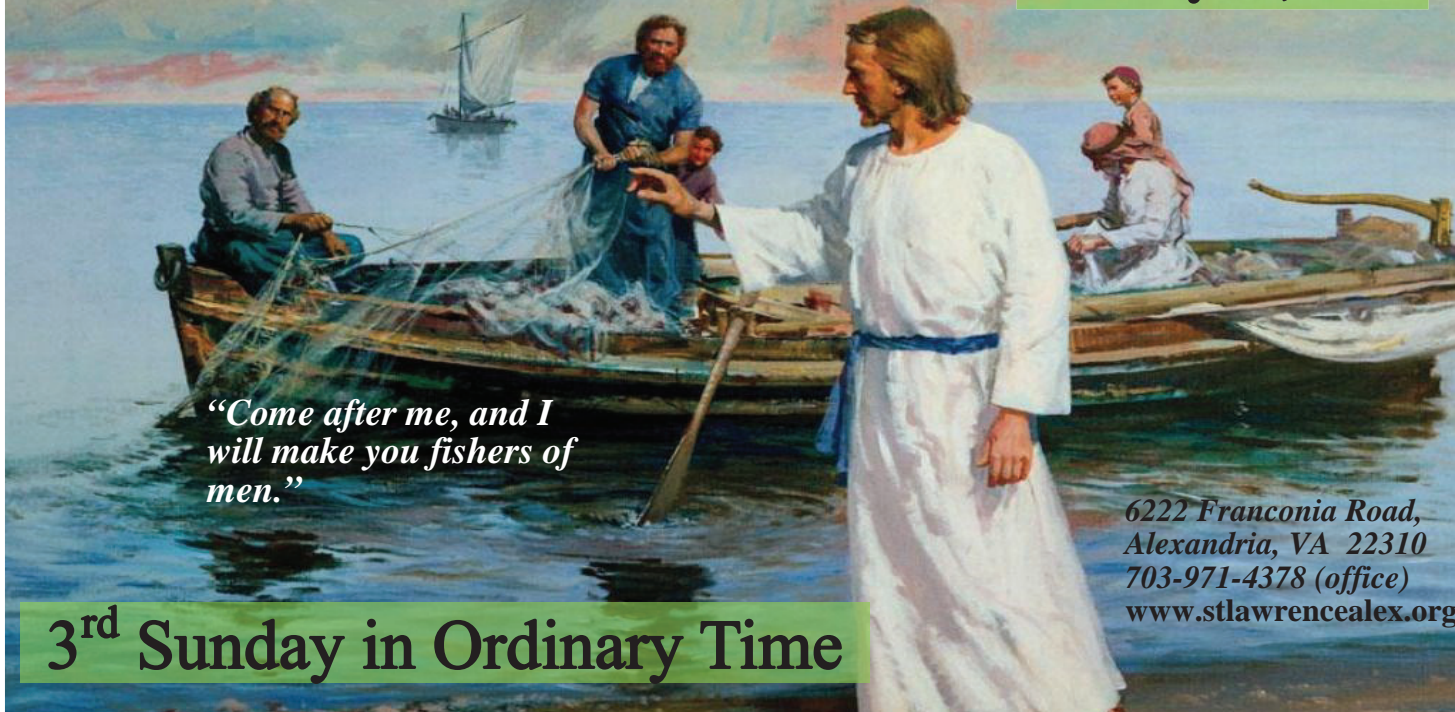


SAINT LAWRENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH

January 24, 2021



“Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

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www.stlawrencealex.org

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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
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 Cynthia Dreslin
703-971-4378 office@stlawrencealex.org

Director of Religious Ed Anne-Marie Pierce
703-971-8541 religioued@stlawrencealex.org

Youth Minister Joseph Stakem
703-971-5715 youth@stlawrencealex.org

Music Director Raymond St. Pierre
music@stlawrencealex.org

Liturgical and Ministry Activity This Week At a Glance

Mon 1/25 **Confessions** 9:30am
CCD Classes 7:00 - 8:15pm
Novena-Our Lady of Perpetual Help 7:15pm

Tue 1/26 **High School CCD** 7:00pm
Legion of Mary 7:30pm

Wed 1/27 **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

Thu 1/28 **Knights of Columbus Meeting** 7:00pm

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

January 24, 2021 Third Sunday in Ordinary

MASS INTENTIONS

MON 1/25 - Conversion of Saint Paul (OFM/EFM)

6:15am.....Urbano San Juan †
9:00am.....Leon Nguyen

TUE 1/26 - Saints Timothy & Paul (OFM)

6:15am.....Hatseinesh Kidane †
9:00am.....Gil Coquia †

WED 1/27 - Saint Angela Merici (OFM)

6:15am.....The Lowery Family
9:00am.....The Rodrigue Family (In Thanksgiving)

THU 1/28 - Saint Thomas Aquinas (OFM)

6:15am.....Dominic Haddock
9:00am.....Exequiel Benedicto †

FRI 1/29 - Saint Francis de Sales (EMF)

6:15am.....Marie Haddock
9:00am.....Cheryl Dreslin

SAT 1/30 - Saint Martina (EFM)

9:00 am.....Fr. Spychala

Vigil Mass (Meets Sunday Mass Obligation)

5:00 pm.....Libby Rebar †

SUN 1/31 - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (OFM)

Septuagesima Sunday (EFM)

7:30 am.....Sultan Al Malik
9:00 am.....Exquiel Benedicto †
11:00 am.....Parishioners of St. Lawrence
12:30 pm.....Mary Otway

This Week in Our Parish

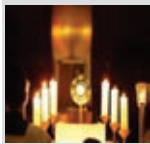
All Scheduled Public Masses are still being celebrated--other Parish liturgical activities are also starting. Come to our Monday evening Novena and Exposition on Weds (9:30am-1pm) and Holy Hour starting with Exposition at 7pm! The Main Church is open 7 Days a Week until 9pm for private prayer.

(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).

Stimulus Check Quandry?

If you feel your finances are in order and your stimulus check, or a part of it, could be used by those less fortunate in our community or Diocese who are more adversely impacted by COVID, consider a donation to our Share Sunday or Poor Box Collections. These donations serve the poor and those in need exclusively.

You can give in the offertory buckets or use Poor Boxes near all the exits in the Church.



Join your fellow Parishioners for First Friday Nocturnal Adoration at St Mary's Basilica!!

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!

2021 March for Life Cancelled

But...LET YOUR FAITH BE SHOWN AND YOUR VOICE HEARD--Pray for Those Who Cannot Speak and Participate Virtually!!!!



Please join other Saint Lawrence parishioners by praying and participating virtually in the 2021 *March for Life* in Washington, DC, on Friday, 29

January. While the actual March for Life has been cancelled due to COVID, we will still offer a special pro-life Mass to be celebrated at Saint Lawrence at 10:15am Friday Morning. While it is disappointing that we cannot march to visibly show our solidarity with the voices of children silenced by abortion, we know prayer is a powerful agent for change!! Also, organizers desire that we sign up to watch virtually, so the numbers of those participating can be used as evidence of the numbers of Americans who take our pro-life position to the leaders of the US Government. Register at the following link: <https://marchforlife.org/2021-virtual-events/>

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.) See chart below. Offertory numbers were closer to normal in November.

THANK YOU to all our concerned St Lawrence Family

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

In Pew and Online Offertory
FALL 2019 (By Month)



Offertory by the Numbers

During the same period of 2019 (non-COVID) as Fall of this year, our Offertory Collection is down by 17% and, Except for November, each month reflected that drop in offerings. That is a total of **\$57,828** less collected during the same period of the year!



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, Julietta Fuster, Kurt Steinbacher, Joan Curley, Renate Craft, Mary Kirby and Zemui Teklu.

Pray Daily for a Future Priest or Sister: See the parish pamphlet rack for a brochure explaining the **Diocese of Arlington's St. Therese Vocation Society**. Members commit to praying daily for vocations and for individuals in formation as priests and religious. Those who join receive a quarterly calendar in the mail which lists the name of one person to pray for each day. There are no dues or required meetings. The prayers can be done at home on your own time. To see a sample prayer calendar or to sign-up on-line go to <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/vocations/pray/st--therese-society/> Also, please continue to pray for seminarian Kevin Kelly who was here with us at St. Lawrence this summer.

NARTHEX PLEDGE FUNDRAISING REPORT

A humble "Thank you" to for the generosity of all Parishioners Who Continue to Meet--and, Yes, Even Exceed--Their Pledges for the Beautiful Construction of our Narthex.

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

We are now at \$1,356,803

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 anonymous 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!!!



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

February and Lent Magnificats are now available. Also, a variety of paperbacks with a pro-life message or storyline. For children, you will find Magnifikids' "My Sunday Gospel Coloring Book 2021" featuring a page with light text and a picture to color corresponding to each Sunday's Gospel for this liturgical year.

Angelus Academy

The **Angelus Academy** is a pre-K to 8th Grade school that features small classes and a vibrant, faith-filled community of caring educators and supportive parents who are committed to raising the next generation of well-educated, prayerful, patriotic Catholic leaders dedicated to serving others with great love. **Angelus Academy** offers a Catholic liberal arts education in the classical tradition.



Will you join **Angelus Academy** in its efforts to ensure that the next generation knows what truly matters in this world?

Please prayerfully consider a donation to the **Messengers of Hope** campaign. As an independent Catholic school, we receive no funds from the Diocese or the state; we rely entirely on tuition and donations to cover our expenses. To donate, please go to AngelusAcademy.org and click on "donate" or mail a check directly to the school: 7644 Dynatech Court, Springfield, Virginia 22153.

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

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.

While we are dispensed from attending Holy Mass on Sundays and other Holy Days by our Bishop--if one feels unable to be in public during these COVID times--even though nothing can replace being physically present at Holy Mass--know that 9am Holy Mass for Sundays will be recorded and posted Online each day by 11am (as well as the 12:30EFM) so those who cannot make it physically can meet their obligations to honor these Holy Days under the Bishop's dispensation.

USE FORMED.ORG TO IMPROVE YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE FAITH

*Teach Your Children (and Yourself) About Our Faith -
Go to Formed.org and put in "St Lawrence" to enjoy learning about your Faith!!!*

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**.

THANK YOU DEAR PARISHIONERS

Thank you for so generously supporting last weekend's Drive-thru Drop-off event for Koinonia's food pantry. Over 850 lbs of donated items were collected! Additional gift cards, cash donations and over 280 lbs of food were received at Share Sunday and will be used to help those in need.

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