

CHRISTMAS 2017

ST LAWRENCE

O COME LET US
ADORE HIM,
Christ the Lord



Merry Christmas!

Today we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, which happened over 2000 years ago. The "Feast" of Christmas, which we have been preparing for during the four weeks of Advent, will continue to be celebrated in this Christmas "Season" for 12 days.

Many of the traditions that we observe during this season began long ago. Exchanging gifts, decorating trees, and burning the Yule log were all winter traditions that began even before Jesus was born. Eventually, they were incorporated into the holiday that has become known as Christmas.

Though the celebration of Christmas is basically based on the same belief today, it is not celebrated in exactly the same way in every country. In Great Britain, one tradition they observe during the Christmas season is "Boxing Day", when the boxes containing alms for the poor are opened at every church and the alms are distributed to the poor. Christians in China celebrate Christmas by decorating their homes and trees with paper lanterns, paper flowers, and paper chains. Christians in Iran refrain from eating any animal products from December 1 until after Christmas church services on December 25. In Venezuela, Christians attend daily morning church services between December 16 and December 24. And of course there are plenty more examples!

Remembering where our Christmas traditions originated from and how we celebrate this great feast around the world, all should focus on why we celebrate - to remember the birth of Jesus in our world and to welcome him in our hearts.

From John Callcott Horsley's design of the first Christmas card in 1843 to those made by our kindergarten students, the sentiment is the same, WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

May this feast challenge us, each in our own way, to be light, joy and peace for one another!

Merry Christmas!

Fr Bob



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED
THE CHRISTMAS SOCIAL AND DONATED TO
THE NEEDY FAMILIES OF WEEHAWKEN.



**Christmas
Budget**

\$20,000

Your generosity is
appreciated. Thank you!

We are grateful for
your donations to our
Christmas Flowers!



ST LAWRENCE ROOF PROGRESSTotal as of Dec 16, 2017: **\$57,325****WEEK 6****DECEMBER 24****Christmas Offering for the Parish**

Giving to the Church is part of your commitment as a parishioner. It is also through your donations that the parish can remain financially sustainable. For Christmas we ask parishioners to include a donation to the parish as part of their Christmas "budget". We are grateful for your generosity, which enables us to deliver the uplifting liturgies and programs in place.

Additionally, you can give to St Lawrence in other ways:

St Lawrence Legacy fund

Aiming to secure the sustainability of parish ministries and outreach programs, the St Lawrence Legacy fund provides funding for parish specific endeavors such as outreach programs, maintaining our buildings and enhancing ministries. The Legacy Fund is a restricted fund, meaning that 100% of the contributions received directly support St Lawrence Church and are not subject to an Archdiocesan tax. Please consider letting others know of St Lawrence's importance to you at life's hallmarks, from a milestone birthday, anniversary or remembering a loved one. Some parishioners have asked friends and family to donate to the Fund in lieu of flowers or gifts at important life moments.

Donations made be made by check payable to St Lawrence (please include a note designating the donation to the Legacy Fund) or by donating via FaithDirect at www.faithdirect.net, using the parish code of NJ670 and choosing to donate to the Legacy Fund. **For more information, please contact the Parish Office at 201-863-6464 or at parishoffice@stlweehawken.com**

Matching Gifts

Many employers offer employees the opportunity to make contributions to charitable organizations such as St Lawrence through:

- 1. Payroll withholding deposited into the employer controlled trust account(s)**
- 2. Credit card donations deposited into the employer's controlled trust account(s)**
- 3. Personal checks paid to the employer's controlled trust account(s)**
- 4. Matching gifts**

Securities

By giving appreciated securities that you have owned for more than a year, your charitable deduction is the fair market value of the securities on the day of the gift. Such gifts provide income tax savings and eliminate your capital gains tax liability.

Wills & Estates

The parish can be remembered in your Will while still providing for your loved ones. Suggested wording for such bequests is: I give the sum of \$_____ (or _____ % of my estate) to St Lawrence Church, 22 Hackensack Ave, Weehawken NJ 07086 for its general purposes (or something more specific of your choosing).

Life Insurance

Consider naming St Lawrence Church, 22 Hackensack Ave, Weehawken NJ 07086 as the beneficiary or owner of a new life insurance policy or the beneficiary of an existing policy. For a young adult, the premium for purchasing a new policy is minimal, yet the lasting benefits to the parish are significant.

Retirement Plans

Consider naming St Lawrence Church as the beneficiary or contingent beneficiary on your Beneficiary Designation of your retirement plan, IRA or 401(k). It's easy, requires no attorney or fee, and is tax advantageous.

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Julian Abio Jr
Virginia Bado
Karen Barisonek
Charlotte Brask
John and Heather Diaz
Patricia Dee-Bilka
James Beebe and Maria Victoria Pertubal
Mrs Joseph Bradley
Katherine M Browne
Mario and Irene Buzzelli
Enzo and Rita Caloni
John Charlesworth
Mary Ann Cheplic
Isabel Chou
Robert Cooney
John and Paula Crosson
John DeMuro
John Devery
James B Dolan
Mary Dunlea
Maureen Edwards
Susan M Edwards
Kevin Francetta
Jose Francisco
Joseph J Fredericks
Jane Gerhard
Donald and Mildred Gogarty
Ann Ivory and Kim Perez
Marcia Jacinto
Anthony and Elizabeth Keating
Raymond and Margaret Kilkenny
Raymond and Charlene Kingsbury
Irene Kozlowski
Diane Kvilesz
H John Leber
Craig Leone
Marianna Lorenz
James and Cathy Marchetti
Charles McAdam
Isabel and Patrick McGinley
Robert Meyer
Ms Monelo
Michele Morin
Catherine O'Connor
Francis and Nancy Pizzuta
Nancy Pyne
Stewart and Patricia Range
Doris Rey
Steven and Ellen Ricciardi
Eileen Ryan
Mr and Mrs James Sabato
Richard and Kathleen Sabogal
Juan Sanchez and Margarita McMillan
Lawrence Anthony Seville
Paul and Theresa Shahbazian
Robert Sosa
Luigi and Maria Stefano
Eric Stovicek
The Szyba Family
Frank and Sally Van Wie
Mary Van Wie
Dana Lynne Weeder
Surachai Worasilapa
Pavel Yakushevich
Irene Zustra