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 29, 2019
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

(OFM = Ordinary Form Mass [New])
(EFM - Extraordinary Form Mass [Traditional])
Masses and Liturgical Activities will be held in Church

MONDAY, 12/30 - Saint Sabinus (Historical)
  6:15 am Maria Yên Đỗ
  9:00 am Han Nguyen

TUESDAY, 12/31 - Saint Sylvester I (OFM/EFM)
  9:00 am Catalina & Jose Gomez †
    Vigil of Mary, Mother of God
  5:00 pm Anne-Marie Pierce Family

WEDNESDAY, 1/1 - The Solemnity of the Blessed
  Virgin Mary, Mother of God (OFM/EFM)
  9:00 am Father Daniel Spychala
  11:00 am Han Pascal
  12:30 pm Parishioners of Saint Lawrence (EFM)

THURSDAY, 1/2 - Saints Basil the Great & Gregory
  6:15 am Pilar Brigola
  9:00 am Father Daniel Spychala

FRIDAY, 1/3 - Saint Genevieve (Historical)
  6:15 am Frank Wills †
  9:00 am Father Daniel Spychala

SATURDAY, 1/4 - Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton (OFM/EFM)
  9:00 am Father Daniel Spychala
  5:00 pm Andrew & Ann Mastic, Sr. † (Vigil Mass)

SUNDAY, 1/5 - The Epiphany of the Lord
  7:30 am Tracie Aitcheson †
  9:00 am Father Daniel Spychala
  11:00 am Parishioners of Saint Lawrence
  12:30 pm Joan & Tom Cormack (EFM)

From the Vocations Office: Are you called to serve the family of the Lord and share the Father’s love as a priest, deacon, sister or brother? Call Fr. Michael Isenberg, (703) 841-2514, or write: michael.isenberg@arlingtondiocese.org.

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.

This Week in Our Parish

Sun. Youth Choir Rehearsal - 12:00 pm
  (except 2nd Sunday of the month)

Mon. Confessions 9:30 am in Hammond Hall
  Novena to OLPH 7:15 pm

Tues. New Year’s Eve

Wed. The Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
  (a Holy Day of Obligation)
  Thurs 11:00 am Choir Rehearsal - 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

Altar Boys Needed.

The parish is in particular need of young men (who must have received first Holy Communion) to serve at the 7:30am Mass, on Sunday morning. Encourage your young sons to join the priests at the altar (and maybe see if they have a vocation to the priesthood-- many, many priests started out as servers).

If you are interested, Contact the Office at 703-971-4378, or via e-mail: Office@stlawrencealex.org

Ushers Needed.

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 5:00 pm Mass, the 9:00 am 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

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Thank you for those who have already supported this great effort! We are nearing our original goal—help us exceed that goal, given cost increases related to stormwater and other compliance issues!

PLEASE ACT TODAY!!
Electronic giving for the Project can be made via Faith Direct.
See: www.faithdirect.net

Interior Work continues, the trimwork for the colonnades and outer features of Narthex arrive -- just as the cement slab is completed to outline the new atrium!

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

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

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 - 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.
This week you will find a wide variety of **Calendars and reading material** on the Book Rack in Hammond Hall. Also available are Magnificats and newly purchased materials from Ignatius Press.

**Angelus Academy offices are closed** for Christmas break and will reopen on Monday, January 6.

**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.

**Morning of Reflection for Vocations** - All are invited to join the St. Thérèse Vocation Society for their annual Morning of Reflection on Saturday February 1 from 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. at St. Veronica Catholic Church in Chantilly. The day will include continental breakfast, spiritual conference, Mass and Holy Hour. There is no cost but please RSVP with the Office of Vocations by January 27 at (703) 841-2514 or vocations@arlingtondiocese.org. The St. Thérèse Vocation Society was formed to pray for and encourage vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

**Seminarians Hoops Challenge Basketball Game** - Join the fun as the high school men from the Quo Vadis discernment group take on the Arlington seminarians, with Bishop Burbidge as referee. There will be contests and vocational testimonies at halftime. The event is Saturday, January 4, 2020, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at St. John Paul the Great High School. Families and CYO teams are welcome. There is no need to RSVP for the event itself which is sponsored by the diocesan Office of Vocations.

**Choose Life License Plates** are available from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles for a nominal annual fee. Part of the revenue is transferred to Heartbeat International for distribution to tax exempt pregnancy centers in Virginia. For more information go to: //www.dmv.virginia.gov/dmvnet/plate_purchase/select_plate.asp?PLT=&PLTNO

Please join Saint Lawrence in participating in the 2020 March for Life in Washington, DC, on Friday, January 24. A special Prolife Mass will be offered at Saint Lawrence at 10:30 AM. Bus transportation from Saint Lawrence will depart at 11:10 am and return at 4:15 PM. Please sign the bus reservation rosters in the church pews nearest the side door exits and in Hammond Hall if you plan to use the bus transportation. Call the Parish Rectory at 703-971-4378 for additional information.

The Knights of Columbus Parish Breakfast, normally held on the first Sunday of the month, has been postponed until January 12th due to the holidays. 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.

**Clean Out Your Garage and Donate a Bike!** Help provide transportation for those without a car! We need adult bikes in working order that will be used to help individuals travel to and from work. These bikes will be given to individuals in our Welcome Home Re-entry Program. Please email mchavez@ccda.net if you would like to donate your bike! Drop off location is Catholic Charities Arlington Office (200 N. Glebe Rd.).

**Thinking of replacing or getting rid of your old car?** Please consider donating it to Catholic Charities. A parishioner of ours (who prefers to remain anonymous) saw this ad in the bulletin and donated their car to the ministry, *Cars for Families.* That family’s generous donation provided reliable transportation for a another family in desperate need of transportation. Other non-operational cars or vehicles such as trucks, RVs and even jet skis and snowmobiles are accepted. Donating is EASY! They handle the paperwork and you receive an IRS donation receipt. Visit www.cda.net for more info.
GIVING IS EASY
- You can make a pledge and pay over a period you specify – (Either electronically or "in pew").

THE LAST DAYS OF THE TAX YEAR
If you are retired, you can still 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!!!

Narthex Pledge Cards/Envelopes in Your Pew

HELP OUR NARTHEX 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

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

BUILDING HIS MANGER ON EARTH