



**Gospel Reflection**

**Dec. 24-25, 2016**

**The Nativity of the Lord**  
**Isaiah 9:1-6 Luke 2:1-14**

I've done a lot in life. I've spent time visiting and living on four continents. I've met so many wonderful people, and even those who may have been less-than-wonderful were certainly interesting. So what's there left to do? Not a lot on my bucket list. Perhaps there's one thing left in that bucket. It would be

this: to witness the aurora borealis.

My two brothers and my father had that experience. They were camping on the grounds of St. Benedict's Monastery in Newton, NJ. The whole Boy Scout troop had just bedded down. My father was the Scout Master. As he was falling off to sleep, some of the boys poked their heads into his tent. They were, I'm told, terrified. "Mr. Scocco, something's happening outside, and we don't know what it is! Come quick!"

When my father came out of his tent, he saw that there were waves of multi-colored lights rolling from one end of the sky to the next. He smiled and told the boys to wake everyone up so that they could watch the Northern Lights together. It was, by the way, a rare event for those who live in the "arctic north of New Jersey". But it did happen that night.

When I think of those "shepherds in the region living in the fields and keeping night watch over their flocks," and how "the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear" (LK 2:8-9), I think of Boy Scout Troop #110 and my dad camped in the wilds of Jersey. Yes, even there, in an unlikely place, the glory of God can fill the skies and manifest His beauty and power.

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shown. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing..." (IS 9:1-2)

Can it happen to us? The Scouts' motto is "Be prepared". Boy Scouts or not, if we as Christians embody that posture of readiness, it can and will. No need to travel to the Arctic or even to North Jersey, "For the zeal of the Lord of Hosts will do this." (IS 9:6)

In fact, He has, with the birth of His Son and Our Savior, Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace, right here in the regions of Jessup and Hanover and Severn, in the deepest regions of your heart and home.

Merry Christmas! ~Fr. Victor Scocco, O.S.S.T.

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**

The Parish Office will be closed on December 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>.

**YOUNG ADULT EVENTS**

Attention Young Adults! Young Adult Social Ministry will meet on the second and fourth Fridays of the month, starting at 7:00pm (although you can always join us later). Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> will be a **Board Game Night** and Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> will be a **Wine Tasting...with a Biblical slant!**

We have also started a **Bible Study for Young Adults**. Our next class will meet on Thurs, Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the Sacristy (area behind the altar). Unless otherwise notified, from here on out Young Adult Bible Study will be once every two weeks on Thursday at 7:00pm.

For more information on Bible Study or our social activities, please email [youngadult@saintlawrencemartyr.org](mailto:youngadult@saintlawrencemartyr.org)

**SHRIMP/CRABCAKE DINNER – JANUARY 21<sup>ST</sup>**

As part of our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year celebration, we will be having a Shrimp and Crabcake Dinner on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. Mark your calendar; you don't want to miss this delicious food!

**THE MEANING OF CANDY CANES**

While there are various legends about the creation of the candy cane, many people have come to see symbolism in that distinctly shaped piece of candy.

The white symbolizes the purity of Christ. Red stripes remind us of the blood shed by Christ on the cross for us. The candy cane is formed into the shape of a shepherd's crook, to represent the staff of the Good Shepherd. So every time you see a candy cane, remember the wonder of Jesus and His Great Love that came down at Christmas.

**CHILI COOK-OFF IS BACK! – JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>**

Dust off those chili recipes! Life Teen is organizing a Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser on Sunday, Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm. If you'd like to participate for the chance to win cash prizes, fill out an entry form, and drop the entry in the collection basket or mail to the Parish Office. The form can be found in the back of the church. The entry fee is \$10.

For those who would like to sample some tasty chili, the entry fee is \$4.00. You'll then be able to place votes for your top choices in the Mild and Spicy categories.

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC?**

Interested in becoming a Catholic? Are you an adult who has never received First Communion or Confirmation? Consider the RCIA, Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults.

The RCIA program consists of a series of sessions; a spiritual journey for those wishing to join our faith community. We meet on Mondays at 7:00pm in the Sacristy.

To find out more information, you can contact Jim Leddy at [adultfaithslm@gmail.com](mailto:adultfaithslm@gmail.com) or call 410-799-5907.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

Women's Bible Study will NOT meet December 27<sup>th</sup>. We will resume after the New Year at 6:30pm in the Parish Center on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup>. All women are invited to join us.



**Mass Intentions**

**Saturday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Eve**

4:30pm + Roy G. Lamb, Jr. req by the Lauth family  
 7:00pm Mass for the People  
 Midnight + Deceased members of the DeBell family req by Joe & Cathy Stegmaier

**Sunday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Day**

8:30am + Alex Stewart req by Grandma Judy Kurtz  
 10:00am John, Bolanle, & Anthony-Mary Edet  
 11:30am Philomena Onwuegbule & family for thanksgiving & blessings req by Mr. & Mrs. Edet

**Monday, Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>: Feast of St. Stephen, First Martyr**

9:00am\* + Rosa Le Trinh req by her daughter

**Tuesday, Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>:**

9:00am\*\* + George Lambiasi req by Richard Lambiasi Jr.

**Wednesday, Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>: Feast of Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

9:00am\*\*\* Most Rev. Jose Narlaly, O.S.S.T., Minister General, on his birthday

**Thursday, Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>:**

9:00am\* + Shirley Kravitz req by Judy & Dick Boivin

**Friday, Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>:**

9:00am\* + Fr. Rafael Baidoo, O.S.S.T. req by the Trinitarians

**Saturday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

5:00pm + Barbara Dorsey Prisco req by Jim Prisco Jr.

6:30pm Mass for the People

**Sunday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

8:30am + Patricia Ann Frances Dowd

req by the Naymick family

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

11:30am + Alex Stewart req by Grandma Judy Kurtz

5:30pm

\*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. Masses are offered for many reasons: in remembrance for the deceased, or for the living, in honor of a birthday or other special occasion.

If you'd like to have a Mass celebrated for someone, contact the Parish Office at [office@saintlawrencemartyr.org](mailto:office@saintlawrencemartyr.org) or call 410-799-1970. It is a free will offering, but typically people donate \$5 to \$10 a Mass.

<b>Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> – Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> Ministry Schedule</b>					
Time	Servers	Lector	EM	Ushers	Greeters
Saturday 5:00pm	Michael K Jason S	Maggie P	Maureen M	Jeff F Steve S	Help Needed
Saturday 6:30pm	Emily R Catie W	Joan M	William R	John M	Anna B Jeff B
Sunday 8:30am	Christian C Amanda S	Mary J	Rocco D	Dwayne G Help Needed	Helen C
Sunday 10:00am	Hannah L	Mike J	Tom L	Darryl B Aida R	Angie N
Sunday 11:30am	Jaheim S Karey R	Skip W	Deacon John	Michael L Ray T	Help Needed
Sunday 5:30pm	N/A	Courtney D	Kathy F	Steve F Drew F	Help Needed

**CHURCH SUPPORT- DECEMBER 17-18, 2016**

Category	This year	Last year
<b>Envelopes:</b> Regular Weekly	\$4,048.00	\$3,818.00
<b>Loose:</b> Regular Weekly	1,332.00	1,291.00
<b>E-giving:</b> Regular Weekly	2,480.50	2,015.00
<b>Poor Box:</b>	432.00	1,209.00
<b>Restoration &amp; Maintenance:</b>	1,318.00	414.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,610.50</b>	<b>\$8,747.00</b>

**ONLINE GIVING**

Saint Lawrence Martyr provides Online Giving—a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or recurring donation. Getting started is easy. Visit our website at <http://www.saintlawrencemartyr.org> and click the Online Giving link. If you still want to place something in the offertory basket, pick up one of our "I gave On-Line" cards on your way into church and use that at offertory time.



- Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>:** 4:15pm Musical Prelude  
 4:30pm Children's Mass (Parish Ctr)  
 6:30pm Musical Prelude  
 7:00pm Christmas Eve Mass (Parish Ctr)  
 11:30pm Musical Prelude  
 12:00am Midnight Mass (Church)
- Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>:** 8:30am Christmas Day Mass (Church)  
 10:00am Christmas Day Mass (Church)  
 11:30am Christmas Day Mass (Church)  
 No 5:30pm Mass
- Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>:** 10:30am TLC Holiday Lunch (Parish Ctr)  
 6:00pm Divine Mercy Chaplet (Church)  
 6:30pm Men's Bible Study (Sacristy)
- Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>:** 7:00pm Rosary for the Unborn (Church)  
 7:00pm Young Adult Bible Study (Sacristy)
- Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: Capital Campaign Birthday/Anniversary Blessings
- Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: Capital Campaign Birthday/Anniversary Blessings Holy Day: Mary, Mother of God (regular Mass Schedule) No Life Night



**NOTE OF THANKS**

Fr. Victor, Fr. Binoy, and Deacon John received Christmas gifts, greetings, and goodies from so many parishioners.

Please accept our sincerest thanks. Time may not allow us to acknowledge everyone individually, but we do want you to know how grateful we are.

Have a Blessed New Year!

## SIT-UATION

The SIT St. Lawrence Ministry focuses on our fellow Christians who suffer persecution because of their commitment to Christ and His Church.

The three pillars for SIT St. Lawrence are prayer, action, and awareness. In order to facilitate awareness of persecuted Christians, we will be informing everyone of persecution around the world as well as awareness events.

RIP: 27 killed in Coptic Orthodox Cathedral of St. Mark in Cairo, Egypt

“Here’s that reality in a nutshell: Yes, Christians need help in Egypt, but that’s hardly the only place. From Iraq and Syria to Nigeria and Cameroon, from India and Sri Lanka to North Korea and China, even in parts of overwhelmingly Catholic Latin America, a staggering number of Christians face the daily risk of physical injury, arrest, kidnapping, torture and even death, for motives linked to their faith.”

*Cruix- December 12, 2016*

SIT’s next meeting is Thur. Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm in the church.

## 2017 CALENDARS

Our 2017 St. Lawrence calendar will be available next weekend. Don’t forget to pick up your New Year’s Gift!

## FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

Please stop by the church Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, to visit the Blessed Sacrament any time after the 9:00am Mass until 6:30pm. Benediction will follow at 6:30pm, after which we will recite the Rosary. We welcome anyone to stop by any time during the day.

## 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.

Nominations must be received by January 10, 2017. To nominate a couple you know, please visit us at <http://wwme.org> or contact us directly at 321-804-2310.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Next month, Religious Education classes will be on 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](mailto:val@saintlawrencemartyr.org) or 410-799-1970, ext. 54.

## HELP US FEED THE POOR /BEANS & BREAD

Come to our Parish Center on January 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am to help the Trinitarian 3<sup>rd</sup> Order make lunches for distribution to the poor in Baltimore at Beans & Bread and the Franciscan Center. This is a good opportunity to earn service hours.

## BIMONTHLY EMHC TRAINING

St. Lawrence Martyr is pleased to announce the upcoming Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) training on January 28<sup>th</sup> at 10am. You must attend this training session if you are a current EMHC. RSVP to Lola Rivera at [lolarivera@gmail.com](mailto:lolarivera@gmail.com). Please arrive 15 minutes early to sign in and enjoy some coffee and donuts!

Other training sessions will take place:

- March 25<sup>th</sup> @10am (*in preparation for Holy Week*)
- May 27<sup>th</sup> @10am

## CATHOLIC MEN’S STUDY GROUP (JANUARY 2017)

The purpose of this group is to better understand the biblical and historical basis for Catholic doctrines. The group meets in the Sacristy (room behind the altar) on Tuesdays from 6:30-8:00pm (*following the Divine Mercy chaplet*).



January topics are: 3<sup>rd</sup>: “Catholic Priests - Origins and Types”; 10<sup>th</sup>: “Priests - more Types”; 24<sup>th</sup>: “Mass – origin”; and 31<sup>st</sup>: “Eucharist - Real Presence”.

## A LIFELINE FOR MARRIAGE

**Retrouvaille** helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. It is designed to provide the tools to help get your marriage back on track. This program has helped tens of thousands of couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels including disillusionment and deep misery.

Our next local weekend is **January 27 - 29, 2017**. Register or obtain information, visit our website at: [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com), call (443) 400-7017, or email: [3015@Retrouvaille.org](mailto:3015@Retrouvaille.org).

## FORMED RECOMMENDATIONS

### Christmas Season:

- Movie: The Story of the Nativity
- Audio: The True Meaning of Christmas

**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.

## 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. We have an immediate need for newborn size diapers and newborn girl’s clothing. Thanks!

If you’d like to help with the program, contact Joe Toher by email at [joetoher@gmail.com](mailto:joetoher@gmail.com) or call 443-850-6207.

## 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PARISH DIRECTORY

The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Parish Directory is about to go to the printer! We hope to have it available the first or second week of January.

Thank you to everyone who contributed their time and talent toward this colossal project.

## THANK YOU FOR FLOWER DONATIONS

Thank you to all who donated toward the lovely Christmas flowers and the Liturgical Environment Committee who prepared the church and Parish Center in such a festive and beautiful way in honor of the birth of our Savior! The listing of donations and memorials will be in next week’s bulletin.

## 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.

Please contact Diane Baldwin at 443-679-6241 or [dnboct4@hotmail.com](mailto:dnboct4@hotmail.com) for more information.

## JOIN FLOCKNOTES!

As bad weather is just around the corner, we encourage everyone to join Flocknotes so they can be instantly alerted on any cancellations. You can either go online to:

[www.flocknote.com/saintlawrencemartyr](http://www.flocknote.com/saintlawrencemartyr)  
or text SLM to the number 84576

from your phone to subscribe to updates. Regular texting rates apply.

Once you sign up, please follow the steps to complete the sign-up process. You can also sign up for various ministries in which you are interested or active.

## NEEDED: SOCKS

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



We will be collecting the socks through March. The donations can be placed in the container in the Parish Center.

## 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.

## RETIRED FLAG COLLECTION



The 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Assembly #3245 is collecting retired US flags for proper disposal. If you have flags that you need to retire, please drop them in the box in the Parish Foyer. At the end of January, all that have been collected will be disposed of properly.

## PRAYERS TO ST. AGATHA OF SICILY

St. Agatha is the patron saint for those who suffer from breast cancer, those who suffer from sterility, and of rape victims and nurses. Please join us as we pray a perpetual novena to St. Agatha on Tuesdays after our Daily Mass.

## GIVE YOUR FAMILY THE BEST GIFT

Merry Christmas! Give your children the best gift of all—the growing love of their parents.

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

## ST. LAWRENCE TRIVIA

**Last week’s answer:** St. Francis of Assisi is credited with staging the first nativity scene in 1223. The only historical account we have of Francis’ nativity scene comes from *The Life of St. Francis of Assisi* by St. Bonaventure, a Franciscan friar who was born five years before Francis’ death.

According to Bonaventure, St. Francis got permission from Pope Honorius III to set up a manger with hay and two live animals—an ox and a donkey—in a cave in the Italian village of Greccio. He then invited the villagers to come gaze upon the scene while he preached about “the babe of Bethlehem.” Bonaventure also claims that the hay used by Francis miraculously cured cattle of diseases and pestilences.

**This week’s question:** In the Gospel passages announcing the birth of Christ (Matthew 1 and Luke 1 & 2), how many different names are given to Jesus?



**This Week In Youth Ministry:** Merry Christmas! There will not be Life Teen this week or the next in observance of the holidays.

We wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you January 8<sup>th</sup> for the kick off of our new year.

In Him, through her.

### Upcoming Events:

Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>: Chili Cook-Off (*from 2-4pm*)

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