



St. Lawrence
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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



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Principal's Corner

Dear Parents,

I hope everyone enjoyed the winter break. Our Catholic Schools Week activities were a lot of fun! We collected \$3,200 from the coin collection, which was given to the St. Lawrence Parish Christian Services group. The money will be used to purchase baby products for the North Macomb Vicariate parishes that have food and supply closets to help families in need. I'm sure the supplies will be greatly appreciated. Congratulations to our Super Bowl winning classes, Mr. Mangold and Mrs. DiLuca, who had their pizza parties today.

We started our Lenten season last week on Ash Wednesday and our third graders participated at mass while the rest of the school watched virtually. After mass, each grade came to the church to receive ashes that were sprinkled on their heads by Father Roman, Father Bondy and Father Matthew.

There are many activities going on for Lent both in the school and parish. Included in this month's newsletter is our Lenten Service Project for MCREST, student Reconciliation dates and in-person mass schedule by grade, the Parish Easter schedule and some helpful links to Lenten reflections and activities. Mr. Barker also shares some of the other school activities we are offering during Lent.

March Reading Month also kicks off next week. Be sure to read about all the wonderful activities and challenges below that the committee put together. Reading is a lifelong skill and so vital to a child's education. Let's encourage our students to read every day and foster a love for reading! Check out the Learning Corner for ideas on how to celebrate reading month at home.

Our list of upcoming calendar items is included below and also listed in our

PARISH NEWS	events calendar on the website, but I want to highlight a couple of recent changes. First, I'm happy to share that Field Day has been added to the calendar and scheduled for June 3. More information will follow as the committee firms up plans.
LEARNING CORNER	However, on a disappointing calendar note, I regret to inform our families that we are canceling our 2021 Gala. Families will <u>NOT</u> be responsible for the \$200 Gala Commitment.
TEACHER SPOTLIGHT	Lastly, we know that many of our school families will be traveling over the Easter break, April 2-11. It is our hope that upon returning from vacation, you take extra care and precaution before sending your children back to school. If you feel that anyone in your family has been exposed to COVID, or is showing signs or symptoms of the virus, we ask that you please keep your children home. We have been extremely blessed to be face-to-face in school this year. We want to finish the 2020-2021 school year strong by keeping our students and staff healthy and safe.
SCHOOL NEWS	As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out. I wish all of you a very blessed Lenten season and wonderful weekend!

Mrs. DiMercurio

Mr. Barker's Bulletin

Greetings! Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Happy Lent! Lent is the forty-day liturgical season of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving (charity) in preparation for the Lord's resurrection at Easter.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. They bear witness to this responsibility first by *creating a home* where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity, and disinterested service are the rule..." (#2223). A few paragraphs later, it further states, "...The parish is the Eucharistic community and the heart of the liturgical life of Christian families; it is a privileged place for the catechesis of children and parents" (#2226).

St. Lawrence Catholic School is a part of the 'parish/Eucharistic community.' In support of this relationship, we have several school activities planned for this Lenten season. Along with our regularly scheduled Wednesday Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Holy Mass at 9:30 a.m., there will be additional opportunities for prayer, fasting, and almsgiving:

Prayer

- Fri. 2/26 Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 9:30 a.m.
- Fri. 3/5 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament – Adoration for students
- Fri. 3/12 Stations of the Cross at 9:30 a.m.
- Fri. 3/19 Holy Mass for the Feast Day of St. Joseph at 9:30 a.m.
- Fri. 3/26 Holy Rosary at 9:30 a.m.

Fasting

- The cafeteria will be serving meatless meals on all Fridays.

Almsgiving

- Student Council will be sponsoring various activities each week for a small donation (e.g., \$1 jeans day). The monies collected will be donated to Catholic charities for the poor and disadvantaged.

Watch for more details to come. Have a blessed and holy Lent!

Mr. Barker

Lenten Reflection & Activity Links

We know that Lent is a time for prayer, fasting and almsgiving, but it is also a great time for reflection. This Lenten season, let's take the time to reflect on our own spiritual lives and how we can use this time to draw our families closer to Christ. Today, there are so many great podcasts, websites and reflections available that can even be sent directly to your inbox. If you want a place to start, below are a few good links to follow, *including a Lenten reflection from Archbishop Vigneron.*

[Dynamic Catholic Videos](#)

[EWTN Lenten Reflections](#)

[Archbishop Vigneron's Lenten Reflection](#)

[Daily Meditations with Bishop Barron](#)

[Holy Heroes Kids Lenten Activities](#)

2021 Lenten Service Project



Lent 2021 - A Journey of Hope

Giving alms has always been an important part of Lent. It is how we reach out to people in need with our time and our talents. Lent gives us the opportunity to share what we have and who we are with other people. It puts us in communion with others and helps us understand that we are all members of the Body of Christ.

This Lent we are going to share what we have and who we are with the homeless guests of the MCREST program by making Blessing Bags. The Blessing Bags will be drawstring backpacks (something that the guests can keep and use again) filled with toiletry, personal and religious items.

Blessing Bag Donations by Grade

We are asking that students make donations based on their grade level. Each classroom will have a bin to place the items in.

Nursery & Preschool - body soap & chapstick
Junior Kindergarten - white crew socks (men's, women's and children's sizes)
Kindergarten - white crew socks (men's, women's and children's sizes)
1st grade - toothbrushes and toothpaste
2nd grade - Neosporin and nail files
3rd grade - deodorant (men's and women's)
4th grade - Easter candy
5th grade - shaving cream (men's and women's)
6th grade - razors
7th grade - Easter cards
8th grade - rosaries

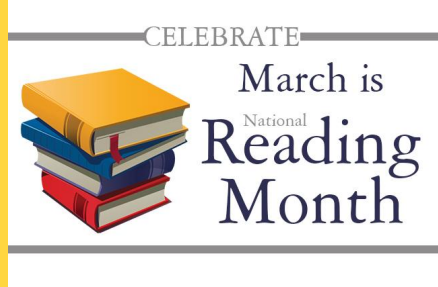
We will collect donations March 1-22. Please contact Jill Coraci (jillysuec@gmail.com) or Rachel Zapczynski (zapczynskir@gmail.com) with questions.

Thank you for your support!

March Reading Month Activities

Read for the **GOLD!**

During the month of March, each grade level will receive a reading challenge (e.g. reading logs, reports, checklists, bingo boards, etc.). If a student completes the challenge at the end of the month, they will receive a golden ticket to be put in a raffle to win a Kindle! All challenges must be completed by March 29th. Winners will be chosen from (Pre-K to 2nd), (3rd-5th), and (6th-8th).



Week of March 1- Reading Month Kick-Off!

- March 2nd: Read Across America! *Students will participate in a Read-in in the gym by grade level.*
- March 2nd: Comfy Cozy Day. *Students may wear sweats or jeans. They may also bring a blanket and a small stuffed animal (must fit in a backpack) to use during the Read-In.*
- Battle of the Books begins! - *March Madness-style brackets to choose the most popular book. More information to follow.*
- D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read) - *Time set aside daily for reading*

Week of March 8 - "Pop Open a Good Book!"

- Students will decorate their lockers with their favorite book cover. (Template will be given)
- Friday, March 12th: "Read My Shirt Day". *Students may wear jeans and a shirt with words on it.*
- Popcorn and Lemonade provided during D.E.A.R. time (sponsored by PTO)
- Battle of the Books continues.
- D.E.A.R. "Drop Everything and Read"

Week of March 15 - "Going for the Gold!"

- Virtual Mystery Readers: *Parents may read to their student's class via Zoom.*
- Wednesday, March 17th: *Students may wear a green/white shirt with jeans.*
- Friday, March 19th: "The Feast of St. Joseph". *Students may wear a red shirt with jeans.*
- Battle of the Books continues
- D.E.A.R. "Drop Everything and Read"

Week of March 22- "Team up for Reading"

- During this week, 8th graders will read to classes.
- Friday, March 26th: *Students may wear a sports jersey/shirt with jeans.*
- Battle of the Books Winner is announced
- D.E.A.R. "Drop Everything and Read"

DATES & DEADLINES

February - Star assessments began. Teachers will email results when complete.

March - March Reading Month.

March 2 - PICTURES - Yearbook Group Activities & Candid Photos

March 8 - NO SCHOOL - AOD Professional Development Day

March 19 - Added Mass in honor of St. Joseph's Feast Day

April 2-11 - Easter Break

SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD NEWS

Below are updates from our Advancement and Catholic Culture committees of the School Advisory Board. If you have any questions, please email the Board at the link below.

[Email School Advisory Board](#)

ADVANCEMENT



Our Virtual Open House was held on January 31st and New Family Applications are now being accepted for the 2021-2022 school year. To apply, go to the "Enrollment" page on the website and click on NEW FAMILY 2021-2022 APPLICATION.

[Apply Now](#)

CATHOLIC CULTURE

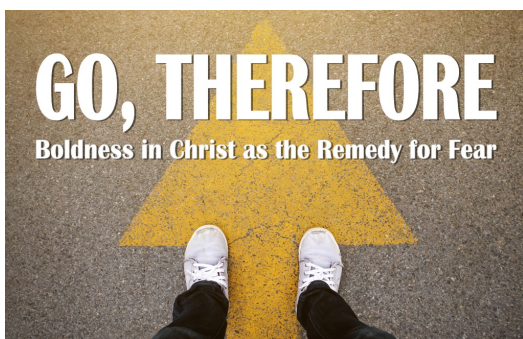


This year has been proclaimed by Pope Francis as "The Year of St. Joseph". The Catholic Culture Committee is planning activities to celebrate our great patron of the Church. The children will make a consecration to St. Joseph on March 19th during mass. We encourage parents to also consecrate themselves to him this year.

To read more about the year of St. Joseph, click below.

[Year of St. Joseph](#)

PARISH NEWS



North Macomb
Vicariate Lenten Mission



Knights of Columbus Youth
Leadership Initiative Program

St. Lawrence Church is excited to be participating in this year's North Macomb Vicariate Lenten Mission on March 13-16, 2021.

This 3-day vicariate mission is titled, *'Go, Therefore - Boldness in Christ as the Remedy for Fear'* and will be held in-person and livestream.

Details include:

- **March 14, 7 p.m. - St. Lawrence Church, Fr. John Riccardo**
- March 15, 7 p.m. - St. John Vianney, Fr. Steve Pullis
- March 16, 7 p.m. - St. Therese of Lisieux, Bishop Robert Fisher
- *(see link below for more details)*

In addition, all participating parishes will be accepting donations for baby care items for the St. Isidore Baby Closet to support local families in need. Items requested include: diapers (size 4-6), diaper wipes, diaper cream, baby wash, shampoo and lotion.

Please bring in donations to St. Lawrence on March 13 between 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. to the Dekeyser entrance. Contact Mary Kraus with questions at 586-731-5347 or email her at mkraus@stlawrenceparish.com.

Vicariate Lenten Mission

Teens and parents are invited to attend an overview of the Youth Leadership Initiative program at the Knights of Columbus Hall on **Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m.** (Each session lasts no longer than 45 minutes.)

The Youth Leadership Initiative invites teens currently in the 8th - 12th grades in the Parish to explore their God-given talents as a means to leadership. Our Initiative uses leadership service opportunities to understand an individual's gifts of the Holy Spirit, project planning considerations, personal accountability and reflecting on the meaning of success.

The St. Lawrence Knights of Columbus promotes leadership at all ages as a means to grow in our Catholic faith and ensure the strong foundation for all generations in expressing the love of God and promoting the name of Jesus Christ to all we encounter.

Sign up through the Signup Genius link below. If you have any questions, please contact Joe Lograsso at lograsso@comcast.net.

*The K of C Hall is next to the school at
44425 Utica Rd. Utica, MI 48317*

SignUp Genius



MCREST

MCREST week at St. Lawrence Parish is April 4-11. Our homeless guests will not be staying with us this year, but we will still share what we have and who we are with them. Due to the pandemic, the MCREST guests have been staying in a motel near the MCREST offices since last March. Sponsoring churches like us are still helping out by providing assistance with meals and needed supplies.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

We need your financial support of checks or gift cards. Your donation will:

- Help pay for 350 dinners. A \$30 donation will provide 3 dinners.
- Help pay for food items in



St. Lawrence 2021 Lent & Easter Liturgical Schedule

Stations of the Cross

Held every Friday at St. Lawrence at 6:30 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Vicariate Services (with Individual Confession and Absolution)

Monday, 3/22 - 7 p.m. St. Isidore
Tuesday, 3/23 - 7 p.m. St. Kieran
Wed, 3/24 - 7 p.m. St. Lawrence
Sat, 3/27 - 1 p.m. St. Therese of Lisieux
Saturdays at St. Lawrence, Feb. 20, 27 and March 6, 13, 20, 27 - 3:30 p.m.

breakfast and lunch boxes. A \$30 donation will provide 5 lunches or 10 breakfasts.

- \$10 gift cards to McDonalds, Burger King, Wendy's or Taco Bell
- Help MCREST with paying the motel bill

Make your check payable to St. Lawrence with 'MCREST' in the memo line. Return your checks and gift cards to the "Home" display in the gathering space.

May the graces we receive this Lent strengthen in us our desire to serve HIM by extending the gift of HOPE to our homeless friends.

For Holy Week Masses and Divine Mercy schedule, please see the document below.

[StL Lent & Easter Schedule](#)

Mass Dispensation Ending March 13!

The General Dispensation from obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days will expire on Saturday, March 13, 2021.

In its place, Archbishop Vigneron is granting a number of particular dispensations for the faithful who may find themselves in specific circumstances (see link below).



[AOD Covid Response](#)

LEARNING CORNER

How to Celebrate March Reading Month at Home



St. Lawrence and schools across the country will be celebrating March Reading Month. While students will have plenty of opportunities to foster a love for reading in school, click on the article below for 10 tips to celebrate reading at home!

[10 Tips to Keep Reading Fun at Home](#)

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Mrs. Sclafani

In our February Teacher Spotlight, let's get to know Kindergarten teacher Mrs. Danielle Sclafani.

Mrs. Sclafani is a new Kindergarten teacher at St. Lawrence this school year. She previously taught third grade and kindergarten in Utica Community Schools and has been teaching for five years. She graduated from Wayne State University with a Bachelors in Elementary Education.



Her and her husband Cesare, have been married for 10 years and have three beautiful boys, two of whom attend St. Lawrence - Vincent (2nd), Dominic (K) and Anthony (2 years old).

When she's not in the classroom, Mrs. Sclafani enjoys spending time with family and friends, cooking, shopping and playing games with her boys. Welcome Mrs. Sclafani!

SCHOOL NEWS & UPDATES



Reconciliation Dates

This Lenten season, students will be receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation on March 1 and 2.

Mass Schedule

Below are the grades that will be attending in-person mass each week. *Dates are subject to change.*

2/24 - Kindergarten

3/3 - 8th

3/10 - 5th

3/17 - 2nd

3/19 - 3rd

3/24 - 7th

3/31 - 4th

4/14 - 1st

4/21 - 6th

4/28 - 3rd

5/5 - 2nd

5/12 - 8th

5/19 - 5th

5/26 - Kindergarten

6/2 - 7th

6/9 - 4th

Athletics Spring Registration

Registration for Spring Sports is now open! Please visit www.mightymustangs.com and click on the yellow Register Now button to sign up for Lacrosse, Boys' Baseball and Girls' Softball. **Registration deadline is Feb. 28.**

CYO Spring Sports is tentatively set to begin April 12. CYO allows dual participation for spring sports. Your child may try out even if he/she plays for a travel baseball/softball team. Spring Sports are open to boys and girls in grades 5-8 and who are parishioners of St.



REGISTER NOW

Questions? Contact Jill Tocco,

Bus Update

We have received confirmation that St. Lawrence unfortunately will NOT have bus service this school year.



We understand that it is an inconvenience for some of our families, but St. Lawrence School does not have any control over the use of buses. It is the sole decision of Utica Community Schools. It is the tax dollars from those who live in the school district that fund the buses, which is why you must live in the district to have use of them. No portion of school tuition is used to pay for bussing.

St. Lawrence has not yet heard from Utica regarding bus service for next school year. As we receive further updates, they will be communicated to our families.

PTO Fundraisers

Did you know the PTO just donated \$50 for each classroom to help replenish PPE expenses related to Covid? There are several ways to help the St. Lawrence PTO, your students and their teachers by signing up for our many rewards programs.

Our newest program is with Rite Aid. St. Lawrence will receive a portion of the proceeds when you shop or fill your prescriptions there. You can also earn money for the school through Kroger Rewards or by contributing Box Tops, with no additional cost to you! See below for more information.

R FUNDRAISING



Your Support Will Help Us

Earn Funds For Our School

As part of the St. Lawrence PTO community, you are the reason why our organization succeeds. And we need your help. RXfundraising and Rite Aid are willing to give us a portion of the dollars spent on every prescription filled and purchase made at Rite Aid that our supporters make. Join us in this effort by registering with RXfundraising to support our cause. Just follow the steps below to get started!



REGISTER WITH RXFUNDRAISING

Use our link
[https://support.rxfundraising.com/
StLawrenceSchool](https://support.rxfundraising.com/StLawrenceSchool)
to register with RXfundraising.



SIGN UP FOR WELLNESS+ REWARDS

Register for a Rite Aid
wellness+ rewards number if
you don't already have one at
www.riteaid.com/wellness



TRANSFER PRESCRIPTIONS AND SHOP

Transfer your prescriptions to Rite
Aid and start using your wellness+
rewards number when you shop!
[www.riteaid.com/pharmacy/services/
prescription-refills/transfer-
prescriptions](http://www.riteaid.com/pharmacy/services/prescription-refills/transfer-prescriptions)

*Only new Rite Aid customers and any existing Rite Aid customers who do not fall within the specified cure periods for qualifying prescriptions can participate in the RXfundraising program. Qualified prescriptions include maintenance medication and acute medication Prescriptions. Any potential supporter who has bought a maintenance medication Prescription from Rite Aid during the prior 365 days will be excluded from this program. Any potential supporter who has bought an acute medication Prescription from Rite Aid during the prior three years will also be excluded from this program. Qualified in-store purchases include Front End Products (products and services provided in a Rite Aid store other than Prescriptions) except for tobacco products, alcohol products, lottery tickets, gift cards, licenses, money orders, money transfers, newspapers, other mail services and dairy products.

Learn more on our PTO Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/stlawrencepto>

Rite Aid Flyer & Links

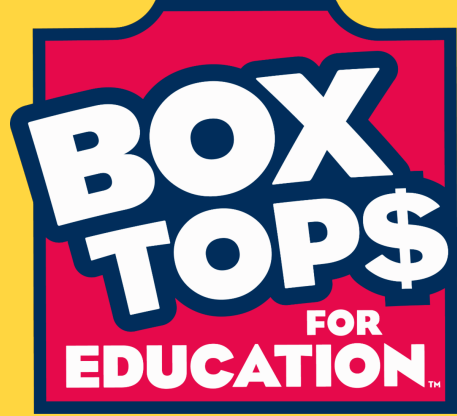


Kroger Rewards

If you shop at Kroger and have a rewards card, you can earn money for the school with NO cost to you.

Just log-in to Kroger Rewards, search for "ST. LAWRENCE SCHOOL PTO" and link your card (the organization number is "AB832").

[Kroger Rewards](#)



Box Tops

Do you already purchase Annie's, Nature Valley, Yoplait, General Mills cereal, Lysol, Pillsbury, Old El Paso and more? Why not help your child earn an end of the year party? Most box tops can be scanned instantly with the box top app; No Clipping Required! Don't want to scan receipts yourself? Send them into school to your child's teacher or snap a pic and send an email to boxtops4stl@gmail.com with the teacher's name and we will submit them for you. Even if you're shopping online or doing grocery pickup, you can still submit your e-receipts.

All receipts need to be submitted within 14 days of purchase. Traditional Box Tops clips are being phased out of production, but please still send any remaining unexpired clips to school.

The classroom with the most box tops in each level (Preschool – 5th and 6th-8th) will receive a party at the end of the year. Click the link below for more info!

[Box Tops](#)