The Epiphany of the Lord

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

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)

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!

Parish Clergy
Rev. Ronald J. Gripshover, Jr., Pastor
office@stlawrencealex.org
Rev. Daniel S. Spychala, Parochial Vicar 
vicar@stlawrencealex.org
Rev. Joseph Okwei Ocran, In Residence 
Deacon Michael A. Waters 
Permanent Deacon & Finance Manager
703-922-0233  deacon@stlawrencealex.org

Parish Staff
Parish Secretary    Cynthia Dreslin 
office@stlawrencealex.org
Director of Religious Ed  Anne-Marie Pierce 
703-971-8541  religised@stlawrencealex.org
Youth Minister    Joseph Stakem 
703-971-5715   youth@stlawrencealex.org
Music Director    Raymond St. Pierre 
music@stlawrencealex.org

We Week 22: You can see the inside of the Narthex taking shape—it has a great deal more room to meet after Mass. The beginnings of the Baptistry wall are going up it will be filled with windows and you see the Niche for the St Lawrence Statue, just to the Left of the Ladder. The new Ladies restroom entrance is to the far left!!!
January 5, 2020

**Epiphany of the Lord**

## MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

*(OFM = Ordinary Form Mass [New])

*(EFM - Extraordinary Form Mass [Traditional])*

### MONDAY, 1/6 - Sts. Caspar, Balthasar & Melchior

- **6:15 am** Anne-Marie Pierce
  *(Historical)*
- **9:00 am** Father Daniel Spychala

### TUESDAY, 1/7 - Saint Raymond of Peñafort *(OFM)*

- **6:15 am** Leonard Joseph Puma †
- **9:00 am** Mercedes Garcia †

### WEDNESDAY, 1/8 - Saint Apollinaris the Apologist

- **6:15 am** Marie Donahoe †
  *(Historical)*
- **9:00 am** Mercedes Garcia †

### THURSDAY, 1/9 - Saints Julian & Basilissa *(Historical)*

- **6:15 am** Christine Sopko
- **9:00 am** Mercedes Garcia †

### FRIDAY, 1/10 - Saint Nicanor *(Historical)*

- **6:15 am** Faiz Nassar †
- **9:00 am** Mercedes Garcia †

### SATURDAY, 1/11 - Saint Hyginus *(EFM)*

- **9:00 am** Mercedes Garcia †
- **5:00 pm** Ona M. Noble *(Vigil Mass)*

### SUNDAY, 1/12 - Baptism of the Lord

- **7:30 am** Sr. Rose Andrea Loughery †
- **9:00 am** Uncle Denis Pierce †
- **11:00 am** Susanna Kerns †
- **12:30 pm** Parishioners of Saint Lawrence *(EFM)*

### This Week in Our Parish

**Sun.**  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 OLPF 7:15 pm

**Tues. Rosary Makers** 9:30 am
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
Prayer Shawl Ministry 10:00 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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**Epiphany Water.** Upon 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. The ceremonial for the blessing of Epiphany Water resembles in many ways a liturgical hour, and lasts for about 45 minutes with all of the prayers and Psalms prayed in Latin. It begins with the Litany of the Saints. After this the priest performs a specific set of blessings and a particular prayer of exorcism. Soon thereafter the salt and water are exorcised, blessed, and then blended together. The rite of blessing finishes with the *Te Deum*, a deeply traditional hymn of thanksgiving. The Rite also includes the blessing of chalk. We will have this blessing here at St. Lawrence on January 5, 2019 at 4:30 PM. The faithful are invited to bring their own water for the blessing and then remain for the blessing. Following the blessing, there is a tradition to use the water and the chalk that are blessed 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 + 19”. 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 2019 is the year. The text for the home blessing will be provided after the Blessing of the Epiphany Water.

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**Please Pray for the Sick** of our parish family, including Jay Farabaugh, Melanie Brady, Justin Pham, Raymond Stanekenas, 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.

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**Pray the Holy Rosary**

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**January 5, 2020**
We had a great 2019--thanks to the generosity of many parishioners--We are nearing our original goal--help us exceed that goal, given cost increases related to stormwater and other compliance issues!

**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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**NARTEX FUNDRAISING**

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**CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

The Cement slab for the Atrium is the most visible happening we can see--but much interior work goes on to start outlining and finishing walls inside the new Narthex (by God’s grace we will still finish on time).

All liturgical activity will now take place in the main Church--with use of the temporary chapel in Hammond Hall on reserve if construction noise will be too much.

**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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**LEARN CPR and USE of AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS (AED's)**

Have you ever thought of what you would do in a medical emergency -- say with your child, grandchild, parent or friend. How you act can save the life of a loved one--or a Christ-like stranger.

St. Lawrence Catholic Church has purchased and installed AEDs in each of the Church buildings. These portable medical cardiac devices are used in conjunction with CPR to save the lives of heart attack victims. While these AED units are automatic and the instructions for their use is simplified--in an emergency familiarity with these devices, and knowledge of basic CPR can enhance the likelihood of a beneficial outcome for a parishioner or guest surviving a heart attack.

**You too can be a certified CPR life saver!** Our parish has coordinated a First Aid, CPR, and AED certification training on Saturday, January 25th from 10 am to 3 pm in Hammond Hall. These courses normally cost between $140 and $200 per student, but we have negotiated a special rate of $75 per student. If you desire to learn CPR (which can obviously be used wherever you may be to save the life of a child, grandchild, customer or so that you can be like the "Good Samaritan" and render aid to someone in medical need) please reserve your space in the class.

Space in this class is limited, register by coming into the Rectory Office or by sending an email to: office@stlawrencealex.org and sending in your $25.00 deposit to the office by January 8, 2020, to confirm your seat.
This month's **Share Sunday** is Jan. 18-19. Donations benefit those in need, including neighbors in our local community served by Koinonia's food pantry and clothing closet. Requested items: Laundry detergent, all-purpose cleansers, toilet paper, paper towels, men's deodorant, shaving cream and razors, shampoo, toothpaste, single pack toothbrushes, baby diapers (size 5 and 6), cooking oil, salad dressing, mayo, ketchup, and mustard. Gift cards to Dollar Tree and any grocery store are also much appreciated. **Thank you those who so generously gave last month - December donations totaled 594 lbs!**

**Angelus Academy 2019-20 Rolling Admissions:** Tuition assistance may be available for parishioners. Share the treasures of a solid Catholic education with your child (ren)/grandchild(ren). Call us to schedule a tour or to arrange a shadow day for your child(ren)! Re-registration for current families begins in January and is due on February 5.

**Winter Open House** coming in February! Check our website after Christmas (AngelusAcademy.org) for more information.

**FIAT Day of Recollection for High School Girls**-
Finding your place in God's plan requires building solid relationships with God, yourself and others. The Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus are coming from Steubenville, OH, to put on this day, which will include Mass, talks, workshops, prayer and fun. Sunday February 9, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. at Holy Trinity Parish in Gainesville. Registration and payment due January 31, 2020. Learn more and register: www.arlingtondiocese.org/ FIAT; email vocations@arlingtondiocese.org, or call 703-841-2514.

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

**Morning of Reflection for Vocations** - All are invited to join the St. Thérèse Vocation Society for their annual Morning of Reflection on Saturday February 1 from 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. at St. Veronica Catholic Church in Chantilly. The day will include continental breakfast, spiritual conference, Mass and Holy Hour. There is no cost but please RSVP with the Office of Vocations by January 27 at (703) 841-2514 or vocations@arlingtondiocese.org. The St. Thérèse Vocation Society was formed to pray for and encourage vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

**Altar Boys Needed.**
The parish is in particular need of young men (who must have received first Holy Communion) to serve at the 7:30am Mass, on Sunday morning. Encourage your young sons to join the priests at the altar (and maybe see if they have a vocation to the priesthood--many, many priests started out as servers).

If you are interested, Contact the Office at 703-971-4378, or via e-mail: Office@stlawrencealex.org

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** usually meets the second Friday of the month at 10:00 a.m. in Hammond Hall. All are invited to join in knitting, crocheting, organizing, or bagging the shawls which are then given to those who are ill and in need of prayers. The shawls are available, free of charge, for men, women and children who are ill. Their name will be added to the list of those for whom prayer is offered. If you or someone you know would like to have a prayer shawl, please contact the rectory office. The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is this Friday, January 10th.

**From the Vocations Office:** “Opening their treasure chests, they offered Him gifts.” Are you beginning to see your life as a gift to be given to the Lord as a priest, deacon, religious sister or brother? Call Fr. Michael Isenberg, (703) 841-2514, or write: michael.isenberg@arlingtondiocese.org.
GIVING IS EASY
-You can make a pledge and pay over a period you specify – (Either electronically or "in pew").

**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!!!**

(Contact Deacon Mike for more info.)

The Youth Group thanks everyone for Advent WorkCamp donations and we wish everyone a Holy and Happy Christmas and New Year!

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. The next class will be January 7, 2020.

Parents: Please contact us to get on the email list for planned events/activities. 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

HELP OUR NARTHEX FUNDRAISING EFFORTS AND MEMORIALIZE YOUR RELATIVE(S), OTHERS OR GROUP(S).

- **Huge Apostle Memorial Stones Available for Memorials**
- **Huge Stained Glass Windows Available for Memorials**

We know these memorials are expensive, but they will stand for decades if not hundreds of years, and are the most significant memorials we have seen in our parish history. Consider:

1. You could partially fund a memorial with another family;
2. You can have your group fund a memorial;
3. Your current Pledge will be credited toward the cost of a memorial.

Talk to Deacon Mike For Details -- we have a family that would like to partially fund a memorial.