The Baptism of the Lord

HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS-SUNDAY
Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 am and 12:30 pm (Extraordinary Form Latin Mass)

HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS-WEEKDAY
M-F: 6:15 and 9:00 am. Saturday 9:00 am.

CONFESSIONS
M 9:30 am; W 7:00 - 7:45 pm; F 6:45 am; Sat 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Parish Clergy
Rev. Ronald J. Gripshover, Jr., Pastor
office@stlawrencealex.org

Rev. Daniel S. Spychala, Parochial Vicar
vicar@stlawrencealex.org

Msgr. Patrick Dempsey, Visiting Clergy

Rev. Joseph Okwei Ocran, In Residence

Deacon Michael A. Waters
Permanent Deacon – Office & Finance Manager
703-922-0233 deacon@stlawrencealex.org

Parish Staff
Parish Secretary Cynthia Dreslin
office@stlawrencealex.org

Director of Religious Ed Anne-Marie Pierce
703-971-8541 religioused@stlawrencealex.org

Youth Minister Joseph Stakem
703-971-5715 youth@stlawrencealex.org

Music Director Raymond St. Pierre
music@stlawrencealex.org

Week 25: The cement pour is complete and the exterior of the new Narthex is starting to be trimmed out. We have a slight delay but completion is still scheduled for March of this year due to the diligence and flexibility of our Construction team! Please pray that St. Joseph bless and protect our workers!

Prayer to St. Joseph for the Narthex Update-Expansion Project

O glorious St. Joseph, you were chosen by God to be the foster father of Jesus; the most pure spouse of Mary ever Virgin; and the head of the Holy Family, and you have been chosen by Christ’s Vicar as the heavenly patron and protector of the Church founded by Christ. Therefore, it is with great confidence that we implore your powerful assistance for our narthex update-expansion project. By your great intercession for us, St. Joseph, help us to build up Christ’s Church by guiding this project to its completion. O St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, we place this our intention for our parish in your hands.

St. Joseph, Protector of the Holy Church… Pray for us!
St. Lawrence… Pray for us!
January 12, 2020
The Baptism of the Lord

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS
(OFM = Ordinary Form Mass [New])
(EIF = Extraordinary Form Mass [Traditional])

MONDAY, 1/13 - Saint Hilary of Poitiers (New)
6:15 am  Francis & Mary Flaherty
9:00 am  Lily Tan

TUESDAY, 1/14 - Saint Sava (Historical)
6:15 am  Michael Rauer †
9:00 am  Edith Scardino †

WEDNESDAY, 1/15 - Saint Paul the first Hermit (Trad)
6:15 am  Leonard Joseph Puma †
9:00 am  Eduardo Kern †

THURSDAY, 1/16 - Our Lady of Refuge (Historical)
6:15 am  John M. Rauer
9:00 am  Mary M. Bruce †

FRIDAY, 1/17 - Saint Antony the Abbot (New/Trad.)
6:15 am  Barbara McCoart †
9:00 am  Deacon Michael A. Waters

SATURDAY, 1/18 - Saint Prisca (EFM)
9:00 am  Bud Shatzer
5:00 pm  Winifred V. Sullivan (Vigil Mass)

SUNDAY, 1/19 - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30 am  Parishioners of Saint Lawrence
9:00 am  Fritz Scheuren
11:00 am  Safety of the Church Renovation Workers
12:30 pm  Robert McLaughlin † (EFM)

This Week in Our Parish

Sun.  Knights of Columbus Parish Breakfast
after 7:30 and 9:00 am Masses
Youth Choir Rehearsal - 12:00 pm (except 2nd Sunday of the month)

Mon.  Confessions 9:30 am in Hammond Hall
Religious Education Classes 7:00 - 8:15 pm
Novena to OLPH 7:15 pm

Tues.  High School Religious Ed Classes 7-8:15 pm
R.C.I.A. Classes 7-8:15 pm
Legion of Mary 7:30 pm

Wed.  Eucharistic Adoration 9:30 am - 7:15 pm
Fatima Prayer Cell after 9:00 am Mass
Divine Mercy Chaplet - 3:00 pm
Religious Education Classes 7:00 - 8:15 pm
Confessions 7:00 - 7:45 pm
Holy Hour 7:15 - 8:15 pm

Thurs 11:00 am Choir Rehearsal - 7:30 pm
Knights of Columbus Meeting 7:30 pm

Friday  Confessions 6:45 am
Vespers 7:00 pm (1st and 3rd Fridays)

Sat.  Pro-Life Rosary - 9-10 am (2839 Duke St.
Alexandria, Virginia)
Confessions - 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Epiphany Water, Chalk, and the Blessing of Your Home. Upon the Feast of the Epiphany, Holy Church supplies the faithful with a great gift in the form of a solemn blessing of holy water that is afterwards referred to as Epiphany Water. This form of Holy Water is a powerful sacramental for souls and a great weapon in thwarting the power of Satan and the fallen angels. Last Sunday we blessed the Epiphany Water in a beautiful and time-honored ceremony. This blessed water is traditionally used, along with the chalk that is also blessed during the ceremony, to bless your individual home. For this, your family gathers to ask God’s blessing on your home and on those who live in or visit your home. The blessing is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in your home, your comings and goings, your conversations, your work and play, your joys and sorrows. During the home blessing, the blessed chalk is used to write above the home’s entrance “20 + C + M + B + 20”. The letters C, M, B have two meanings. First, they are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. Second, they also abbreviate the Latin phrase Christus mansionem benedicat, “May Christ bless the house.” The “+” signs represent the Cross and 20 represents the year. The text for the home blessing is provided with the blessed chalk the Epiphany Water.

If you would like blessed Epiphany Water and Chalk, and a “script” for the blessing of your home, please come by the Rectory office!!

Please Pray for the Sick of our parish family, including Jay Farabaugh, Melanie Brady, Justin Pham, Raymond Stanekenas, Rita MacQueeney, Donald Lawson, Alice O’Connor, Minh Tran, Anthony Torres, Leah Bloom, Richard Kuron, Sr., Jack Marzan, Matthew Peters, Cindy Kuron, Patricia Lewis, Christian Escoto, John Bonfanti, Chris Henderson, Baby Leah, Barbara Gaul, John Forrester, Bud Shatzer, Bon Le and William Geoghegan.
We had a great 2019–thanks to the generosity of many, many parishioners--We are nearing our original goal--help us not only meet, but exceed that goal in 2020.

**PLEASE ACT TODAY!!**

Electronic giving for the Project can be made via Faith Direct.

See: [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net)

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**CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

The Exterior of the Narthex visible changes each day as we progress toward completion. Internally walls, ceilings and fixtures are being installed at a dizzying rate!!!

All liturgical activity will now take place in the main Church--with use of the temporary chapel in Hammond Hall on reserve if construction noise will be too much.

Continue to pray the St. Joseph prayer on the cover for the success of the project and for the protection of our workers!

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**NARTHEX FUNDRAISING**

Goal $1.2 Mil

$1 million

$750,000

$500,000

$250,000

We had a great 2019--thanks to the generosity of many, many parishioners--We are nearing our original goal--help us not only meet, but exceed that goal in 2020.

**LEARN CPR & the USE of AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS (AED's)**

Have you ever thought of what you would do in a medical emergency -- say with your child, grandchild, parent or friend. How you act can save the life of a loved one--or a Christ-like stranger.

St. Lawrence Catholic Church has purchased and installed AEDs in each of the Church buildings. These portable medical cardiac devices are used in conjunction with CPR to save the lives of heart attack victims. While these AED units are automatic and the instructions for their use is simplified--in an emergency familiarity with these devices, and knowledge of basic CPR can enhance the likelihood of a beneficial outcome for a parishioner or guest surviving a heart attack.

**You too can be a certified CPR life saver!** Our parish has coordinated a First Aid, CPR, and AED certification training on Saturday **January 25th from 10 am to 3 pm in Hammond Hall**. These courses normally cost between $140 and $200 per student, but we have negotiated a special rate of $75 per student. If you desire to learn CPR (which can obviously be used wherever you may be to save the life of a child, grandchild, customer or so that you can be like the "Good Samaritan" and render aid to someone in medical need) please reserve your space in the class.

**Space in this class is limited, register by coming into the Rectory Office or by sending an email to: [office@stlawrencealex.org](mailto:office@stlawrencealex.org) and sending in your $25.00 deposit to the office by January 17, 2020, to confirm your seat.**
This month's **Share Sunday** is Jan. 18-19. Donations benefit those in need, including neighbors in our local community served by Koinonia's food pantry and clothing closet. Requested items: Laundry detergent, all-purpose cleansers, toilet paper, paper towels, men's deodorant, shaving cream and razors, shampoo, toothpaste, single pack toothbrushes, baby diapers (size 5 and 6), cooking oil, salad dressing, mayo, ketchup, and mustard. Gift cards to Dollar Tree and any grocery store are also much appreciated. **Thank you those who so generously gave last month - December donations totaled 594 lbs!**

**Angelus Academy 2019-20 Rolling Admissions:** Tuition assistance may be available for parishioners. Share the treasures of a solid Catholic education with your child(ren)/grandchild(ren). Call us to schedule a tour or to arrange a shadow day for your child(ren)! Re-registration for current families begins in January and is due on February 5. **Winter Open House** coming in February! Check our website after Christmas (AngelusAcademy.org) for more information.

**FIAT Day of Recollection for High School Girls:** Finding your place in God's plan requires building solid relationships with God, yourself and others. The Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus are coming from Steubenville, OH, to put on this day, which will include Mass, talks, workshops, prayer and fun. Sunday February 9, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. at Holy Trinity Parish in Gainesville. Registration and payment due January 31, 2020. Learn more and register: www.arlingtondiocese.org/ FIAT; email vocations@arlingtondiocese.org, or call 703-841-2514.

**Usher Program**

The parish is in particular need of ushers to serve at the 5:00 pm Saturday Vigil Mass, either part-time as back-ups for our regular ushers who have to be absent, or full-time for most Sundays.

If you are interested, please see one of the ushers at the Mass or contact the Head of the Usher Program, Dave Hurley at 703-921-2502, or via e-mail: hurley_dw@hotmail.com

**SAVE THE DATE-PASTA DINNER:**

Your Knights will be holding the Annual Family Pasta Dinner fundraiser on February 8, starting at 6pm in Hammond Hall. Bring your family and friends for authentic Italian pasta, wine, music, and plenty of fun. This is the Knights' big fundraiser of the year in support of KOVAR – a Virginia Knights of Columbus charity that provides assistance to citizens with intellectual disabilities. Tickets are $10 for an adult and $6 for children (family pricing is available) and will be available for advance sale the weekends of 25-26 January and 1-2 February before and after all Masses. See you there!

**In Gratitude...**

*Your humble clergy wishes to thank all parishioners for their generous and thoughtful Christmas gifts...they warm our hearts and some taste mighty delicious! Rest assured that all our parishioners are in our daily prayers. Anne Marie Pierce also thanks all parishioners who participated in the gift card, Christmas tree giving and food basket donations...many families benefitted directly from your generosity and celebrated Christmas with the added joy of knowing they are cared for by you our parishioners.*

**PARISH BREAKFAST**

The Knights of Columbus Parish Breakfast is this weekend, **January 12th.** The Breakfast hosted by the Knights of Columbus St Lawrence Council #9407 will be held after the 7:30 and 9:00 am Masses. Parishioners are invited over to the hall for a great breakfast after Mass. You’ll have an opportunity to relax, meet up with old friends, and who knows - maybe even make a few new friends.

**PRAYER SHawl MINISTRY** usually meets the second Friday of the month at 10:00 a.m. in Hammond Hall. All are invited to join in knitting, crocheting, organizing, or bagging the shawls which are then given to those who are ill and in need of prayers. **The shawls are available, free of charge,** for men, women and children who are ill. Their name will be added to the list of those for whom prayer is offered. If you or someone you know would like to have a prayer shawl, please contact the rectory office. The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is this Friday, January 10th.
GIVING IS EASY
-You can make a pledge and pay over a period you specify – (Either electronically or "in pew").

NOTE: If you have already made your donation or paid off your pledge, you can also make donations at any time and we will update your pledged/donated amount!!!

(Contact Deacon Mike for more info.)

The Youth Group thanks everyone for Advent WorkCamp donations and we wish everyone a Holy and Happy Christmas and New Year!

High School Youth Religious Education class is held every Tuesday at Hammond Hall from 7 - 8:15 pm. All High School Youth are welcome to come to class on Tuesdays or to attend any events. The next class will be January 7, 2020.

Parents: Please contact us to get on the email list for planned events/activities. Please call, email or come by and register to join us and discuss new ideas for our program. Please contact Joseph Stakem, Youth Ministry Office, at 703-971-5715 or email youth@stlawrencealex.org

HELP OUR NARTEX FUNDRAISING EFFORTS AND MEMORIALIZE YOUR RELATIVE(S), OTHERS OR GROUP(S).

- Huge Apostle Memorial Stones Available for Memorials
- Huge Stained Glass Windows Available for Memorials

We know these memorials are expensive, but they will stand for decades if not hundreds of years, and are the most significant memorials we have seen in our parish history. Consider:

1. You could partially fund a memorial with another family;
2. You can have your group fund a memorial;
3. Your current Pledge will be credited toward the cost of a memorial.

Talk to Deacon Mike For Details -- we have a family that would like to partially fund a memorial.