

Devoting Support ^{to our}

FAITH

Community

STAYING CONNECTED

God's work continues during
the COVID-19 pandemic.

INSIDE

How COVID-19 has
impacted our parish

PLUS

We need you! All the
ways you can be part
of our parish!





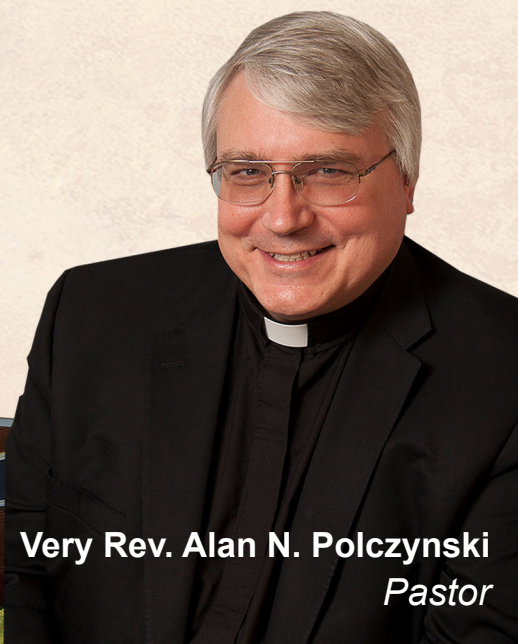
Help us stay connected to you! PLEASE take a moment to fill out our parish survey online:
DioceseofGreensburg.org/StLawrence

Staying Connected During COVID-19

Please know that I have been keeping the parishioners of St. Lawrence Parish in my prayers during this pandemic. I can't even imagine the difficulties that you must be facing; balancing family, job, school and everything else that has been made more complicated by COVID-19. During this stress-filled time, I want you to know that our parish continues to care for the spiritual and material needs of our faith community.

Once our church building was closed in March, our faith community began to stream a weekend Mass at 5 p.m. on Saturdays. This virtual Mass continues even today. We have also provided updates via our website and Facebook page. As we came back to the church for worship, we created a Ministry of Hospitality to help welcome people back and assist them with the new expectations of in-person worship. We have also created volunteer cleaning crews to assist our custodial staff to sanitize the church and restrooms after each use.

Please know that as we all continue to journey through this pandemic, we will find ways to communicate and stay connected to each other. There were many positive responses to the in-home mailing that went out at Easter and gratitude for the parish signing up with the FORMED on line platform so early in the shutdown. This latter development allowed parishioners who were staying at home to stay connected to and learn more about their faith. All are welcome to join at any time. Please visit our website for instructions on signing up.



Very Rev. Alan N. Polczynski
Pastor

Ways You Can Give



St. Lawrence Parish
718 Fourth Avenue
Ford City, PA 16226



9 AM-3 PM
Monday-Thursday



Fccatholic.org
To make a gift:
Dioceseofgreensburg.org

Sadly, as you can imagine, the virus has greatly impacted every form of stewardship. If you are willing to give of your time and talent to help those in need, please look for our ministry listings and contact us to volunteer. Even though we cannot gather as we normally would, this may be an especially good time to consider a ministry in our parish so that when we do begin to gather, you will have an idea of how you want to serve our community of faith.

Additionally, as you might imagine, your continued financial support during this difficult time will help our parish to maintain and to continue God's work. And so, with great sensitivity to whatever your circumstances might be, I humbly ask, if you are able, that you consider an increase of your weekly or monthly offertory. You can make that commitment online, by sending those donations directly to the parish via U.S. Mail, by placing it in the collection basket at Mass or by visiting www.dioceseofgreensburg.org and clicking on the Giving tab.

COVID-19 and its Impact on our Faith Community

Because our parish was shut down just prior to Easter, typically one of the strongest times of the year for financial contributions, our parish offertory has indeed taken a hit. However, through the generosity of many parishioners who have assisted, we are still keeping our financial head above water.

I would like to take a moment and thank all those who contributed to this year's Diocesan Lenten Appeal. We went over and above our goal, which has allowed for the installation of new air conditioning units for the church. Again, thank you for your generosity.



I would like to remind everyone that even during the stay-at-home order, ministry still continued in the parish: funerals were conducted, babies were baptized, and the sick were tended to as best as possible with the coronavirus restrictions.

Parish Statistics



Registered Households

2018: 156
2019: 141
2020: 134

Single Member Households

61



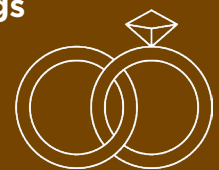
Baptisms



2018: 0
2019: 1
2020: 1

Weddings

2018: 0
2019: 0
2020: 0



Funerals

2018: 11
2019: 5
2020: 4

Parish Financials

	2018	2019	2020
Offertory	\$ 96,648	\$ 98,038	\$ 97,062
Other Ordinary Income <i>(monthly collections, votive candles)</i>	3,064	1,215	947
Extraordinary Income <i>(bequests, donations, fundraising, interest, rental income)</i>	10,536	23,826	22,795
Diocesan Lenten Appeal Refund	7,474	13,726	5,585
Other Non-Assessable Income <i>(The Catholic Accent, sale of property, insurance reimbursements, and PPP Loan)</i>	36,349	27,302	43,120
Special Collections	9,277	12,280	8,165
Total Income	\$ 163,347	\$ 176,385	\$ 175,780
Expenses			
Administration	\$ 39,355	\$ 40,977	\$ 37,906
Church	23,529	68,709	24,884
Rectory	897	1,773	2,188
Education and Ministry	17,210	18,715	12,947
General Expenses	49,629	48,198	47,629
Special Collections	9,277	12,280	8,155
Extraordinary Expenses	23,670	9,440	2,960
Total Expenditures	163,568	200,092	136,669
Net Operating Income (Loss)	\$ (221)	\$ (23,707)	\$ 39,111

Capital Improvements

Over the past three years, there have been a number of significant capital improvements at Saint Lawrence Parish including a new roof on the church, a new security system with cameras, and two new air conditioning units for the church. In addition, to these there have been upgrades or work done on the gutters and the back sidewalk facing the alley. I am grateful to all who have graciously donated their time, their talent and/or their treasure to make these improvements a reality. All of the aforementioned items are a wonderful demonstration of committed Stewardship to our parish. Thank you and may God continue to bless you.



Ministries at St. Lawrence

For information about the many ministries at St. Lawrence Parish, go to fccatholic.org.

Altar Server

Lectors

Ushers

Minister of Hospitality

Partner Parish Youth Group

Prayer Chain

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Collection Counters

Catechist

Holiday Choir

Pastoral Council

Finance Council

Festival Committee

Knights of Columbus

Saint Vincent de Paul Society

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Loyal Christian Benefit Association (LCBA)