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 1, 2019 - The First 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

This Week in Our Parish

All Liturgical Activities in Hammond Hall

**MONDAY, 12/2 - Saint Bibiana** *(EFM)*
- 6:15 am Theresa Milhizer
- 9:00 am James Wilson

**TUESDAY, 12/3 - Saint Francis Xavier** *(OFM/EFM)*
- 6:15 am Gloria Sadaya’s Brother
- 9:00 am Tatyana Nguyen

**WEDNESDAY, 12/4 - Saint Barbara** *(Historical)*
- 6:15 am Alvin Vaillant Igitivyiza
- 9:00 am Rebecca Goslee

**THURSDAY, 12/5 - Saint Gerald** *(Historical)*
- 6:15 am Bruce L. Sherman
- 9:00 am Joseph Sunga

**FRIDAY, 12/6 - Saint Nicholas** *(OFM/EFM)*
- 6:15 am Dorothy M. Turner
- 9:00 am Sophia Sloan

**SATURDAY, 12/7 - Saint Ambrose** *(OFM/EFM)*
- 9:00 am Joan & Tom Cormack
- 5:00 pm Margaret & Sam Rafalowich (Vigil Mass)

**SUNDAY, 12/8 - Second Sunday of Advent**
- 7:30 am Katherine Palladino
- 9:00 am William & Elizabeth Dateno
- 11:00 am Parishioners of Saint Lawrence
- 12:30 pm Safety of the Church Renovation Workers *(EFM)*

**Ushers Needed.**
The parish is in particular need of ushers to serve at the 5:00 pm Saturday Vigil Mass and the 9:00 am Sunday 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

From the Vocations Office: "...He will teach us His ways..." Are you being called to bring the word of God as a priest, deacon, religious brother or sister? Call Fr. Michael Isenberg, (703) 841-2514, or write: michael.isenberg@arlingtondiocese.org.

Pray with Bishop Burbidge for Miscarriage and Infant Loss - You are invited to join Bishop Burbidge in a Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe for couples struggling with infertility, miscarriages or infant loss. The novena starts on Wednesday, December 4 and ends on Thursday, December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. A concluding Mass will be offered by Father Richard Dyer at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Arlington at 7 p.m. on December 12. To receive the novena prayers, text "novena19" to 84576 or for emails, sign up at www.arlingtondiocese.org/novena19 and select "Novena with Bishop Burbidge 2019" when prompted. To learn more email the Office of Marriage, Family and Respect Life at familylife@arlingtondiocese.org

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

*(OFM = Ordinary Form Mass [New])
* *(EFM - Extraordinary Form Mass [Traditional])

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This Week in Our Parish

All Liturgical Activities in Hammond Hall

**Monday - 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
Religious Education Classes 7:00 - 8:15 pm
Novena to OLPH 7:15

**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

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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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**CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

As we enter the season of Advent, our crews want to start our roof and finish the outer cement slab--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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**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.
COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN’S
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SALE
DECEMBER 1
The CCW is sponsoring its yearly Christmas sale in Hammond Hall this Sunday after all morning masses. Religious goods, Christmas wreaths and delicious baked goods are for sale. Please join us.

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.

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 Alexandrea. 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/relish, 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!

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).

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 or call St. Raymond Parish Office 703-440-0535

Join us after the 7:30 and 9:00 am Masses this Sunday for the Monthly Parish Breakfast hosted by the Knights of Columbus St Lawrence Council #9407. Parishioners are invited to stop by 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.

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 rectory office or to Anne-Marie Pierce’s Office.

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...
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!!!

Narthex Pledge Cards/Envelopes in Your Pew

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.
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