

St. Laurence O'Toole Catholic Church

February 21, 2021



1st Sunday **OF LENT**

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee
proclaiming the gospel of God. - Mk 1:14

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Due to the pandemic and the ease of the transmission of the coronavirus, Bishop Steven Biegler has granted to the Faithful in the Diocese of Cheyenne a dispensation from the obligation to celebrate the Eucharist on Sundays and Holy Days, which is effective through March 26, 2021.

319 Grand Avenue, Laramie, Wyoming (307) 745-3115 www.stlaurenceotoole.org

God Bless America

Reverend Andrew Kinstetter, Pastor

PARISH OFFICE

Address: 617 South 4th Street

For an appointment, call 307-745-3115

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil - 5:30 pm

Sunday- 8:00 am & 10:30 am

Monday, Tuesday - 8:00 am

Thursday, Friday - 8:00 am

Confession, Saturday, 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Father Andrew Kinstetter, Pastor -

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ONLINE

Facebook: St Laurence O'Toole Laramie

Online Giving: www.stlaurenceotoole.org

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The Week of Worship

SATURDAY, February 20th

Confessions, 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

MASS, 5:30 pm †*Rita Vasquez*

SUNDAY, February 21st *First Sunday of Lent*

MASS, 8:00 am **Special Intention,**

Bob and Theresa Frausto

MASS, 10:30 am **People of the Parish**

MONDAY, February 22nd

MASS, 8:00 am **Special Intention**

Jonathan Perez

TUESDAY, February 16th

MASS, 8:00 am †*Fred & Esther Wilson*

WEDNESDAY, February 23rd

NO MASS

THURSDAY, February 24th

MASS, 8:00 am †*Father Ron Stolcis*

FRIDAY February 25th

MASS, 8:00 am †*Father Thomas Sheridan*

SATURDAY, February 26th

Confessions, 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

MASS, 5:30 pm †*Susan Lescznske*



Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday during Lent at 5:30 pm beginning on February 19. We must receive God's mercy. That's the secret to the Stations of the Cross. We retell this story of Jesus' self-giving love in order to open our hearts to what is already given to us: mercy. We do not earn it; we don't even deserve it.

Prayer to St. Joseph

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

Please pray for:

The victims of the coronavirus, people affected by the quarantine and shutdown of public facilities, the medical staff tasked with the treatment and care of those who have contracted the virus, that God may protect them from further harm and grant those who are sick, swift recovery.

The Sick

Agnes Vigil, Alice Schnitker, Ali Vialpando, Arvin Martinez, Burton Davis, Carol Richardson, Charlotte, Courtney Westoff, The Vasquez Family, Eloisa Mondragon, Ervin W. Hoffschneider III, Gordon Cook, James Westoff, Jessica MacKintosh, Janelle Ahrenholtz, Kevin Johnson, Larry Barela, Larry Garcia, Leo Lucero, Lucas Roussos, Mary Hulett, Mary Ann Selzer, Nicole Gonzales, Rachel Sanchez, Ramona Thelman, Ross Vigil, Shirley Salinas, Tanner Atencio, Shawna Kautzman Pena, Tammy Brown, Trisha Sparks, Vernon Wayne Scott, Veronica Newman, Vona Salazar, Wyatt Swaim.

Those who are serving our country

James VanKirk, Kevin Gallegos, Mark Bedell,, Michael Stickley, Cruz Garza, Sean Heidel, Tommy Weber, Michael Longpre, Cole Yung, Patrick Golden

One Nation Under God

1st Sunday of Lent

St. Oscar Romero said, "Aspire not to have more, but to be more." These powerful words provide the perfect framework for a conversion oriented Lenten experience. God is giving us this Lenten sign to stop being concerned about what you have and focus on who you are. This requires that we create a desert space and listen more attentively for God to reveal His presence. It is all so wonderfully simple on the one hand and so incredibly challenging on the other. The message is simple: love God, neighbor, and self. Those simple words make great sense, but we struggle translating them into reality. Our attachments, compulsions, obsessions, addictions, routines, and busyness all anchor us to the "idol of the self," keeping us mired in our compulsive need for self-aggrandizement. It's not about us!

God vowed, long ago, to nurture, sustain and protect the relationship He has with His people. He called us into being, nurtures us in being, and sustains us in being. Without the Loving Divine Presence, all life would cease. Once we slow down a bit and clear away some of the clutter, we can see how the journey of our life is unfolding. We can see what brings us in and out of tune with God's love and how we can better imitate God's loving fidelity in our relationship with Him. In short, we will see our myopic short sightedness and figure out how we can better share the Divine Fire within with others. Lent isn't just about giving stuff up for forty days and indulging again at Easter. We need to push things much farther and wrestle with the question of how we can be more. "Being more" means becoming more fully alive and in touch with the holiness of life and the divinity that lives in and empowers all beings and things. It is realizing that the "quality" of our presence is crucial to being an effective witness and herald of God's unconditional love.

The illusion we have bought into causes us to believe that the wrong things and systems matter. We tirelessly fight to keep things the way they are, to return to the former ways of doing things or restore some nostalgic fantasy memory of "life in the good old days." Lent isn't about maintaining what we have or returning to something that is gone. It's about becoming something new. It's about being more focused, centered, convicted, and grounded so that we can be a person who truly loves and treasures being made in the image of God. The secret to Gospel living is not found in accumulating anything for ourselves, even merit points for heaven. Gospel living means learning how to live with less so that others can live with more. The thought of permanently giving something up makes us feel uncomfortable. Truth often does.

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Rite of the Elect. The Rite of the Elect will be celebrated this Sunday. The Catechumens or the unbaptized are referred to as The Elect, will sign their name in the Book of the Elect. St. Laurence has two young people preparing to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. Please pray for them during their preparation.

News from the Basement!

CCD is going well this year. The second graders (there are 17 of them!) are busy preparing to receive First Reconciliation and First Communion. All the students are working hard at learning our Catholic faith.

On Tuesday nights, there are 13 students preparing for Confirmation. Confirmation will be held April 23rd at the Newman Center. This year's class is being taught by Christopher Richter.

On Thursday nights, the confirmed high school students meet for youth group. Christopher Richter is also leading this group. This week the group made Valentines for Father Andrew. The students are having a great time learning about the Catholic Faith.

St. Laurence O'Toole Calendar:

Sunday, February 21st, 1:00 pm, CCD

Monday, February 22nd, 6:00 pm RCIA

Tuesday, February 23rd, 6:00 pm Confirmation

Thursday, February 24th, 6:00 pm Youth Group

All meetings are in the basement of the Church.

If you need more information, please call Ava O'Hollearn at 307-745-3115.

The Seminarian Education Fund Appeal has begun. Many of you should have received a letter and prayer card in the mail. In addition to praying for vocations, offering financial support to our seminarians is another way you can actively promote vocations in the Diocese of Cheyenne. Your gift will help provide for tuition, room and board and other expenses related to forming our seminarians. Perhaps more importantly, your gift, no matter how large or small, will encourage and sustain our seminarians as they make their journey toward priesthood. Please prayerfully consider your gift to the Seminarian Education Fund.

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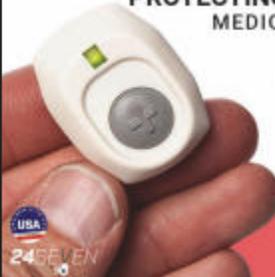
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