

There are so many ways to lose one's life. Disease, accidents, crime, and violence can take our lives. But none of these involve our will. They are not chosen by us; rather they happen to us. We fall victim to disease or violent crime and accidents are just that—accidental, that is—willed by no one.

I just spent the last two days at the SIT North America Conference. SIT is the organization within our Parish and the Trinitarian Order which is dedicated to an active and prayerful support of Christians persecuted for their faith. At the conference, we learned more about the persecution of Christians from some who have witnessed it or experienced it first-hand, in the Nineveh Plain (Iraq, Iran and Syria), in Egypt, in the Philippine state of Mindanao, in South Sudan, and elsewhere. The information they offered was timely, their witness powerful, and the stories they told of pain, suffering, and loss were as troubling as they were riveting.

When we think about these Christians, we could easily call them victims, but are they? Yes, they have lost their freedom, homes, livelihood, health and wellbeing, and, in too many cases, their very lives. However, they were not and are not merely passive victims. True, many may not have resisted arrest, capture, torture, or ruthless murder, but they had a choice. They bravely and nobly chose the Gospel way.

Take the case of those Coptic Christians traveling a few weeks ago on pilgrimage to an ancient monastery in Egypt. Their bus was stopped. They were herded off the bus. They were separated, men from women and children. The men were ordered to recite the *shahada*, the Islamic declaration of faith and in doing so deny Christ. They refused, and twenty-eight were executed on the spot. They had a chance to escape death and could have done so easily. With extraordinary fortitude and a firm investment of their wills, they lost their lives. They were active witnesses to the Gospel. They did love their children and wives but would not place that love in a place greater than their love of the Lord. Yes, they lost their lives but found a life worthy of the Lord. The hard truth of today's Gospel was utterly and completely embodied in their lives.

You and I may not be called to such heroic faith and love, but we are all called to lose our lives in smaller ways dozens of times each day. The great sacrifices of our persecuted brothers and sisters should inspire in us the lesser sacrifices which Christ-like love demands of every true Christian daily. After all, do we not all hear, accept and embrace the same Gospel teaching and promise? "Whoever would lose his life for my sake will find it" (Mt. 10:39). This may be the greatest challenge and the greatest promise made by Our Lord to all who would follow him.

"Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ."

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

MONDAYS AT THE HISTORIC CHURCH

Please note, Morning Prayer and Morning Mass on Mondays takes place at the Historic Church. There are temporarily NO bathroom facilities available at the Historic Church.

LECTORS' MEETING – JULY 16TH

A Lectors' meeting has been scheduled for July 16, 2017 at 1:30pm. We will be discussing some issues and concerns and addressing some questions regarding the new building.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We're looking for adult volunteers to staff the reception desk in the office. Volunteers would answer phone calls, assist visitors, and do light office work.

We have three shifts available: morning, afternoon, and evening. Let us know your preference and availability of day and shift. Any help is greatly appreciated. Contact the Parish Office for more information.

SHARE FOOD NETWORK: HOST SITE #4305

Would you like to have healthy, seasonal and nutritious food delivered to your door each month? Host Site #4305 of the SHARE Food Network, located here in Jessup, MD, does just that at an affordable cost for the disabled, sick, shut in, and senior members of our community.

Every month, SHARE offers Value Packages for \$21 which include \$40-\$45 worth of basic and healthy groceries, and always 4 to 6 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables, sometimes with seasonal grocery or dessert items. Other great food specials are also offered at below market prices. Payment options include: debit/credit cards, EBT, and Cash/Money Order.

For more information or to place an order for the month of July 2017, please call Myrtle Webb, Host Site Coordinator, at 443-621-0002.

MUSICIANS NEEDED

Serious musicians needed for our Praise Band for the Sunday 5:30pm Mass. Bassist, guitarist, keyboardist, drummer, and singers, playing Praise and Worship music by artists such as Tomlin, Maher, Blakesley. The group rehearses Sundays at 4:30pm. Contact Dan Baker at 410-242-5741 or keytardan@aol.com for more info.

NEW DEVOTIONAL CANDLES

Take a look at our new Devotional Candle Stand. The candles are made of real wax with electrified illumination.

After making a donation, you may press the button in front of an unlit candle, and it will remain on for a set time.

The taller candles in the back are available as Memorial Candles. The Memorial Candle includes a small plaque with the name of your loved one mounted in front of the candle. Plaques will remain on display for a year for an annual fee of \$200. There are a limited number of Memorial Candles, so if you would like to reserve one, please call the Parish Office.

 *Mass Intentions*

Saturday, July 1st: 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00pm **Mass for the People**
Sunday, July 2nd: 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 8:00am + **James Prisco III** req by Jim Prisco Jr.
 10:00am + **Francisco Quintero** req by Angela Tovar Quintero and the Prieto Family
 12:00pm + **Jim Brennan** req by Tim & Margaret Brennan
 5:30pm + **Patricia Burke** req by the Magnuson family

Monday, July 3rd:

9:00am* **Joseph Levesque** req by the 12pm choir

Tuesday, July 4th:

9:00am** **All Military Service Members** req by Richard Lambiasi Jr.

Wednesday, July 5th:

9:00am*** **Needs of a special friend** by Richard Lambiasi Jr.

Thursday, July 6th:

9:00am* + **Barbara Dorsey Prisco** req by Jim Prisco Jr.

Friday, July 7th:

9:00am* **For Persecuted Christians** req by Richard Lambiasi Jr.

Saturday, July 8th: 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00pm + **Mariano, Lillian, & Jose Vazquez** req by Lizette & Elizabeth Vazquez

Sunday, July 9th: 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00am + **Michael Barnes** req by the Magnuson family
 10:00am + **Josefina Perez** req by Mr. & Mrs. Eleida Roman
 12:00pm + **Ray Tansill** req by Rosemarie Wiley
 5:30pm **Mass for the People**

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

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

MASS INTENTION REQUESTS

Offering Mass for a Special Intention is a long-standing tradition in the Catholic Church. If you would like to have a Mass celebrated for someone, please contact the Parish Office via email at office@saintlawrencemartyr.org or call 410-799-1970.

Please call ahead if you want your intention on a specific date so it can be put on the calendar.

July 8th – 9th Ministry Schedule					
Time	Servers	Lector	EM	Ushers	Greeters
Saturday 5:00pm	Timmy B Matthew C	Larry B	Richard L Elizabeth V Lizette V	Jeff F Steve S	John S
Sunday 8:00am	Lilly B Andrew S	Mike A	Dennis C Liz D Deacon Dave	Dwayne G <i>Help Needed</i>	Helen C
Sunday 10:00am	Cassie B	Ken W	Annie B Janet B Deacon Dave	Darryl B Aida R	Angie N
Sunday 12:00pm	Angel G Rhea G	Bob S	Alan A Bev A Deacon Dave	Michael L Jerry S	<i>Help Needed</i>
Sunday 5:30pm	<i>Help Needed</i>	Micayla N	Lola R Michael R Kim N	Steve F Drew F	<i>Help Needed</i>

CHURCH SUPPORT – JUNE 23RD- 24TH

Category	This year	Last year
Envelopes: Regular Weekly	\$3,517.00	\$3,129.00
Loose: Regular Weekly	1,423.00	1,459.00
E-giving: Regular Weekly	2,225.50	1,905.00
Peter's Pence:	1,129.00	937.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY	\$8,299.50	\$7,430.00
Poor Box:	\$315.00	\$243.00

PETER'S PENCE – 2ND COLLECTION

Thanks for your generous support in last week's Peter's Pence Collection! As a parish, we collected \$1,129.00.

Our contributions will be combined with those from our brothers and sisters around the world to help Pope Francis provide essential relief to people in need. If you missed the collection, it is not too late to give, visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections, and click on the "How to Give" link on the left.



- July 1st:** **2nd Collection: Catholic Schools Birthday/Anniversary Blessings**
6:00pm Larry & Tony performing at Cantina Mamma Lucia
- July 2nd:** **2nd Collection: Catholic Schools Birthday/Anniversary Blessings**
1:15pm Baptism Class
- July 3rd:** Parish Office Closed
- July 4th:** Parish Office Closed
6:00pm Divine Mercy Chaplet (*Hist. Church*)
- July 5th:** 7:30pm Young Adult Bible Study
- July 6th:** 7:30pm K of C Business Mtg
- July 7th:** 9:30am 1st Friday Eucharistic Adoration (*until 6:30pm*)
- July 8th:** **2nd Coll: Rest. & Maintenance**
7:30am Beans & Bread
9:00am Trinitarian 3rd Order Mtg
11:00am Young Adult Brunch & Canoeing
- July 9th:** **2nd Collection: Rest. & Maintenance Donut Social after morning Masses**
10:30am Prayer Shawl (*until 12pm*)
6:30pm Life Night Social

SAVE THE DATES

We will have our annual Parish Grillin' Picnic on Saturday, August 12th from 12-4:30pm, here at our New Campus. Fun for all ages. Volunteers are needed to assist in the big event (*especially those with hidden talents...balloon animal making, DJs, musicians, etc.*)

We will also close our 150th Anniversary celebrations with a Dinner Dance on Saturday, September 23rd. More details to come in future bulletins and Flocknotes.

SACRISTAN MINISTRY

On July 11th, we will hold a Sacristan Training session at 8:00pm for all current Sacristans and those interested in this critical ministry.

A Sacristan is responsible for Mass set up and clean up, and also acts as the Mass Coordinator.

MAKING ORDINARY TIME EXTRAORDINARY WITH FORMED

To Watch: *Maria Goretti* The story of Saint Maria Goretti is retold in this beautifully made film from Italy. It tells of the plight of the poor laborers of the time, struggling to survive in a swampy area with rampant malaria and extreme poverty. Luigi and Assunta Goretti keep their faith despite the hardship, and instill in their children a deep love for God. Their daughter Maria especially is devout.

But tragedy strikes more than once: sickness and death affects the Goretti family, and then their young neighbor Alessandro does the unthinkable.

Go to Modern Day Saints

To Listen: *Put Not Your Trust in Princes* Speaking from his perspective as a historian, Christopher Check reminds us that the crisis of our age is cultural and, in the end, spiritual. He explains that a flourishing society is not achieved through legislation or at the ballot box, but instead radiates from the family out.

Using examples from the ages, he connects us with our rich patrimony as Catholics and provides practical advice on what we must do to transform our culture for Christ.

Go to Catholic Life

To Listen: *Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati: Man of the Beatitudes* Born in 1901 in Turin, Italy into a family of wealth and status, Pier Giorgio enjoyed good friends, hiking and skiing, museums and music, and was involved in political action. He found that deep prayer, service to the poor, and a passion for bringing others to Christ led to a life of purpose, peace, and happiness. Pier Giorgio died at the age of 24 on July 4, 1925. He was beatified on May 20, 1990 by Pope St. John Paul II who referred to him as a “man of the Beatitudes”.

Go to Discover the Saints

To Access: Go to 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 take you to the Formed site.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

Please stop by the church this Friday, July 7th, to visit the Blessed Sacrament any time after the 9:00am Mass until 6:30pm.

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.

JOIN US NEXT SUNDAY FOR DONUTS & COFFEE

Join fellow parishioners in the Hall for donuts and coffee after the 8am, 10am, and 12pm Masses next Sunday.



Please also join the Prayer Shawl ministry from 10am - 12pm. You can get your blood pressure screened by Parish Nurse Christine Magnuson, R.N., B.S.N.

SIT-UATION

At our recent SIT USA conference, one of the discussed topics was the plight of Christians on certain islands of the Philippines. This story summarizes how a minority group of ISIS sympathizers has ravaged an island susceptible to attack.

“Last week, 300 members of a terrorist group (Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, known as BIFF, which has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State), destroyed a Catholic chapel, desecrating consecrated Hosts and religious icons, during a nine-hour long attack on the town of Malagakit in southern Philippines.

In the siege, they also robbed houses and stores at gunpoint, causing the displacement of hundreds of residents.” (*National Catholic Register*)

If you are interested in regularly learning more about SIT St. Lawrence, please consider liking us on Facebook, group name “St Lawrence Martyr SIT.”

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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES

Congratulations to these additional college graduates!

College:

Ashley Kay Clemens:
B.S., Biology/Pre-Med, University of Tampa



Sean Hodges: B.S., Mechanical Engineering, Norwich University, Vermont

Chidimma Onwuegbule: Masters in Electrical & Computer Engineering, Carnegie Mellon University

If your name or information wasn’t included, please call or email the Parish Office.

YOUNG ADULT EVENTS

Attention Young Adults! Please join our **Bible Study for Young Adults**, which now meets the first, third, and fifth **Wednesday** of the month at 7:00pm. The next session will be July 5th.

Young Adult Social Ministry usually meets on the 2nd and 4th Friday or Saturday of the month.

- July 8th: 11:00am Brunch at Parish, followed by canoeing

For more info on Bible Study or our social activities, please email youngadult@saintlawrencemartyr.org or go to: www.saintlawrencemartyr.org/youngadult

CATHOLIC MEN’S STUDY GROUP

The purpose of this group is to better understand the biblical and historical basis for Catholic doctrines. The group meets on the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Tuesdays from 6:30-8:00pm.

The topic for the summer is various interpretations of the Book of Revelation.

All are welcome.

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 button.

IMPROVE YOUR MARRIAGE

“. . . and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.” Find out how Love and communication can ease your burdens by participating in a WorldWide Marriage Encounter Weekend on October 27-29, 2017 in Gaithersburg, MD.

For more information and to apply online visit welovematrimony.org, or call 301-541-7007, or email at applications@welovematrimony.org

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY

Our Women’s Bible Study meets every Tuesday, from 6:30pm–8:30pm, except for the **third** Tuesday of the month. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Judy Kurtz and Sandy Garrick at womensbible@saintlawrencemartyr.org or call the Parish Office at 410-799-1970 ext. 50.

Join us, gain strength and knowledge, and grow stronger in your faith!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Thank you to all who have volunteered for our various ministries. Our Hospitality Ministries could use some help. Remember, these ministries help form a visitor’s first and last impression of our St. Lawrence community.

Our Greeters, Coffee Ministry, Parking Lot Ministry, and an Information Desk Ministry can all use new volunteers!

Training for these ministries should be taking place soon. If you already volunteered, you should get a phone call or email with those dates soon!

Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested. This is a vital piece of evangelization of our neighbors!

Please take this opportunity to serve the Church.

ST. LAWRENCE TRIVIA

Last week’s answer: Bob Petza began working here on June 1, 2000. So he’s been here over 17 years! We will miss you seeing you at work, Bob!

This week’s question: Even with 17 years, Bob Petza was not the employee with the longest tenure. Who has been here the longest, and how long has this person been working here?



This Week In Youth Ministry: This Sunday we do not have youth group but next Sunday we will be meeting for a fun night at the church from 6:30-8:30pm.

Also, start looking for exciting changes coming to the youth ministry program starting in the Fall. We will be debuting a new program and we are looking forward to introducing it to you! Questions? Email AnnaMarie Link - annamaried.link@gmail.com

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

Be sure to follow us on Instagram! @SLMLifeTeen

In Him through her,
AnnaMarie Link