



New Year's Resolution Time!

After a challenging 2020 everyone is looking for solace in 2021. Seek solace by focusing on strengthening our faith through prayer and social action.

Prayer

"Have no anxiety, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." Phillipians 4:6

- ◆ The **just talking to God** prayer - just for a minute or two, thanking him for his gifts, asking for strength in making wise choices, asking for guidance.
- ◆ **Group discussion and prayer** can be very fulfilling and educational - join John and Emma's Monday night 6:30 Zoom.
- ◆ **Spiritual Reading** inspires and directs prayer helping us to focus on how we can strengthen our faith.
- ◆ **Liturgical Ministry** engages one in a special way in the celebration of the mass as Lector, Usher, Eucharistic Minister, or Mass-streaming support.

Social Action

Consider volunteering for one of the Social Action ministries of the parish such as Food Shelf, Prayer Shawl, Serve Our Neighbor Days, Funeral Luncheons and many more.



Pray for the Repose of Souls

All of us in the Essex Catholic Community extend our deepest sympathy to those in our community who have lost loved ones during the pandemic. Please reach out to Father or others in the parish if we can be of help.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

ECC ENGAGE

Holy Family

St. Lawrence

St. Pius X

Communication

A major goal of our Synod Action Plan is to clarify the messages that are most important to achieving our vision of a transformed parish. Our primary **message** is to spread the gospel, the love God has for us, and our need to share that love with our neighbors. Our parishes have been very busy with "**communications**".

Live Streamed Masses

The Liturgy committees of both parishes convened in October to begin planning for the Advent Season. From this group emerged the commitment to livestream masses because so many parishioners are currently unable to attend Mass because of the pandemic. With a commitment of resources from each parish and the leadership and expertise of David Robideau of Holy Family/St. Lawrence, parishioners can view daily and weekend masses live or at a time convenient for them right from our website. It is a new ministry and now reaching out for volunteers to help monitor the streaming. Contact either parish office if you could help out.

Liturgy Ministry Active for Advent

The Music Liturgy ministry selected the theme for Advent and it was coordinated with our Advent bulletin inserts and with Church decorating. The teams also worked on communicating mass times, sign-up responsibilities, and ministry assignments so that we would be ready for the increase in attendance at all the Christmas masses. Everything ran smoothly. Thanks to our parish staff, Margaret, Christina, and Josh for all their support.

Weekly Messages from Father Charlie Each week, Father Charlie sends emails to all the parishioners for whom we have email addresses. These communications help keep us all up-to-date on parish and Diocesan activities as well as provide spiritual inspiration. Father is taking a great deal of time staying in touch, so be sure to read through all his emails!

If you are not receiving these emails, please contact your parish office so you don't miss out!

Respect Life Events Be sure to review the Bulletin insert from January 16-17 and the Essex Catholic Community website for events scheduled for prayer and petition on the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. Join Catholics nationwide in praying for the respect of human life. A special Mass at St Pius X will be held Thursday, January 28 at 6:00 pm for the "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children."

Listen & Learn

Christ Our Hope Campaign

The Diocesan Campaign to fulfill the goals of the Synod launched in September 2020. A dedicated group of 16 parishioners from both parishes volunteered to reach out to our Essex Catholic Community (with many, many phone calls) to support the campaign. Our donations will provide additional resources to our parishes to meet our Synod goals of building vibrant parishes, evangelization and communications. Thanks to all for your commitment to the future of our faith community.

Parish Council

Our Parish Councils are formed to serve as advisory boards for Father Ranges and to support the initiatives of the parish. **Both parishes are seeking candidates** who would like to serve as members of the Council or serve on one of the Council committees: Liturgy, Stewardship, or Social Action. Meetings are once a month and each member is asked to serve on one of the committees. Individuals new to the parish are welcome and could bring new ideas and experiences to our faith community. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of joining this parish ministry.

First Quarter Feast Days

- January 1 Solemnity of Mary
- January 12 St. Marguerite Bourgeoys
founded Congregation of Notre Dame (CND) sisters in Canada
- January 21 St. Agnes
patron saint of girls, martyred at a young age
- January 25 Conversion of St. Paul
formerly Saul, persecutor of Christians
- January 28 St. Thomas Aquinas
Doctor of the Church, immensely influential philosopher and theologian
- February 3 St. Blaise
Physician, martyr, Patron Saint of illnesses of the throat
- February 22 Chair of St. Peter
Celebrating the role and office of St. Peter in the Church
- March 17 St. Patrick
Celebrated as bringing Christianity to Ireland
- March 19 St. Joseph
Father of Jesus, patron saint of fathers
- March 25 The Annunciation
Angel Gabriel announces Mary will be the mother of Jesus

Awaken

Awaken is a parish evangelization tool that's designed to provide people with a personal encounter with Jesus and His Church. This program, created by the [Light of the World Evangelization Ministries](#) has been a perfect tool to use during the pandemic as it can be offered remotely. Participants meet over Zoom for 12 sessions that present the "Kerygma", the basic Gospel message. Deacon Gerry launched Awaken in November and currently 24 participants meet to view catechetical and testimonial videos and then break into small groups for further discussion.

Testimonials:

"Awaken program zoom meetings fortify Christian unity and provide a medium for social interchange during the pandemic." Mike

"We have encountered a wonderful faith-filled, supportive and loving community of friends through the Awaken program." QS

Contact Deacon Gerry Scilla at vtscilla@comcast.net to indicate your interest in the next Awaken session that begins February 24, 2021.

Welcoming Back Parishioners!

It's almost a year since our churches were at first closed and then opened for limited numbers because of the Pandemic. We really miss those we don't see each week and look forward to the day that we are together again to share in the best meal we could ever have - the Celebration of the Eucharist! We hear so many people say they just yearn to get out and about and see one another. We need to remember that Jesus is one whom we should be longing to see.

Hopefully, we will all return with a new enthusiasm for deepening our faith, for thanking God for his providence through the pandemic, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit to enliven in us a desire to dig deep into our souls, and remember the gifts God has bestowed upon us by His love.

Let us renew our commitment to our relationships with one another and with God. Let's not go back to what might have been "habit" but is now a return with longing, joy, passion and purpose.

Can't Wait to See You!

CONTACT US at ECC.Engage@gmail.com

with your suggestions for addressing the priorities of the
Synod: Evangelization, Building a Vibrant Parish and
Communications