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!
December 15, 2019 - The Third Sunday of Advent

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

MONDAY, 12/16 - Saints Ananias, Azarius and Misael
  6:15 am    Mary Patricia Kroll † (Historical)
  9:00 am   Josephine Turk

TUESDAY, 12/17 - Saint Lazarus (Historical)
  6:15 am    Lorenzo Zaccaro & Maria Maddalena Cardone†
  9:00 am   Jim & Ann Marie Mitchell

WEDNESDAY, 12/18 - Saint Gatian (Historical)
  6:15 am    Fr. Daniel Spychala
  9:00 am   Tom & Sharon Turk

THURSDAY, 12/19 - Blessed Urban V (Historical)
  6:15 am    Thomas Pierce
  9:00 am   The Mitchells

FRIDAY, 12/20 - Sts. Abraham, Isaac & Jacob (Historical)
  6:15 am    Kathleen Pierce
  9:00 am   The Goslees

SATURDAY, 12/21 - Saint Thomas (EFM)
  9:00 am   Private Intention
  5:00 pm   Dave Hurley (Vigil Mass)

SUNDAY, 12/22 - Fourth Sunday of Advent
  7:30 am   Michael Washlack, Sr. †
  9:00 am   Fr. George Schommer, O.P.
  11:00 am  Arthur Saldana †
  12:30 pm  Parishioners of Saint Lawrence (EFM)

Ushers Needed.
The parish is in particular need of ushers to serve at the 5:00 pm Saturday Vigil Mass, either part-time as backups 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 5:00 pm Mass, or contact the Head of the Usher Program, Dave Hurley at 703-921-2502, or via e-mail: hurley_dw@hotmail.com

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.

Pray the Holy Rosary

This Week in Our Parish
All Liturgical Activities in Hammond Hall

MONDAY - Friday

Sun.  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

Advent Confessions this Week:
Monday: 9:30 am
Tuesday: 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Wednesday: 7:00 pm
Thursday: 4:00 - 5:00 pm
Friday: 6:45 and 9:30 am
Saturday: 3:30 - 4:30 pm

From the Vocations Office: Do you rejoice in the Lord? Is He asking you to consider a vocation as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? Call Fr. Michael Isenberg, (703) 841-2514, or write: michael.isenberg@arlingtondiocese.org.

When you are traveling out of the area, go to www.masstimes.org to find a Catholic Church near you. Remember that leaving the area on vacation does not mean a vacation from hearing Holy Mass. It is a mortal sin to miss Mass on a Sunday or Holy Day of Obligation through your own fault.
Thank you for those who have already supported this great effort! If you prayerfully decide to donate—use your gold edged envelopes or those in the pews!

**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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**Memorial Opportunities in our New Narthex!**

*Would you or your Group like to get together and memorialize a beloved relative, or your family, or your Catholic Group?*

**HUGE MEMORIAL GRANITE STONES OF THE APOSTLES SURROUND THE OUTER SACRED HEART STATUE -- MEMORIAL OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE**

- Apply your current Narthex donation pledge toward the cost of $29,500 each Stone
- Join other families for a multiple memorial
- Customizable memorial at bottom of each stone!!!

See just how dominating and reverent these 4’ x 4’ Apostle-memorial stones will be!

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**CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

The outer cement slab should be poured by the time we read this bulletin--hoping the rain holds to allow the full pour!

The Main Church is still closed during the week, with all liturgical activity taking place in the temporary chapel in Hammond Hall.

Continue to pray the St. Joseph prayer on the cover for the success of the project and for the
This week you will find a wide variety of **Advent Calendars** and **Advent reading material** on the Book Rack in Hammond Hall. Also available are December and Advent Magnificats and newly purchased materials from Ignatius Press.

**PRIME TIME SINGLE CATHOLICS (PTSC)** serves single Catholics 40 and over. Meet us for: golf (every Monday); lunch (every Thursday); and a variety of other activities. For details, see our website: bit.ly/ptsc. RSVP to Tom at ptscnva@gmail.com.

**Gabriel Project:** Support for pregnant women, whether you’re a brand new mom or a mom looking for support because you are new to the area, contact Gabriel Project at 703-841-3810, or visit the website at www.arlingtondiocese.org/familylife/gabriel.aspx. Gabriel Project - 866-444-3553, www.helpforpregnantwomen.org.

**Project Rachel** is a post-abortion healing ministry open to anyone who seeks healing after abortion. Project Rachel – 888-456-HOPE - www.helpafterabortion.org.

**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, December 13th.

**The Giving Tree** is now up in the church. Please take a tag or two and buy a gift or a gift card for a family in need. All gifts and gift cards need to be returned as soon as possible. Please bring gifts and gift cards to the rectory office or to Anne-Marie Pierce’s Office. If she is out, gift cards may be slid underneath door.

Gift Wrappers are needed to wrap boxes for the Food Baskets for the needy. Boxes need to be ready before December 16th when they will be distributed. If you have any extra wrapping paper you would like to donate, it would be appreciated. Please bring tape and scissors.

For details, contact Anne-Marie Pierce in the Religious Education Office by by calling 703-971-8541 or email at religioused@stlawrencealex.org

**Eucharistic Holy Hour** - The Arlington Division of the World Apostolate of Fatima (the Blue Army) will sponsor a diocesan-wide Eucharistic Holy Hour on Sun., Dec. 22 from 3 - 4 pm in the Perpetual Adoration Chapel at Our Lady of Angels Church, 13752 Mary's Way, Woodbridge. We hope you can join us to pray for world peace through the conversion of souls.

**YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED ...** new railings in the sanctuary to help our clergy navigate the steps while carrying the Blessed Sacrament --these were provided courtesy of Flaherty Iron Works (see AD on back page).

**Faith Direct:** We encourage the use of Faith Direct for our Parishioners. The option to make your contributions to the parish electronically adds convenience and consistency to your contribution, and saves the cost of mailing envelopes -- so your Church donations goes toward pastoral needs vice administrative costs. In order to show your support, especially as an example to your children and others, Faith Direct provides cards you can place in the baskets passed in Church. Visit faithdirect.net and enroll securely online or call 1-866-507-8757.
GIVING IS EASY
-You can make a pledge and pay over a period you specify (Either electronically or “in pew”).

IT’S THE END OF THE TAX YEAR
If you are retired, you can give from your "required minimum distributions" of retirement accounts-you save on income taxes and we can use the whole donation.

(Contact Deacon Mike for more info.)

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!!!

ATTENTION TEENS AND PARISHIONERS OF ST. LAWRENCE PARISH

The Youth Group will be offering Christmas decorations and gifts for donation to raise funds for WorkCamp 2020. Look for us in the month of December outside Church and in Hammond Hall.

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. Parents: Please contact us to get on the email list for planned events/activities. In December, we will be watching and discussing ADVENT and the Story of THE NATIVITY. Watch at home at Formed.org

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

FORMED

With thousands of Catholic movies, children’s programs, e-books, audio talks and Bible Studies direct to your browser, mobile device, or connected TV, FORMED provides the very best Catholic content to help families and individuals explore their faith. St. Lawrence parish has a subscription to this service which is available to all our parishioners, free of charge to you. Just create an account and start today to grow closer to Christ and His Church. Go to FORMED.org to create your own account.

For Advent, you may want to consider Lectio: Mary with Dr. Brant Pitre Featuring the insightful biblical teaching of Dr. Brant Pitre, Lectio Mary: The Bible and the Mother of God examines what Scripture, the life of Christ, and the early Church fathers reveal about Mary. By closely examining the connections between the Old and New Testaments, Dr. Pitre presents clear and easily understood explanations about the life and identity of Mary, the Mother of God. An 8-part series, approximately 30-40 minutes each session.

Come, Lord Jesus: Meditations on the Art of Waiting by Mother Mary Francis. These Advent reflections by the abbess of a Poor Clare monastery, an accomplished spiritual writer, focus our attention on the coming of Jesus into our lives. There is a double movement to this coming: both our active preparation to be ready for him and our patient waiting for the Lord to arrive in his own good time. There is also an art to this simultaneous preparation and waiting, and no one knows better than the beloved Mother Mary Francis how to encourage us in our attempts to master this art.