

ST. LAWRENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH

6222 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA, 22310

www.stlawrencealex.org

703-971-4378

Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.

JOHN 20:27

April 27, 2025

Divine Mercy Sunday

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION - SERVICES

Parish Registration - Prior to receiving particular services from the parish, one must be registered. You may register on the parish website or pick up a registration form at the rectory or in the vestibule of the Church.

Prayers/Visits for Ill or Homebound - If you are ill and would like to be placed on the prayer list or have Holy Communion brought to the home, or if you need to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, please contact the rectory to make arrangements.

Baptisms - Baptisms are generally held the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 12:30 pm. Parents must be registered members of the parish and first time parents must attend a one session pre-Baptismal class, offered once a month, usually the second Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

Sponsor Affidavits attest that a parishioner is in good standing and is qualified to act as a Godparent for Baptism or Sponsor for Confirmation. See website for requirements and Parishioner Sponsor form.

Sacrament of Matrimony - Contact the office at least 6 months before your desired wedding date. Marriage Preparation is required by Church Law to enable a couple to fully understand the holiness and obligations of the Sacrament.

Religious Education (CCD) - All children not attending a Catholic School who are in the first grade and up should be enrolled in the Parish Religious Education Program. Please call for details.

O.C.I.A. - The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults is the process by which adults (and children who have reached the age of reason) are instructed in the Doctrine of the Church and are prepared to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. Contact the Religious Education Office.

Parish Clergy and Staff

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

Rev. Maurice Mei Akwa, Parochial Vicar
fadamau1963@yahoo.com

Msgr. Patrick Dempsey, Visiting Clergy

Parish Office: (703) 971-4378

General inquiries: office@stlawrencealex.org
Facilities: facilities@stlawrencealex.org
Finance: manager@stlawrencealex.org

Religious Education and Youth Office: (703) 971-8541
religioused@stlawrencealex.org
youth@stlawrencealex.org

HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS, LITURGICAL ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES

M - F: 6:15 and 9:00 a.m. Saturday 9:00 a.m.

CONFESSIONS

Monday 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday 7:00 - 7:45 p.m.

Friday 6:45 a.m.

Saturday 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

NOVENA to Our Lady Perpetual Help

Monday 7:15 pm

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION Wed 9:30 - 1 p.m.

HOLY HOUR Wednesday 7:15 - 8:15 p.m.

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Monday, 4/28	Saint Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr 6:15 a.m. Special Intention 9:00 a.m. Laurette Nasetta †
Tuesday, 4/29	Saint Catherine of Siena 6:15 a.m. Fr. Christopher Mould 9:00 a.m. Monsignor Patrick Dempsey
Wed., 4/30	Saint Pius V, Pope 6:15 a.m. Maria Maldonado † 9:00 a.m. Meghan & Han Nguyen
Thursday 5/1	Saint Joseph the Worker 6:15 a.m. Betsy Foster † 9:00 a.m. Fr. Ronald Gripshover
Friday 5/2	Saint Athanasius, Bishop 6:15 a.m. Daminh Dinh Cur † 9:00 a.m. Paciencia T. Coquia
Saturday 5/3	Saints Philip and James, Apostles 9:00 a.m. Lee Neary †
(Vigil for Sun.)	Joseph Nghiêp & Maria Ngoân Nguyen †
5:00 p.m.	
Sunday 4/24	Divine Mercy Sunday 7:30 a.m. Missa Pro Populo 9:00 a.m. Mary & Jim Horner † 11:00 a.m. Hector Ayuso II

All parishioners are invited to join us after the 7:30 and 9:00 am Mass next Sunday for the Knights of Columbus Parish Breakfast. The Knights cook a delicious breakfast and you can relax and enjoy the company of your fellow parishioners while helping support the K of C charitable causes.



ST LAWRENCE ROSARY MAKERS

If you would like to learn to make rosaries to help spread the faith, we have a monthly meeting in Hammond Hall. No experience is necessary. If you can tie a knot, you can make a rosary to spread Mary's love for Christ! **NOTE: The Rosary Makers will meet monthly on the first Tuesday at 10 a.m. Call the parish office for more information.**



Liturgical and Ministry Activity This Week At a Glance

Mon 4/28	Confessions 9:30 a.m. CCD Classes 7:00 - 8:15 p.m. OLPH Novena 7:15 p.m.
Tues 4/29	High School CCD - 7:00 - 8:15 p.m. Legion of Mary 7:30 p.m.
Wed 4/30	Fatima Prayer Cell after 9:00 Mass Eucharistic Adoration 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. CCD Classes 7:00 - 8:15 p.m. Confessions 7:00 - 7:45 p.m. Holy Hour 7:15 - 8:15 p.m.
Thu 5/1	Women's Bible Study 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. 11:00 Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus 7:30 p.m.
Fri. 5/2	Confessions 6:45 a.m. First Friday Nocturnal Adoration (St. Mary, Alex (St. Lawrence 10-11 p.m.)
Sat 5/3	First Saturday Devotions begin at 8:30 a.m. That Man is You 7:00 - 8:30 a.m. Confessions 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.



Divine Mercy Sunday

April 27 All are welcome to come and participate in group prayer as we publicly pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet. The Chaplet and Confessions will begin in the Church at the Hour of Jesus' death, 3:00 p.m., on April 27th, as is the historical practice with adherents to Saint Faustina's wondrous vision.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

French conversation classes meet every Thursday in Hammond Hall from 10:30 - 12:00 p.m Noon

Spanish conversation classes meet every Thursday in Hammond Hall from 12:15 - 1:30 p.m.

If interested, call the parish office and leave a message.

ALL ARE WELCOME



SATURDAY PROLIFE ROSARY PRAYER VIGIL

Please join St. Lawrence at the Rosary Prayer Vigil conducted every Saturday morning, 9:05 – 10:15 am, outside the abortion clinic at 2839 Duke Street, Alexandria. St. Lawrence has led this prayer vigil for over 30 years outside one of Virginia's largest abortion providers. For further information, contact the rectory or Bruce Borzino, 703-402-8335.

The Council of Catholic Women VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please consider volunteering for our **Christ House Ministry** through CCW. St. Lawrence provides an evening meal every second Monday of the month at Christ House in Old Town. **The next date is May 12.**



Volunteers provide ingredients for the main course, vegetables, bread, desserts, and/or their time to support this ministry. Please contact our coordinator Rita Tassa by emailing

either ccw@stlawrencealex.org or office@stlawrencealex.org

Please Pray for the Sick of our

parish family, including: Anne Marie Pierce, Dr. Ronald Gripshover, Colleen Adamson, Curley Anderko, Giovanna Faustina Annarella, Jenny Antoun, Sandy Bertini, Lorenzo Betia, Leah Bloom, Dave Bocchino, Maria Bonfanti, Betty Bonifer, Melanie Brady, Luis Cristian Carranza, Joan Charters, Barry Childers, Pat Childers, Baby Reese Clasen, Josie Cofer, Renate Craft, Nancy Crowley, Ann Cullen, John D'Adamo, Anna Deaver, Gary DeMarco, Felicia DiFeo, Kevin Donaleski, Evan Duncan, Hilda Elizondo, Francis Flaherty, John Forrester, Barbara Gaul, William Geoghegan, Julia Delli Gatti, Patricia Gilcrest, Jaime Guzman, Carl Haines, Karina Hanna, Christal Eve Herrera, Elizabeth Horswell, Judy and Kevin Jackson, Judith Jackson, Norma Kemp, Mary Kirby, Tom Kirby, Jr., Richard Kuron Sr., Donald Lawson, Antonio Yu An Leng, Patricia Lewis, Luisa, Kathleen MacQueeney, Rita MacQueeney, Rose Marie Malatesta, Jack Marzan, Martha Mastic, Deborah Miller, Nhung "Kim" Miller, Robert Nguyen, Matthew Peters, Justin Pham, Steve Piscitelli, Larry Poh, Lori Polson, Ginny Rauer, Herman & Martha Rollandini, Vin Rosano, Eduardo San Diego, Hannelore Smallfield, Randy Souther, Raymond Stanekenas, Kurt Steinbacher, Donna Sullivan, Lily Tan, Henry Taylor, Zemui Teklu, Jun Tolentino, Anthony Torres, Minh Tran, Grace Valenciano, David Verbano, Marie Victorino and Fran Visco **Holy Mary, Mother of God, we seek your intercession for our sick!!!**



Board Members from **Mary's Comfort**, a new non-profit maternity home in Springfield, VA, will host an informational Zoom meeting on Friday, May 9, 2025 at 7pm. Please email - maryscomfortva@gmail.com to obtain the Zoom link. We'll share an overview of the program and tell us how we can help this important pro-life, pro-family effort. We hope you can join us!

PRAY FOR OUR BELOVED DEAD

We pray for those who have gone before us, marked with the sign of faith, most recently we remember: **Aubrey Polson, Dai Pham, Joan Curley, Mary Anne Choi, Federico Carreon, Elie Feghali, James Bennett, Balthazar Yambao, Christopher Cruz, Elvira DePaolis, Sarah Anne Valandra, Jay Farabaugh, Mulumebet Demissie, James Stakem, Jr. (Father of our DRE, Joe Stakem), John Dina, and Joanne Robertson.**

We also pray for the souls of the following deceased loved ones on this month's anniversary of their deaths:

Joseph Son (d. April 1, 2002)
Purificacion P. Ebdani (d. April 1, 2008)
Sovanny Saray (d. April 7, 2021)
Jose Dos Ramos (d. April 7, 2022)
Robert F. Corgan (d. April 8, 2023)
Robert D. Morgan, Sr. (d. April 10, 2018)
Sidney Ho (d. April 11, 2023)
Lisa Marie Wilusz (d. April 11, 2017)
Helen P. Angelick (April 18, 1995)
Tracey Ann Taylor (April 18, 2016)
Evelyn Santone (d. April 24, 2017)

(If you have a memorial of a death you wish remembered in the Parish please contact the office, giving the name and anniversary date.)

Pray Daily for a Future Priest or Sister:

See the parish pamphlet rack for a brochure explaining the Diocese of Arlington's St. Therese Vocation Society Members commit to praying daily for vocations and for individuals in formation as priests and religious. Those who join receive a quarterly calendar in the mail which lists the name of one person to pray for each day. There are no dues or required meetings and prayers can be done at home on your own time. For a prayer calendar or to sign-up on-line go to <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/vocations/pray/st-therese-society/>



Also, please continue to pray for:
Newly Ordained Transitional Deacon Sean Mazary (who was here with us at St. Lawrence a few summers ago).

Matt Chapman, in formation for the Permanent Diaconate.

Sister Gaudete Maria, daughter of Tien Vu and Lan Do (who work in your parish). Sister Gaudete Maria has taken the second step of her vocation with the Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus in Ohio.

THIS PARISH IS SUBSCRIBED TO **FORMED.ORG**

Sign up now for free access to this program offering beautiful and faithful Catholic content. Simply go to www.formed.org and search for our parish by zip code (22310). Type in your name and email address and then check your email message to sign in! There is something for everyone here: award-winning studies and parish programs, inspiring audio content, movies, e-books, and family-friendly kid's programming.

FROM THE DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

Weekend Discernment Retreat for Women

How do we make our "Fiat" like Mary's, not just a one-and-done proposition but a way of life? Join the Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco to explore embracing God's plan with hope and joy at the annual diocesan discernment retreat for young women (ages 18-40). The retreat is **June 20-22 at San Damiano Spiritual Life Center** and will include tools to aid your prayer and discernment, opportunities for prayer and confession, and Q&A with the sisters. Cost is \$150 and includes single room and bath and all meals (financial assistance is available). For more information or to register, contact the Office of Vocations, vocations@arlingtondiocese.org or 703-841-3829. Space is limited; deadline to register is Monday June 9.

What to Know About the Annulment Process

Want to Learn More about the Annulment Process? Join us for a presentation at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Warrenton, VA on June 14th beginning with 9am parish Mass and ending with a rosary. Fr. Thomas Ferguson, Judicial Vicar, will be the keynote. The event is free but to register and learn more visit arlingtondiocese.org/annulmenthealing. For questions call the Office of Marriage, Family and Respect Life at 703-841-2550

After Abortion Care Day of Prayer and Healing

These group healing events are held in a private and peaceful setting, in English and Spanish, based on the Entering Canaan model (2 separate retreats, 1 location). There will be an opportunity to hear from a past participant and others who have found healing. You are not alone. Take the first step. For confidential inquiries and registration, please contact Project Rachel Ministry: (703) 841-2504 or info@helpafterabortion.org. Project Rachel is the Diocese's post-abortion healing ministry, offering compassionate support to anyone affected by abortion. Our mission is to reach all women wounded by abortion with a message of hope, healing, and forgiveness, inviting them back into a loving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Finding Jesus with the Wisdom of the Years

A retreat for Seniors. Isn't it a challenge, living in the midst of our "throwaway culture," for those who are elderly and "full of years" to understand our place in the world--and in our Church? Although many of those about us may think that we are irrelevant, it is actually an opportune time to bring grace into the world and prepare for the Adventure ahead. Join Fr. John Riley at the Arlington Diocese's San Damiano Retreat Center in White Post, VA, to "rest and pray" with Christ. We will search the Scriptures and savor the wisdom of the Gospels as we consider the Crosses and the Consolations of our Senior Years. **Our retreat begins at 6 pm Friday May 9th** and concludes Sunday May 11th at noon. Retreat cost is \$285. For further information, please contact Father John Riley

Electronic giving through Faith Direct

is a highly respected and secure company. The Faith Direct program gives you a convenient way to support St. Lawrence by electing to use direct debit like many do for other payments or charitable giving. It also gives you the opportunity to support our parish even if you are absent from Mass for travel or illness. Visit the Faith Direct website www.faithdirect.org and use the parish's code **VA325** for secure online enrollment.

The MaRiH Center, a crisis pregnancy and pregnancy resource center, needs donations and volunteers.

Items can be left in the cradle near the entrance of the Narthex. Our volunteers make weekly pick ups and deliver the donated items to MaRiH Center: **Please note that large, heavy bags of clothing are too cumbersome to our volunteers. Smaller bags would be helpful. Thank you!**



- Baby clothes up to size 2T
- Maternity and nursing clothes
- Formula, baby food, and diapers
- Baby equipment; e.g., **MOST NEEDED** are non-expired car seats and strollers that collapse easily.
- Other items: shoes, bottles, diaper bags, toys, books, stuffed animals, bedding
- Baby wipes -- which are in very short supply.

There is also an Amazon baby registry that MaRiH has created. Check out the website at www.marih.org to learn more. Thank you for your generosity!

Join Catholic Charities in Serving the Vulnerable!

As the charitable arm of our church, we need volunteers to help us fulfill our mission of caring for those in need. Your time and compassion can make a lasting impact. Be part of something meaningful—sign up today! volunteer.cdda.net or call : (703) 224-1478



PRAY THE ROSARY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF POPE FRANCIS

COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN ANNUAL SPRING BRUNCH



Please mark your calendar for **May 18**, the date of the Spring Brunch. We are planning a tasty menu from La Madeline and a wonderful discussion about the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

We'll be looking for volunteers to help sell tickets after all Masses on the weekends of April 26-27, May 3-4 and May 10-11. Please note that tickets must be purchased in advance. IF you have any questions, please contact the CCW at ccw@stlawrencealex.org

Pathways to Citizenship Navigating the Journey Through Naturalization.

Jesus calls us to "welcome the stranger." How can your parish support immigrants and other newcomers on the journey to citizenship? Join the Catholic Charities Office of Volunteers and Newcomer Services staff to learn about the U.S. citizenship process, including eligibility, naturalization application, taking the citizenship test, and interview preparation. Our legal and education staff will share resources for preparation and identify common challenges. This meeting will also include Catholic Charities ministry updates, breakout sessions for networking and a Q & A session. Please register early—we look forward to seeing you! Advance registration at: <https://bit.ly/PLNApril30>



PRIME TIME SINGLE CATHOLICS (PTSC):

We are a social group, mostly aged 60 and over. (35 to 59? Ask about our free associate-membership group.) Come on out with us to: *"Legally Blond"* at Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre, Arlington (4/27 - 2:45 p.m.); Art Festival, Hillwood Estate (May 7); Brunch at Knights of Columbus (May 11) and more! For details, visit our website: bit.ly/ptsc. With questions or to RSVP, email Tom at ptscnva@gmail.com.

PRAY IN SONG



The 11 am choir is looking for additional members. If you enjoy prayer through song, please join us for practice Thursdays at 7pm and for Mass at 11am on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. There are no 'try-outs' and all are welcome!

St. Monica Prayer Group

Men and women are invited to attend on the first and third weeks of the month - Wednesday evenings at 6:15pm and/or Friday mornings at 8:00 am. The group meets in the Family Room in the Narthex. For more information contact the parish office at and leave your name and contact info.

Send the Encouragement of Prayers!

Looking for a tangible way to let a loved one know you prayed for them? **Stop by our recently restocked rack of Catholic greeting cards from NovenaCards.com available for purchase in the parish narthex!** The cards cover many different Catholic devotions including praying for someone at Mass, offering a Holy Hour, and praying a Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, or Novena for the intended recipient. **Special occasion cards are also available: Birthday, Thank You, Get Well, Sympathy, Mother's Day, Easter, and each of the Sacraments.** The cards are located on the small wall rack located on the left side as you enter church, adjacent to the ladies restroom. **The suggested donation is on the back of each item and Book Rack payment envelopes are provided for your use.**

MASS PRAYER BOOKS and CRY ROOM CHILDREN'S BOOKS -

Attention: parents, grandparents, godparents, caregivers... We have placed in the back of Church copies of a booklet, "Prayers of the Holy Mass" and in the Family Room a selection of Children's Mass books. These books are for use during Holy Mass and while you are at prayer; and we ask that you return the books after you use them for others to use to help in their prayer time. Know that if you would like to have any of these books for yourself or children, please use the Book Rack envelopes for any donation.



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