



ST. LAWRENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

2nd Sunday
in Ordinary Time
January 15, 2023

HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS- SUNDAY

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00am

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

Parish Clergy

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

Msgr. Patrick Dempsey, Visiting Clergy

Rev. Maurice Mei Akwa, Parochial Vicar
fadamau1963@yahoo.com

Rev. Joseph Okwei Ocran, In Residence

Deacon Michael A. Waters
Permanent Deacon - Office & Finance Manager
703-971-5363 deacon@stlawrencealex.org

Parish Staff

Parish Secretary
703-971-4378

Dir of Religious Ed
703-971-8541

Youth Minister
703-971-8541

Music Director
703-971-4378

Sacristan

Cynthia Dreslin
office@stlawrencealex.org

Joseph Stakem (*Interim Director*)
religioused@stlawrencealex.org

Joseph Stakem
youth@stlawrencealex.org

Raymond St. Pierre
music@stlawrencealex.org

Tatyana Nguyen

January 15, 2023, 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

MON 1/16 - Saint Marcellus
 6:15am..... **NO MASS - Federal Holiday**
 9:00am..... John W. Melvin †

TUE 1/17 - Saint Anthony the Abbot
 6:15am..... **NO MASS (Int. celebrated privately)**
 Deacon Michael Waters
 (Anniversary of Ordination)
 9:00am..... Genevieve Grippo †

WED 1/18 - Saint Prisca
 6:15am..... Reyes Guerra
 9:00am..... Anne-Marie Pierce

THU 1/19 - Saints Marius, Martha, Audifax & Abachum
 6:15am..... Mary McHugh †
 9:00am..... Beth Chwiki

FRI 1/20 - Saint Fabian
 6:15am..... Raul Betancourt †
 9:00am..... Chris Henderson †

SAT 1/21 - Saint Agnes
 9:00am..... Bud Shatzer †

VIGIL MASS - Meets Sunday Obligation
 5:00pm..... Sandy Bertini

SUN 1/22 - The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
 7:30am..... Robert Schamel †
 9:00am..... Private Intention
 11:00am..... Parishioners of Saint Lawrence

This Weekend, Jan. 14-15, is Share Sunday. Koinonia's current needs are: Sugar, flour, grape jelly, men's and women's toiletries, paper products (Kleenex, paper towels, TP), and cleaning supplies. Also needed are newspaper type bags (for vegetables) and Dollar Tree gift cards. Thank you for supporting this ministry!



Book Rack News: This week in among the new books on the racks you will find **used books**, some in "almost new" condition. While these are unpriced, we ask that you please make a donation to support the book and pamphlet rack ministry. **Coming soon! Titles by or about the life of Pope Emeritus Benedict.** February Magnificats arrived early and are on the racks

Liturgical and Ministry Activity This Week At a Glance

Mon 1/16 Confessions after 9am Mass
 Perpetual Help Novena after 9am Mass
NO Religious Education Classes - Holiday

Tue 1/17 Parents Ministry Playgroup 10-11:30am
 Legion of Mary 7:30 pm
 Religious Education Classes 7-8:15pm

Wed 1/18 Eucharistic Adoration After 9am Mass - 1pm
 Fatima Prayer Cell after 9am Mass
 Confessions 7-7:45pm
 Religious Education Classes 7-8:15pm
 Holy Hour 7:15-8:15pm

Thur 1/19 11am Choir Practice 7:30pm
 Knights of Columbus - 7:00pm

Fri 1/20 Confessions 6:45

Sat 1/21 Confessions 3:30-4:30 pm

Our next CCW Meeting is January 15 at 2pm in Hammond Hall. Are you Pro-life? Act on that stance. Come learn more from our guest speaker, Kathleen



Wilson, founder of Mary's Shelter in Fredericksburg, which aids women and babies in need. We are also asking for donations to this important cause. They are in desperate need of size 5 diapers and household items such as white twin sheet sets, plastic mattress protectors, table lamps, standard size bed pillows, shower curtains, small vacuums, mop and bucket kit. Please bring a snack to share.

Please join Saint Lawrence in participating in the 2023 March for Life in Washington, DC, on Friday, 20 January. A special prolife Mass will be celebrated at Saint Lawrence at 10:30 am prior to departure. Bus transportation



from Saint Lawrence will depart after the mass at 11:00 am and return at approximately 4:15 pm. Please sign the bus reservation rosters on the tables in the Narthex if you plan to use the bus transportation. Call the Parish Rectory at 703-971-4378 for additional information.

The Council of Catholic Women will provide a **Soup Supper after the March for Life bus returns.** Please drop off soup donations between 3 and 4 pm on Friday, January 20th.



Parents with Babies & Young Children

NEW Parents' Ministry Group at St. Lawrence! We will meet on **Tuesdays, from 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM** in the back classroom of the parish hall. We hope to meet every Tuesday. You are invited to bring your babies and small children for a fun time socializing with other parish families. Feel free to bring any toys you'd like to donate for use during the play group. Please contact the parish office with any questions.

MOTHER-DAUGHTER RETREAT

The Women's Apostolate to Youth invites you to a Mother-Daughter retreat, **"On the Road to Joy- the True Meaning of Friendship"** (for girls in grades 7-9) on February 4, 2023. Join us for this wonderful opportunity to forge a stronger bond with your daughter by sharing and deepening your devotion to the great Archangel St. Raphael--chosen by God to accompany young women on their journey through life and to bring them safely to their destination and to the companions God has prepared for them.

The retreat includes talks, activities (fun!), as well as opportunities for confession, adoration, and Mass and begins at 8:30 am and concludes at 3:30 pm at St. Raymond of Penafort Church, 8750 Pohick Rd. Springfield. The \$60 fee includes materials, breakfast, and lunch for both mother and daughter and \$15 per additional daughter.

For more information and to register by January 28, 2023 visit www.WAYwomen.com/daystar

Sorry, we cannot accept registrations at the door.

PRAY FOR OUR BELOVED DEAD

We pray for those who have gone before us, marked with the sign of faith, most recently we remember: **Gloria Norton, Maureen Schreiner, Maria Lenore, Chaslava and Edmund Spurhiash, Peter DeMarco, Michael Sorbera, Vivian May Haecherl, Edgardo C. Javier Parveen Teresa, and Martin Swann.**

We also pray for the souls of the following deceased loved ones on the anniversary month of their deaths

Cindy Kuron (d. January 3, 2020)
John Lent (d. January 7, 2011)
Chu Pham (d. January 13 2022)
John Wayne Melvin (d. January 16, 2022)
Charles Cotte (d. January 17, 2021)
Mui Pham (d. January 19, 2005)
Wilson "Bud" Shatzer (d. January 21, 2022)

(If you have a memorial of a death you wish remembered, please contact the office giving the name and anniversary date)

DESPERATE NEED FOR CLOTHING!

Koinonia's Clothing Closet is now accepting gently used **FALL and WINTER clothes**. There is a need especially for:

- * Men's small and medium sized clothing,
- * Winter Coats (mens, womenswear, children)
- * Boys clothing sizes 6-16
- * Ladies small clothing sizes 6-9



Drop clothes at Koinonia,
6037 Franconia Rd,
MTWF 9am-12

Thank you!

The **Poor Clare Sisters** of Alexandria sent a **kind message of thanks to St. Lawrence Parish** for the gracious donation of food items and household needs delivered by members of the CCW shortly before Christmas saying, "...we just want to express our sincere gratitude for all that goes into planning, organizing, transporting and delivering all these collectables. We're sure that many people, whose names we do not know contributed. May God reward one and all. We do keep you all in our prayers, asking God's blessing upon you for such charity."

**LOOKING FOR GREAT RESOURCES TO IMPROVE YOUR
(and your children's) PRAYER LIFE, and INCREASE YOUR
KNOWLEDGE OF THE FAITH??**

USE FORMED.ORG

Watch **"I Prefer Heaven, the St. Philip Neri Story"** (A Study of Sainthood) — Or have your kids watch FORMED's **"Our Lady of Guadalupe, Littlest Saints"** so they can relate to sainthood!

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

Baby Cradle Baby Items Needed

The MaRiH Center serves pregnant women and their children, to give options especially for women in crisis. Donations such as those listed below can be left in the cradle near the entrance of the Narthex. Our volunteers make weekly pick ups and deliver the donated items to MaRiH Center:

- Baby clothes up to size 2T
- Baby equipment; e.g., **MOST NEEDED** are non-expired car seats and strollers that collapse easily.
- Maternity and nursing clothes
- Formula, baby food, and diapers
- Other items: shoes, bottles, diaper bags, toys, books, stuffed animals, bedding
- Baby wipes -- which are in very short supply.

There is also an Amazon baby registry that MaRiH has created. Please visit their site marih.org to see other needs. Thank you for your generosity!

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, February 24-26, 2023. This is a great opportunity for prayer and discernment, confession, and talking with priests and seminarians. Cost is \$100 and includes overnights and all meals. 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 February 13. There is a similar retreat for women June 16-18.

Save the Dates: Arlington Diocesan Conferences Men (March 4th) & Women's (March 11)
for Registration and details email:
familylife@arlingtondiocese.org or call 703-841-2550

PRIME TIME SINGLE CATHOLICS (PTSC)

We are single Catholics, 40 and over, who are free to marry by Catholic standards. Meet us for: Square Dancing at Greenspring Village (Jan 17, 24 and 31) Roving Restauranteers - Del Ray Café (Jan 15); Installation Mass (Jan 21); Lunch at Sweetwater Tavern, Falls Church (Jan 26); Christ House (Jan 28). For details, visit our website: bit.ly/ptsc. With questions or to RSVP, email Tom at ptscnva@gmail.com.

Sundays with the Sisters Rejoice Tour 2023 Witness the joy of our religious sisters during the Sundays with the Sisters Rejoice Tour 2023! The tour will showcase the religious women of our diocese who, like Mary, rejoice in the Lord by their daily surrender. The tour features an event at a different convent each month, bringing together sisters and lay women for prayer and community. For single women ages 18-50. RSVP by the Monday before each event to vocations@arlingtondiocese.org. More info at ArlingtonDiocese.org/RejoiceTour.

Please Pray for the Sick of our parish family, including: Anne Marie Pierce, our DRE, Dr. Ronald Gripshover, Jerry Alexander, Giovanna Faustina Annarella, Jenny Antoun, Leah Bloom, Melanie Brady, Marie Bonfanti, Luis Cristian Carranza, Joan Charters, Robert Corgan, Renate Craft, Nancy Crowley, Joan Curley, John D'Adamo, Bob Farabaugh, Jay Farabaugh, Francis Flaherty, John Forrester, Barbara Gaul, William Geoghegan, Jaime Guzman, Karina Hanna, Christal Eve Herrera, Judy and Kevin Jackson, Mary Kirby, Richard Kuron Sr., Donald Lawson, Antonio Yu An Leng, Patricia Lewis, Kathleen MacQueeney, Rita MacQueeney, Jack Marzan, Martha Mastic, Robert Nguyen, Matthew Peters, Justin Pham, Reyes Ponce, Eduardo San Diego, Hannelore Smallfield, Randy Souther, Raymond Stanekenas, Kurt Steinbacher, Donna Sullivan, Zemui Teklu, Jun Tolentino, Anthony Torres, Minh Tran, David Verbano, Marie Victorino and Bob Volkert.

Mary, Mother of God, we seek your intercession for our sick!!!

Quo Vadis Father-Son Seminary Visit - Ever wondered what college seminary is like? Join Fr. Isenberg and Quo Vadis on Saturday, February 11, 2023, to experience it firsthand on a visit to St. John Paul II Seminary in Washington, D.C. Meet the seminarians and their formators, see where they live, pray, eat and study, celebrate Mass together and tour parts of Catholic University where they have classes. Dads are welcome but not required. Deadline to submit registration form is February 3. Visit ArlingtonDiocese.org/QuoVadis, or contact the Office of Vocations, vocations@arlingtondiocese.org or 703-841-2514. Quo Vadis events are for high school boys interested in growing in their spiritual life and exploring their vocations.

FIAT Day of Recollection for High School Girls - Can prayer be a joy? Join the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy for some prayer tips and tricks along with fellowship and fun. This event will be held Saturday, January 28, 2023, at the St. John Paul II National Shrine and will also include Mass and adoration. For girls currently in high school. Deadline to register is January 20. Sponsored by the Office of Vocations. For more information visit ArlingtonDiocese.org/FIAT.



Epiphany Water. At the Feast of the Epiphany, Holy Church supplies the faithful with a great gift in the form of a solemn blessing of holy water that is afterwards referred to as Epiphany Water. This form of Holy Water is a powerful sacramental for souls and a great weapon in thwarting the power of Satan and the fallen angels.

There is a tradition to use the water and the chalk that are blessed during the beautiful ceremony to bless your home. For this, your family gathers to ask God's blessing on your home and on those who live in or visit the home. The blessing is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in your home, your comings and goings, your conversations, your work and play, your joys and sorrows. During the home blessing, the blessed chalk is used to write above the home's entrance "20 + C + M + B + 23". The letters C, M, B have two meanings. First, they are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. Second, they also abbreviate the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the Cross and 2023 is the year. The text for the home blessing will be provided after the Blessing of the Epiphany Water. For those of you who were unable to attend the ceremonial blessing, extra Epiphany Water and chalk are available at the Rectory Office.

PLEASE PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER HELPING YOUR CHURCH MEET ITS GOAL TO PAY OFF THE NARTHEX PROJECT COSTS

We Now Have Building Project Pledges in the Amount of
\$1.73 Million, Just short of our \$2m GOAL

Thank you for those giving new pledges and to those giving more than their original pledge, and those who have pledged anew!

MEMORIALIZE A LOST CHILD. Within our Fr McAfee Memorial Garden, there is a small area surrounded by a circle of red roses, the symbol of life and the Right to Life. Originally designed by our Knights of Columbus Council 9407, this **Memorial Garden for Unborn Children** honors the memory of all souls lost to abortion, miscarriage, and still-birth. The Garden provides a peaceful place of prayer for an end to abortion, for all little ones lost prior to birth, and for those seeking hope and healing due to their loss.

Several new memorial stones have already been installed in this garden. Please visit the garden to see these memorials. You can purchase memorial stones anonymously that are engraved with names of children lost during pregnancy or due to abortion.



Arrangements have been made with [Engraved-rock.com](https://engraved-rock.com) in Washington state to take orders for personalized memorial stones to be included in this Garden. There are two options:

Signature Rock: 3"-5" for \$45, suitable for 1-3 words (e.g.: name + date + graphic)

Small Rock: 7"-11" for \$115, accommodating a brief inscription of up to 8-10 words

All stones are natural and engraved to last many years. The completed memorial stone will be shipped directly to St. Lawrence Church for installation in the Garden.

Your confidentiality is important! Identifying information will not be shared with the Pastor or church staff in any part of the ordering, approval or shipping process. To purchase a memorial stone:

Via PHONE: 509-715-0630; Inform Linda Greene your order is for the St. Lawrence Church Memorial Garden (*Remember that Pacific Time is 3 hours behind us*).

Via Internet: Go to: <https://engraved-rock.com> Select "Order Personalized Garden Stones," choose the small or medium rock size and enter design information. If you need help, use the CONTACT tab in the main menu. After entering your billing information, select "Ship to a different address." For first/last name enter: Memorial Garden; Company: Saint Lawrence Church; Address: 6222 Franconia Rd, Alexandria, VA 22310. In the "Order Notes" box write: For the St. Lawrence Memorial Garden. Feel free to contact the Office if you have any questions!

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