

ST LAWRENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH

6222 Franconia Road,
Alexandria VA 22310
703-971-4378 www.stlawrencealex.org

*"I am the Handmaid of
the Lord..."*

Dec 24, 2023

4th Sunday of Advent

HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS- SUNDAY

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00am

HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS- WEEKDAY

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

CONFESSIONS

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

Parish Clergy

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

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

Msgr. Patrick Dempsey, *Visiting Clergy*

Deacon Michael A. Waters
Permanent Deacon - Office & Finance Manager
703-971-5363 deacon@stlawrencealex.org

Parish Staff

Parish Secretary
703-971-4378

Cynthia Dreslin
office@stlawrencealex.org

Dir of Religious Ed
703-971-8541

Joseph Stakem
religioused@stlawrencealex.org

Youth Ministry
703-971-8541

James Stakem
youth@stlawrencealex.org

Music Director
703-971-4378

Raymond St. Pierre
music@stlawrencealex.org

Sacristan

Tatyana Nguyen

December 24, 2023 4th Sunday of Advent

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

MON 12/25 - The Nativity of Our Lord

7:30am..... Tom Farrier
9:00am..... Parishioners of Saint Lawrence
11:00am..... Sam Otejen

TUE 12/26 - Saint Stephen

6:15am..... **NO 6:15am Mass**
9:00am..... Eduardo Maldonado †

WED 12/27 - Saint John

6:15am..... Josephine Turk
9:00am..... Bob & Dorothy Jorgensen

THU 12/28 - The Holy Innocents

6:15am..... Jim & Anne Marie Mitchell
9:00am..... Luis Salinda †

FRI 12/29 - Saint Thomas Becket

6:15am..... Tom & Sharon Turk
9:00am..... Rita Costa

SAT 12/30 - Saint Anysius

9:00am..... Alicia Poslosky

Sat Vigil (Meets Sunday Obligation)

5:00pm..... Evelyn Evangelista †

SUN 12/31 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

7:30am..... Parishioners of Saint Lawrence
9:00am..... Catalina & Jose Gomez †
11:00am..... The Mitchells

Liturgical and Ministry Activity This Week At a Glance

Note: NO CCD Classes until January 8

Mon 12/25 No Activities
Tue 12/26 No Activities
Wed 12/27 **Eucharistic Adoration** 9:30am - 1:00pm
Fatima Prayer Cell after 9am Mass
Confessions 7:00-7:45 pm
Holy Hour 7:15 - 8:15
Thu 12/28 **11am Choir Practice** 7:00pm
Women's Bible Study 7:00pm
Fri 12/29 **Confessions** 6:45am
Sat 12/30 **Confessions** 3:30-4:30pm

SENIOR PARISHIONER "GET TOGETHERS"

The Seniors meet biweekly at 10:15 a.m. in the parish hall. Our biweekly "get togethers" will include fellowship, as well as discussions about relevant issues facing the elderly. Our next meeting will be held January 11th. All are welcome! We look forward to seeing you there. For questions, please contact Anne McCray at springfield.ed@sunriseseniorliving.com.

**FROM YOUR PRIESTS AND THE STAFF
HERE AT ST LAWRENCE:**

**We pray for you and yours to have a blessed,
spiritual, restful, safe and Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!**





DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

Office of the Bishop

200 North Glebe Road, Suite 914 • Arlington, Virginia 22203 • (703) 841-2511 • Fax (703) 524-5028

Christmas 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

At Christmas, we hear the proclamation: "*For unto us a Saviour is born who is Christ and Lord.*" This good news of great joy is the reason for our renewed faith and hope.

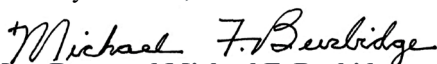
In a world experiencing so much unrest, a Savior is born who announces peace, brings glad tidings, and comforts his people. In a nation that is divided, a Savior is born who unites us as God's holy family, as brothers and sisters. In our lives, when we are overwhelmed by our crosses and sufferings, a Savior is born who embraces us in his love and mercy with the strength and graces we need.

And for all these gifts, the Lord asks so little in return. He simply wants us to strive every day to trust him, to be faithful, and to be instruments of his peace to all those we love and meet. What we do at Christmas teaches us the way.

So, with the help of Mary and Joseph, strive to be what our Church and world need more than ever: *holy families*. Do so by loving and respecting one another and giving to each other the most precious gifts of all: your time and attention. As you have been forgiven, ask for the grace to forgive others, especially those who have offended you, so that no bitterness is within your heart. Continue the spirit of giving that is so prevalent at this time of year, especially as you share your resources and blessings with our brothers and sisters in most need.

Dear friends in Christ, please be assured of a special remembrance at the Christmas Masses I will celebrate, and please pray for me. Through the intercession of Mary and Joseph, trust in the power of the Lord to renew and transform our world, nation, and each one of us. May the peace that only Christ can give be yours at Christmas

Sincerely in Christ,


Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington



Please join Saint Lawrence in participating in the 2024 March for Life in Washington, DC, on Friday, 19 January. A special prolife mass will be celebrated at Saint Lawrence at 10:30 am prior to departure. Bus transportation from Saint Lawrence will depart after the mass at 11:00 am and return at approximately 4:15 pm. Please sign the bus reservation rosters on the tables in the Narthex if you plan to use the bus transportation. Call the Parish Rectory at 703-971-4378 for additional information.

Quo Vadis Seminary Visit for High School Boys

Ever wondered what college seminary is like? Join Fr. Isenberg and Quo Vadis on January 27, 2024, to experience it firsthand on a visit to St. John Paul II Seminary in Washington, D.C. Meet the seminarians and their formators, see where they live, pray, eat and study, celebrate Mass together and tour parts of Catholic University where they have classes. Dads are welcome but not required. Deadline to submit registration form is January 18.

Visit www.ArlingtonDiocese.org/QuoVadis or

contact vocations@arlingtondiocese.org or 703-841-2514 (Office of Vocations). Quo Vadis events are for high school boys interested in growing in their spiritual life and exploring their vocations.

Save the dates for the **Annual Diocesan Conferences**: held at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Herndon, VA. **Men's Conference Renewed in Christ: Reflecting His Light to the World** (Saturday, March 2) and **Women's Conference Behold, I Make All Things New** (Saturday, March 9). Price is \$65 before Feb. 1; \$80 after. For more information or to register go to: arlingtondiocese.org/men or arlingtondiocese.org/women

Altar servers wanted

No experience required. Graces await. If you are a young man who has received the Sacrament of the Eucharist and are interested in learning to serve at the altar, please have your parents contact the parish office at office@stlawrencealex.org or call (703) 971-4378 to RSVP."



PRIME TIME SINGLE CATHOLICS (PTSC)

We are a social group, mostly age 60 and over. (35 to 59? Ask about our free associate-membership group.) Meet us for: New Year's Day lunch (Jan 1); square dancing (Jan 2, 16, 23, 30); walk at Greenspring Gardens (Jan 9); Thursday lunches (Jan 11 & 25); visit to Marine Corps Museum (Jan 14); "Murder on the Orient Express" play (Jan 21); serving evening meal at Christ House (Jan 27); dinner (Jan 28). For details, visit our website: bit.ly/ptsc. With questions or to RSVP, email Tom at ptscnva@gmail.com.

THIS PARISH IS SUBSCRIBED TO *FORMED.ORG*

FORMED brings beautiful and faithful Catholic content to parishes, families, and individuals. There is something for everyone here: award-winning studies and parish programs, inspiring audio content, movies, e-books, and family-friendly kid's programming.

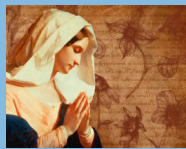
***This is PROVIDED FREE TO
OUR PARISHIONERS!***

For Christmas, look to these videos:

***"The true Meaning of Christmas,"
with Michael Barber"***

***For Your Children: "Laugh and Grow,
Bible for Kids at Christmas"***

**Go to Formed.org and put in "St
Lawrence" to enjoy learning about
your Faith!!!**



Pray the Holy Rosary



800th Anniversary of Nativity Scene. Plenary Indulgence. If you plan on visiting a church Nativity scene, you can receive the plenary indulgence from December 8th (the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception) through February 2, (the Feast of the Presentation). The Vatican approved that the faithful can obtain a plenary indulgence by praying before a Nativity scene at a church entrusted to the care of the Franciscans. In the Arlington Diocese, you may visit St. Francis of Assisi in Triangle or St. Joseph in Herndon which are both staffed by Franciscans. Another option nearby is the Franciscan Monastery in Washington, D. C. The usual conditions (going to confession and receiving Holy Communion) also apply.

PRAY FOR OUR BELOVED DEAD We pray for those who have gone before us, marked with the sign of faith, most recently we remember: **Myrna Gaerlan, Robert Beauregard, Robert "Bob" Farabaugh, Linda Lee Reeves, Blanca Mantilla, George Bierer, Anna Wisniewski, Elsa Thorson, Rose Loreto, Joe Bonifer.**

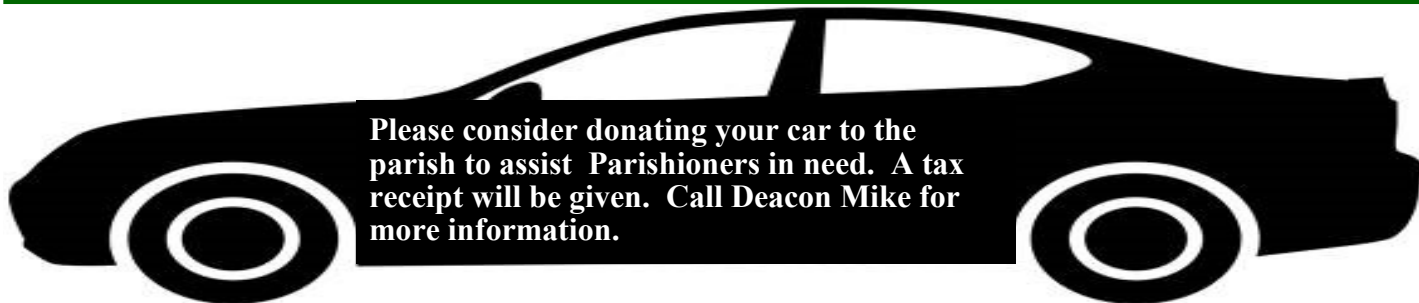
We also pray for the souls of the following deceased loved ones on the anniversary month of their deaths: December:

John William Keilwert, Jr. (d. December 1, 2021)
Ellen Ann Carmichael (d. December 2, 2021)
Daniel Francis Mulcahy, Jr. (d. December 6, 2018)
Rose DiGesù (d. December 10, 1999)
Frank Federovitch (d. December 11, 1974)
John Vincent Hatala (d. December 25, 2010)
Bill Childers (d. December 26, 1998)
Jean Madeline S. Cofer (d. December 27, 2006)
Louis R. Wisniewski (d. December 31, 1984)

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

Please Pray for the Sick of our parish family, including: Anne Marie Pierce, Dr. Ronald Gripshover, Giovanna Faustina Annarella, Jenny Antoun, Lorenzo Betia, Leah Bloom, Maria Bonfanti, Betty and Joe Bonifer, Melanie Brady, Luis Cristian Carranza, Joan Charters, Barry Childers, Renate Craft, Nancy Crowley, Joan Curley, John D'Adamo, Anna Deaver, Felicia DiFeo, Kevin Donaleski, Evan Duncan, Jay Farabaugh, Francis Flaherty, John Forrester, Barbara Gaul, William Geoghegan, Julia Delli Gatti, Patricia Gilcrest, Jaime Guzman, Karina Hanna, Christal Eve Herrera, Judy and Kevin Jackson, Judith Jackson, Mary Kirby, Tom Kirby, Jr., Richard Kuron Sr., Donald Lawson, Antonio Yu An Leng, Patricia Lewis, Viviana Ferrer Lopez, Kathleen MacQueeney, Rita MacQueeney, Palbo Maldonado, Jack Marzan, Martha Mastic, Deborah Miller, Nhung "Kim" Miller, Robert Nguyen, Matthew Peters, Justin Pham, Aubrey Polson, Ginny Rauer, Joanne Robertson, Vin Rosano, Eduardo San Diego, Hannelore Smallfield, Randy Souther, Raymond Stanekenas, Kurt Steinbacher, Donna Sullivan, Henry Taylor, Zemui Teklu, Jun Tolentino, Anthony Torres, Minh Tran, David Verbano, and Marie Victorino.

Mother of God, we seek your intercession for our sick!!!



Please consider donating your car to the parish to assist Parishioners in need. A tax receipt will be given. Call Deacon Mike for more information.

2023 CHRISTMAS MASSES

All Catholics Are Required to attend Mass on all Holy Days of Obligation to avoid mortal sin. For Christmas this year, then, all Catholics **MUST ATTEND** a Mass in each of the GREEN, RED and GOLD boxes below in order to meet their obligation.

Note: Depending on how you plan to meet your obligation, this year's Christmas Season could REQUIRE attendance at 2 Masses on December 24.

4th Sun of Advent-Normal Holy Day of Obligation

12-23-2023 Normal Vigil Mass for 4th Sunday: 5pm

12-24-2023 Normal Sunday Masses: 7:30am, 9am, 11am

CHRISTMAS MASS - Holy Day of Obligation

12-24-2023 Vigil Mass for Christmas: 5pm

12-24-2023 Vigil Mass #2 for Christmas: 7pm

12-25-2023 Christmas Mass: 7:30am, 9am, 11am

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY - Holy Day of Obligation

12-30-2023 Normal Vigil Mass for a Sunday: 5pm

12-31-2023 Normal Sunday Masses: 7:30am, 9am, 11am

Solemnity of Mary - Not a Holy Day of Obligation

Note: When this Solemnity falls on a Monday, the "obligation" is "abrogated" or not Mandating attendance --attendance is recommended

1-1-2024 Masses: 7:30am, 9am, 11am