

May 5, 2024

6th Sunday of Easter

"No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

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

ST LAWRENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH

HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS AND CONFESSION SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

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

WEEKDAY

M - F: 6:15 and 9:00 a.m. Saturday 9:00 a.m.

CONFESSIONS

M 9:30am, W 7-7:45pm; F 6:45am; Sat 3:30-4:30pm

Parish Clergy

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

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

Msgr. Patrick Dempsey, *Visiting Clergy*

Deacon Michael A. Waters
Permanent Deacon - Office & Finance Manager
703-971-4378 deacon@stlawrencealex.org

Parish Staff

Parish Secretary
703-971-4378

Cynthia Dreslin
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Dir of Religious Ed
703-971-8541

Joseph Stakem
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Youth Ministry
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James Stakem
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Music Director
703-971-4378

Raymond St. Pierre
music@stlawrencealex.org

Sacristan

Tatyana Nguyen

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS Week of May 6 - 12, 2024

MON 5/06 - Saint Evodius
 6:15am Angela Tinio †
 9:00am W. Dallas Bethea †

TUE 5/07 - Saint Stanislaus of Cracow
 6:15am John Waters
 9:00am Stella Henderson †

WED 5/08 - Apparition of St. Michael the Archangel
 6:15am Amparo A. Beltran †
 9:00am Cam Nguyen

THU 5/09 - St. Gregory Nazianzen
 6:15am The Matias Family (Living/Deceased)
 9:00am Stella Henderson †

FRI 5/10 - St. Damien Joseph de Veuster of Molokai
 6:15am Robert Beauregard †
 9:00am Michael Akwa †

SAT 5/11 - Our Lady, Queen of Apostles
 9:00am Stella Henderson †

Sat Vigil (Meets Sunday Obligation)

5:00pm Aileen Marie Sullivan †

SUN 5/12 - The Ascension of the Lord (transferred)
 7:30am Parishioners of Saint Lawrence
 9:00am Josephine Turk †
 11:00am Seana Gabriel

Our parish garden is one of the most beautiful gardens in Alexandria thanks to the loving attention of Tien Vu, our talented Facilities Manager. We would like a team of volunteers called "Our Lady's Gardeners" to help Tien pick up the leaves, especially those large magnolia leaves in front of Our Blessed Mother. Please see Mr. Vu if you wish to volunteer 20 -30 minutes a week to this ministry. God bless you.



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 **Sean Mazary** who was here with us at St. Lawrence a few summers ago and for **Nhung Vu**, daughter of Tien Vu and Lan Do who is a postulant with the Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus in Ohio.

Liturgical and Ministry Activity This Week At a Glance

Mon 5/06 **CCD Classes, Grades 1-8 7:00-8:15 pm**
OLPH Novena 7:15 pm

Tue 5/07 **High School CCD 7:00-8:15**
Legion of Mary 7:30 pm

Wed 5/08 **Fatima Prayer Cell after 9 am Mass**
Eucharistic Adoration 9:30 am-1 pm
CCD Classes, Grades 1-8 7:00-8:15 pm
Confessions 7:00pm
Holy Hour 7:15pm

Thu 5/09 **Spanish Conversation Class 11:30-12:30**
11am Choir Practice 7:00 pm
Knights of Columbus 7:30 pm

Fri 5/10 **French Conversation Class 10:30-11:30**
Confessions 6:45am

Sat 5/11 **That Man is You 7:00 - 8:30 am**
Confessions 3:30-4:30pm

The Knights of Columbus will hold the Parish Breakfast after the 7:30 and 9:00 am Masses this Sunday. Please join with other parishioners for a delicious breakfast and fellowship as you help the Knights support their charitable causes.



OUR PARISH IS SUBSCRIBED TO *FORMED.ORG*

FORMED brings beautiful and faithful Catholic content to parishes, families, and individuals. There is something for everyone here: award-winning studies and parish programs, inspiring audio content, movies, e-books, and family-friendly kid's programming.

This is PROVIDED AT NO ADDITIONAL COST TO OUR PARISHIONERS!

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

Two suggested EASTER Season Formed Videos:

For Adults: "Was Jesus a Ghost when He visited the Apostles?"

For kids: "Totally Toddlers"

ATTENTION TEENS AND PRENTS:

Every Tuesday High School Youth Class
from 7-8:15pm.

Please contact the youth office at 703-971-8541 or youth@stlawrencealex.org for info.

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 the repose of the souls of all little ones lost prior to birth, and for those seeking hope / 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 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!

PLEASE NOTE: This is NOT a parish fund-raising effort, but the cost of the stones is exactly what the company charges.

PARISH SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION AND SERVICES

Baptisms - Baptisms are held the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 12:30 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.

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 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, or if you need to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, please contact the rectory to make arrangements.



PRAY IN SONG

The 11am choir is looking for additional members. If you enjoy prayer through song, please join us for practice Thursdays at 7pm and for Mass at 11am on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. There are no 'try-outs' and all are welcome!

Please Pray for the Sick of our parish family, including: Anne Marie Pierce, Dr. Ronald Gripshover, Giovanna Faustina Annarella, Jenny Antoun, Lorenzo Betia, Leah Bloom, Dave Bocchino, Maria Bonfanti, Betty Bonifer, Melanie Brady, Luis Cristian Carranza, Joan Charters, Pat Childers, Barry Childers, Baby Reese Clasen, Renate Craft, Nancy Crowley, Ann Cullen, Joan Curley, John D'Adamo, Anna Deaver, Felicia DiFeo, Kevin Donaleski, Evan Duncan, Hilda Elizondo, Jay Farabaugh, Francis Flaherty, John Forrester, Barbara Gaul, William Geoghegan, Julia Delli Gatti, Patricia Gilcrest, Jaime Guzman, Karina Hanna, Christal Eve Herrera, Judy and Kevin Jackson, Judith Jackson, Mary Kirby, Tom Kirby, Jr., Richard Kuron Sr., Donald Lawson, Antonio Yu An Leng, Patricia Lewis, Kathleen MacQueeney, Rita MacQueeney, Jack Marzan, Martha Mastic, Deborah Miller, Nhung "Kim" Miller, Robert Nguyen, Matthew Peters, Robert Pettiti, Justin Pham, Aubrey Polson, Ginny Rauer, Joanne Robertson, Vin Rosano, Eduardo San Diego, Hannelore Smallfield, Randy Souther, Raymond Stanekenas, Kurt Steinbacher, Donna Sullivan, Henry Taylor, Zemui Teklu, Jun Tolentino, Anthony Torres, Minh Tran, David Verbano, and Marie Victorino.



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

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY. Walking with Purpose Bible studies combine personal study with small group discussion, linking our everyday



challenges to the solutions given to us through the teachings of Christ and the Catholic Church.

If you desire to grow in your faith—in a supportive community of Catholic women—Walking with Purpose is for you. We are looking for parish women who want to participate in the study starting in September. To find out more, contact the parish office to leave a message.

PRAY FOR OUR BELOVED DEAD

We pray for those who have gone before us, marked with the sign of faith, most recently we remember: **Jose Alatomirano, Yolanda Malferrari, Josephine Turk, Stella Henderson, Eduardo Barrios, Msgr. Roy Cosby, Palbo Maldonado, Jim Weaver and Wilfredo Picardo.**

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

- Christopher Henderson (d. May 11, 2022)
- Catherine Tatem (d. May 13, 2021)
- Diane Elaine Pray (d. May 19, 2017)
- Razuel Sajous (d. May 22, 2022)
- Kenneth Anderson (d. May 25, 2021)
- Daniel Miller (d. May 27, 2016)
- Emile Joseph Dufort (d. May 29, 2019)
- Enrique Simental (d. May 29, 2018)
- Deacon Domingo Tan (d. May 31, 2014)

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

2024 Days of Prayer and Healing

After Abortion Retreats: A Day of Prayer & Healing for women who have experienced abortion will be held on Saturday, June 1, 2024. These group healing events are held in a private and peaceful setting, in English and in Spanish, based on the Entering Canaan model (2 separate retreats, in 1 location). There will be an opportunity to hear from a past participant and others who have found healing. You are not alone. Take the first step. For confidential inquiries, please contact Project Rachel Ministry: (703) 841-2504 or info@helpafterabortion.org

PREGNANT or POST-ABORTION

For those who know an expectant woman in need or individuals impacted by an abortion experience, confidential help and support are available:

Pregnancy Hotline: 703/841-3810

helpforpregnantwomen.org ;

Help After Abortion 703/841-2504, 703/841-3833 (men), [https://](https://helpafterabortion.org)

helpafterabortion.org *Mother and baby both are precious to us and to God who is loving and merciful.*



Pray the Holy Rosary



CONVERSATION CLASSES IN SPANISH AND FRENCH

- The Spanish conversation classes meet every Thursday in Hammond Hall from 11:30 - 12:30
- The French conversation classes meet every Friday (except 1st Fridays) in Hammond Hall from 10:30 - 11:30 am.

If interested, call the Rectory at 703-971-4378.

SENIOR PARISHIONER "GET TOGETHERS"

The Seniors meet biweekly at 10:15 a.m. in the parish hall. Our biweekly "get togethers" will include fellowship, as well as discussions about relevant issues facing the elderly.

Please join us on May 16th at 10:15 a.m. in the parish hall for the next meeting of the St. Lawrence Senior Group! All are welcome! For questions, please contact Anne McCray at springfield.ed@sunriseseniorliving.com.

MAKE ROSARYS TO SPREAD THE FAITH

If you would like to assist in spreading the use of the Rosary, we are in need of persons who would like to make Rosaries which we provide for free by the Book Rack and which are very popular. No experience necessary, if you can tie a knot, you can spread Mary's love for Christ. Call the Office for info.



Can We Count on You???

It is important we have Sunday Counters to help with reporting the collection and depositing funds entrusted to the Church in the collection. If you can help count Sunday morning after the 7:30 Mass (from Post-Mass to 9:45, once every 6 weeks) please contact the office!



PRIME TIME SINGLE CATHOLICS (PTSC)

We are a social group, mostly age 60 and over. (35 to 59? Ask about our free associate membership group). For details, visit our website: bit.ly/ptsc. With questions or to

RSVP, email Tom at ptscnva@gmail.com.

St. Monica Prayer Group

A new prayer group has been formed. Following her example and asking the intercession of St. Monica, the group unites in prayer for their loved ones who have fallen away from the church or who are "luke-warm" in their faith.

Men and women are invited to attend on the first and third weeks of the month - Wednesday evenings at 6:15pm and/or Friday mornings at 8:00 am. The group meets in the Family Room in the Narthex. For more information contact the parish office at and leave your name and contact info.

Parents Ministry

If you're bringing home a newborn, recovering from illness or surgery, or facing any other major life event and could use some help with meals, your St. Lawrence family would love to support you with a Meal Train. Contact the parish office or email parents@stlawrencealex.org, and we will set up a Meal Train page for you to coordinate your fellow parishioners bringing you dinners.

The Parents Ministry is preparing to offer childcare in the parish hall during confession one Saturday a month. If you love kids and are interested in volunteering, please email parents@stlawrencealex.org or contact the parish office. We welcome volunteers of all ages and will be in touch with more information soon.

KNIGHTS OF THE ALTAR NEEDED



No experience required. Graces await. If you are a young man who was received the Sacrament of the Eucharist and are interested in learning to serve at the altar, please have your parents contact the parish office.

MEN-REINVIGORATE YOUR FAITH TMIY IS LOOKING FOR GOOD MEN WHO ARE TRYING TO BE GOOD CATHOLICS IN A COMPLEX WORLD EVERY Saturday Morning-7am

Meetings Every Saturday!!!

A Program Designed to help Men Seeking SPIRITUAL PEACE

That Man is You! Call the office for info.



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