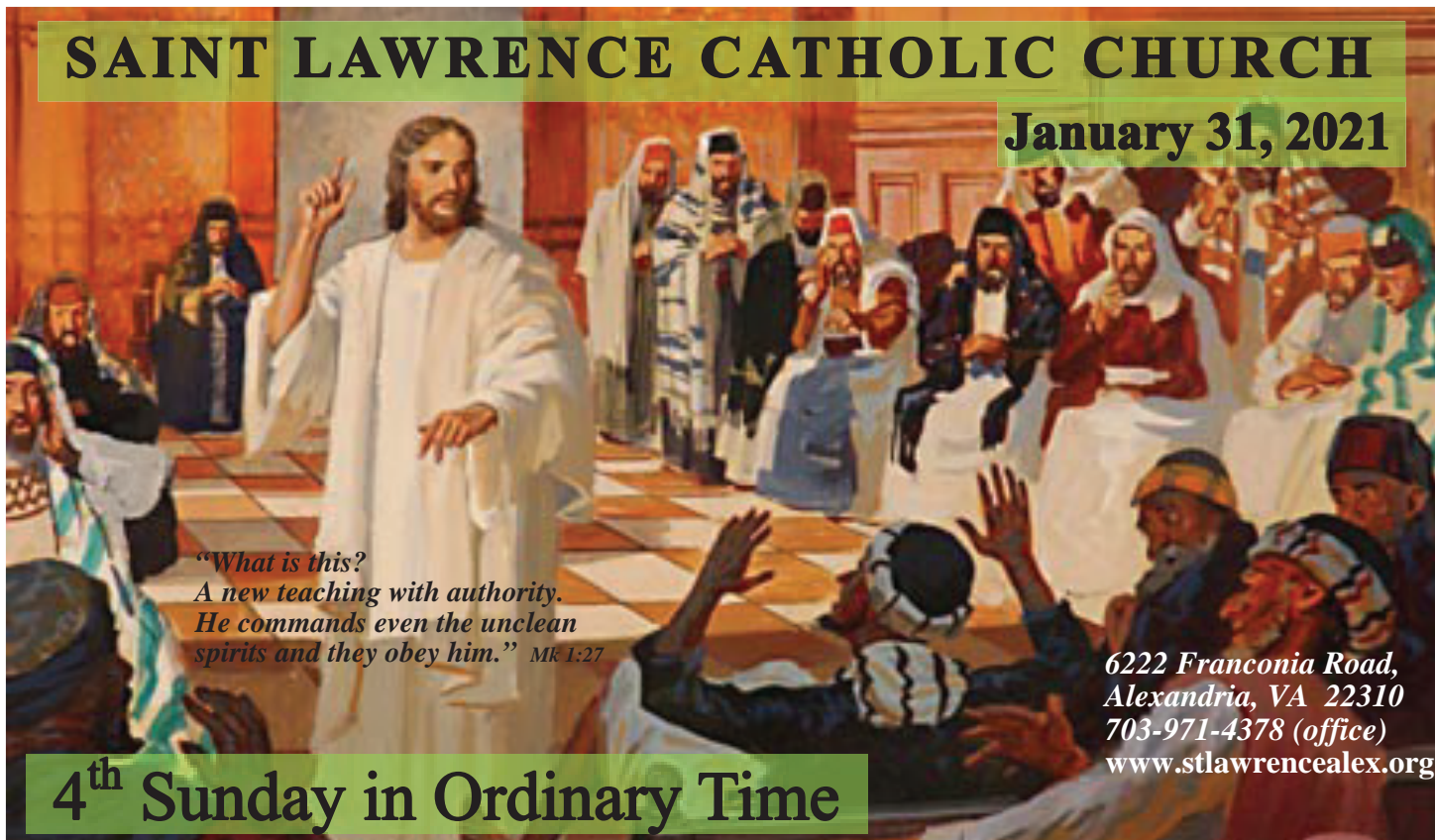


# SAINT LAWRENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH

January 31, 2021



*“What is this?  
A new teaching with authority.  
He commands even the unclean  
spirits and they obey him.” MK 1:27*

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

## 4<sup>th</sup> 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 2/1 **Confessions** 9:30am  
**CCD Classes** 7:00 - 8:15pm  
**Novena-Our Lady of Perpetual Help** 7:15pm
- Tue 2/2 **RCIA** 6:00 - 7:15 pm  
**High School CCD** 7:00pm  
**Legion of Mary** 7:30pm
- Wed 2/3 **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 2/4 **Knights of Columbus Meeting** 7:00pm
- Sat 2/6 **Confessions** 3:30-4:30pm

**January 31, 2021**  
**4th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**MON 2/1 - Saint Ignatius of Antioch (EFM)**  
 6:15am.....Stanley Haddock †  
 9:00am.....Cina Arico Deaton

**TUE 2/2 - The Presentation of Our Lord (OFM/EFM)**  
 6:15am.....Larrie Bart †  
 9:00am.....Jose & Catalina Gomez †

**WED 2/3 - Saint Blaise (OFM)**  
 6:15am.....John Edward Dreslin  
 9:00am.....Bruce Cofer †

**THU 2/4 - Saint Andrew Corsini (EFM)**  
 6:15am.....J. Guzman  
 9:00am.....Fr. Gripshover

**FRI 1/29 - Saint Agatha (OFM/EMF)**  
 6:15am.....Alan Eustace †  
 9:00am.....Monsignor Dempsey

**SAT 1/30 - Saint Martina (EFM)**  
 9:00 am.....Fr. Joseph Ocran

**Vigil Mass (Meets Sunday Mass Obligation)**  
 5:00 pm.....Deacon Michael A. Waters

**SUN 1/31 - Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (OFM)**  
**Sexagesima Sunday (EFM)**  
 7:30 am.....Aloysius Xavier Hoffarth †  
 9:00 am.....Anna Mary Palladino †  
 11:00 am.....Parishioners of St. Lawrence  
 12:30 pm.....Neil Peart †



**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!

**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).*

**TAKE OUT BREAKFAST**

*Convenient, tasty and operated so as to exceed COVID health guidelines.*

Please join the St. Lawrence Council of the Knights of Columbus on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, for their monthly breakfast in Hammond Hall following the 7:30 and 9:00 am Masses. Due to concerns over the COVID-19 virus, the breakfast will be take-out only, but we will offer a generous and delicious meal. *We look forward to serving you.*



**ANNUAL  
 BLESSING  
 OF THE  
 CANDLES**



Candlemas Day is next Tuesday, February 2. Candles will be blessed at the beginning of (and part of) the 9:00 am Mass. Parishioners who wish to bring candles from home for a special blessing on this Feast of the Presentation of our Lord should come early and place their candles on the tables provided in the Narthex.

# 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*

## 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 for each Stone (now at a reduced price of 19,500 if we get a fourth to save on engraving costs)**

**-Join other/your families for a multiple memorial**

**-Customizable memorial at bottom of each stone!!!**

See just how dominating and reverent these

x 4' Apostle-memorial stones are!

4'



**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 **\$1,366,709**

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

See: [www.faithdirect.net](http://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!  
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*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](mailto: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](mailto: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 story-line. 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.

**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](http://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](http://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](mailto:vocations@arlingtondiocese.org). Deadline to register is Monday March 8. There is a similar retreat for women 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](mailto:religioused@stlawrencealex.org).

**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](http://faithdirect.net) and enroll securely online or call 1-866-507-8757. Note: Our parish code is **VA325**.

## USE FORMED.ORG TO IMPROVE YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE FAITH

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

*As a parish we have already paid for this service to be available to parishioners--so your access to FORMED will not cost any additional money for you and your family to use!!*

*FORMED has great movies and other faith related materials to help us, and our Children, grow our faith!*

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