

**Gospel Reflection**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent

**Dec. 10-11, 2016**  
**Matthew 11:2-11**



It's amazing what grips our attention and excites desires or want. I'm not sure what the hottest item is this year, but it seems every pre-Christmas shopping season, there's one thing that every child or adult wants—a "must-have" toy or the absolute latest and most updated electronic device.

Do you remember the Cabbage Patch doll? I do. My niece, now in her thirties, just *had* to have one. It was on my Christmas shopping list. Uncle Vic would have to search far and wide; I was determined to get her one. I succeeded, by the way. Not everyone did. That Christmas season, supplies were limited. A grandfather was trampled as he reached for one on a store shelf and crazed shoppers behind him pushed him out of the way. He went home bruised and empty-handed.

Jesus, in today's Gospel, was amazed at the crowds that pushed and shoved their way into the desert to see John the Baptist. He wondered what motivated them. Was it the desire for true repentance or simply a mass religious hysteria? Jesus Himself was nearly ignored as everyone's attention was focused on His precursor. The Gospel says He spoke to them as they were all "going off" to see John.

Though the Lord praises John the Baptist as greater than any prophet, He explicitly says the least disciple in the Kingdom is greater yet.

This Advent, perhaps we should forget about this season's latest craze and must-have, and rather choose to visit one of his least disciples—maybe an elderly neighbor who is homebound or the sick friend who is patiently suffering in the hospital or the poor who are reluctant to say that all they want for Christmas is a decent meal and our compassion. Instead of rushing off to the mall, let's visit these, the least of His disciples.

If we do, we may just find that Christian hope, and Christ Himself, can often be found in the least spectacular of persons and in the most obscure of places.

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

**JOIN US THIS 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. There will be NO blood pressure screening.

The Knights of Columbus will be there, selling religious Christmas cards, ornaments, and religious puzzles. Proceeds go to support the Knights' youth activities in the parish.

**And you can still buy the beautiful 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary St. Lawrence ornaments!**

**COMMUNION SERVICES**

There will be Communion Services rather than Daily Mass on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup>.

**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.

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

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

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

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

8:30am	Mass	(Church)
10:00am	Mass	(Church)
11:30am	Mass	(Church)

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

Regular Sunday Mass schedule

**WANT TO HELP DECORATE THE CHURCH & HALL?**

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>.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

The last Religious Education class this year will be on Dec. 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.

**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 for more information and so a training session can be arranged.

**Mass Intentions**

**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

**Monday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>:**

9:00am\* + **Deceased members of the Trinh family**

**Tuesday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>:**

9:00am\*\* + **William Durr** req by Ed & Mary Allen

**Wednesday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>:**

9:00am\*\*\* **Members of the Trinitarian Community,**  
**Hanover** req by the Trinitarians

**Thursday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>:**

9:00am\* Communion Service – No Intentions

**Friday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>:**

9:00am\* Communion Service – No Intentions

**Saturday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

5:00pm + **James Prisco III** req by Jim Prisco Jr.  
6:30pm **Mass for the People**

**Sunday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

8:30am + **Barbara Murphy** req by Jon & Valerie Magnuson  
10:00am  
11:30am + **Adelaide A. Melgar**  
req by Elnora Guzman & Family

5:30pm + **Michael J. Mead Sr.** req by the Stegmaiers

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

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

**MASS FOR THE PEOPLE**

Have you ever wondered what "Mass for the People" means in our Mass Intentions list or wondered what it meant when the lector announced that the Mass was for the "People of St. Lawrence"?

Mass for the People, or in Latin *missa pro populo*, is a requirement by Canon Law where the Pastor is obliged to have a Mass celebrated for the people entrusted to him on each Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation.

<b>Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> Ministry Schedule</b>					
Time	Servers	Lector	EM	Ushers	Greeters
Saturday 5:00pm	Jaheim S Catie W	Rick B	Rick B	Jeff F Steve S	Help Needed
Saturday 6:30pm	Emily R	Maggie P	Elizabeth V	John M	Anna B Jeff B
Sunday 8:30am	Andrew S	Mike A	Ed A	Dwayne G Help Needed	Helen C
Sunday 10:00am	Christian C Jason S	Carla D	Tom L	Darryl B Aida R	Angie N
Sunday 11:30am	Angel G Karey R	Elnora G	Deacon John	Michael L Ray T	Help Needed
Sunday 5:30pm	N/A	Mike R	Kathy F	Help Needed	Help Needed

**CHURCH SUPPORT- DECEMBER 3-4, 2016**

Category	This year	Last year
<b>Envelopes:</b> Regular Weekly	\$3,915.50	\$3,324.00
<b>Loose:</b> Regular Weekly	1,719.00	1,701.00
<b>E-giving:</b> Regular Weekly	2,713.50	3,318.00
<b>Poor Box:</b>	505.50	589.00
<b>Catholic Schools:</b>	785.00	536.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,638.50</b>	<b>\$9,468.00</b>

**AGING RELIGIOUS NEED YOUR HELP**

Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others—educating the young, comforting the sick, seeking justice for the oppressed. Today, many are frail, elderly, and in need of assistance.

Your gift to the **Retirement Fund for Religious** helps to furnish medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please give generously to today's second collection.



**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

**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)  
3:30pm Confirmation Class (Parish Ctr)  
6:30pm Life Teen Night (Parish Ctr)

**Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>:** 7:00pm RCIA

**Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>:** 10:30am TLC Lunch (Parish Ctr)  
6:00pm Divine Mercy Chaplet (Church)  
6:30pm Men's Bible Study (Sacristy)  
6:30pm 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Knights (Parish Ctr)

**Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>:** 6:00pm Finance Council

**Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>:** 7:00pm Young Adult Bible Study (Sacristy)  
7:30pm K of C Social Mtg (Parish Ctr)

**Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: *Restoration & Maintenance*  
9:00am Breakfast with Santa (Parish Ctr)  
7:30pm Feast of John DeMatha and 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 3<sup>rd</sup> Order

**Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: *Restoration & Maintenance*  
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)  
11:15am Prayer Ministry (McKennas)  
3:30pm Confirmation Class (Parish Ctr)  
6:30pm Life Teen Christmas Social (Ctr)

## REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Rev. Casimir Peterson, a former pastor of St. Lawrence from 1969-1971, who passed away on December 4<sup>th</sup>.

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him.

May he rest in peace. Amen.

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

## YOUNG ADULT EVENTS - BIBLE STUDY & POTLUCK

Attention Young Adults! We started a regular **Bible Study for Young Adults**. The class will meet on Thursday,



December 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the Sacristy (area behind the altar). Kevin Meier, who will be leading the study, will be available to answer any questions after this weekend's Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses.

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!

## CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

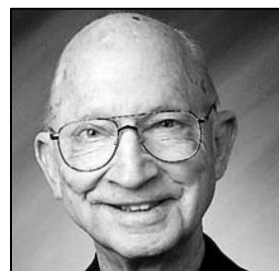
For everyone who chose ornaments, all gifts are due back no later than Monday, **December 19<sup>th</sup>**. You can place them under the Christmas Tree in the Parish Center Foyer.

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!

## LOOKING FOR THE LONGEST MARRIED COUPLE

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is searching for the longest married couple. One national winner and winners from each of the 50 states are recognized each year. This project is held to honor the commitment of married couples and to give hope and inspiration to younger couples that they too can have long and lasting marriages. Nominations must be received by January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017. To nominate a couple you know, please visit us at <http://wwme.org> or contact us directly at 321-804-2310.

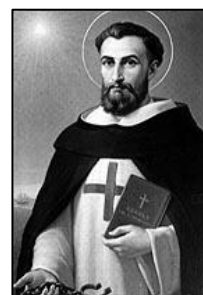


## NEEDED: SOCKS

The Trinitarian Third Order is looking for new white tube socks to give to the homeless in Baltimore and Glen Burnie.

They will be collecting these items until March. The donations can be placed in the container in the Parish Center.

## FEAST OF ST. JOHN DEMATHA, DEC 17<sup>TH</sup>



Next Saturday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, the Trinitarians celebrate the Feast of Saint John DeMatha, the founder of our Order.

Please pray for the priests and brothers who, over the years, have served you at St. Lawrence Martyr Parish. Pray for our Trinitarian laity, members of the Third Order here at Saint Lawrence.

We thank God that the spirit and charism of the Order of the Most Holy Trinity and of Captives still lives in our Church and world.

**In addition, please join the Trinitarian Third Order for a Potluck Supper at 7:30pm on Saturday** to celebrate the Feast Day and the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the Trinitarian Third Order at St. Lawrence Martyr.

## 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). Topic for December is: 13<sup>th</sup> (Jesus: Divine and HUMAN!).

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

## 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.

## FORMED RECOMMENDATIONS

Hopefully everyone saw the December Recommendations flyer in last week's bulletin. There are many things to watch and learn during this liturgical month.

**To Access:** Go to [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org) and click "Register", located in the lower right hand corner. Then enter both the Parish Code, which is ed1783, and your email address. You'll need to fill out some basic information and then click "Submit". Formed will send an email for verification to your email. Go to & open your email received from "Formed" and click on the word "Verify". It will then take you to the Formed site.

## INTRODUCING OUR NEW YOUTH MINISTER

Dear Parish Family,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to minister to your teens. My name is AnnaMarie Link and I will be serving the parish as the part time high school youth minister. I have been in youth ministry for over ten years and am coming off of a two-year hiatus. I am married and the mother of three little ones (hence the hiatus) and am a transplant to the area. I moved here a little over seven years ago for a ministry position in Annapolis. My previous experience was ministry in Denver, Colorado where I was born and raised. I will never forget when St. John Paul the Great came to Denver when I was about 10 and said that the youth were not the future of the Church, they *were* the Church today. That has stuck with me throughout my life and I knew that God was calling me into ministry of some sort.



I attended the Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio, and majored in Theology. I love the youth and truly believe that what we put into the young Church now, will come back tenfold. As a parent myself, I know that the most important task we can undertake is doing our best to get our children to heaven. I worked in youth and young adult ministry in Denver for several years before I felt God calling me out of my home state and on to a new chapter. This chapter turned out to be rather important, and I not only reunited with a college classmate (who later became my husband) but I found that God's plans always outdo our own.

I could have never imagined that my life would take the direction it did. That's the beauty of Faith. I worked at St. Mary's in Annapolis for four years as their youth and young adult minister before making the decision to stay home while starting our family.

Martin, my husband and I have three beautiful babies. Our oldest, Gabriella, is four, Judah is two and our youngest, Luciana, is seven months. Our goal is heaven while doing our best to live faithfully on this earth, and we truly believe that getting to heaven is a community effort. Therefore, we are excited to become a part of the St. Lawrence community and hopefully through the coming years we can work together to build missionaries to serve the Lord in our very own parish.

Again, thank you for welcoming me and my family into St. Lawrence. I am looking forward to getting to know you.

In Him through her, AnnaMarie Link

## 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.

## 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.

## ST. LAWRENCE TRIVIA

**Last week's answer:** The circular shape of the Advent wreath, without beginning or end, symbolizes God's complete and unending love for us. It also represents eternal life which becomes ours through faith in Jesus Christ.

**This week's question:** In addition to the four candles representing the four weeks of Advent, what else does tradition hold the four candles to represent?



**This Week In Youth Ministry:** Just as we're waiting impatiently for Christmas, the people of the Bible waited for their Savior. Come and hear how God fulfilled His promise.

Remember, next week is the White Elephant Gift Exchange so go out and find that unusual and fun \$5 gift!

## 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 AnnaMarie Link at [annamarielink@gmail.com](mailto:annamarielink@gmail.com) or call 410-799-1970!

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

## Secular Quote of the Week:

"You usually have to wait for that which is worth waiting for." ~ Craig Bruce