

Gospel Reflection – Nov.26-27, 2016
1st Sunday in Advent Matthew 34:27-34



The very first words that I heard in life were, “Victor, wake up! Wake up!” Yes, that’s right. You see, as odd as it may sound, I slept through my own birth. That may explain my current ability to sleep through almost anything. Noise, commotion, TV, radio, virtually nothing impedes my ability to sleep when I’ve decided it’s time.

In today’s Liturgy of the Word, we hear Paul say, “You know the time; it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep.” And Jesus, in the Gospel reading, tells us, “Stay awake!”

Now-a-days, unlike in my more youthful days, I no longer need a giant Big Ben alarm clock with two huge bells to rouse me in the morning. I’ve learned to listen for the slight “beep, beep” from my electronic alarm or from my iPhone.

What will it take for us to wake up and stay awake this season of Advent? Need it be the thunderous events that will precede Jesus’ Second Coming or is the mere thought of His gentle first coming among us as a mere child enough?

Either way, we need to wake up and stay awake to recognize and receive Him with joy.

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

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

We will be starting a new Young Adult Bible Study the first week of Advent. What a good way to begin the liturgical year!

The first Young Adult Bible Study will be on Thursday, December 1st in the Sacristy (area behind the altar). Parishioner Kevin Meier will be leading the Bible Study. Please contact the Parish Office at 410-799-1970 or email youngadult@saintlawrencemartyr.org for more information.

**INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL –
 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7TH - 6:30PM**

St. Lawrence will hold our 6th International Food Festival on Wednesday, December 7th beginning at 6:30pm. We want to feature tables from a variety of cultures. Each table can be decorated with national flags, colors, items, and pictures. We ask that each team donate and cook food from their ethnicity to share.

If you’re interested in representing your culture, please contact Fr. Binoy at (410) 799-1970, ext. 52 or email binoyosst@gmail.com or contact the Parish Office.

And keep this date on your calendar to enjoy a variety of delicious food!



Dec. 7th

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

Please stop by the church this Friday, December 2nd, 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.

THANKSGIVING GIFT BASKETS



Thanksgiving
Food Drive

Thanks to your generosity, we had enough food and gift cards to provide fourteen baskets to needy families in our parish and surrounding area.

It was an honor to deliver these baskets, and it was a true Thanksgiving: the families that received these baskets were truly thankful for everything given.

We are still collecting canned goods for our November 150th Anniversary Outreach Project that will help poverty level elementary school students in our area. We’ll continue to collect canned goods (meat products, veggies, soup, and fruit) until December 4th. All donations are appreciated and may be left in the collection box in the Parish Center foyer.

YEAR OF MERCY COMES TO AN END

As the Year of Mercy comes to an end, we want to thank all who took a scroll and prayed for their fellow parishioners throughout the past year. Never doubt the effect the power of prayer can have for those you pray for.

Pope Francis concluded the year with an apostolic letter, called *Misericordia et Misera*, imploring us to continue being merciful. “Mercy cannot become a mere parenthesis in the life of the Church; it constitutes her very existence, through which the profound truths of the Gospel are made manifest and tangible. Everything is revealed in mercy; everything is resolved in the merciful love of the Father.”

STATUETTES FUNDRAISER

The Knights of Columbus will continue to take orders for statuettes by noted artist Timothy Schmalz for Christmas delivery up to the 2nd 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 as we move to our new church facility. Please contact Alan Andrysiak for further details at alanandrysiak@comcast.net or 410-519-0804.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

The Knights of Columbus will sponsor Breakfast with Santa at the Parish Center on Saturday, Dec. 17th, 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.



Mass Intentions

Saturday, Nov. 26th: 1st Sunday of Advent

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

Sunday, Nov. 27th: 1st Sunday of Advent

8:30am + **Barbara Murphy** req by Jo Eggerl
 10:00am + **Mr. Emmanuel Chukwu** req by Euriel Chukwu
 11:30am **Mass for the Intentions of the 11:30am choir**
 req by K of C Council #12180

5:30pm + **Geraldine Dess** req by the Magnuson family

Monday, Nov. 28th:

9:00am* + **James Prisco III** req by Jim Prisco Jr.

Tuesday, Nov. 29th:

9:00am** **Steven Montoya** req by his family

Wednesday, Nov. 30th:

9:00am*** + **Milton E. Wiley Jr.** req by his wife

Thursday, Dec. 1st:

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

Friday, Dec. 2nd:

9:00am* **Frank Holderness** req by his family

Saturday, Dec. 3rd: 2nd Sunday of Advent

5:00pm **Mass for the People**
 6:30pm **John Perkins, for healing,**
 req by Tim & Margaret Brennan

Sunday, Dec. 4th: 2nd 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.

* *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.

Dec. 3rd – 4th Ministry Schedule					
Time	Servers	Lector	EM	Ushers	Greeters
Saturday 5:00pm	Emily R	Maggie P	Elizabeth V	Jeff F Steve S	Help Needed
Saturday 6:30pm	Catie W	Debra W	Need	John M	Anna B Jeff B
Sunday 8:30am	Christian C Andrew S	Ken W	Ed A	Dwayne G Help Needed	Helen C
Sunday 10:00am	Cassie B Jahiem S	Carla D	Donna F	Darryl B Aida R	Angie N
Sunday 11:30am	Angel G Karey R	Holly W	Deacon John	Michael L Ray T	Help Needed
Sunday 5:30pm	N/A	Allie D	Kathy F	Help Needed	Help Needed

CHURCH SUPPORT- NOVEMBER 19-20, 2016

Category	This year	Last year
Envelopes: Regular Weekly	\$3,533.50	\$3,276.00
Loose: Regular Weekly	1,891.20	1,742.40
E-giving: Regular Weekly	2,875.50	1,530.00
CCHD:	695.00	745.00
Poor Box:	385.50	296.00
TOTAL	\$9,380.70	\$7,589.40

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.



Nov. 26th: 2nd Collection: Restoration & Maintenance

Nov. 27th: 2nd Collection: Restoration & Maintenance

Nov. 28th: 7:00pm RCIA

Nov. 29th: 10:30am TLC Advent 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. 1st: 7:00pm Young Adult Bible Study

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

Dec. 2nd: 9:30am 1st Friday Eucharistic Adoration (until 6:30pm)

Dec. 3rd: 2nd Collection: Catholic Schools Birthday/Anniversary Blessings

Dec. 4th: 2nd Collection: Catholic Schools Birthday/Anniversary Blessings

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

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

6:30pm Life Teen Night (Parish Ctr)

PRAYER VIGIL FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS - DEC. 9

SIT St. Lawrence will be holding a Prayer Vigil supporting Persecuted Christians around the world on Friday, December 9th 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.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

This week, you can choose an ornament from our “Christmas Giving Tree”, which lists requested gifts for less fortunate families in our area. All gifts are due back by December 19th. You can place them under the Christmas Tree in the Parish Center Foyer.

It is preferred that the gifts are in a gift bag or can be wrapped, but it's not necessary. Please be certain to attach the ornament which you selected to the package; it contains information needed to get the gift to the right person.

Thank you to St. Lawrence parishioners for your incredible generosity to this program in the past!

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.

ENJOY FORMED.ORG FOR FREE “YOUTUBE FOR CATHOLICS”

One of our parishioners described FORMED as “YouTube for Catholics”. If you have a question about your faith, you can check the site to find it out. And once you start watching, you can't stop!

To Watch: Youth Discipleship Group- Advent Session 1 It's been said that Christmas is merely a pagan day that was Christianized by the early Church—and now the pagans want it back. Yet the holiday we call Christmas (and the season of Advent that precedes it) is marked by wonder, holiness, and beauty, which go beyond mere sentimentality. Preparing “the way of the Lord,” as begun by John the Baptist, continues for us now, signaling the beginning of the Church year—and the next chapter in your teen's journey as a disciple. Presented by Bob Rice.

Found in PROGRAMS under For Youth

To Listen: Prepare the Way of the King by Dr. Scott Hahn Your Advent journey will take on new meaning as you prepare your heart for the birth of our Lord. This illuminating presentation is sure to help you grow in appreciation of the greatest gift ever given to mankind—Jesus Christ.

Found in AUDIOS under Featured

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 then take you to the Formed site.

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 November are: Nov. 29th (Popes—how it began). Topics for December are: 6th (Popes in history: Good and Bad); 13th (Jesus: Divine and HUMAN!).

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

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.

WINTER WONDERLAND BAZAAR – DEC. 2-3

Resurrection of Our Lord Roman Catholic Church at 8402 Brock Bridge Road, Laurel, MD, is excited to announce their Winter Wonderland Bazaar to be held on December 2nd and 3rd, and they invite St. Lawrence parishioners to join them for fun and great food. The famous Baltimore chef, John Walsh, will once again cook his delicious food.

There will also be a silent auction, new and unopened gifts for children and adults, and of course, a visit from the North Pole.

The hours are Friday, December 2nd, from 5pm-8pm and Saturday, December 3rd, from 8am– 2pm.



REST IN PEACE



Please pray for the repose of the soul of parishioner Louis Davenport, who passed away on November 23, 2016, and for consolation of his family.

Family and friends are invited to gather at the Gary L. Kaufman Funeral Home at Meadowridge Memorial Park, Inc., 7250 Washington Boulevard, Elkridge, MD on Sunday, November 27, 2016 from 3 to 5 pm and 7 to 9 pm. A Funeral Mass will be held at St. Lawrence on Monday, November 28th at 11:00 am.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The regular Religious Education classes for December will be on December 4th and 18th. If you have any questions, please contact Val Magnuson: val@saintlawrencemartyr.org or call 410-799-1970, ext. 54.

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.

Bishop Gregory J. Mansour of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn urged U.S. Catholic Bishops meeting in Baltimore to assist and support Christians in the Middle East through advocacy, humanitarian aid and ecumenical support. *USCCB.org, Nov.15, 2016*

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – DECEMBER 8TH

Thursday, December 8th, 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 8th at 9:00am, 12:00pm, and 6:30pm.

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.

ADVENT – OPENING OUR WORD

Our online FORMED subscription offers “Opening the Word”, a video presentation focused on the Scripture readings for each Sunday of the year. Beginning with the First Sunday in Advent, noted teachers offer their insights into the Old and New Testament readings in a 5-6 minute video. It's a new way to prepare for Mass. Let's try it individually or as a family. And, tell a friend.

To access it, just go to www.formed.org and click on “Sign Up”, which is located in the upper right hand corner. Then, just choose the middle option “Does your parish already have FORMED?” and enter the Parish Access Code, which is **ed1783**.

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.

ST. LAWRENCE TRIVIA

Last week's answer: According to legend, St. Dominic received the Rosary in 1214 during an apparition of the Virgin Mary.

This week's question: Which saint was a nun who converted from Judaism in 1922, but was rounded up as a non-Aryan by the Nazis and martyred at Auschwitz?



This Week In Youth Ministry: There will be no Life Night this week as many of us will be recovering from a delicious and family-filled Thanksgiving.

Topher's last Life Night will be on December 4th. Please join us to wish him well as he moves on to other exciting opportunities.

Upcoming Events:

Dec. 4th: Topher's Last Life Night
Dec. 18th: White Elephant Gift Exchange

We are always looking for volunteers to help with Life Teen. Please feel free to email or call me if you're interested in helping!

Topher@saintlawrencemartyr.org or call 443-765-8200.

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

Secular Quote of the Week:

“If a fellow isn't thankful for what he's got, he isn't likely to be thankful for what he's going to get.”
~Frank A. Clark