

**Gospel Reflection**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent

**Dec. 3-4, 2016**  
**Matthew 3:1-12**



Saint Augustine once said, "There is a present of things past, a present of things present, and a present of things future."

That sounds like a good description of Advent. The present of things past, our sins, must be done away with now. The present of things present, our acts of justice and charity,

must be in evidence now. The present of things future, in the form of a shoot budding, namely our hope for heaven, is also now.

Maybe we need recall the old adage: there is no time like the present. The preaching of John the Baptist and this season of Advent will help us to discover its deepest meaning.

~Fr. Victor Scooco, O.S.S.T.

**INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL –**  
**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> - 6:30PM**

We will hold our 6<sup>th</sup> International Food Festival this Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6:30pm.

Come and try delicious food from Bangladesh, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Nigeria, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Spain, United States, Taiwan, Trinidad, and fictional locations! **So come hungry.**



**This Wednesday!**

If you are still interested in representing your cultural heritage and hosting a table with samples of your country's food, please contact the Parish Office at office@saintlawrencemartyr.org or Fr. Binoy at binoyosst@gmail.com

**PRAYER VIGIL FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS - DEC. 9<sup>TH</sup>**  
SIT St. Lawrence will be holding a Prayer Vigil supporting Persecuted Christians around the world this Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30-8:30pm in the church.

Let us come together this Advent season to spend time before the Blessed Sacrament, and pray, sing, and reflect on why it is important to remember our brothers and sisters who embody galvanized faith in the face of evil.

Faith McDonnell of the Institute on Religion and Democracy will be speaking. Adoration and Benediction will follow, and light refreshments will be in the Parish Center at the Vigil's conclusion. Come to as much or as little of the event as you wish.

Please contact Matt Behum with any questions at mbehum@gmail.com, or call the Parish Office.

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>**

Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is a Holy Day of Obligation.

The Immaculate Conception is a dogma maintaining that, from the moment she was conceived, the Blessed Virgin Mary was kept free of original sin and was filled with the sanctifying grace normally conferred during baptism.

Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am, noon, and 6:30pm.

**STATUETTES FUNDRAISER**

The Knights of Columbus will continue to take orders for statuettes by noted artist Timothy Schmalz for Christmas delivery up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of December.

Through special arrangement with the artist, the statuettes are available at a 30% discount. Proceeds from the sale will benefit Saint Lawrence Parish as we move to our new church facility. Please contact Alan Andrysiak for further details at alanandrysiak@comcast.net or 410-519-0804.

**CHRISTMAS CARD/ORNAMENT SALE**

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, the Knights of Columbus will be selling religious Christmas cards, ornaments, and religious puzzles after all Masses in the Parish Center during Donut Sunday. Proceeds go to support the Knights' youth activities in the parish.

**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**

The Knights of Columbus will sponsor Breakfast with Santa at the Parish Center on Saturday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00am to 11:00am, for our children.



Breakfast will be served at no cost and Santa will be available to talk with the children.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

The last Religious Education class for December will be on December 18<sup>th</sup>. In January, the classes will be January 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

First Eucharist classes begin with an Inscription Mass on January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8:30am, followed by a parent/child class.

If you have any questions, please contact Val Magnuson: val@saintlawrencemartyr.org or call 410-799-1970, ext. 54.

**LECTORS**

The lector workbooks for the new liturgical year are now available for your convenience in the Sacristy. Please be sure to stop by and pick up your copy.

Thank you to all of our lectors for their hard work in preparation each week to proclaim the Word of God.

**Mass Intentions**

**Saturday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

5:00pm **Mass for the People**

6:30pm **John Perkins, for healing,**  
req by Tim & Margaret Brennan

**Sunday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

8:30am + **Barbara Murphy** req by the Mangubat family

10:00am + **Francisco Quintero** req by Angela Tovar Quintero and the Prieto family

11:30am + **Joseph Bliss** req by the Henry family

5:30pm + **Barbara Dorsey Prisco** req by Jim Prisco Jr.

**Monday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>:**

9:00am\* **Fr. Victor & Fr. Binoy, in gratitude,**  
req by Maria Dudley

**Tuesday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>:**

9:00am\*\* + **Mary Barker** req by her friends

**Wednesday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>:**

9:00am\*\*\* + **Daniel H. Redding** req by Deacon Ed Kernan

**Thursday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>:**

9:00am\* + **Maria Lanh Trinh** req by her niece

12:00noon

6:30pm

**Friday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>:**

9:00am\* + **Sylvester Smith** req by his family

**Saturday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

5:00pm **Mass for the Unborn** req by K of C Council #12180

6:30pm **Mass for the People**

**Sunday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

8:30am + **Ryan McDonald** req by the Henry family

10:00am + **Amada Escalante Arredondo**

req by Judith Talavera

11:30am + **Tom Strazik** req by the Gates family

5:30pm + **Michael J. Mead, Sr.** req by the Magnuson family

\* *Rosary following Mass* \*\* *Rosary and Novena to St. Agatha*

\*\*\* *Rosary and Novena to St. Michael of the Saints*

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Offering Mass for a Special Intention is a long-standing tradition in the Catholic Church. If you'd like to have a Mass celebrated for someone, contact the Parish Office at office@saintlawrencemartyr.org or call 410-799-1970. It is a free will offering, but typically people donate \$5 to \$10 a Mass.

**Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> Ministry Schedule**

Time	Servers	Lector	EM	Ushers	Greeters
Saturday 5:00pm	Cassie B	Larry B	Jeff F	Jeff F Steve S	Help Needed
Saturday 6:30pm	Timmy B	John M	Bill R	John M	Anna B Jeff B
Sunday 8:30am	Amanda S	Alan A	Help Needed	Dwayne G Help Needed	Helen C
Sunday 10:00am	Hannah L	Mike J	Help Needed	Darryl B Aida R	Angie N
Sunday 11:30am	Michael K	Skip Wenk	Help Needed	Michael L Ray T	Help Needed
Sunday 5:30pm	N/A	Micayla N	Kathy F	Help Needed	Help Needed

**CHURCH SUPPORT- NOVEMBER 26-27, 2016**

Category	This year	Last year
<b>Envelopes:</b> Regular Weekly	\$2,923.50	\$2,783.00
<b>Loose:</b> Regular Weekly	1,570.00	1,345.00
<b>E-giving:</b> Regular Weekly	2,474.50	1,595.00
<b>Poor Box:</b>	378.00	409.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,346.00</b>	<b>\$6,132.50</b>

**SUPPORT ELDERLY RELIGIOUS - NEXT WEEK**

A parishioner writes, "As a Catholic school student from grades K-12, I was formed to be the person I am by many religious brothers and sisters, and I am forever grateful."

Show your appreciation for the senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious orders priests (such as the Trinitarians) who made a positive difference in so many lives. Please give generously to next week's collection for the **Retirement Fund for the Religious.**



- Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: Catholic Schools Birthday/Anniversary Blessings
- Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: Catholic Schools Birthday/Anniversary Blessings
  - 9:30am Rel Ed Classes PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> (Parish Ctr)
  - 11:15am Rel Ed Classes 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> (Parish Ctr)
  - 11:30am Third Order Profession
  - 6:30pm Life Night (Parish Ctr)
- Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>:** 7:00pm RCIA
- Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>:** 10:30am TLC Bingo & Lunch (Parish Ctr)
  - 6:00pm Divine Mercy Chaplet (Church)
  - 6:30pm Men's Bible Study (Sacristy)
  - 6:30pm Women's Bible Study (Parish Ctr)
- Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>:** 6:30pm International Food Festival
- Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>:** Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)
  - Masses at 9:00am, noon, and 6:30pm
- Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>:** 6:30pm SIT Prayer Vigil (until 8:30pm)
- Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: Retired Religious
  - 7:30am Beans & Bread Outreach Project
  - 9:00am 3<sup>rd</sup> Order Mtg
  - 7:30pm 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Christmas Party
- Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: Retired Religious
  - Donut Social (after morning Masses)
  - K of C selling Christmas cards
  - 10:30am Prayer Shawl (until noon)
  - 6:30pm Life Teen Night (Parish Ctr)

**JOIN US NEXT WEEK FOR DONUTS AND COFFEE!**

Join fellow parishioners for donuts and coffee after all morning Masses this Sunday! Please also join the Prayer Shawl ministry from 10am -12:00noon in the Parish Center. You can also get your blood pressure screened by Parish Nurse Christine Magnuson, R.N., B.S.N.

## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

### Christmas Eve – Saturday, Dec. 24, 2016

4:15pm Musical Prelude  
4:30pm Children's Christmas Mass  
6:30pm Musical Prelude  
7:00pm Vigil Mass  
11:30pm Musical Prelude  
12:00am Midnight Mass



### Christmas Day - Sunday, Dec. 25, 2016

8:30am Mass  
10:00am Mass  
11:30am Mass

### Holy Day: Mary, Mother of God - Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017

Regular Sunday Mass schedule

## CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

For everyone who chose ornaments, all gifts are due back no later than Monday, **December 19<sup>th</sup>**. You can place them under the Christmas Tree in the Parish Center Foyer.

The presents can be wrapped or unwrapped, preferred in gift bags, but please be certain to attach the ornament which you selected, it contains information needed to get the gift to the right person.



Thank you to St. Lawrence parishioners for your incredible generosity!

## WELCOME

Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we welcome **Alexandra Stout**, daughter of Michael and Jennifer Stout, and **Trystan Lyons**, son of Kyle and April Lyons, baptized on November 20, 2016.

May they and their families continue to grow in God's love and grace.

## WANT TO HELP DECORATE THE CHURCH AND PARISH CENTER?

If you still have some decorating energy in you, you are welcome to help us adorn the Parish Center and Church for Christmas. The decoration will begin after the 9:00am Mass on Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Hopefully, everything will be finished by noon and then lunch will be provided.

## CATHOLIC MEN'S STUDY GROUP

The purpose of this group is to better understand biblical and historical basis for Catholic doctrines. The group meets in the Sacristy (room behind the altar) on most Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30pm (following Divine Mercy chaplet at 6:00pm). Dates and topics for December are: 6<sup>th</sup> (Popes in history: Good and Bad); 13<sup>th</sup> (Jesus: Divine and HUMAN!).

If interested, contact Ray Ogden at 410-551-8364

## YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY – DEC. 20<sup>TH</sup>

Attention Young Adults! Join us Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-9:00pm for a Christmas potluck dinner and socializing! Then, we'll help organize the presents for our Christmas Giving Tree recipients!

Starting in 2017, Young Adult Ministry will meet on the second and fourth Fridays of the month, starting at 7:00pm. Watch the bulletin for more information!

## GABRIEL NETWORK – HELP PREGNANT WOMEN

St. Lawrence Parish Gabriel Network program, which supports practical, emotional, and spiritual care to pregnant women in crisis situations, is going strong.

If you would like to send holiday or greeting cards, please send them to the Parish Office, and we will get them to our moms. They truly appreciate all our support. Thank you very much! We have an immediate need for newborn size diapers and toiletries for new babies.

If you'd like to help out with the program, please contact Joe Toher by email at [joetohr@gmail.com](mailto:joetohr@gmail.com) or by calling 443-850-6207.

## LIVE YOUR MARRIAGE IN HARMONY

"May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another." As we await the coming of the Lord, let us live in our marriages with endurance and encouragement.

Explore how by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend on April 21-23, 2017 or October 27-29, 2017 in Gaithersburg, MD.

For more information and to apply online visit [welovematrimony.org](http://welovematrimony.org), or call 301-541-7007, or email at [applications@welovematrimony.org](mailto:applications@welovematrimony.org).

## KNOTT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED

KNOTT SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS announce the availability of four-year, full-tuition scholarships for the 2017/2018 academic year. These scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic achievement. Catholic students now in grade 4 or grade 8, living in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford or Howard counties may apply. Scholarships may be used to attend a Catholic parish elementary school or a Catholic high school within these geographic areas of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

Information regarding qualifications and an application form describing eligibility requirements and deadlines may be obtained from our web site at: [www.knottscholar.org](http://www.knottscholar.org). For additional information, please call 443-325-7884 or write to us at [knottscholars@gmail.com](mailto:knottscholars@gmail.com).



## SIT REFLECTION

~ by Matt Behum, SIT Director ([mbehum@gmail.com](mailto:mbehum@gmail.com))

I cannot believe we are already celebrating the Advent season. Perhaps with kids, my days fly by more rapidly each year. One thing I have often commented at SIT functions is why I got involved in SIT in the first place—it is because of my children. It is hard for me to look at my three children on a daily basis and not reflect on how 2-year old boys and girls in Africa or 5-year old children in Iraq are shedding tears as I write because their Christmas this year will be spent without loved ones. It is challenging for me to look at my lovely children and not think of the sacrifice and dear price of true faith that so many of our young brothers and sisters around this world pay to remain steadfast to their Father in Heaven.

Does thinking about these little souls make me a better person? I like to think it helps. Truth be told, one of the most memorable times I spend with Jesus every year is very late Christmas Eve (after Santa has visited); I walk out to my backyard in the still of the night and just look up at the sky. I say to Jesus how I wish I could be as strong as our persecuted family—how I have so far to go to be a true soldier to Christ, and that I pray for His guidance. That is why we are prayerfully remembering the lives of the persecuted this coming Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at our beautiful little church. Won't you consider attending, and joining hands with us as we echo the prayers of Trinitarians everywhere—our persecuted brothers and sisters inspire us to be closer to Jesus, and they will always have a voice here at St. Lawrence? They will never be forgotten, and we can learn so much from them this Christmas.

Merry Christmas to you all!

## CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX PROGRAM

Each year around this time, the Apostleship of the Sea partners with local parishes and organizations to prepare gift boxes for seafarers that will be distributed to them "dockside" during their calls in the Port of Baltimore during the holiday season. The Knights of Columbus Council #12180 and the Fourth Degree Knights Assembly #3245 are joining together to do the Christmas Shoebox Program. They will supply the plastic shoe boxes; we need you to donate the items to go into the shoe boxes.

Suggested donations (**travel-sized is best**): Toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, combs, nail clippers, mouthwash, shampoos, conditioners, soap, shaving cream, deodorant, q-tips, disposable razors, socks, gloves, scarves, caps, pens, pencils, writing supplies, English dictionaries, 2017 calendars, pocket-sized address books/planners, scotch tape, playing cards, travel-sized games, reading materials (magazines, paperbacks), non-perishable foods/snacks/candy, a small signed Christmas card or blessing (personal notes and blessings are always appreciated). Telephone calling cards are also appreciated.

The donation box is located in the Parish Center foyer.

## ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED

Being an Altar Server provides our female & male youth (**Grade 3 or above, received First Communion**) with an opportunity to participate in the Liturgy, serve the Lord, and develop leadership skills.

The primary role of the altar server is to assist the priest in the celebration of the Liturgy. Altar servers help the priest and the entire congregation praise God through active participation in the Liturgy.

Please contact Diane Baldwin at 443-679-6241 or [dnboct4@hotmail.com](mailto:dnboct4@hotmail.com) for more information and so a training session can be arranged.

## PASTORAL PARISH COUNCIL OPPORTUNITIES

The Pastoral Parish Council is seeking parishioners to serve on the Parish Council. Parishioners in good standing with the Catholic Church and interested in serving should contact the Parish Office at 410-799-1970, in order to have their names included on the ballot.

## ST. LAWRENCE TRIVIA

**Last week's answer:** Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein) was the nun who was martyred at Auschwitz.

**This week's question:** Why are the Advent candles arranged in the shape of a circle?



**This Week In Youth Ministry:** We will be starting our new semester with our Life Night entitled "The Tree". This will also be Topher's last Life Night.

Our new youth minister AnnaMarie will also be joining us. We hope you'll join us to give Topher a proper send-off and welcome AnnaMarie with open arms.

**From Topher:** Today marks my last day of working at St. Lawrence. I am incredibly grateful for my experiences here and for all the people I have met. I will be keeping you all in my prayers. Please pray for me as I move on to this next journey in my life.

## Upcoming Events:

Dec.18<sup>th</sup>: White Elephant Gift Exchange

We are always looking for volunteers to help with Life Teen. Please feel free to email the parish office at [office@saintlawrencemartyr.org](mailto:office@saintlawrencemartyr.org) or call 410-799-1970!

Be sure to follow us on Twitter and Instagram! @SLMLifeTeen

## Secular Quote of the Week:

"Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future." ~ John F. Kennedy