

SAINT LAWRENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH

“REPENT, AND BELIEVE
IN THE GOSPEL, FOR THE
KINGDOM OF GOD IS AT
HAND.”

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

MARK 1:15

1st Sunday of Lent

February 21, 2021

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 (In Lent add: Fri 7pm)
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

Liturgical and Ministry Activity This Week At a Glance

Mon 2/22	Confessions 9:30am CCD Classes 7:00 - 8:15pm Novena-Our Lady of Perpetual Help 7:15pm
Tue 2/23	RCIA 6:00 - 7:15 pm High School CCD 7:00pm Legion of Mary 7:30pm
Wed 2/24	Eucharistic Adoration 9:30am-1pm Fatima Prayer Cell after 9:00am Mass RCIA Classes 6:00 - 7:15 pm CCD Classes 7:00 - 8:15pm Confessions 7-7:45pm Exposition Begins 7pm and ends with.. ...Holy Hour 7:15-8:15pm
Fri 2/26	Confessions 6:45am Take Out KofC Fish Fry 5:30 - 7:00 pm Confessions and Vespers 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross 7:30 pm
Sat 2/27	Confessions 3:30-4:30pm

February 21, 2021 1st Sunday of Lent

MASS INTENTIONS

MON 2/22 - Feast of the Chair of St. Peter (OFM/EFM)

6:15am.....Edward Dunn †

9:00am.....Anna Mary Palladino

TUE 2/23 - Saint Polycarp (OFM)

6:15am.....Robert Dunn †

9:00am.....Gia Dinh Nguyen Pham Family

WED 2/24 - Saint Matthias (EFM)

6:15am.....Matthew Hunter

9:00am.....Jim Lofton

THU 2/25 - Saint Wallburga (Historic)

6:15am.....Corazon Gomez †

9:00am.....Corazon Gomez †

FRI 2/26 - Saint Alexander (Historic)

6:15am.....Lilian Gomez †

9:00am.....Hatseinesh Kidane †

SAT 2/27 - St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows (EFM)

9:00 am.....Teresa Jackson Myers

Vigil Mass (Meets Sunday Mass Obligation)

5:00 pm.....Maria Bích Trần †

SUN 2/28 - Second Sunday of Lent (OFM/EFM)

7:30 am.....Isaac Sunga

9:00 am.....Irma Ingrassia †

11:00 am.....Herman & Martha Rollandini
(In Thanksgiving)

12:30 pm.....Parishioners of St. Lawrence

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 Wednesday (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).



SHARE SUNDAY is this weekend, **Feb. 20-21**. Volunteers will be at all Masses to accept grocery store gift cards, non-perishable pantry items (see list below), and financial gifts to support those in need through our parish and Koinonia.

Religious movies will be shown at 11:00 AM every Wednesday during Lent starting with "Passion of the Christ" on February 24, 2021 "Gosnell" March 3, 2021. Light refreshments will be served. Call Anne-Marie Pierce at 703-971-8541 if you have questions.



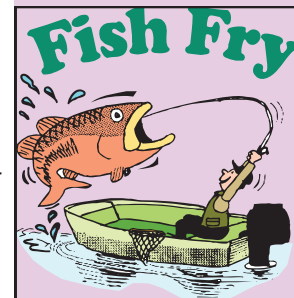
ST. LAWRENCE PARISH RETREAT -

Men's Weekend: MARCH 19th – 21st,
Women's Weekend: MARCH 12th -14th

Men's Retreat, March 19th-21st, Women's Retreat, March 13th- 15th. Renew your spirit during Lent with a retreat at the Loyola Retreat House in southern Maryland. This year's retreat theme is: "We Journey in Hope". To reserve your room, call Loyola at 301-392-0800. The suggested offering for the weekend is \$245. (\$195 for first timers or young adults under age 35). You can review the retreat schedule and also reserve a room online at loyolaonthepotomac.com.

For more info, contact parishioners Mark Krause (703-971-7146) or Chuck Wipperfurth (571-385-9699). Take some time to "Come Away and Rest Awhile" and spend a weekend during Lent with God.

FRIDAYS IN LENT

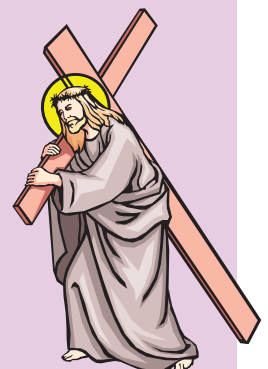


Knights of Columbus Fish Fry

**5:30-7pm
Take Out Only**

**Confessions -
Vespers
7:00pm**

Stations of the Cross - 7:30pm



Parish Finance Update - HELP with Offertory

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

PLEASE REVIEW YOUR COMMITMENT AND HELP!

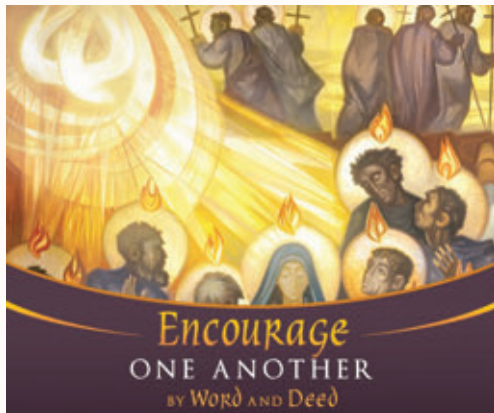
Our offertory collections were down nearly 17% in the Fall of 2019 as compared to a year earlier (the first downturn since the start of the COVID Pandemic last March/April.)

THANK YOU to all our concerned St Lawrence Family

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

Almsgiving for Lent - Giving to the Bishop's Lenten Appeal

After reflecting upon the many blessings that God has given you, please prayerfully consider making a pledge to the Bishop's Lenten Appeal. Every donation is vital to the success of the BLA. You may complete a pledge card at Mass, mail in your pledge, go online to www.arlingtondiocese.org or scan the QR code to make a donation.



Open your camera of your smartphone and let it hover over this code--then follow the link, give your name and address, our parish and your credit card info--and your pledge is done!!



Please Pray for the Sick of our parish family, including Jay Farabaugh, Melanie Brady, Justin Pham, Raymond Stanekenas, Rita MacQueeney, Donald Lawson, 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, Kurt Steinbacher, Joan Curley, Renate Craft, Mary Kirby, Zemui Teklu, Allison & Dennis McGlone, Kathleen MacQueeney, Ty Hamilton, and Randy Souther.

Give Moms the Ability to Choose Life.

Are you a planner? Looking to share ideas with other life-minded individuals? [Divine Mercy Care \(DMC\)](http://Divine Mercy Care (DMC)), the parent organization to Tepeyac OB/GYN in Fairfax, is looking for volunteers to be part of our newly-forming **Events Planning Committee**. Committee will meet periodically online or in-person to come up with fundraising ideas to benefit pregnant moms and babies in need, as well as DMC's educational programs. You could help in planning our annual gala/soiree and share your thoughts on new fundraisers, too! You can help a little or a lot, whatever works best for you. Interested? Please email: info@divinemercycare.org or call (703) 934-5552 with questions and/or to join in.

NARTHEX PLEDGE FUNDRAISING REPORT

PLEASE PLEDGE OR HELP WITH DONATIONS TO MEET COVER
THE CONSTRUCTION COSTS FOR OUR NEW NARTHEX.

We are now at \$1,375,822

New Goal - \$2 million

\$1,750,000

\$1,500,000

\$1,250,000

Original Goal \$1.2 Mil

\$1 million

\$750,000

\$500,000

\$250,000

**Electronic giving can be
made via Faith Direct.**

See: www.faithdirect.net

**-Your Pledges have made your
Renovation project happen -- now
help pay for the extra costs NOW!!!
Donate either electronically or "in
pew". Every little bit helps--in any-
mous donations we have
received over \$4000!**

***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.)



PARISH 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 (on HOLD due to COVID), or if you need to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, please contact the rectory to make arrangements.



Book Rack News:

March Magnificats are now in, rubber-banded together with a Holy Week supplement (suggested donation \$5 for the two together).

Browse the upper shelves to find **Lenten reading selections** including "Lenten Journey with Mother Mary" by Fr. Edward Looney, "Making a Holy Lent: 40 Mediations to Prepare You for the Church's Holiest Season" by Bill Casey, "The Cries of Jesus from the Cross" by Fulton Sheen and "Praying with Jesus and Faustina During Lent and in Times of Suffering" by Susan Tassone. Also available are materials by C.S. Lewis, G.K. Chesterton, and Saints Augustine, John of the Cross, Therese of Lisieux, and Thomas a Kempis--Hopefully something for everyone!

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

While we are still dispensed from physically attending Holy Mass on Sundays and other Holy Days by our Bishop--if one feels unable to be in public during these COVID times--and even though nothing can replace being physically present at Holy Mass--the dispensation requires us to set aside time on these days to view Holy Mass virtually, or to perform some other specific devotion (a special Rosary, Reading of the Bible...etc), to meet our obligation.

Know that 9am Holy Mass for Sundays will be recorded and posted Online each day by 11am, and the 12:30 EFM Mass will be online by 2pm) to assist those who cannot make it physically so they can meet their obligations to honor these Holy Days under the Bishop's dispensation.

Vocational Discernment Retreat for Men

Could Christ be calling you to the priesthood? Take a step to find out. Attend the weekend discernment retreat for men (ages 18-50) Friday-Sunday, March 19-21, 2021. This is a great opportunity for prayer and discernment, confession, and talking with priests and seminarians. Cost is \$60 and includes overnights and all meals (financial assistance is available if needed). Retreat starts Friday at 6:30 p.m. and concludes Sunday after lunch. For more information or to register, contact Fr. Michael Isenberg at 703-841-2514 or vocations@arlingtondiocese.org. Deadline to register is Monday March 8. A similar retreat for women is June 18-20.

R.C.I.A. CLASSES CONTINUE

Need to receive a sacrament, join the Church, or learn more about your Faith? Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults classes MEET Wednesday from 6:00 - 7:15 pm.

If you are interested in joining RCIA, please contact Anne-Marie Pierce, our Director of Religious Education, at 703-971-8541, or via e-mail: religioused@stlawrencealex.org.



Join your fellow Parishioners for First Friday Nocturnal Adoration!

Eucharistic Adoration provides a fervent response to Christ's invitation to keep prayerful vigil with Him; to deepen the experience of communion with our Eucharistic LORD, as He continues His self-offering and saving influence; and to live more consciously and actively the full significance of the Eucharist as the Sacrament of charity and unity for the Church and the world. The Nocturnal

Adoration Society, of which St. Lawrence has participated in for over 40 years, has all-night Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every First Friday of the month at the Basilica of St. Mary in Old Town Alexandria. St. Lawrence is responsible for the 10:00 PM – 11:00 PM hour. During this hour, both silent and vocal prayer are incorporated in the time spent with our Eucharistic LORD. The vocal prayers follow the *Little Office of the Blessed Sacrament* by praying several Psalms and beautiful Eucharistic meditations. Security is provided by Alexandria Police officers. We warmly invite you to come and join us for this special time with our LORD Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament!

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**.

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What's My Name?

The #WHATSMYNAME Movement asks everyone to simply ask drivers "What's my name?" before entering their vehicle to make sure it is the car they are supposed to enter.



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