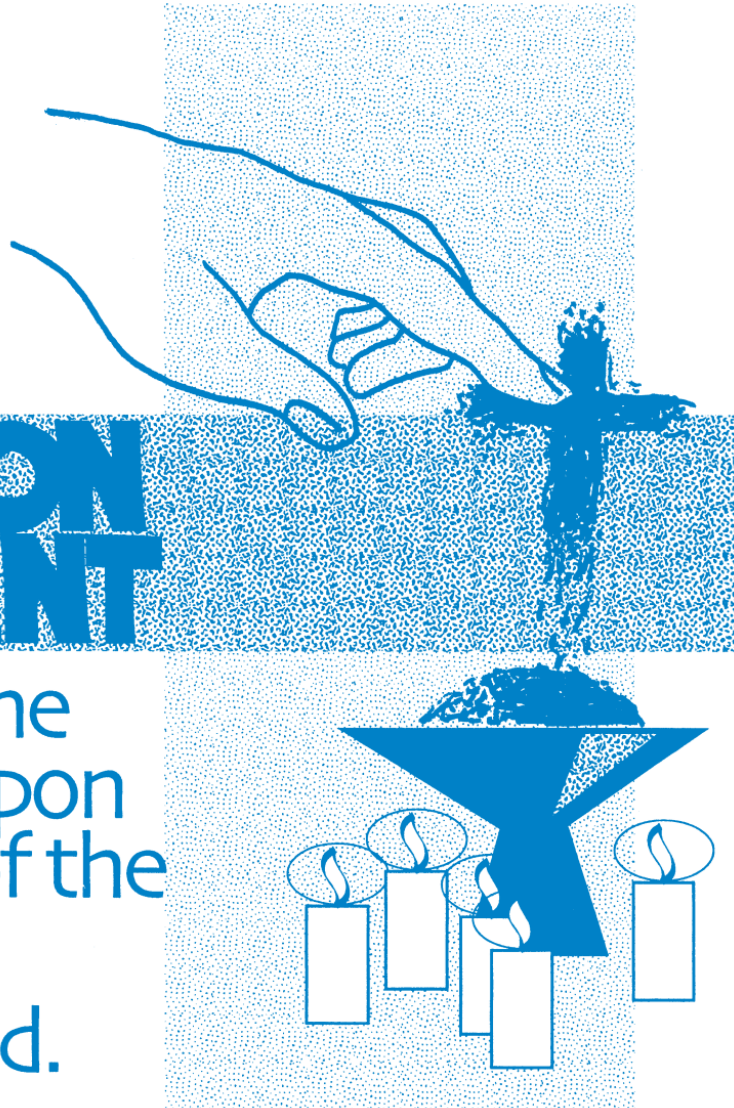

February 25, 2007
First Sunday of Lent

Enter the
time for
spiritual
purification

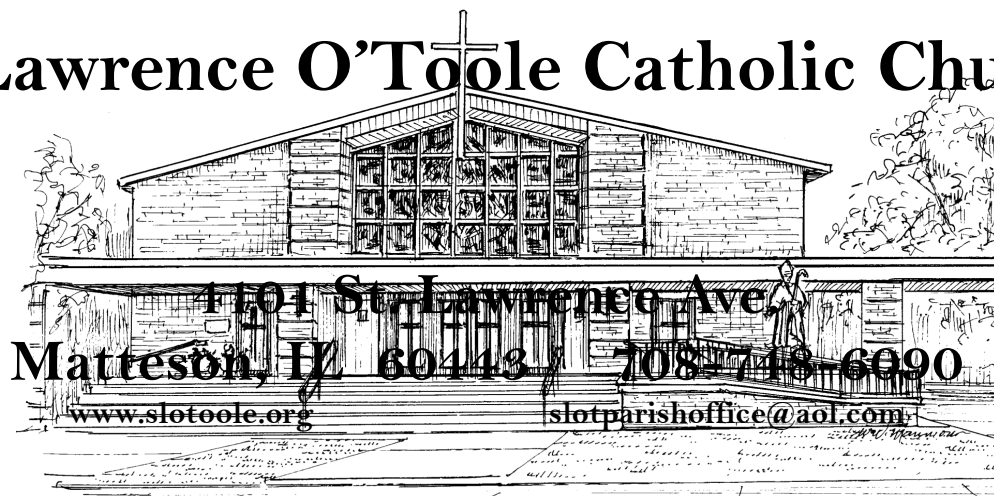
**THIS SEASON
FOR LENT**

For everyone
who calls upon
the name of the
LORD
will be saved.



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St. Lawrence O'Toole Catholic Church



4101 St. Lawrence Ave.

Matteson, IL 60443 708-748-6090

www.slotoole.org

slotparishoffice@aol.com

St. Lawrence O'Toole Catholic Community

is a community of faith longing to know Jesus and working to build God's Kingdom. We seek to provide the opportunity for the expression of our people's gifts and varied cultures, living together in a spirit of Christian joy.

We aspire to be people of prayer, vision, service and invitation.

We invite you to pray with us.

Parish Staff:

Rev. Michael A. Nacius, D. Min.
Pastor

Rev. Joseph Cook
Associate Pastor

Rev. Gregory Cholewa, OMI
Weekend Assistant

Mr. Rossini Alcos

Mr. John Rangel

Mr. Edward Winter
Deacons

Mrs. Rita Binzen
Director of Music

Ms. Jane Fagan
Director of Religious Education

Ms. Patricia Frejlich
Principal

Mrs. Pattie Gallinaro
Coordinator of Youth Ministry

Mrs. Donna Kay
Parish Bookkeeper

Mass Schedule:

Saturday:

5:00 PM (Sun. vigil)

Sunday:

8:00 & 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM

Monday – Saturday:

8:30 AM

Holy Days:

6:30 AM, 8:30 AM, 7:00 PM

Sacramental Information:

Baptisms: The first and second Sunday of each month at 1:15 PM. The third Sunday of each month at the 12:00 Mass. NOTE: Expectant parents should phone the Parish Office 2 months before the birth of your baby to arrange for required Baptismal Preparation Classes.

Reconciliation: Sat.: 4:00-4:30PM

Weddings: Arrangements for Marriage should be made by calling the Parish Office no later than four months prior to the proposed wedding date. Attending Pre-Cana is required.

Funerals: Arrangements can be made by a family member by calling the Parish Office.

Lent 2007 ~ Open Your Hearts to God's Grace

Stations of the Cross ~ Friday evenings 7PM, Church

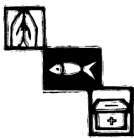
(March 2, 16, 23, and March 30)

Soup & Prayer ~ Wednesday evenings 6 PM, Parish Office

(February 28, March 7, 14, 21 and March 28)

Parish Lenten Retreat ~ Portiuncula Center for Prayer, Frankfort

(March 2 and 3rd)



Parish Reconciliation Service ~ 7PM, Church

(March 21)

Lenten Regulations for Fast and Abstinence

Abstinence: All persons who are fourteen years and older are bound by the law of abstinence. The law of abstinence forbids the eating of meat and food prepared with meat or meat by-products.

Fast: All adults who are 18 years of age but not yet 59 are bound by the law of fast. The law of fast allows only one full meal and two lighter meals in the course of a day, and prohibits eating between meals.

In the U.S., **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday** are days of fast and abstinence. All other **Fridays of Lent** are days of **abstinence only**.

Exceptions: Pregnant women and the sick are not bound by the law of fast.

Come have Breakfast with the Band, today!! Enjoy solos by our talented young musicians from St. Lawrence O'Toole School. Breakfast items, coffee and juice will be available for purchase. All money raised goes toward helping the band program grow. Stop in the Sullivan Center following the 8 AM and 10 AM Masses.

Our Weekly Offering

Budgeted Weekly Goal:	\$12,000.00
Total Given Last Week:	\$ 9,322.00
Total Given Electronically:	\$ 461.00
Total Offering:	\$ 9,783.00
Total Envelopes Used:	312
Building Fund:	\$ 108.00

I invite you to welcome Augustine Mahonge to our parish this weekend. Augustine is a seminarian at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, IL studying to be ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Chicago in May 2009. Augustine comes to the parish to complete his Parish Internship during the spring quarter of the second year of his studies. The Parish Internship begins this weekend and continues through the last weekend of May. Augustine will be introducing himself to us at each of the masses this weekend. Please take a few moments and introduce yourself and your family to him. Also, give him some time in getting to know you and your family and the life, spirit and activities of the Parish in the coming days and weeks.

Throughout the season of Lent at St. Lawrence O'Toole we will be letting the theme "*Open Your Heart to God's Grace*" permeate our prayer and our lives. As you enter into Lent of 2007 here at St. Lawrence O'Toole is there a hurt, a pain, a wound, or a misunderstanding within your heart that is yearning for God's grace? What prayer of gratitude, what petition of thanksgiving, what maturing aspect of faith within your heart is receptive to God's grace in Lent 2007 at St. Lawrence O'Toole? Some of us may be able to open our hearts completely to God's grace. That comes with determination, perseverance and the ability to surrender in loving trust to God's will in our lives. Some in our families and community may be hesitant or struggle in opening their heart to God's grace because of past wounds and sorrows of life. In this season of Lent, a season where saints and sinners are called to ongoing conversion I ask you to pray that every parishioner of every age will be open to and grateful for God's grace as it touches and works in each and every one of our lives. Imagine how different your life, your families' life, your parish would be if God's grace were powerfully active in our observance of Lent.

Our observance of Lent requires that we look at our lives. It is essential that we enter into a season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving with hearts open to God's generous and abundant mercy. I hope that all of us will be delighted and amazed at the power and presence of God this Lent.

This coming weekend, March 2nd and 3rd parishioners will be taking place in a retreat at the St. Francis Center for Prayer in Frankfort, IL. The retreat begins on Friday, March 2nd and ends with a closing mass on Saturday, March 3rd. There are still a few openings for the retreat if you want to join together with other parishioners participating in a *Lenten Treasure of Prayer and Faith* please contact the Parish Office early this week. Please keep all those on retreat next weekend in your prayers.

There are numerous other opportunities to gather with fellow parishioners in prayer this Lent at St. Lawrence O'Toole. Daily mass is celebrated Monday - Saturday at 8:30 AM. You can join a Lenten Faith Sharing group that meets once a week to discuss the Sunday scriptures. On Wednesdays, you can participate in Soup and Prayer from 6:00 - 7:00 PM. Stations of the Cross and Benediction are prayed on Friday's during the Lenten Season. Please check the dates and times of these events in the Trefoil each week or you can call the Parish Office if you have any questions.

God bless you! Have a Holy and Joyous 2007 Lent!!

Fr. Mike

This week at O'Toole

Sunday, February 25, 2007

8:00 AM: Mass
10:00 AM: Mass
12:00 PM: Mass
7:00 PM: Teen Club B3

Monday, February 26, 2007

8:30 AM: Mass
5:30 PM: RE REC/Clsrms
7:30 PM: Finance Council PO/C
8:30 PM: Over 30 BB SC/G

Tuesday, February 27, 2007

8:30 AM: Mass
9:00 AM: Scripture Study PO/K
7:30 PM: SVdP PO/C

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

8:30 AM: Mass
6:00 PM: Soup & Prayer PO/M
7:00 PM: School Advisory Ctme. SC/L
7:00 PM: Scripture Study PO/C

Thursday, March 1, 2007

8:30 AM: Mass
2:15 PM: School Choir C
3:30 PM: RE Choir C
6:00 PM: Irish Dance OH/C
7:00 PM: Adult Choir C

Friday, March 2, 2007

8:30 AM: Mass
6:00 PM: PADS
7:00 PM: Stations of the Cross C

Saturday, March 3, 2007

8:30 AM: Mass
9:00 AM: Rosary
4:00 PM: Reconciliation C
5:00 PM: Mass

Sunday, March 4, 2007

8:00 AM: Mass
10:00 AM: Mass
12:00 PM: Mass
7:00 PM: Teen Group B3

Readings for the Week:

Monday: Lv 19:1-18; Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15

Wed: Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: Est C:12-25; Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48

Sunday: Gn 15:5-18; Ps 27;

Phil 3:17 - 4:1; Lk 9:28b-36

The Path to Holiness

Even if you hadn't already been aware of the fact, it would soon have become obvious at mass today that we have moved to a new season of the church's liturgical calendar. Purple vestments and hangings have replaced the green of ordinary time, the "Gloria" is omitted, and there are no joyful "Alleluias" to greet the gospel. The setting is stark, the music restrained. It is the season of Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Thursday evening. What memories does Lent evoke for you? Many associate it with acts of self-denial—giving up chocolate or alcohol for 40 days, only to discover with dismay that Lent in fact lasts 46 days! What is the purpose of these practices and how did they begin?

In the early Church Easter was the time for those desiring to become Christians to be received into the community. In preparation for baptism these people, call "catechumens", fasted for two days beforehand. By the fourth century, this fast had been lengthened to 40 days and became a period of preparation for Easter for all Christians. Augustine explained that the authority of the forty days comes from Christ's forty days in the desert - the subject of today's gospel reading - and from the fasts of Moses and Elias. There has been some variation in counting the 40 days over history. Around the fifth century it became established as the period of 40 days before Holy Thursday, not counting Sundays that are never days of fasting. At this time it was also given the name Lent, meaning, "spring", the season closely associated with this period in the Northern Hemisphere. Gradually the distribution of ashes became part of the ritual of the first day of the season - Ash Wednesday.

As well as the time for catechumens to make their final preparations for initiation, Lent was a period of preparation for penitents who would be reconciled with the Christian community on Holy Thursday. Other members of the church journeyed with the catechumens and penitents during these 40 days through fasting, alms giving and prayer.

When the catechumenate collapsed, Lent lost its baptismal roots and became associated almost exclusively with penance. Hence the traditional acts of self-denial. Vatican II restored the baptismal focus of this season. Paragraph 109 of the "Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy" describes Lent as being "marked by two themes, the baptismal and penitential" and calls for "more use to be made of the baptismal features proper to the Lenten liturgy".

On this first Sunday of Lent, many parishes will have celebrated the Rite of Election at Holy Name Cathedral for those embarking on the final stage of preparation to join the Catholic Church at Easter. During Lent we are all on a journey as we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery at the Easter Triduum and continue that celebration during the 50 days of the joyful Easter season.

Open Your Heart to God's Grace this Lent!

Cardinal George has appointed me to be pastor of St. Kieran Parish in Chicago Heights. My assignment will begin on July 1, 2007. Please pray for me and all those in this time of transition.

*Render your hearts,
not your garments,
and return
to the Lord*

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F. J. Gal

Please join us for **“Soup and Prayer”** Wednesday evenings Beginning Wed., February 28th from 6–7 PM in the Parish Office Meeting Room. Nourish your body and your spirit. Soup and bread will be provided our first week and if you would like to sign up for the other 4 weeks to bring either soup or bread, you may do so on the 28th. There will also be a sign up sheet located at the organ in church. We are looking forward to praying, singing and dining with you!



Music Minuets...

If you are looking for a ministry in which to serve here at O’Toole, why not join the Music Ministry? We are a talented and fun group of individuals who enjoy praying twice! We are especially looking for men and altos to balance out the parts. Use Lent to bring forth from our lives the finest fruits of our talent so that we might enrich those we serve with gifts that are renewed in our commitment to the Lord. Let this Lent be a time of preparation for that great outpouring of effort, energy and talent that will find expression in the Easter Triduum. We practice Thursday evenings from 7-9 PM in the church. Call Rita Binzen at 898-3104 for more information.

Reminder...

There will be no Eucharistic Adoration during Lent (March 2nd and April 6th). Adoration will resume on May 4, 2007.

Knights of Columbus Nina Council will be hosting an all you can eat fish fry each Friday during Lent. Located at St. Irenaeus Gym, 78 Cherry St. in Park Forest from 5 to 8 PM. Cost is \$8.00/adults and \$4/ kids under 10 yrs. Carry-outs are available. See you there!
February 23rd, March 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th.

Presentation of the Gifts is an important part of our liturgy. This presentation of gifts represents the sharing of our personal treasure with God in thanksgiving for the many gifts He has given to us. If you are interested in being a gift bearer at one of the masses, please feel free to check with the sacristan or usher prior to the start of Mass.



Teens...

Meet tonight, Sunday, February 25th at 7 PM in the Teen Room (B3). You can enter off the circle drive next to church. Bring a friend and come find out what’s coming up for the Teen Club! Questions? Call Pattie Gallinaro at 748-6090 x105.

We Pray for ~ the recently deceased

Frank Silhavy
Husband of Carol

Mendy Alcantara
Sister of Hermie Alcos

Emily Abbott
Mother of Herb
and the sick

Fred Kase; Patrick Gamez; Robert Acosta; John B. Cook, Sr.; Aaron Anderson; Richard Kucharski; Ig Zielinski; Phil Weidman; Claude Manson, Jr.; Donna VanderLuitgaren; Marge Bearden; Robert Coffey; Jack Brezeszkiewicz; Terry Camp; Lora Jaworski; Philip “Tom” Kelly; Ryan Blackstone; Mark Galloy; Vicki Braidman;

Wedding Banns

I: Pamela Hagins & Joseph Lazzara

Masses for the week

Sunday, February 25, 2007

Marie Loesch req. by the Cortes Family
Robert Bohne Sr. req. by Carol Fornek
Mary Maloney req. by John Maloney
Int. of Janie Weidman req. by Pat Kubas
Eleanor Haskins req. by Barbara & Tom Cole

Monday, February 26, 2007

For the People

Tuesday, February 27, 2007

Robert Cook req. by Barb & Tom Cole

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

Norma Schusteric req. by Pat Kubas
Robert R. Cook req. by Mrs. Bruni & students of A1

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Marianne Otlewis req. by the Rozen Family

Friday, March 2, 2007

Kenneth Mazgaj req. by Arlene Milewski
Helen Milakovich req. by Nicholas Milakovich
Rose Stenzel req. by the Finnegan Family

Saturday, March 3, 2007

Joseph Petrusek req. by Ann Petrusek & Family

Masses for Sunday, March 4, 2007

Frank Basile, Joe Sobun, Margaret Dunn,
Patricia Goselin Nadda family, Fr. Joe Cook

Bishop Perry's Men's Prayer Breakfast

Dads, sons, single guys...don't miss this local event!

Join Bishop Joseph N. Perry at this hearty breakfast followed by a special guest speaker:

Fr. Thomas Loya, Pastor of Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Parish—**Message: "Warrior-King-Lover-Priest, the true meaning and vocation of manhood"**

Presented by **Catholic Men of Chicago Southland (CMCS)** on Saturday, March 17, 2007, 7:30 AM–10 AM at St. Andrew, 768 Lincoln Ave., Calumet City. \$9/person, two or more \$7 each. For reservations call Deacon John at 503-9674 or email catholicmen4christ@yahoo.com. **Sign up today!**



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First Sunday of Lent

Preparation—Heart of the Season of Lent

The *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (RCIA) speaks about the two-fold purpose of Lent as a period of final preparation for those who are to be baptized at Easter the elect) and as a period of preparation to renew the Baptism of those who have already been claimed by Christ in the waters of the font. For all of us, Lent is a season to prepare once again to meet God's abundant love and mercy in the baptismal waters of new life.

For the elect, their preparation is a model for the rest of the Church. During Lent they enter a final period of spiritual preparation and purification. They spend the Lenten period praying and reflecting on the great mystery they are about to enter through their Baptism.

So, too, do the baptized prepare. With the elect we prepare by intense prayer and reflection, penance and reconciliation. With the elect we prepare to renew the great mystery in which we have been incorporated into the death and Resurrection of Christ.

There are ways that the Church has long provided as means of this preparation: penance; the ancient disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving; self-denial and self-discipline. However, it is always important to remember that none of these are ends in and of themselves. They are always meant to be the ways by which we prepare to receive God's merciful forgiveness in penance and reconciliation and to renew the Baptism in which we first experienced that mercy, forgiveness, and love. Together, elect and Baptized alike, we journey through this period of Lent, focused on the Paschal Mystery and the eternal life it promises.

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Liturgical Ministers

March 3 & 4

Eucharistic Ministers

- 5:00 PM:** Deacon, Frank Klawitter, Ann Mundt, Caitlin Mundt, Jose Rodriguez, Charles Seputis, Mary Seputis
- 8:00 AM:** Deacon, Jill Carlson, Barb Hanifin, Rita King, Tina Kusek, Toni Lieteau, Elaine Malito
- 10:00 AM:** Deacon, Mary Mender, Jason Mesick, Ann Rangel, Carol Winter, Augustine Witt, Russ Zack
- 12:00 PM:** Deacon, Debbie Bohne, Valerie Butts, Mary Gaffney, Lajuana Johnson

Lectors

- 5:00 PM:** Chuck Lewis
Joanie Lewis
- 8:00 AM:** Ann Mihalovich
Mary Turek
- 10:00 AM:** Family Mass
Family Mass
- 12:00 PM:** Olivia Aguilar
Madeline Nabzdyk

Greeters

- 5:00 PM:** Pat Kistner
Flora Krupa
- 8:00 AM:** Jack Kelly
Pat Kubas
- 10:00 AM:** Betty Roseman
Lisa Crockett-Davis
- 12:00 PM:** Agnes Scheid
Del Scheid

Altar Servers

- 5:00 PM:** Bobby Bailey
Liam Mundt
Daniel Rodriguez
- 8:00 AM:** Evan Duckworth
Stephanie Furlan
Maryann Manaparambil
- 10:00 AM:** Sam Roche
Chris Siegrist
Elizabeth Wallace
- 12:00 PM:** Josh Lusson
Shannon Milazzo
Theresa Milazzo