



# 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,

We made it through two months of in-person learning, but as you know Father Roman and I made the decision to go to virtual learning now through Nov. 5. This was not an easy decision as I know we all want our students to be in school, but the safety of our students, faculty and families has to be our priority. Thank you for your support in this decision.

Our hope is that families will be mindful of extra group activities during this virtual learning period and be able to return on Nov. 8 healthy and ready to learn as we approach the holidays.

As of now, parent/teacher conferences will be held face-to-face. K-5 parents will get an email on November 1st with a sign-up genius link to sign up for conferences. Grades 6-8 will receive an email with more information on attending conferences, which will be held in the gym.

It has been a busy month and this newsletter has a lot of great information for our school families. Under our School Advisory Board News, we are sharing the results from the survey we issued last spring. You will start to see some of the feedback you provided being implemented by the committees of our School Advisory Board. Namely, many of you wanted to see more volunteer opportunities for your students and families, and we are sharing two in this newsletter.

You also asked to bring back the Teacher Spotlight and we did. Please check out that section to learn more about our wonderful 7th grade teachers this month.

Lastly, Mr. Barker has a beautiful - and very timely - message for all of us to remember during these challenging times. Thank you again for all of your support and may everyone have a safe and Happy Halloween!

*Mrs. DiMercurio*

## MR. BARKER'S BULLETIN

### *'Celebrate What's Right With the World'*

Greetings St. Lawrence families. It's so great to be back with all of our students. It's hard to believe we are already two months in and quickly approaching Advent season.

We appreciate all of our teachers, faculty and parents so much for their flexibility and patience as we have navigated various building and transportation issues. And while it's easy to sometimes focus on our problems, it's equally important to focus on what's going right. Our St. Lawrence staff recently had a professional development day where I shared with them a TEDxTalk video titled 'Celebrate What's Right in the World' by National Geographic photographer Dewitt Jones.

Afterwards, our staff started sharing their own stories of all the great things they have seen so far this year in their classrooms. I wish I could share all of the wonderful stories I heard, from Kindergarteners comforting a friend who got hurt, to a parent complimenting one of our teachers for always being cheerful and smiling during the craziness of pick-up.

One that I thought sums up the vision and mission of St. Lawrence very well happened with our sixth graders during Our Lady of the Rosary. There was a group of five students, but only one had a rosary, so they all shared it and recited a decade each, all with a hand on the rosary. They showed kindness, respect, compassion, all while sharing their love of Jesus through the rosary.

So as we enter into the 'busyness' of the holidays, let's be sure to slow down and celebrate all that is right with our world, our St. Lawrence school and our children. If you'd like to see the full video of the TEDxTalk, you can view it through the link below.

[Celebrate What's Right With the World](#)

## DATES & DEADLINES

Nov. 12 - End of first card marking

Nov. 15-19 - Scholastic Fall Book Fair

Nov. 22 - 1/2 day (dismissal at noon); Parent/Teacher conferences (Nursery - 8th)

Nov. 23 - 1/2 day (dismissal at noon); Parent/Teacher conferences (Nursery - 8th)

Nov. 24-26 - NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving break

Nov. 27 - Giving tree begins (runs through Dec. 6)

Nov. 30 - 3rd-8th grade Advent Reconciliation (1:30 - 3:45 p.m.)

Dec. 10 - Christmas Shoppe

## SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD NEWS

The School Advisory Board is a body comprised of school faculty, teachers and parents to

collaborate with the pastor and administration and assist in developing policies for St. Lawrence school. They also serve as a voice and intermediary between school families and administration. The Board consists of four committees: *Advancement, Catholic Culture, Strategic Planning and Properties & Facilities*. If you have any questions or concerns for the Board, please email them at the link below. Please see below for recent updates.

### School Advisory Board Email

## STRATEGIC PLANNING



Last spring, many of our school families participated in a communications survey to provide valuable information that is helping to shape our plans for the 2021 school year and beyond in the areas of Communication, Spiritual Formation and Strategic Planning.

Thank you to all who participated. As we implement some of our new initiatives based off of your feedback, we will share with you our progress. For example, based on your feedback that you wanted more volunteer opportunities for students and families, we have formed a volunteer committee on the PTO. If you are interested in joining the committee, please email Katherine Lucas at [kasia.helena@gmail.com](mailto:kasia.helena@gmail.com).

Check out two new volunteer programs in this newsletter below!

Click on the link below to see the survey results and the areas that the School Advisory Board will be focusing on.

[St. Lawrence Survey Results](#)

## CATHOLIC CULTURE



October was Respect Life Month. Consider donating your time/talents to a cause for life!

Stop by the parish office entrance to see the beautiful Respect Life Display.

November 1 is the Feast of All Saints. This day is followed by All Souls Day on November 2. Pray to the Saints for their powerful intercession and pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. They need our prayers to be released.

*"We must empty Purgatory with Our prayers" - St. Padre Pio*

## PARISH NEWS

### Welcome St. Lawrence's New Youth Minister, Jack Novak!

Hello St. Lawrence families! My name is Jack Novak and I am your new Youth Minister. I grew up in a large Catholic family in which I am the youngest of five. I have two amazing parents who always showed me what it meant to be a believer. I graduated from Lamphere High School and attended Michigan State University.



I am extremely excited to be a part of this awesome church. My dad is actually a youth minister in our archdiocese, so youth ministry literally runs in my blood. Some of my favorite memories and closest friends have come from my time in my youth group. Something I think is really cool about youth group is that you have a bunch of students that may not normally talk to each other, but they come together and spread the Good Word. In my time in the youth group, I did mission trips and retreats all across the country and I can't wait to continue doing that here. My favorite trip was World Youth Day in Poland where I got to perform on stage with my group in front of thousands of people from across the world. I cannot wait to bring my own group to experience the awesomeness of World Youth Day.



### Rake-n-Run Volunteer Opportunity

Calling all youth volunteers! With the fall, comes leaves. And while they're beautiful on the trees, they leave a mess once they fall to the ground.

Many seniors in the community need help raking their leaves. This is a great opportunity for our youth to get service hours and help our fellow parishioners!

If you are interested in volunteering, driving or know of someone in need of help, please call our Youth Minister, Jack Novak, at 586-731-5072 or email at [jnovak@stlawrenceparish.com](mailto:jnovak@stlawrenceparish.com)

Email Jack Novak



### Parish Day of Renewal

The AOD is offering a free livestream event for its *Parish Day of Renewal: Bringing the Gospel into the World*.

Join others as they hear from the keynote speaker on how the Holy Spirit activated the first disciples and caused the explosion of Christianity in the ancient world through their witness.

November 19, 2021

10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Register to view Live Presentations

Keynote: Dr. Mary Healy

<https://www.egwdetroit.org/pdr2021>

## TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

*We received a lot of feedback in last spring's survey that families liked seeing and learning about our wonderful St. Lawrence teachers in the Teacher's Spotlight. This year, we will be highlighting several teachers each month to get to know them better, starting with our 7th grade teachers. With the middle school building still under construction, our seventh grade teachers are the most displaced and have been rock stars in being so patient and adaptable with their classrooms. Let's meet them below and maybe send a note to let them know you appreciate all of their efforts.*



## Mrs. Federspiel



Mrs. Federspiel has been with St. Lawrence for eight year and teaching for 9. She graduated from Grand Valley State University and recently completed her Master's Degree in Elementary Education from Oakland University.

She is married with two girls (ages 2 and 9 months).

Some of Mrs. Federspiel's favorite things include reading mysteries, watching sports (specifically the Detroit Tigers), going to the park with her girls, and doing home improvement projects.

**Favorite Saint:** Saint Joan of Arc

**Advice:** "You're Awake! You're Awesome! Live like it!" (Kid President)

## Mrs. Gould

Mrs. Gould has been with St. Lawrence for eight years and teaching for 11 years. She received her bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University and her Master's from Marygrove College.

She has two beautiful, spunky little girls, Grace (3) in nursery school at St. Lawrence and Brooke (8 months old), a future Mustang.

Mrs. Gould loves to cook and bake! Food is the way to her heart and if you're in need of Christmas cookie ideas, she always makes a fun variety every year.



**Fun fact:** She has been to 7 Major League Baseball parks and hopes to continue to travel to more!

**Favorite Saint:** St. Anthony is near and dear to her heart. Her grandmother always prayed to Jesus through him, and she passed that on to Mrs. Gould. Whenever she has lost something important, she asks St. Anthony for help in finding it, and he always helps her.

**Advice:** God will always be there in the good times and the bad. Thank him for all your blessings, and call on Him to help you through the hard times.

## Mrs. Girodat

Mrs. Girodat has been teaching with St. Lawrence for 10 years and for a total of 16 years. She received a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and a Master's in Reading Education both from Saginaw Valley State University.

She is married with three children, Kaitlyn (6), Olive (5) and Steven (3). When she's not teaching, she loves to craft, golf, bike ride,



travel and be outdoors.

**Favorite Saint:** St. Mary

**Advice:** Never quit, never be afraid to be yourself and love always wins.

## Mrs. Scheper

This is Mrs. Scheper's second year at St. Lawrence teaching 7th grade, but when her children were younger, she long-term subbed for 11 years. She has been teaching for 17 years and received her degree from Michigan State University.

She has been married to her husband, Dave for 23 years and has three children Tommy, Rosalie, and Stephanie and 2 dogs, Bruno and Minnie.

Mrs. Scheper loves to cook, swim, ski, and spend time up north at her cottage with her family.

**Favorite Saint:** St. Faustina

**Advice:** Your life is God's gift to you. What you do with it is YOUR gift to GOD.



## SCHOOL NEWS & UPDATES

### *Volunteer as a Family this Christmas Season to help give back!*

Ring a Bell for Salvation Army's Red Kettle as a Family! Put on matching Santa Hats, bring an instrument to play or sing some Christmas carols together as a family. School groups, scouts, or teams can also participate.



At the end of your shift, snap a picture of your group and send to [pto@stlawrenceparish.com](mailto:pto@stlawrenceparish.com) for volunteer hours or for the school to add to their FaceBook page. Dates: Dec 4 in Shelby Township and Dec 11 in Sterling Heights. Sign up for one hour shifts here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0E4CABAA2AABFC1-ring>.

Bell Ringing Sign Up Genius

## Athletics - Winter Sports Registration

Athletics is in need of coaches for the upcoming winter season for **5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys (JV3) Basketball** and **Cheer**.



If you, or someone you know, may be interested, please contact [matt\\_bultinck@yahoo.com](mailto:matt_bultinck@yahoo.com).

Bowling registration is open. To register, visit [www.mightymustangs.com](http://www.mightymustangs.com) and click on the yellow *Register Now* button.

Registration is open for Girls' and Boys' Instructional Basketball (3rd/4th grade). Deadline to register is midnight, Nov. 8. Practices will begin in December with games in January and February. To register, visit [www.mightymustangs.com](http://www.mightymustangs.com) and click on the yellow *Register Now* button.

Any questions, please contact Christine Sommer at [chmilchr@gmail.com](mailto:chmilchr@gmail.com) or Jill Tocco at [jilltocco@comcast.net](mailto:jilltocco@comcast.net).

## Veteran's Day Celebration



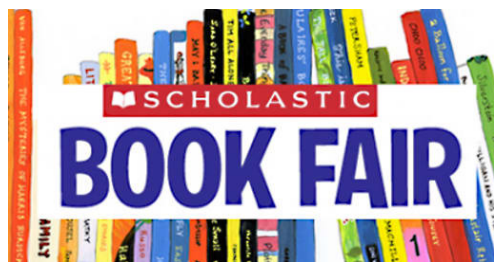
St. Lawrence Catholic School will be honoring our Veterans on Thursday, November 11.

We would like to invite parents/relatives of our students who have served in the Armed Forces to attend this celebration.

We will have a light breakfast (coffee & donuts) starting at 8 a.m. in the cafeteria. We would love to have Veterans wear or

bring their uniform if possible!

Following the light breakfast, we will invite Veterans to visit classrooms to discuss their service. We will conclude our celebration with a flag ceremony in front of the school with all our Scout troops. Invitation forms were emailed out on Oct. 21. If you are interested in volunteering, please return the form to the school office by Monday, November 1 or by email to Mrs. Newby at [gnewby@stlawrenceparish.com](mailto:gnewby@stlawrenceparish.com).



We are super excited to be having our Fall Book Fair back and in-person! Please save November 15-23, 2021, on your calendar!



We are in need of volunteers to work in our school library, particularly in the mornings. If you are interested, contact Mrs. Thomas at [athomas@stlawrenceparish.com](mailto:athomas@stlawrenceparish.com).

## Principal for the Day

Thank you to the Lucas sisters for an excellent job sharing 'Principal for the



Day' with Mrs. DiMercurio on Oct. 19. They were the winners of the Apple Fest basket donated by the PTO.

## NOTE:

Reminder that school starts at 8:40 a.m. this year and goes to 3:45 p.m. Doors open at 8:20 a.m. every day. If you are driving your child to school, please allow them enough time to go to their locker before going into the classroom with the 8:40 start time.