

SAINT LAWRENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



December 27, 2020

6222 Franconia Road,
Alexandria, Virginia 22310
703-971-4378 (office)
www.stlawrencealex.org

HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS- SUNDAY

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00am and
12:30pm (Extraordinary Form Latin Mass)

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 7:00 - 7:45pm; F 6:45am; Sat 3:30-4:30 pm

Parish Clergy

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

Rev. Daniel S. Sychala, 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 703-971-4378	Cynthia Dreslin office@stlawrencealex.org
Director of Religious Ed 703-971-8541	Anne-Marie Pierce religioused@stlawrencealex.org
Youth Minister 703-971-5715	Joseph Stakem youth@stlawrencealex.org
Music Director	Raymond St. Pierre music@stlawrencealex.org

New This Week-News Corner

**-9am Daily Holy Mass recordings have ended
but Sunday recordings will continue.**

-We have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
on Wednesdays After Wed 9am Mass to 1pm
7pm-8:15pm (Holy Hour begins 7:15pm)

-We are praying the Novena to our Mother of
Perpetual Help on Monday evenings at 7:15 pm

See inside for your Christmas Holy Mass and Confession Schedule

**All Public Masses Have Resumed, with Social
Distancing Restrictions in place. We have
reintegrated singing into Holy Mass.**

December 27, 2020

The Holy Family

MASS INTENTIONS

MON 12/28 - The Holy Innocents (OFM/EFM)

6:15am Vincent Hien †

9:00am Vincent Hien †

TUE 12/29 - Saint Thomas Becket(EFM)

6:15am Tom & Sharon Turk

9:00am Vincent †

WED 12/30 - Saint Anysius (Historic)

6:15am The Mitchells

9:00am Vincent †

THU 12/31 - Saint Sylvester I (OFM/EFM)

9:00am Catalina & Jose Gomez ††

(Vigil for Holy Day -- Meets Holy Day Obligation)

5:00pm The Goslees

FRI 1/1 - The Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation) (OFM/EFM.)

9:00am Private Intention

11:00am Mike & Rebecca Delaney

12:30pm Parishioners of Saint Lawrence

SAT 1/2 - Saint Basil the Great (OFM/EFM)

9:00 am Beth & Butch

Vigil Mass (Meets Sunday Mass Obligation)

5:00 pm Anders John Hanson †

SUN 1/3 - Epiphany of the Lord (OFM)

The Most Holy Name of Jesus (EFM)

7:30 am Seminarian Kevin Kelly

9:00 am Sue & Chris Rasmus

11:00 am Parishioners of Saint Lawrence

12:30 pm Ruyen Dinh †

This Week in Our Parish

All Scheduled Public Masses are still being celebrated-- other Parish liturgical activities are also starting. Come to our Monday evening Novena and Exposition on Weds (9:30am-1pm) and Holy Hour starting with Exposition at 7pm! The Main Church is open 7 Days a Week until 9pm for private prayer.

(Please wear a mask and wash your hands thoroughly before entering church. Please maintain social distancing. We undertake all these measures, in an abundance of caution, for your safety).

This Week at a Glance

Mon. 12/28 **Confessions** 9:30 am

Novena to OLPH 7:15 pm

Tues. 12/29 **Legion of Mary** 7:30 pm

Wed. 12/30 **Eucharistic Adoration** 9:30 am-1 pm

Fatima Prayer Cell after 9:00 am Mass

Confessions 7-7:45 pm

Exposition (7 pm) and **Holy Hour** 7:15-8:15 pm

Thur. 12/31 - **New Year's Eve**

Sat. 1/1 **Confessions** 3:30-4:30 pm



The Priests, Deacon and Staff wish all our Parishioners a Blessed, Happy and Holy New Year!

USE FORMED.ORG TO IMPROVE YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE FAITH

Teach Your Children (and Yourself) About Our Faith - Our Parish Subscribes to FORMED.Org which hosts thousands of Catholic Movies and Classes on our Great Religion. Set up your own account today at no additional cost to you!!!

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

Pope St John Paul the Great High School

Interested in a great, Catholic education for your child's high school years? Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School invites you to sign your child up for the High School Placement Test, required for all 8th graders applying to a Diocese of Arlington high school. The HSPT will be offered on Saturday, December 5 and Saturday, January 9. While your child tests, stay and discover what John Paul has to offer! Visit jpthegreat.org for test registration details and more information.

End of Year Giving Options - Making Your Money go Further Give to the CHURCH TAX FREE FROM YOUR IRA

Make a Gift through a Tax-Free IRA Gift!

See Deacon Mike for Details

Why is this important? This provision allows individuals age 70½ or older to make tax-free gifts from an IRA directly to a parish or the Diocese. To complete an IRA Charitable Rollover for 2020 please contact your IRA provider for exact instructions. Such gifts make take a couple weeks to transact.

Help your Church, get your tax deduction, pay no tax

Parish Finance Update - HELP with Offertory

A huge "Thank you" to all Parishioners Who Continue to give to their church--even when limitations effect their ability to attend!

PLEASE REVIEW YOUR COMMITMENT AND HELP!

Our Offertory collections were down nearly 15% in September and October (the first downturn since the start of the COVID Pandemic in last March/April.) They were back to normal in November--THANK YOU to all out concerned St Lawrence Family

Please use your envelope or You can also Use Faith Direct eGiving



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, Patricia Lewis, John Bonfanti, Chris Henderson, Leah, Francis Flaherty, Barbara Gaul, John Forrester, Bud Shatzer, Bon Le, William Geoghegan, Donna Sullivan, Julietta Fuster, Kurt Steinbacher, Joan Curley, Renate Craft and Mary Kirby.

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!

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. The prayers can be done at home on your own time. To see a sample 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 seminarian Kevin Kelly who was here with us at St. Lawrence this summer.

NARTHEX PLEDGE FUNDRAISING REPORT

A humble "Thank you" to for the generosity of all Parishioners Who Continue to Meet--and, Yes, Even Exceed--Their Pledges for the Beautiful Construction of our Narthex.

New Goal - \$2 million

\$750,000

\$500,000

\$250,000

Original Goal \$1.2 Mil

\$1 million

\$750,000

\$500,000

\$250,000

As you Are Able, please Pledge, Give or Continue to Give to this project which has made your church more welcoming, more reverent and more peaceful!!

Electronic giving can be made via Faith Direct.

See: www.faithdirect.net

-Your Pledges have made your Renovation project happen!! – Help cut any debt NOW!!!

(Donate either electronically or "in pew"). Every little bit helps!!

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

(Contact Deacon Mike for more info.)

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION AND SERVICES

Baptisms - Baptisms are held the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 1:45 pm. Please contact the office at least one month in advance. Parents must be registered members of the parish and first time parents must attend a one session pre-Baptismal class, usually held on the second Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m. Parents are encouraged to attend this class before the birth of their child; please call to register. The Godparent(s) must provide a Sponsor Certificate from their parish before the Baptism. Baptisms in the Extraordinary Form may be requested by calling the parish office.

Sponsor Certificates - These are Parish testimonies to the fact you are a practicing Catholic in the parish and are issued to those wishing to be a Godparent or sponsor for a Confirmation candidate. You must be registered in the parish and first time Godparents must attend a class before a certificate will be issued.

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. Note that living together before marriage is sinful and harmful to future marriage. Couples who are living together will be asked to live separately during the marriage preparation time.

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. Call the Religious Education Office at (703) 971-8541 for details or email religioused@stlawrencealex.org

R.C.I.A. - The Rite 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. If you or someone you know would like to inquire about becoming a Catholic, please call the Religious Education Office, Anne-Marie Pierce, 703-971-8541 or email religioused@stlawrencealex.org

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 - (ON HOLD DURING PHASE II) If you are ill and would like to be placed on the prayer list or have Holy Communion brought to the home, please contact the rectory to make arrangements.

Angelus Academy is a small, vibrant, faith-filled community of caring educators and supportive parents who are committed to raising the next generation of well-educated, prayerful, patriotic Catholic leaders dedicated to serving others with great love. **Angelus Academy** offers a Catholic liberal arts education in the classical tradition.

Will you join **Angelus Academy** in its efforts to ensure that the next generation knows what truly matters in this world?

Please prayerfully consider a donation to the **Messengers of Hope** campaign. As an independent Catholic school, we receive no funds from the Diocese or the state; we rely entirely on tuition and donations to cover our expenses. To donate, please go to AngelusAcademy.org and click on "donate" or mail a check directly to the school: 7644 Dynatech Court, Springfield, Virginia 22153.



Our Parish Garden is one of the most beautiful gardens in Alexandria thanks to the loving attention of Tien Vu, our talented Facilities Manager. I would like a team of volunteers called "Our Lady's Gardeners" to help Tien pick up the leaves, especially those large magnolia leaves in front of Our Blessed Mother. Please contact Anne-Marie Pierce at 703-971-8541 if you wish to volunteer 20-30 minutes a week to this ministry. God bless you.

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. Note: Our parish code is **VA325**.

HELP "Usher" in the New Narthex. Ladies and Gentlemen--the parish is in particular need of ushers to serve at the Saturday 5:00 pm Vigil Mass and the 9:00 am Sunday Mass. If you normally attend either of these Masses, please consider helping with this important ministry. We really need a commitment for regular, weekly ushers, but if you cannot serve every week, please consider if you could back-up our regular ushers who have to be absent from time to time. Talk to any Usher or the Priests/Deacon, or contact the rectory office.

Gabriel Project - support for pregnant women, for new mothers or those mothers new to the area. Call **703-841-3810**, or visit the website at:

www.helpforpregnantwomen.org

Project Rachel is a post-abortion healing ministry open to anyone who seeks healing after abortion. Call Project Rachel at:

703-841-2504 or visit the website at:

www.helpafterabortion.org

R.C.I.A. CLASSES HAVE BEGUN. Need to receive a sacrament, join the Church, or learn more about your Faith? Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults classes MEET Tuesday afternoons at 1:00 pm. If you are interested in joining RCIA, please contact Anne-Marie Pierce, our Director of Religious Education, e-mail religious@stlawrencealex.org or at 703-971-8541.

*While we are dispensed from attending Holy Mass on Sundays and other Holy Days by our Bishop--if one feels unable to be in public during these COVID times--even though nothing can replace being physically present at Holy Mass--**know that 9am Holy Mass for Sundays and Christmas will be recorded and posted Online each day by 11am (as well as the 12:30EFM)** so those who cannot make it physically can meet their obligations to honor these Holy Days under the Bishop's dispensation.*