SAINT LAWRENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH
February 23, 2020

6222 Frasenfiana Road,
Alexandria, Virginia 22310
703-971-4378 (office)–
www.stlawrencealex.org

Parish Clergy
Rev. Ronald J. Gripshover, Jr., Pastor
office@stlawrencealex.org
Rev. Daniel S. Spychala, 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 religioused@stlawrencealex.org
Youth Minister Joseph Stakem
703-971-5715 youth@stlawrencealex.org
Music Director Raymond St. Pierre
music@stlawrencealex.org

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!

--Printed with ecclesiastical permission, Arlington, Virginia, August 16, 2018

HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS-
SUNDAY
Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00am and

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

Week 31: Here is a glimpse of the new Baptistry area--the large window to the right looks from the church into the new Narthex, and to the left of the yellow ladder are the main doors entering the Narthex from the Church. Notice the beautiful niche (Lit up in the center of the picture) where the statute of St Anne, holding our Blessed Mother Mary, will be lovingly featured. The Large window will feature plain glass alternating with stained glass windows removed from the Old Narthex!

Continue to pray to St Joseph (see below) for the protection of our workers.

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7th Sunday
In Ordinary Time

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February 23, 2020
7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTSIONS

MONDAY, 2/24 - Saint Matthias (EFM)
  6:15 am  Peter ∞
  9:00 am  Joan Chapman ∞
TUESDAY, 2/25 - Holy Face of Jesus (Hist.)
  6:15 am  Mark McKnight & Family
  9:00 am  Kathy Stricks ∞
WEDNESDAY, 2/26 - Ash Wednesday
  6:15 am  Phanxicó ∞
  9:00 am  Anna Nguyen ∞
  12:00 pm  Prayer Service/Distribution of Ashes Only
  6:00 pm  Daminh Hiên Trần ∞
  7:30 pm  Hannah Miracle & Family
THURSDAY, 2/27 - Saint Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows
  6:15 am  Peace in Family
  9:00 am  Robert Wareham ∞
FRIDAY, 2/28 - Saint Romanus (Hist.)
  6:15 am  Daminh Hiên Trần ∞
  9:00 am  David Siple ∞
SATURDAY, 2/29 - Saint Oswald of Worcester
  9:00 am  Matias Family
  5:00 pm  Dr. Joseph Riggs (Vigil Mass)
SUNDAY, 3/1 - First Sunday of Lent
  7:30 am  Parishioners of Saint Lawrence
  9:00 am  Fr. Gerald Murray
  11:00 am  Joe Barnoski ∞
  12:30 pm  Mieng & Ruyen Dinh (EFM)

Day of Prayer and Healing for Women  Post-Abortion
Healing Retreat for Women: An Entering Canaan Day of
Prayer & Healing for women who have experienced
abortion will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2020. Come
begin your healing journey and experience God’s hope
and mercy. You are not alone. There is healing. For more information and confidential
registration, please contact Project Rachel Ministry at
888-456-HOPE (4673) or info@helpafterabortion.org.

Would you like to support Project Rachel in helping
women who suffer from an abortion?  Project Rachel offers
retreats for women in need of healing and hope. Attendees
receive gift bags with: New “keepsake” rosaries or rosary
bracelets, prayer journals (lined, with feminine or religious
covers), pretty pens, tissues (individual packs, full-size boxes),
and candy (mints, hard candies). Donations of any of these
items may be left at the Rectory or in the gray donation bin in
Hammond Hall in a bag clearly marked “For Project
Rachel.”  The next retreat is March 21st.  Thank you!

Please Pray for the Sick of our parish family, including Jay Farabaugh, Melanie Brady, Justin Pham,
Raymond Stanekenas, Rita MacQuoney, Donald Lawson, Alice O’Connor, Minh Tran, Anthony Torres,
Leah Bloom, Richard Kuron, Sr., Jack Marzan, Matthew Peters, Patricia Lewis, Christian Escoto, John
Bonfanti, Chris Henderson, Baby Leah, Barbara Gaul, John Forrester, Bud Shatzer, Bon Le, William
Geoghegan and Donna Sullivan.

Pray the Holy Rosary
February 23, 2020
Thank you all for your generosity - We edge ever closer to our original goal, but we need to exceed that goal!!

PLEASE PLEDGE TODAY!!

Electronic giving for the Project can be made via Faith Direct.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Work continues inside the new Narthex as all the drywall work and installation of ceilings and fixtures takes place. The Bathroom fixtures are now mostly installed and they near completion.

All liturgical activity will continue to take place in the main Church -- with use of the temporary chapel in Hammond Hall on reserve if construction activity requires that action. Look for notifications of any change in venue.

Continue to pray to St. Joseph prayer for the protection of our workers!

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, please contact the rectory to make arrangements.
Book Rack News: This week our parish book and pamphlet racks feature March and April Magnificats, reading material for Lent, The Way of the Cross pamphlets, and a new Consecration to Mary prayer card.

The CCW scholarship application is now available for the 2020 school year. This application is for a $1000.00 scholarship for a girl who will graduate from high school in 2020 and plans to attend a 2 year or 4 year college or a trade school. Applicants must be completed and sent to Donna Piscitelli at ccw@stlawrencealex.org by March 2nd, 2020.

ST. LAWRENCE PARISH RETREAT - Men’s Weekend: MARCH 20th – 22nd, 2020
Women’s Weekend: MARCH 13th – 15th, 2020

Need to get away from the constant “busyness” of today’s world? Renew your spirit with a retreat. The men of St. Lawrence Parish go on retreat each year during Lent at the LOYOLA RETREAT HOUSE in Southern Maryland. This silent retreat is based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola. It begins Friday evening with the Sacrament of Penance and dinner, and closes with Mass and lunch on Sunday.

The retreat theme for this year is: “Lord, Teach Us to Pray”. Each retreatant is free to structure the weekend to suit your own personal needs.

To make a reservation, call Loyola at 301-392-0801. A deposit of $115 will reserve a private room with a half bath for you. The suggested offering for the weekend is $245 or $195 for first time retreatants and for young adults under age 30.

Find more information at loyolaonthepotomac.com or reserve a room at reservations@loyolaretreat.org

For more info on the weekend experience, contact Mark Krause (703-971-7146) or Chuck Wipperfurth (571-385-9699).

Take some time during Lent to “Come Away and Rest Awhile” and spend some prime time with God.

Gym
This is our biggest fine arts fundraiser of the year, much of which goes to financial support to students unable to fund some elements of their participation. Your elegant evening begins as you enter the performance venue and are seated within the ‘setting’ of Broadway and New York City. Reserved table seating is arranged as eight seats per table. At your table you will enjoy dessert ‘sliced’ from a delicious assortment, as well as coffee or tea based on your preference. Visit www.bishopoconnell.org/desserts to purchase tickets!

The Bishop O’Connell Fine Arts Department presents: Broadway Desserts - 2020 - An evening of Broadway musical selections and desserts. Saturday, Feb. 29 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, March 1 at 2 p.m. Upper Gym.

Join Bishop Burbidge and Archbishop Wilton Gregory of the Archdiocese of DC on Saturday, March 14 at the Church of the Nativity in Burke for the Peace and Justice Conference, “Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love. A Diocesan Response to Confronting the Sin of Racism.”

Mass is at 5 p.m. followed by dinner and keynote by Archbishop Gregory. RSVP to peace@arlingtondiocese.org

See event details at arlingtondiocese.org, Diocesan Events.

This weekend every household in our parish will be asked to complete a Bishop’s Lenten Appeal pledge form at Mass. This appeal provides an opportunity to support programs no individual or parish could offer by itself. Please prayerfully consider making a pledge. Our goal is 100% participation.

St. Raymond’s Lenten Women’s Retreat invites women to a retreat lead by the Women’s Apostolate to Youth (WAY) on Saturday, March 7th - Topic: “St. Therese of Lisieux: Happy Victim of Merciful Love”. Time: 8:30am - 1:30pm; Location: St. Raymond of Peñafort Parish Hall (8750 Pohick Rd, Springfield, VA 22153). The retreat will explore this very young, obscure French nun’s conviction that Jesus wants above all else to be loved, not feared, and how accepting this as her mission led to a life of heroic sacrifice, intense suffering and to the devotion of countless Catholics today. Check in: 8:30am - 8:50am downstairs at the parish hall before going to 9:00am Mass, followed by continental breakfast, talks, confession/adoration, periods of silence, lunch, brief reflection and resolutions. Please rsvp on St. Raymond’s parish website www.straymonds.org/lentenwomensretreat or contact St. Raymond’s Parish Office 703-440-0535 or email eva.radel@straymonds.org. No cost to attend but please register early.

Share Sunday - Thank you for your Share Sunday participation last weekend. Pantry donations for Koinonia totaled 441 pounds and included many of the items their food pantry really needed. Thank you also for financial contributions and grocery store gift cards which offer great flexibility.

Arlington Diocese Annual Women and Men’s Conferences Coming Soon! - Men’s Conference Saturday, March 7th; Women’s Conference Saturday, March 14th. Both will be held at St. Joseph’s in Herndon from 9 am - 2 pm. To register or for more information go to arlingtondiocese.org/men or arlingtondiocese.org/women.

The Shroud of Turin - One of the World’s Greatest Mysteries
Come hear Bill Wingard present the history, science and the passion of Jesus Christ – as seen in the Shroud of Turin. Presentation will be held Sunday, March 22 at 2:30 pm in Hammond Hall. Please contact Anne-Marie Pierce in the Religious Education office at 703-971-8541 for additional information or to register to attend this exceptional event.
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 additional donations at
any time and we will update your pledged/donated amount!!!

(Contact Deacon Mike for more info.)

ATTENTION PARISHIONERS—Youth Work Camp Support

St. Lawrence will be sending 8-10 Teens to WorkCamp 2020 in Winchester, Virginia in June to help those in need and to grow closer to God and stronger in the Catholic Faith. Therefore, to fundraise, the Youth will be holding their Spring Silent Auction and Bazaar from Friday, February 28th - Sunday March 1st. Donations of slightly used items will be accepted at the Youth Ministry Office in Hammond Hall. Please visit, email or call Joseph Stakem, Youth Ministry Office, at 703-971-5715 or youth@stlawrencealex.org

Right to Life issues in Virginia--Be Informed

Being Faithful Catholics and Citizens in the Virginia Commonwealth. The Virginia Catholic Conference (VCC) is the unified voice of the Bishops of Arlington and Richmond to give Virginia Catholics greater knowledge and influence in decisions by state and federal lawmakers that affect human life and dignity. The VCC E-mail Advocacy Network lets you know when legislation is coming before either the General Assembly or Congress on matters that the Bishops feel are urgently important. This gives citizens the opportunity to contact their elected representatives to make their voices heard. Citizens enrolled in this network receive short alerts about bills and can quickly send messages about them to their legislators if they decide to do so. Register at https://vacatholic.org/action-center/