

Gospel Reflection

Jan 28-29, 2017

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Cor. 1:26-31

Matthew 5:1-12A



It is generally not a compliment to be called a fool. Fools lack wisdom, or they may be so underendowed with learning that they lack knowledge. Would you or I not be

offended if someone were to label us a fool? It's not a tag which we typically think of wearing as a badge of honor. Nonetheless, Saint Paul, in today's second reading, proudly calls us foolish.

The foolishness with which he paints a portrait of every faithful Christian turns out, in fact, to be the wisdom of the Gospel. The Beatitudes, which today's Gospel passage proclaims, make no sense to the worldly-wise. We value wealth but are told to be poor. We admire strength but are counseled to be meek. We pursue light-heartedness and happiness but are urged to mourn. None of this, by the standards of successful living in our secular world, makes any sense at all. It's sheer foolishness.

I have always been struck by the beauty and spiritual richness of the Eastern Church. Sometimes it's even surprising. Here's one example. In the Liturgy, both in the East and the West, there are proper prayers to celebrate the saints under several categories: apostles, martyrs, pastors, doctors, teachers and those who served the underprivileged. But to these, the Eastern Church adds one more category of saints, namely, "fools for Christ". What a wonderful class of holy men and women. They are those whose lives are lived with such naïveté and simple Gospel trust that the world finds them laughable.

If any of us really lived even a single one of the Beatitudes, we'd undoubtedly be the subject of much sneering and snickering but, at the same time, we'd be privileged to be classed among the wonderful "fools for Christ" whose wisdom, Paul reminds us, shames the worldly strong and wise.

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

FRIENDSHIP DINNER & DANCE – FEB. 18TH

Join us for our Friendship Dinner & Dance on February 18th from 6-10:00pm in the Parish Center. Enjoy shrimp, beef, sides, and dessert, all for \$20 a person. (Please note, the buffet will close at 7:30pm.)

Plus, there will be a Silent Auction and Door Prizes. The 150th Anniversary Committee would be very grateful for donations, e.g. gift cards, to use for these items.

Reservation forms are enclosed in this week's bulletin or can be found in the back of the church. Any questions, please call Kathy Furth at 443-540-8168.

WERE YOU MARRIED AT ST. LAWRENCE?

We are inviting all couples who were married at St. Lawrence Church to join us for a special 150th Anniversary celebration at the 11:30am Mass on February 12th. You can renew your vows, celebrate your marriage, then go over to the Parish Center for wedding cake (and donuts).

We'll have a special prayer for those married at St. Lawrence who are now deceased, and a blessing for the widowed.

EMHC TRAINING

Thank you to all who came to the EMHC training Saturday morning.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 15th at 7:00pm in the Parish Center. Please note, this is a date change.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

Saint John Paul II said, "Let us be generous with our time in going to meet Him in adoration... May our adoration never cease."

Please stop by the church this Friday, February 3rd, 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.

All scheduled adorers, please remember to be there for your assigned hour. We also welcome anyone to stop by for an unscheduled visit any time during the day.

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS FOR 2016

The statements for 2016 will be mailed out to registered parishioners by the end of next week. If you do not receive your statement or if you have any questions, please contact the Parish Office at 410-799-1970 or send an email to Office@SaintLawrenceMartyr.org

ARE YOU READY FOR SUPER SUBS?



Life Teen will be having a take-out Sub Day on Super Bowl Sunday, February 5th, offering turkey, ham, or turkey and ham subs for \$8.

We are taking pre-orders so that your sub will be waiting for you after your designated Mass. Or just come over to the Parish Center and purchase available subs. Order forms are in the back of the church and in the foyer. Place completed forms in the offertory basket or in the large envelope in the back. For more info, call 410-799-1970 ext. 55. Payment is due at the time of pick-up.

RETIRED FLAG COLLECTION

The 4th 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.

After this weekend, all that have been collected will be disposed of properly.



Mass Intentions

Saturday, Jan. 28th: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

6:30pm + Jerry Maggio req by Melissa Kovalick

Sunday, Jan. 29th: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30am + Paul Marquez req by Kathleen & Eric Edwards

10:00am + Frank Dillon req by the Grove & Lauth families

11:30am **Gerald Daniels, for wisdom and spiritual influence,** req by Glen Martin

5:30pm **Wisdom and blessings for Martin family & Glen Martin**

Monday, Jan. 30th:

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

Tuesday, Jan. 31st:

9:00am** Ashley Montoya req by her family

Wednesday, Feb. 1st:

9:00am*** Morning Rosary Group req by Mary Dudley

Thursday, Feb. 2nd:

9:00am* + Barb DeFronzo req by her family

Friday, Feb. 3rd:

9:00am* + Richard Dymond req by Valerie Magnuson & St. Lawrence Religious Education

Saturday, Feb. 4th: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

6:30pm

Sunday, Feb. 5th: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30am + Bill Richards req by the Samuels family

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

11:30am **In Thanksgiving** req by the Gates family

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 or call 410-799-1970. It is a free will offering, but typically people donate \$5 to \$10 a Mass.

Feb. 4th – 5th Ministry Schedule

Time	Servers	Lector	EM	Ushers	Greeters
Saturday 5:00pm	Christian C	Maggie P	Rick B	Jeff F Steve S	John S
Saturday 6:30pm	Katie B Timmy B	John M	Joan M	John M	Anna B Jeff B
Sunday 8:30am	Andrew S	Mike A	Ed A	Dwayne G Help Needed	Helen C
Sunday 10:00am	Jason B Jahiem S	Carla D	Donna F	Darryl B Aida R	Angie N
Sunday 11:30am	Karey R	Bob S	Deacon John	Michael L Ray T	Help Needed
Sunday 5:30pm	N/A	Jim L	Kathy F	Steve F Drew F	Help Needed

CHURCH SUPPORT- JAN 21-22, 2017

Category	This year	Last year
Envelopes: Regular Weekly	\$3,929.50	0.00
Loose: Regular Weekly	1,493.00	0.00
E-giving: Regular Weekly	1,895.50	2,090.00
Restoration & Maintenance:	1,237.00	0.00
Poor Box:	384.50	0.00
TOTAL	\$8,939.50	\$2,090.00

LAST YEAR, MASSES WERE CANCELLED DUE TO SNOW

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.



Jan. 28th: 2nd Collection: Capital Campaign

Jan. 29th: 2nd Collection: Capital Campaign

9:30am Rel Ed Classes PreK - 3rd (Parish Ctr)

11:15am Rel Ed Classes 4th - 8th (Parish Ctr)

6:30pm Life Night – Social! (Parish Ctr)

Jan. 31st: 10:30am TLC (Parish Ctr)

6:00pm Divine Mercy Chaplet (Church)

6:30pm Women's Bible Study (Parish Ctr)

6:30pm Men's Bible Study (Sacristy)

Feb. 2nd: 6:00pm SIT St. Lawrence Mtg (Church)

7:00pm Young Adult Bible Study (Sacristy)

7:30pm K of C Business Mtg (Parish Ctr)

Feb. 3rd: 9:30am 1st Friday Eucharistic Adoration (until 6:30pm)

Feb. 4th: 2nd Collection: Catholic Schools

Birthday/Anniversary Blessings

9:00am Sew Hopeful (until noon)

Feb. 5th: 2nd Collection: Catholic Schools

Birthday/Anniversary Blessings

Super Sub Sale after morning Masses

9:30am Rel Ed Classes PreK-3rd (Parish Ctr)

11:15am Rel Ed Classes 4th - 8th (Parish Ctr)

12:30pm Baptism Class (Sacristy)

No Life Night

NEW PARISHIONERS WELCOME BREAKFAST

On Sunday, February 26th at 10:00am, we will have a Welcome Breakfast for all new parishioners. If you have not registered, this is the perfect time so you can enjoy a delicious breakfast and get to know parish staff and your fellow new members.

You can pick up a registration form from the rack in the back of the church, ask an usher or greeter, or register online at <http://www.saintlawrencemartyr.org/join.php>

SEW HOPEFUL – FEBRUARY 4TH

Please join our Sew Hopeful Ministry on Saturday, February 4th, from 9:00am- 12:00pm. You are welcome to bring either scissors, your rotary cutter and mat, or just your helpful hands!

These scarves require NO SEWING! So everyone is welcome to help create some warmth for our homeless brothers and sisters and lift their spirits in the middle of this winter! Extra hands are needed to package each scarf.

Questions? Call Kathy Furth at 443-540-8168.

DEDICATION DATE & DONOR OPPORTUNITIES

Our new Worship Space is quickly taking shape! We should be moving into the new location at 7850 Parkside Blvd. with a **Dedication Ceremony at 5:00pm on June 3, 2017.**

We couldn't have gotten this far without the generosity of our parishioners to the Capital Campaign.

There are still some opportunities for you to make a specific gift In Honor or In Memory of a loved one. We hope that you will consider offering a gift to help us make the new building as beautiful as possible.

If you are able to sponsor one of these items completely on your own, we would be deeply grateful. However, we also have opportunities for parishioners to join together to purchase our items. The total cost of an item can be shared by individuals or families.

- **Ambo** (pulpit) - \$3,000
- **Prie Dieu** (stand alone kneeler) - \$900 each (2)
- **Tabernacle Stand** - \$3,500
- **Chairs** - \$200 each (See envelope in back of church)

Your intentions will be memorialized in a special bronze plaque/book that we will display prominently in our Gathering Area.

If you are interested in making a donation in honor or in memory of a loved one, please visit <http://saintlawrencemartyr.org/donor> or you can contact the Parish Office at office@saintlawrencemartyr.org or call 410-799-1970.

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 6:30-8:00 p.m.

February topics are: February 7th (Baptism), February 14th (Confirmation), February 28th (Off for Pancake Dinner)

JOIN FLOCKNOTES!

As bad weather season is here, 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
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.

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.

In Somalia, a 99.5 percent Sunni Muslim-majority African country, mere suspicion that one has converted to Christianity could lead to instant death by way of public beheading without trial.

Somalia is now ranked number 2 in the World Watch List of countries where Christians face the most severe persecution, just behind perennial "top-notcher" North Korea. www.christiantoday.com 1/27/17

The next SIT St. Lawrence meeting will be Feb. 2nd at 6pm.

CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

Catholic Engaged Encounter is an international program committed to preparing couples for the sacrament of marriage. Engaged couples attend a weekend retreat that fosters openness and communication through a series of presentations, private reflection and dialog time. Catholic Engaged Encounter is an approved marriage preparation program within the Baltimore Archdiocese. Below is a list of upcoming retreat dates.

2017 Weekends:

Feb. 18th-19th Apr. 7th -9th May 19th-21st
Jul. 14th-17th Sept. 8th-10th Nov. 3rd-5th

Weekends fill quickly. Register early! For more information or to register for a weekend, please visit our website at www.mdcee.org or call 410-439-4217

RADIO MASS & TELEVISION MASS

Listen to the Radio Mass of Baltimore on its new stations and times: Sundays at 9am on Q1370 AM and WCBM 680 AM and WCBM 690 AM, and 6pm on WCBM 680 AM.

The Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN), which offers Catholic-themed programming and is available on Verizon, DirecTV, and other television service providers, also broadcasts the Mass at various times each day.

SHARE YOUR GIFTS AT MASS

Our gifts and talents are given to us by God. If you'd like to give back to the church, here are ways:

If your talent is:	Check out:
Helping	• Altar Servers
Speaking	• Lectors
Welcoming	• Greeters • Ushers
Preparing and organizing	• Sacristans
Adoring	• Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion • Eucharist Adoration
Singing	• Cantors • Contemporary Music (10 & 5:30pm) • Traditional Music (11:30am)

You can find out more about these Ministries, including whom to contact if interested in volunteering, at our website: saintlawrencemartyr.org/service

Or feel free to call the Parish Office at 410-799-1970, ext 50.

We welcome volunteers, and since we are committed to protecting the safety of our children and our volunteers, and in compliance with the Archdiocese of Baltimore, we require that all who volunteer at St. Lawrence Martyr Parish must complete *Shield the Vulnerable* training. The training is designed to raise your awareness of the signs of abuse and neglect.

Contact Valerie Magnuson, our Shield the Vulnerable coordinator, at 410-799-1970, ext. 54 for more information.

YOUNG ADULT EVENTS

Attention Young Adults! Please join our **Bible Study for Young Adults** which meets the first, third, and fifth Thursday of the month at 7:00pm in the Sacristy (area behind the altar). The next session will be February 2nd.

Young Adult Social Ministry is on the second and fourth Fridays of the month. Join us in the Parish Center starting at 7:00pm (late arrivals welcome).

Feb. 10th - **Escape Room:** Escape from the Parish Center
Feb. 24th - **Monster Mini Golf**
March 10th - **Game Night**

For more information on Bible Study or our social activities, please email youngadult@saintlawrencemartyr.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our Religious Education classes during February will be February 5th and 19th. For 1st Eucharist class, we will meet on February 12th and 26th at 9:30am.

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

CATHOLIC MEN'S FELLOWSHIP OF MARYLAND

The Mission of the Catholic Men's Fellowship of Maryland is to strengthen men's spirituality in the Archdiocese of Baltimore through evangelization and discipleship. One of the ways they do this is through their annual conference.

The theme of this year's conference—taking place on Saturday, March 25th— is: **“Rise Up, O Men of God”: Mobilizing for the New Evangelization.** The conference will take place at Morgan State University.

They are hosting these amazing guest speakers: Scott Hahn (author of the book that was handed out at Christmas), Deacon Paul Shelton, and Alex Zunca.

To find out more information and to register, go to: <http://www.catholicmensfellowship.com/> If anyone would like to carpool, please call the Parish Office.

ST. LAWRENCE TRIVIA

Last week's answer: The answer to “when was the first person buried in our cemetery” is...we don't actually know. It is believed that there are Civil War soldiers and slaves buried in unmarked graves. The earliest burial for whom we have a tombstone marking the grave is Elbridge Gerry Kilbourne, buried in 1873.

This week's question: Who was the first Archbishop in the United States?



This Week In Youth Ministry: This Sunday is our monthly social and the start of a new tradition! We will be celebrating all birthdays for that month during our social night. We hope to see you (and your friends) from 6:30-8:30 for food, fun, fellowship...and cake!!

Also, teens, don't forget to be recommending subs for the Super Bowl February 5th! The more sub recommendations you have, the more likely you will be to win that \$50 gift card! We need your help in assembling the subs, so if you need service hours or are looking to serve your church (and have fun!), please join us Sun., Feb. 5th, during all morning Masses to assemble and sell subs.

In Him through her, AnnaMarie

If you have any questions please email AnnaMarie Link: annamarielink@gmail.com

Upcoming Events:
Super Sub Fundraiser: February 5th

We are always looking for volunteers to help with Life Teen. Please feel free to email or call me at 410-799-1970, ex 55 if you're interested in helping.

Be sure to follow us on Instagram! @SLMLifeTeen