not a privileged class. It is a ministry of service, not of being served. The longer I am a priest, the more I see that you—the faithful Catholic—are so much more worthy to receive the Body and Blood of Christ than I am to distribute it to you.

30 years is not a milestone anniversary like 10, 25, or 50. It is more of a chance for me to once again reaffirm a commitment I made long ago to God and to all of you: to believe what I read, teach what I believe, and practice what I teach. Please pray for me on this anniversary I celebrate. Please know that I pray for all of you, my parishioners. Please forgive me if I have hurt you or offended you in anyway, I never intend to do that. Please pray for all our priests in the Diocese and, especially, that young men from our parish will consider the priesthood for their life's vocation. And one last word—after 30 years, I'm still in awe of that majesty and power of God.

Spend some time with Jesus! Adoration is Monday,  
**June 5, 2023** from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

## *THIS WEEK'S PRAYER*



*This week, we light the  
Sanctuary Lamp in Memory of  
**The DeBerger Family**  
By Gary & Carrie Carlson*

### *Monday, June 5*

*Saint Boniface, Bishop and Martyr*

8:30 a.m. Mass for Deceased Members of The Dasch Family  
By Bernie & Dorothy Fischer

### *Tuesday, June 6*

*Weekday*

8:30 a.m. Mass for Aleyamma Joseph by Mrs. Jessy John

### *Wednesday, June 7*

*Weekday*

8:30 a.m. Mass for Ronald Nicol by Norma Nicol

### *Thursday, June 8*

*Weekday*

8:30 a.m. Communion Service, prayer for Priestly Vocations

### *Friday, June 9*

*Weekday*

8:30 a.m. Mass for Billy Fisher by His Parents

### *Saturday, June 10*

*Weekday*

4:00 p.m. Mass for Mary Antelli Valvano by Family

### *Sunday, June 11*

#### **THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST**

8:00 a.m. Mass for St. Lawrence Parishioners by Father Chase

10:00 a.m. Mass for Dora & Joseph Berardi by Family

## **Readings for the week of June 5, 2023**

Monday, June 5:	Tb 1:3, 2:1b-8/Mk 12:1-12
Tuesday, June 6:	Tb 2:9-14/Mk 12:13-17
Wednesday, June 7:	Tb 3:1-11a, 16-17a/Mk 12:18-27
Thursday, June 8:	Tb 6:10-11, 7:1bcde, 9-17; 8:4-9a/Mk 12:28-34
Friday, June 9:	Tb 11:5-17/Mk 12:35-37
Saturday, June 10:	Tb 12:1, 5-15, 20/Mk 12:38-44
Sunday, June 11:	Dt 8:2-3, 14b-16a/1 Cor 10:16-17/Jn 6:51-58

Due to early submission no mass attendance available

## May 27 & 28, 2023 Collection

	Amount Received	Weekly Budget	Surplus (Shortfall)
Sunday Collection	Not Available	Due to Early Submission	
General Maintenance	Not Available	Due to Early Submission	
School Support	Not Available	Due to Early Submission	

## Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:00 pm  
 Sunday 8:00 am  
 10:00 am  
  
 Mon - Wed, Fri 8:30 am  
 Thu Communion Service 8:30 am.

Holy Days of Obligation  
 Please see bulletin.

## Confessions

Saturday 3:00 pm

## Anointing of the Sick

Please call us if you or a family member wish to be anointed.

## Baptism

Parents should contact the Parish Office at the rectory as soon as they know they are expecting.

## Marriage

Engaged couples should contact us at least **one year** in advance of their desired date.

## Office Hours

Monday - Friday  
 9 a.m. - Noon, 1 pm - 4 pm  
 Phone: 723-1350 fax: 723-1361

## St. Lawrence School

585-225-3870

## Internet and Social Media

Email - rstlawre@dor.org  
 website - stlawrencegreece.org  
 Facebook - www.fb.me/STLGreece

Spend some time with Jesus!  
**Adoration is Monday, June 5, 2023**  
 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

## Parish Staff

### Rectory Office 723-1350

The Very Rev. Lee P. Chase, V.F., S.T.L.  
*Dean, Monroe West Deanery for the Diocese of Rochester, Pastor, x 207*  
 Frank Arvizzigno  
*School Principal, 225-3870*

### Finance Administration

Marisa Stieve  
*Regional Finance Director, x.206*  
 Dawn Nudo  
*Regional Finance Manager, x 205*  
 Cameron Hyzy  
*Regional Business Manager, x203*

### Pastoral Ministry

Deacon David Squilla  
*Pastoral Associate, x. 212*  
 Deacon Manny Asis  
*Senior Deacon, x. 201*

### Administrative Staff

Wendy Speciale  
*Business Manager, x. 201*

Steven Geraci

*Maintenance Supervisor, x 201*  
 Jim Grotke  
*Maintenance, x. 201*

### Faith Formation Ministry

Amanuel Malik  
*Regional Faith Formation Director*  
 (585) 663-2244, x106  
 Debbie Cichelli  
*Regional Faith Formation Administrator, 225-7320*  
 Donna Gray  
*Regional Youth Ministry/CYO, 225-1485*

### Music Ministry

M. Virginia Pierce  
*Music Director, 227-7236*  
 Susan Judkins  
*Song Prayers, 797-3719*  
 Steve Amico  
*Faithful Voices, 225-7338*

# WHAT'S NOW

## This Week At St. Lawrence Church

### Monday, June 5

Adoration - Church 9:00a.m.-3:30p.m.

### Tuesday, June 6

Finance Council Mtg. - Rectory 11:00a.m.  
Faithful Voices - Church 7:00p.m.

### Wednesday, June 7

Daisy Troop - Deacon Hall 5:00p.m.  
Song Prayers - Church 7:15p.m.

### Thursday, June 8

Greece Food Shelf Mtg. - Deacon Hall 9:00a.m.

### Friday, June 9

### Saturday, June 10

### Sunday, June 11



#### Pastoral Planning: Highlighting the Visitation Ministry at St. Charles Borromeo

This ministry's goal is to bring the love and support of the parish to those who cannot come to weekend worship. Currently 26 volunteers serve over 90 parishioners. During home visits, volunteers build friendships while conducting a short prayer service and sharing Holy Communion. Other parish groups are involved: the Knights of Columbus distributing flowers at Christmas and Easter, the Card Ministry sending handmade cards, ladies' groups making lap blankets and prayer shawls. This ministry also serves Legacy at Park Crescent, Legacy at Maiden Park, Grandville Senior Center, and Edna Tina Wilson Living Center where volunteers conduct Communion Services or the Rosary with Communion. The Schola Choir records music beforehand--familiar hymns which allow parishioners to sing along. For more details: <https://holycrossrochester.org/index.php/taskforce>

**ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO PARISH**  
**HOMEBOUND/VISITATION MINISTRY**

The Homebound/ Visitation Ministry has a long history at St. Charles Borromeo. Like other ministries they were on a hiatus for in-person visits during the Covid shut down and have rejuvenated this ministry over the last year.

This ministry supports the Parish Mission Statement to “... serve the diverse needs and celebrate the God-given gifts of our parishioners and the global community in a spirit of joy and generosity.” The ministry’s goal is to bring the love and support of the parish to those who cannot join us in-person at our weekend worship. Generally, our parishioners are elderly, or in some way infirmed and can no longer easily leave their homes. Many are in wheelchairs, some even bedridden. This ministry also serves area nursing homes and hospitals. The number of volunteers and parishioners that we are currently serving are as follows:

	<b><u>February 2023</u></b>
Total # Volunteers	26
Total # Parishioners	103
# Parishioners Receiving Home Visits	48
# in Nursing Facilities	33
# in Nursing Facilities Not Assigned a Visitor	16
# Parishioners Receiving Monthly Calls	19
# Temporary/ Short Term Clients	6
Hospital Visits (Unity Hospital)*	1 (3 parishioners)

Most of the work is done in home visits where the volunteers build friendships with the parishioners they are visiting. They have a short prayer service and share Holy Communion. While parishioners enjoy the camaraderie and friendship that develops with the volunteer, bringing Holy Communion brings them the most joy. They truly miss experiencing the Mass as they have throughout their lives.

An additional component of this Ministry is serving four Assisted Living/Nursing Homes in our area (i.e., Legacy at Park Crescent, Legacy at Maiden Park, Grandville Senior Center, and Edna Tina Wilson Living Center) where we conduct Communion Services or the Rosary with Communion. Our Schola Choir has been very generous and records music to be used at the Nursing Homes. Familiar hymns are chosen allowing parishioners to sing along, which they enjoy.

We recently restarted Hospital Visits at Unity Hospital\*. Covid impacted this part of our ministry for quite some time, even though our priests have always been available for the Sacrament of Anointing at the facilities. As volunteers become more comfortable with hospital visits, efforts will continue to grow in this area.

Consistent feedback from our volunteers is that they receive so much more from participating in this ministry than they feel that they are giving. Parishioners share they are so thankful to have Holy Communion brought to them. They all watch the Mass on television but miss the joy of receiving Christ in the Eucharist.

The list maintained for the Homebound/ Visitation Ministry is used to provide additional outreach from our parish to this group of parishioners. Several examples include:

- The Knights of Columbus distributing Lilies at Easter and Poinsettias at Christmas. These flowers are received with great appreciation from our parishioners.
- Our Card Ministry sends handmade cards 4 times a year.
- Lap blankets and prayer shawls made by our ladies groups have been brought to the local nursing homes that we support.

To increase the outreach given to our parishioners, last August we began sending birthday cards to everyone on the ministry list. Parishioners love receiving the cards and often call the office or send notes to Father John with gratitude after receiving them.

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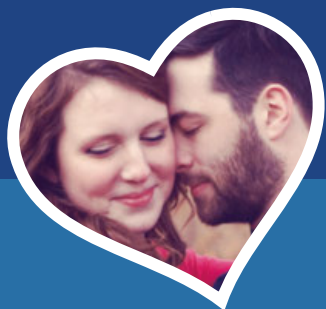


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