

ST. LAWRENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH

6222 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA, 22310

www.stlawrencealex.org

703-971-4378

Whoever does not carry his
own cross and come after me
cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:27



The Twenty Third Sunday in
Ordinary Time, Sept. 7, 2025

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION - SERVICES

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.

Baptisms - Baptisms are generally held the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 12:30 pm. Parents must be registered members of the parish and first time parents must attend a one session pre-Baptismal class, offered once a month, usually the second Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

Sponsor Affidavits attest that a parishioner is in good standing and is qualified to act as a Godparent for Baptism or Sponsor for Confirmation. See website for requirements and Parishioner Sponsor form.

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.

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. Please call for details.

O.C.I.A. - The Order 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. Contact the Religious Education Office.

Parish Clergy and Staff

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

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

Msgr. Patrick Dempsey, *Visiting Clergy*

Parish Office: (703) 971-4378

General inquiries: office@stlawrencealex.org

Facilities: facilities@stlawrencealex.org

Finance: manager@stlawrencealex.org

Religious Education (703) 971-8541
and Youth Office:

religiously@stlawrencealex.org

youth@stlawrencealex.org

HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS, LITURGICAL ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES

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

CONFESSIONS

Monday 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday 7:00 - 7:45 p.m.

Friday 6:45 a.m.

Saturday 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

NOVENA to Our Lady Perpetual Help

Monday 7:15 pm

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION Wed 9:30 - 1 p.m.

HOLY HOUR Wednesday 7:15 - 8:15 p.m.

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Monday, 9/08	Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
6:15 a.m.	Raymond St. Pierre
9:00 a.m.	Matthew & Yolanda Bianchi †
Tuesday, 9/09	Saint Peter Claver
6:15 a.m.	Thomas O'Conner †
9:00 a.m.	Jon & Elisa Schnur
Wed., 9/10	Saint Nicholas of Tolentino
6:15 a.m.	Gary Welch
9:00 a.m.	Liesl Baumann
Thursday 9/11	Saints Protus & Hyacinth
6:15 a.m.	Brian Taylor †
9:00 a.m.	Yonathan Petros †
Friday 9/12	The Most Holy Name of Mary
6:15 a.m.	Thomas Cassella
9:00 a.m.	Roseann F. Branagan †
Saturday 9/13	Saint Chrysostum
9:00 a.m.	Sergio Anarella †
(Vigil for Sun.)	Patricia Mankin †
5:00 p.m.	
Sunday 9/14	25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30 a.m.	Matt Chapman & Family
9:00 a.m.	Greg Mitchell
11:00 a.m.	Missa Pro Populo

The 9 AM Mass Choir returns this Sunday from its well-deserved summer vacation. Today's communion antiphon is "Like the deer that yearns for running streams, my soul is thirsting for God, the living God." Because of this, the choir will sing *Sicut Cervus*, composed by Palestrina (1525-1594). The Latin text of this piece is a direct translation of the communion antiphon.

St. Monica Prayer Group

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.

Liturgical and Ministry Activity This Week At a Glance

Mon 9/08	Confessions 9:30 a.m. Birthday Party for BVM - 9:30 a.m. CCD Class (Grades 1-8) 7:00 - 8:15 p.m. OLPH Novena 7:15 p.m.
Tues 9/09	Rosary Makers 10 a.m. Hammond Hall CCD Class (HS & OCIA) 7:00 - 8:15 p.m. Legion of Mary 7:30 p.m.
Wed 9/10	Fatima Prayer Cell after 9:00 Mass Eucharistic Adoration 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. CCD Class (Grades 1-8) 7:00 - 8:15 p.m. Confessions 7:00 - 7:45 p.m. Holy Hour 7:15 - 8:15 p.m.
Thur 9/11	French Language Class 10:30 a.m. - Noon Spanish Language Class 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Knights of Columbus 7:30 p.m.
Fri. 9/12	Confessions 6:45 a.m.
Sat. 9/13	That Man is You 7:00 a.m. Confessions 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.



The Legion of Mary is having a Birthday Party for our Blessed Mother, on Monday, September 8th after the 9:00 am Mass. Join the Legion and your fellow parishioners in Hammond Hall to celebrate the Birthday of our Holy Mother Mary. Refreshments will be provided.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC September 21 from 1-4 p.m.



Join us for fun and games including a huge slide, mechanical bull and bounce house. The Knights of Columbus will grill hot dogs and hamburgers, and we'll have rock painting and serve sno cones. We ask that everyone please bring a side dish or dessert to share and your own beverages. Please join us under the trees in our picnic area for an afternoon of fun and fellowship. Members of our parish ministries will have information about opportunities to volunteer and participate in our ministry groups.

Celebrating A Golden or Silver Wedding Anniversary This Year? If you were married in 1975 or 2000, please join Bishop Michael Burbidge for the 2025 Mass for Jubilarians to be celebrated on Sunday, October 19th at 2:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More in Arlington, VA. Contact your parish office to register no later than October 3rd. For more info, visit <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/event/marriagejubilee/>



Christian Virtue in America's Nietzschean Wasteland: Thomistic Reflections.

Join us for a free public lecture, hosted by the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas - Angelicum and featuring Fr. Michael Sherwin, O.P., Professor of Fundamental Moral Theology, on Friday, September 26th at 6:30pm in Arlington, VA. Don't miss this chance to hear from one of Rome's leading theologians, and get to know Dominican friars from the Eternal City. Free and open to all! Please contact Bryce Connolly at bconnolly@pust.it with any questions.

Please Pray for the Sick of our parish family,

including: Anne Marie Pierce, Dr. Ronald Gripshover, Colleen Adamson, Curley Anderko, Giovanna Faustina Annarella, Jenny Antoun, Lorenzo Betia, Leah Bloom, Dave Bocchino, Maria Bonfanti, Betty Bonifer, Melanie Brady, Luis Cristian Carranza, Joan Charters, Pat Childers, Reese Clasen, Josie Cofer, Renate Craft, Nancy Crowley, Ann Cullen, John D'Adamo, Anna Deaver, Gary DeMarco, Felicia DiFeo, Kevin Donaleski, Evan Duncan, Hilda Elizondo, Barton Fischer, Francis Flaherty, John Forrester, Barbara Gaul, William Geoghegan, Julia Delli Gatti, Patricia Gilcrest, Jaime Guzman, Karina Hanna, Christal Eve Herrera, Elizabeth Horswell, Judy and Kevin Jackson, Judith Jackson, Mary Kirby, Tom Kirby, Jr., Richard Kuron Sr., Donald Lawson, Antonio Yu An Leng, Patricia Lewis, Luisa, Kathleen MacQueeney, Rita MacQueeney, Rose Marie Malatesta, Jack Marzan, Frank McDermott, Martha Mastic, Deborah Miller, Nhung "Kim" Miller, Pamela Moore, Robert Nguyen, Matthew Peters, Justin Pham, Steve Piscitelli, Larry Poh, Lori Polson, Ginny Rauer, Herman & Martha Rollandini, Vin Rosano, Eduardo San Diego, Hannelore Smallfield, Randy Souther, Raymond Stanekenas, Kurt Steinbacher, Donna Sullivan, Lily Tan, Rebekah Tan, Zemui Teklu, Jun Tolentino, Anthony Torres, Minh Tran, Grace Valenciano, David Verbano, Marie Victorino and Fran Visco ***Holy Mary, Mother of God, we seek your intercession for our sick!!!***



SATURDAY PROLIFE ROSARY PRAYER VIGIL

Please join St. Lawrence at the Rosary Prayer Vigil conducted every Saturday morning, 9:05 – 10:15 am, outside the abortion clinic at 2839 Duke Street, Alexandria. St. Lawrence has led this prayer vigil for over 30 years outside one of Virginia's largest abortion providers. For further information, contact the rectory or Bruce Borzino, 703-402-8335.

PRAY FOR OUR BELOVED DEAD

We pray for those who have gone before us, marked with the sign of faith, most recently we remember:

Patricia Terlecki, Barry Childers, Lai Wah Tang, Patricia Mankin, Martha Ann Jones, Roseann Frances Branagan, Olivia Miranda Kliukevic, Fermin Villar, Aubrey Polson, and Dai Pham.

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

Jeff Martin (d. 9/1/11)
Jack Dreslin (d. 9/1/82)
Tom Leich (d. 9/7/13)
Yonathan Petros (d. 9/11/17)
Vincent MacQueeney (d. 9/13/13)
Jay Farabaugh (d. 9/13/24)
Michael Washlack, Jr. (d. 9/15/21)
Beverly Eppolito (d. 9/16/13)
Sally Ahlgren (d. 9/23/14)

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

FROM THE COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN:

Save the dates:



Sat October 18th at 6pm is the Chili Dinner and Cook Off. Start practicing your award winning recipe or just plan to attend this fun and tasty evening.



Sunday October 19th at 12:30pm is a CCW potluck lunch, meeting, and Blessed Virgin Mary Trivia Game. Plan to enjoy the company of other women in the parish as we test our knowledge about Mary, her many titles, feast days and images.

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 and prayers can be done at home on your own time. For a 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:

Rev. Mr. Sean Mazary, Matt Chapman, and Sister Gaudete Maria.

Project Rachel After Abortion Care is hosting a series of Drop-In Virtual Zoom Meetings: We understand that healing after abortion can be a complex and deeply personal journey. If you have experienced abortion and are seeking confidential support and insight into the healing process, we invite you to join our virtual drop-in sessions in a safe space with no commitments, no homework, and no pressure...Upcoming dates @ 5 pm: September 11. Interested? Contact us today: 703-841-2504 or info@helpafterabortion.org

Retreat for Veterans at Loyola Retreat House, October 24-26, 2025

US Army veteran Fr Jim Conroy, SJ will lead Veterans in Prayer and Reflection about their experiences serving in the military. Anyone who has served their country has been generous with their skills and talents, but often at a cost. Learn and reflect on how God has been with you always, but often in hidden ways.

Retreat Fee is \$175. Contact Loyola Retreat House, 301-392-0801, or loyolaonthepotomac.com for more information

Parish Groups Returning from Summer Break

ST. LAWRENCE ROSARY MAKERS

Tuesday, September 9 at 10:00 a.m. in Hammond Hall. All are welcome. Call the parish office for more info.



FRENCH AND SPANISH CONVERSATION CLASSES.

All classes will be resumed September 11 and held every Thursday, at Hammond Hall. French class: from 10:30 – 12 Noon Spanish class: from 12:30 – 1:30pm

All are welcome. Join us to have fun learning, laughing and keeping our minds sharp!

THAT MAN IS YOU! PROGRAM BEGINS SEPT. 6

A Catholic Man's Leadership Program. We have completed our third year of meetings. If you have any questions or wish to join, please contact the Parish Office to leave a message for the Program Coordinator, Chris Isham.



Women's Fall Bible Study

Starting **Thursday, October 2** from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in Hammond Hall. Join us for *Touching the Divine* to explore qualities of Jesus revealed through the Gospel of John. This study draws us into a deeper relationship with Jesus as we reflect on His life and personality. For more information call 703-971-4378 or email office@stlawrencealex.org

The 2026 Wall Calendars & Spiral Daily Planners are in!

Stop by the book rack to see three different styles of religious art wall calendars: Mary and the Saints, The Life of Our Lord, and Angels. The 16-month spiral planners contain brief biographies of 70 Saints. All reference important Holy Days and holidays, fast days and feast days. See the back of each item for the suggested donation.

Retreat for Person's Facing Serious Illness October 3-5, 2025

Hosted by Catholic Charities, Diocese of Arlington. You and your caregiver are warmly invited to a peaceful weekend retreat for person's facing serious illness at San Damiano Retreat Center in White Post VA. This retreat is an opportunity for prayer, reflection, spiritual guidance, and gentle care. Diocesan priests, medical professionals, and volunteers will accompany you with compassion and support. Come find spiritual healing, hope, and rest in God's loving presence. For questions or to register, email retreat@ccda.net, and a nurse will contact you within a few days. For further information, please call (703)841-3830. Space is limited.



CHESTERTON ACADEMY
OF CHRIST THE KING

Chesterton Academy of Christ the King will be opening in the Fall of 2026, hopefully at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in

Alexandria. The more than 70 Chesterton Academies nationwide are known for their strong spiritual formation anchored in daily Mass as well as their rigorous, integrated classical curriculum oriented toward the good, the true, and the beautiful. Chesterton high schools form joyful, faithful, curious, articulate, and resilient young men and women prepared for college and for life. Visit Chesterton-ChristTheKing.org to learn more, [connect with us here](#), or [register to attend an upcoming information session](#)



FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/YOUTH OFFICE Attention Parents and Students!!!!

All of our CCD/Religious Education Classes will begin in Hammond Hall at 7 p.m. with a

Mandatory ORIENTATION Night for Parents and Students (Grades 1-12)

You will meet the Director and Teachers, get books, go over rules, curriculum, etc.

September 8: for Mondays Grades 1-8;

September 9: for High School and Adult OCIA;

September 10: for Wednesdays Grades 1-8

(Please register for classes if you haven't done so yet. Forms are available in the Parish Office, Narthex or on-line).

Also, St. Lawrence Religious Education office is in need of volunteers for CCD Teachers and Assistants for Mondays or Wednesdays from 7:00- 8:15 p.m. Books & training are provided. Classes are designed to prepare students to live the Catholic Faith, learn to pray, respond to the call for universal holiness, to desire and prepare for the Sacraments and live a life as Christ's disciples. Call or email Joseph Stakem at religioused@stlawrencealex.org or (703) 971-8541

After Abortion Day of Prayer and Healing

After Abortion Retreats: A Day of Prayer & Healing for women who have experienced abortion will be held on Saturday, September 27, 2025. 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

Struggling to forgive? Not sure what reconciliation should look like in the aftermath of hurt and Betrayal?

Join us Thursday, September 25 at 6:30 in Hammond Hall. Speaker, Jeannette Marino, MS, LPC brings clarity to understanding the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation and how to engage both in our relationship with Christ and each other. Based on a solid scriptural foundation, this presentation discusses various aspects of forgiveness and reconciliation.

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To Sign up now for free access to this program offering beautiful and faithful Catholic content, simply go to www.formed.org and search for our parish by zip code (22310). Type in your name and email address and then check your email message to sign in! There is something for everyone here: award-winning studies and parish programs, inspiring audio content, movies, e-books, and family-friendly kid's programming.

The MaRiH Center, a crisis pregnancy and pregnancy resource center, needs donations and volunteers.

Items 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: **Please note that large, heavy bags of clothing are too cumbersome to our volunteers. Smaller bags would be helpful. Thank you!**



- Baby clothes up to size 2T
- Maternity and nursing clothes
- Formula, baby food, and diapers
- Baby equipment; e.g., **MOST NEEDED** are non-expired car seats and strollers that collapse easily.
- 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. Check out the website at www.marih.org n more. Thank you for your generosity!

Electronic giving through Faith Direct

Making plans for the summer? Make sure to plan for your offertory as well! When your summer travels take



you away from Sunday services, eGiving lets you continue to support our church and the ministries you cherish. You can sign up from your computer, smartphone or tablet, and set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift.



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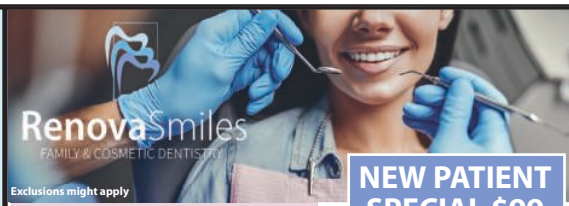
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