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)

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. Spychala, Parochial Vicar
vicar@stlawrencealex.org
Rev. Joseph Okwei Ocran, In Residence
Deacon Michael A. Waters
Permanent Deacon & Finance Manager
703-922-0233 deacon@stlawrencealex.org

Parish Staff
Parish Secretary Cynthia Dreslin
office@stlawrencealex.org
Director of Religious Ed Anne-Marie Pierce
703-971-8541 religoused@stlawrencealex.org
Youth Minister Joseph Stakem
703-971-5715 youth@stlawrencealex.org
Music Director Raymond St. Pierre
music@stlawrencealex.org

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 8, 2019 - The Second Sunday of Advent

Please Pray for the Sick of our parish family, including Jay Farabaugh, Melanie Brady, Justin Pham, Raymond Stanekenas, Joan Chapman, 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

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

This Week in Our Parish
All Liturgical Activities in Hammond Hall
Tuesday - Friday

Sun. Knights of Columbus Parish Breakfast
After the 7:30 and 9:00 am Masses
Council of Catholic Women Christmas Sale
7:00 am - Noon
Youth Choir Rehearsal - 12:00 pm (except 2nd Sunday of the month)

Mon. Confessions 9:30 am in Hammond Hall
Novena to OLPH 9:30 am
Religious Education Classes 7:00 - 8:15 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

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

From the Vocations Office: As John baptized in the desert, is the Holy Spirit calling you to tend his flock in the priesthood, diaconate or consecrated life? Call Fr. Michael Isenberg, (703) 841-2514, or write: michael.isenberg@arlingtondiocese.org.

Since December 8, 2019 is the Second Sunday of Advent, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is transferred to Monday, December 9th for the Ordinary Form Masses. The obligation to attend Mass on this Holy Day does not transfer. The Mass on Sunday, December 8th, in the Extraordinary Form (that is, the Mass at 12:30 PM), will be the Mass of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, with a Commemoration of the Second Sunday of Advent.

Because the celebration of the Immaculate Conception is so necessary for salvation history, we will offer an extra Mass on Monday, December 9th, at 7:30 PM in addition to the regularly scheduled parish Masses at 6:15 and 9:00 AM. While there is no obligation to hear Mass on December 9th, we should still honor the Immaculate Conception of our Blessed Mother by hearing Mass on December 9th. These Masses will be held in the Church.
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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**NARTHEX FUNDRAISING**

Goal $1.2 Mil
- $1 million
- $750,000
- $500,000
- $250,000

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**CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

The outer cement slab should be poured by the time we read this bulletin--significantly adding to the completion of the building!

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 protection of our workers!**

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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

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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0706 December 8, 2019
Donations to the **Dec 14-15 Share Sunday** will be used to prepare Christmas baskets for parish families needing assistance, and 15 Poor Clares of Alexandria. Greatly appreciated are grocery store GIFT CARDS which offer the most flexibility. Also desired: Canned goods, fresh fruit and veggies, dried apricots, applesauce, raisins, rice cakes, tuna in water, cream of mushroom soup, vegetable broth, spaghetti sauce, cranberry sauce/redish, gravy, stuffing, potatoes, french fried onions, mixes for quick breads, corn bread, muffins, cake and brownies, pie filling, mac & cheese, cocoa, coffee, tea, and juice. If you can donate fresh white fish for the Sisters, please call Ms. Pierce at 703/971-8541. Note: Non-perishables may be dropped off early in the bin in Hammond Hall if more convenient. Thank you!

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.

### 2019-20 Rolling Admissions: Tuition assistance is available for all parishioners. Share the treasures of a solid Catholic education with your child(ren)/grandchild(ren). Call or email us to schedule a tour or to arrange a shadow day for your child(ren)! [Admissions@angelusacademy.org](mailto:Admissions@angelusacademy.org); 703.924.3996.

Still looking for a gentle introduction to school for your 3 - 5 year old? Our Little Messengers program (MWF mornings) includes Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (Atrium) sessions.

### Lessons and Carols: An Evening of Advent Music, Scripture Readings, and Prayer Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 7:00 pm, St. Raymond of Peñafort Catholic Church, 8750 Pohick Road, Springfield, VA 22153

Please join us in the Church at 7:00 pm for a program of beautiful Advent music and Scripture readings, called “Lessons and Carols.” Weaving together prophetic readings from the Old Testament and pre-nativity readings from the Gospels, the readers lay out God’s breathtaking plan for the birth of Our Savior. The choir adds to the atmosphere of joyful expectation by leading us in popular hymns and stretching their vocal wings in a few more complicated choral pieces. Afterwards, everyone gathers downstairs for some seasonal refreshments and Christian fellowship. All are invited to attend. (Snow Date is Sunday, December 15th) For More Information visit St. Raymond’s Parish website [www.straymonds.org/lessonsandcarols2019](http://www.straymonds.org/lessonsandcarols2019) or call St. Raymond Parish Office 703-440-0535

### 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 rector office. The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is this Friday, December 13th.

### Shredding Truck Services

Will be provided at the St. Lawrence Parking Lot on Saturday, December 14 from 10am - 1pm. The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring this activity with your donations for this service going to support the Parish Narthex Project and the KofC Marian Homes efforts here in Northern Virginia. Take a few minutes to bring out those old paper files and support these worthy causes.

### The Giving Tree

Is now up in Hammond Hall across from Anne-Marie Pierce’s office. 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 by December 11th. Please bring gifts and gift cards to the rector 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 November 18th 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 email at religioused@stlawrencealex.org or by calling 703-971-8541.

You are invited to a Birthday Party for Baby Jesus! On **Saturday, December 14, 11:00am-4:00pm**, the Daughters of St. Paul will host their annual Baby Jesus Birthday Party at Pauline Books and Media, 1025 King St, Old Town Alexandria. Kids of all ages are invited for picture-taking with Baby Jesus (bring your own camera; costumes provided), birthday cake, crafts, story-telling, and more! 703-549-3806 or alexandria@paulinemedia.com for more information!

### Hammond Hall

If you or a grandchild(ren) would like to attend an Advent Atrium session, please call St. Raymond Parish Office 703-440-0535.

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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 Featuing 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 abess 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.