



**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 \$1,884 from the coin collection, which was given to the St. Lawrence Parish Christian Services group to be donated to a local charity for unwed mothers. Congratulations to our grade winners: Mrs. Landa's Kindergarten class, Mrs. Calagna's 4th grade class, and Mrs. Federspiel's 7th grade class.

We are thrilled to have our middle school students move into the new building today and finish the rest of the school year in this beautiful space. Mr. Barker's office will be located in the new building to be close to our middle schoolers. You may view pictures of the move today on our Facebook page.

Our Lenten season starts this Ash Wednesday, March 2. After mass, each grade will receive ashes from Father Roman, Father Bondy and Father Paul.

There are many activities going on for Lent both in the school and parish. Included in this month's newsletter is the Parish Easter schedule and some helpful links to Lenten reflections and activities.

March Reading Month also kicks off this 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!

## TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Also, this month we recognize our 5th and 6th grade teachers in our Teacher Spotlight for the amazing job they do in preparing and supporting our students in middle school.

## 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

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

St. Lawrence has several school activities planned for this Lenten season. Along with our regularly scheduled Wednesday masses, there will be additional opportunities for prayer, fasting, and almsgiving:

### Prayer

- March 2 - Ash Wednesday Mass - distribution of ashes
- March 15 - Reconciliation for 3rd-8th grade students
- March 16 - Mass with Bishop Robert Fisher
- March 18 - All school Stations of the Cross (grades 5-8: 9 a.m.; grade K-4: 10 a.m.)

### Fasting/Abstinence

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

### Almsgiving

- Student Council will be sponsoring various activities with an opportunity for students to make donations that will be distributed to Catholic charities for the poor and disadvantaged.

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

*Mr. Barker*

## DATES & DEADLINES

### March Reading Month

March 2 - Ash Wednesday

March 14 - NO SCHOOL (Professional Development Day)

March 25 - NO SCHOOL (Teacher Records Day)

March 31 - First Reconciliation 6 p.m. Church (Second grade)

April 1 - End of 3rd card marking period

April 4-8 - 8th grade Washington D.C. field trip

April 11-19 - Easter Break

April 22 - 1/2 day of school (noon dismissal); Spring Gala

April 30 - 2nd grade First Holy Communion Masses

## LENTEN REFLECTION 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 and His passion and resurrection. 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 the family prayer challenge from the AOD.*

[Dynamic  
Catholic  
Videos](#)

[EWTN Lenten  
Reflections](#)

[AOD Family  
Prayer  
Challenge](#)

[Daily  
Meditations  
with Bishop  
Barron](#)

[Holy Heroes  
Kids Lenten  
Activities](#)

## SPIRITUAL CORNER

Lent begins on March 2nd this year. Our Lord was tortured and died a most painful death for our sins. Here are some ways we can show our love and gratitude for Him this Lent.

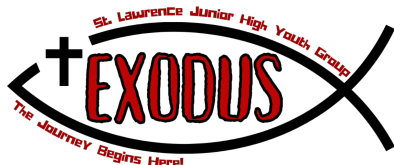


- 1) GO TO CONFESSION! Take an honest look at your soul and make peace with Him. Then, you can receive the graces He longs to give you.
- 2) Pray with your heart and pray as a family. Be models for your children. Many of us set much time aside for extracurricular activities. How much time do we set aside for Our Savior each day? He awaits us patiently.
- 3) Fast and do penance. Make small sacrifices for people in need. This could be as simple as putting less cream in your coffee. No deed goes unnoticed by God. Prayer combined with self-sacrifice is a sure way to be heard by God!
- 4) Be charitable. Give of your time and talents. Be sure to research charities before you donate. As Catholics, we should never support embryonic stem cell research or abortion. Do your homework.

To gain happiness in Heaven, we must know, love and serve God. How are you measuring up? You can't fool God...so come clean with Him. You won't regret it!

[\*\*How to Make a Good Confession\*\*](#)

## PARISH NEWS



### Youth Group News

St. Lawrence Junior High Youth Group is now called *Exodus*.

#### Upcoming meeting dates

March 4<sup>th</sup>: <http://evite.me/fxKQHKeJfB>

March 18<sup>th</sup>: <http://evite.me/6VfJETESKq>

#### Passion Play

The Passion Play will be happening again this Good Friday, dates and details will follow. Please reach out to Jack Novak if you're interested. This event would be for High School and Middle School students.

#### MCREST Volunteer Opportunity

Come out and make sandwiches for MCREST on April 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> from 12-2 p.m. in the cafeteria. Open to Middle and High school students. Sign up below.

Contact Youth Minister Jack Novak with questions.

[Email Jack Novak](#)

[MCREST Sign-Up](#)



### CRE News

#### VBS 2022

Save the date for VBS 2022 titled "Monumental: Celebrating God's Greatness!"

July 18-22, 2022 with Family Night on Wednesday

Catechists needed – Email Lisa Rajnicek for more information at [lrajnicek@stlawrenceparish.com](mailto:lrajnicek@stlawrenceparish.com).

#### Lent

Parish Lent focus is Prayer & Repentance. Be sure to check out the prayer challenge from the AOD in the Lenten Reflections section above.

#### 52 Sundays 2022

Copies are in the CRE Office and Gathering Space while supplies last. Suggested donation \$10.

You can also subscribe for free weekly emails at <https://www.52sundays.com/>

Join our Parish Facebook Group: *StL's 52 Sundays - Reclaiming the Lord's Day for Faith and Family.*

[52 Sundays FB page](#)





## MCREST 2022

St. Lawrence Catholic Church will be hosting MCREST week April 10-17. It is our parish's time to share God's unconditional love with the homeless clients of the MCREST program.

As we continue to navigate during the pandemic, our homeless guests will not be staying with us this year. The MCREST guests have been staying in a motel near the MCREST offices. This has not only provided them with shelter but also by being close to the MCREST offices, they can easily meet with their case managers on their plans to get back on their feet again. 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 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 check and/or gift card(s) to the parish office by Sunday, April 10th.**

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.



## St. Lawrence 2022 Lent & Easter Liturgical Schedule

### Stations of the Cross

Held every Friday at St. Lawrence at 6:30 p.m. in church March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1, 8.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Vicariate Services (with Individual Confession and Absolution)

Wednesday, April 6 - St. Lawrence (7 p.m.)

Thursday, April 7 - St. Isidore (7 p.m.)

Saturday, April 9 - St. Therese of Lisieux (1 p.m.)

Monday, April 11 - St. John Vianney (7 p.m.)

*Saturdays at St. Lawrence, March 5, 12, 19, 26 and April 2, 9 - 3:30 p.m.*

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

[StL Letter and Lent & Easter Schedule](#)

## TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

This month's Teacher's Spotlight is on our wonderful 5th and 6th grade teachers. They help mold our pre-teen students and instill strong moral character and a love for Jesus Christ. Let's give thanks for these special teachers!

### Mrs. Gjonaj

This is Mrs. Gjonaj's first year teaching at St. Lawrence and 22<sup>nd</sup> year teaching in total. Mrs. Gjonaj was born and raised in Michigan. After graduating high school, she moved to New York. She received her undergraduate at Hunter College and a Master's Degree in Elementary Education at Mercy College in New York.

She will be celebrating her 31<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary with her husband Tom in



July. She has three children Isabelle 13 and 10-year old twins Noah and Eva. After spending every summer in Michigan with her parents and 12 nieces and nephews, she decided the best place to continue raising her children would be in her home state of Michigan. She has returned back home and is loving it. She says she feels God called her here at St. Lawrence.

**Favorite Saint:** "Saint Christopher is the patron saint of all travelers because I feel we all need our guardian angels looking around us while we have our eyes on the road."

**Advice:** "My favorite quote from Maya Angelou, *'I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.'* Always be mindful of your words because they leave an everlasting effect."

## Mrs. Rider

This is Mrs. Rider's 21st year teaching at St. Lawrence and 25th year teaching total. She received a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Wayne State University and a Master's Degree in Education from Marygrove College.

Together, Mr and Mrs Rider share 3 children... Christopher, age 28; Robert, age 24 and David, age 22. Christopher lives in Seattle, WA, as a graphic designer and both Robert and David are college students at Northern and Oakland. Mrs Rider also has a fur baby, Betsy, who is now 10 years old.

**Favorite Saint:** "Saint Joseph. I grew up with St Joseph as a family favorite saint. We celebrate St Joseph on March 19th by making Italian bread and special dishes with my mother."

**Advice:** "Follow your heart and do what's right. God has a plan for all of us!"



## Mrs. Sorgi

Mrs. Sorgi has been teaching at St. Lawrence for six years. She received her bachelor's degree from Northwood University and her master's degree from Oakland University.

Mrs. Sorgi has been married to Mr. Sorgi for 6 wonderful years and has two children. Mila Maria is 4 years old and loves to dance and play Barbies. Christian Anthony is soon to be 2 years old and loves dinosaurs and cuddle time. She comes from a very large Italian family and they love to spend time together.

In her free time, she loves to read. Mrs. Sorgi is in a book club that she looks forward to every month. In the summer she goes golfing with her dad on Fridays and tries to spend as much time with family as possible.

**Interesting fact:** "I have been playing soccer since I was 3 years old. I played at Northwood University. After college, I started coaching travel soccer. Currently, I run my own soccer camp with over 80 participants, called NCM Academy."

**Favorite Saint:** "My favorite Saint is Saint Francis of Assisi. He loves animals like me."

**Advice:** "Faith over Fear, these are words I say frequently. I remind myself often that my faith is stronger than anything that is worrying me at that time."

**Anything else you'd like your students to know:** "I want my students to know that each and every one of them will ALWAYS have a special place in my heart. I love walking into our classroom everyday and seeing their smiling faces. They are the reason that I enjoy what I do so much!"

## Mrs. Barnowsky

Mrs. Barnowsky (Mrs. B) is in her 24th year of teaching at St. Lawrence. She teaches sixth grade Religion, all three sections of 6th grade Science and one section of seventh grade Science.

Mrs. Barnowsky has two children, Lexi who is 22 and Blake who is 19. Lexi is studying to be a nurse at U of D Mercy and will be starting her clinical's this year. Blake is trying to figure out what trade career to pursue.

Mrs. B loves animals and has three cats: Bandit, Sheeba and a new kitten named Loki. In her free time, Mrs. B and her kids enjoy going out to dinner and to the movies. When their day is done and they want to relax, they like listening to music, reading, and taking naps!



## Mrs. Chamberlain

Mrs. Chamberlain is in her 14th year of teaching at St. Lawrence School. Mrs. Chamberlain graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, with a major in Social Studies and a minor in Science.

Mrs. Chamberlain has been married to her husband Brian for 14 years and has one son Matthew who is a third grader at St. Lawrence.

In the summer, she enjoys spending time up north with her family, swimming in Lake Huron or going four-wheeling. During the winter months, she enjoys doing jigsaw puzzles and watching movies with her family.

**Favorite Saint:** Saint Teresa of Calcutta

**Anything else you'd like your students to know:** "That I care about them - while they are here at school and even when they are not!"

## Mrs. Gaydos

Mrs. Gaydos has been teaching at St. Lawrence for four years and a total of 10 years. She received her bachelor's degree from Oakland University and is just shy of completing her Master's degree in the Teaching of Reading.

She has been married for 25 years and has three sons. Noah is a senior at Oakland University, Sam is a sophomore at College for Creative Studies, and Max is a senior at Dakota High School, also going to College for Creative Studies in the fall.

In her free time, Mrs. Gaydos enjoys reading, spending time with family and vacationing. She's a huge baseball fan and enjoys watching the Detroit Tigers.

**Interesting fact:** "My great-grandmother was a Titanic survivor."



## SCHOOL NEWS & UPDATES

### March Reading Month Calendar



#### St. Lawrence Reading Stampede



#### March is Reading Month 2022

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	1 <b>Saddle Up and Read</b> Create a cowboy themed class name	2 <b>Dr. Seuss Day</b> Wear Dr. Seuss apparel and read a Dr. Seuss book	3 <b>Hats Off to a Good Book</b> Write a book review to hang in the library	4 <b>Plaid Day</b> Wear a plaid shirt and jeans
7 <b>Yee-Haw</b> Decorate a bookmark	8 <b>Cowboy Poetry Day</b> Bring a poem to share with a friend	9 <b>Giddy Up &amp; Get Poppin'</b> Pop some popcorn and read to someone	10 <b>Read a Button Day</b> Wear a button with words	11 <b>Boot Day</b> Wear boots to school
14 <b>Home on the Range</b> Read a good book at home today	15 <b>Read a Shirt Day</b> Wear a shirt with words	16 <b>Quit Horsing Around</b> Read a good book	17 <b>St. Patrick's Day</b> Wear green & jeans	18 <b>Cowboy Comfy Day</b> Wear comfy cozy clothes with tennis shoes
21 <b>Partner Up</b> Read with buddies from another class	22 <b>Reading Stampede</b> Read your favorite book	23 <b>Quick Draw</b> Do a cowboy directed drawing	24 <b>Catholic Cowboys</b> Read about St. Martin from Mexico	25 <b>Chuck Wagon</b> Read your favorite book and enjoy a snack
28 <b>Lasso a Good Book</b> Read with a friend	29 <b>Riddle Day</b> Bring a riddle to share with the class	30 <b>Wrestle up a Good Book</b> Write a book report and hang in the hallway	31 <b>Cowboy Day</b> Dress like a cowboy or cowgirl	

### Athletics

Good luck to our St. Lawrence basketball teams as they head into post-season play!

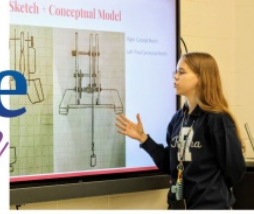
Mustangs, keep an eye out for football registration which will be coming soon! This applies to 3rd-8th grade boys this fall.







# Believe and Become



**74%**  
of the Class of 2021 chose to  
pursue a STEM field in college



**\$8.5 Million**  
earned in college scholarships  
by the Class of 2021



**84%**  
of all Regina students made the  
Honor Roll at the end of the  
20-21 school year



## REGINA HIGH SCHOOL

### OPEN HOUSE MARCH 3 6-7:30 PM

Tour the campus • Meet the staff • \$4,000 tuition voucher raffle

*Start on your path towards success.*

Pre-register at [www.reginahs.com/openhouse/](http://www.reginahs.com/openhouse/) or scan the QR Code.

