



Scriptural Reflection
Dec. 31 – Jan 1, 2017
Solemnity of Mary,
Mother of God
Numbers 6 :22-27

The New Year is typically a time when people everywhere seek blessings and favor from God for the coming year. That is one reason why the priestly blessing from the Book of Numbers is included in today's Liturgy of the Word (*Num. 6:22-27*)

*The Lord bless you and keep you!
 The Lord let His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!
 The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!*

It occurs to me that this blessing is perfectly fulfilled in Mary. God blessed her and favored her beyond all other creatures from before the beginning of time. He kept her from all harm, including the harm of sin.

The Father's face shone upon her with great and infinite Love when the Holy Spirit overshadowed her and she conceived a Son. At the Annunciation, the graciousness and mercy of God could not have been greater.

Finally, at that moment and throughout her entire existence on earth and in heaven, by God's kindness, she is blessed with profound peace. So much so that we call the Mother of God the Queen of Peace.

You and I, on this New Year's Day, might make use of today's First Reading as a prayer for, or literally over, each of our family members. But I think we can use these same words as a meditation on Mary, the Mother of God.

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

YOUNG ADULT EVENTS

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

We have also started a **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). In January, the sessions will be on January 5th and 19th.

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

SHRIMP/CRABCAKE DINNER – JANUARY 21ST

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

BIMONTHLY EMHC TRAINING

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

As we are preparing for our new worship space, we will need more EMHCs. **This is a good opportunity to serve the Lord and serve St. Lawrence Martyr Parish. Anyone who is interested in becoming an EMHC is welcome to attend the training to learn more.**

Other training sessions will take place:

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

CHILI COOK-OFF IS BACK! – JANUARY 15TH

Dust off those chili recipes! Life Teen is organizing a Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser on Sunday, Jan. 15th 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. In January, we will meet on Monday, January 9th and 16th, at 7:00pm in the Sacristy. To find out more information, you can contact Jim Leddy at adultfaithslm@gmail.com or call 410-799-5907.

A SINCERE THANKS!

Our Christmas celebrations, both in the Parish Center and in the Church, were beautiful and uplifting. We owe our gratitude to the volunteers who so gorgeously decorated our worship areas and to our choirs, musicians, and singers who lifted both voice and heart to help us praise the Newborn King, as well as to so many others who contributed to these wonderful Christmas celebrations! Thank you so very much.

And a special thank you to all our elves who wrapped hundreds of books which were given out at our Christmas Masses. If you weren't here and didn't get a copy of Scott Hahn's "*The Lamb's Supper*", we will have more this weekend, please ask an usher!



Mass Intentions

Saturday, Dec. 31st: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
 5:00pm + **Barbara Dorsey Prisco** req by Jim Prisco Jr.
 6:30pm **Mass for the People**

Sunday, Jan. 1st: 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 + **Noll, Rabe, Palmer families** req by the family

Monday, Jan. 2nd:
 9:00am* + **Sam Stoudemayer** req by Richard Lambiasi

Tuesday, Jan. 3rd:
 9:00am** + **Beauty Mae Royston** req by Anthony Schmitter

Wednesday, Jan. 4th:
 9:00am*** + **Joseph Heil** req by his wife, Miriam

Thursday, Jan. 5th:
 9:00am* **Patrick Kerrigan** req by his mom, Mary

Friday, Jan. 6th:
 9:00am* **Patrick Kerrigan** req by his mom, Mary

Saturday, Jan. 7th: The Epiphany of the Lord
 5:00pm + **Michael Stramella** req by his family
 6:30pm **Patrick Kerrigan** req by his mom, Mary

Sunday, Jan. 8th: The Epiphany of the Lord
 8:30am + **Barbara Murphy** req by Christine Magnuson
 10:00am + **Tom Clark** req by the Clark family
 11:30am **Patrick Kerrigan** req by his mom, Mary
 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 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. You can even choose to do a Novena (nine Masses in a row).

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.

Jan. 7th – 8th Ministry Schedule					
Time	Servers	Lector	EM	Ushers	Greeters
Saturday 5:00pm	Cassie B	Larry B	Maureen M	Jeff F Steve S	Help Needed
Saturday 6:30pm	Catie W	Debra W	William R	John M	Anna B Jeff B
Sunday 8:30am	Christian C Andrew S	Mike A	Deacon John	Dwayne G Help Needed	Helen C
Sunday 10:00am	Daniel P Jaheim S	Ken W	Deacon John	Darryl B Aida R	Angie N
Sunday 11:30am	Michael K	Holly W	Deacon John	Michael L Ray T	Help Needed
Sunday 5:30pm	N/A	Allie D	Kathy F	Steve F Drew F	Help Needed

CHURCH SUPPORT- DECEMBER 24-25, 2016

Category	This year	Last year
Envelopes: Regular Weekly	2,024.50	3,046.00
Loose: Regular Weekly	628.00	997.00
E-giving: Regular Weekly	2,158.50	2,673.00
Christmas:	11,625.15	8,377.00
Poor Box:	642.00	265.00
TOTAL	\$17,078.15	\$15,358.00

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. 31st: 2nd Collection: Capital Campaign Birthday/Anniversary Blessings

Jan. 1st: 2nd Collection: Capital Campaign Birthday/Anniversary Blessings
Holy Day: Mary, Mother of God
(regular Mass Schedule)
 No Life Night



Jan. 3rd: 10:30am TLC Bingo (*Parish Ctr*)
 6:00pm Divine Mercy Chaplet (*Church*)
 6:30pm Men's Bible Study (*Sacristy*)
 6:30pm Women's Bible Study (*Parish Ctr*)

Jan. 5th: 6:00pm SIT St. Lawrence Mtg (*Church*)
 7:00pm Young Adult Bible Study (*Sacristy*)
 7:30pm K of C – Business Mtg (*Parish Ctr*)

Jan. 6th: 9:30am 1st Friday Eucharistic Adoration
(until 6:30pm)

Jan. 7th: 2nd Collection: Catholic Schools

Jan. 8th: 2nd Collection: Catholic Schools
Donut Social after all Morning Masses
 10:00am Prayer Shawl (*until noon*)
 3:00pm Confirmation Class (*Parish Ctr*)
 6:30pm Life Night (*Parish Ctr*)

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

Please stop by the church this Friday, January 6th, 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.

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 for donuts and coffee after all morning Masses next Sunday.

Please also join the Prayer Shawl ministry from 10am -12pm in the Parish Center.

You can get your blood pressure screened by Parish Nurse Christine Magnuson, R.N., B.S.N.

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.

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The Pope spoke on the feast of St. Stephen, the first martyr, saying that by choosing truth, St. Stephen also "became victim of the mystery of wickedness present in the world. But in Christ, Stephen won."

"Why does the world persecute Christians?" the Pope asked.

For the same reason the world hated Jesus, "because He brought God's light and the world prefers darkness for hiding its evil deeds."

"Following Jesus means following His light, which was lit in the night of Bethlehem, and abandoning the darkness of the world," the Pope said.

SIT's next meeting is Thur. Jan. 5th at 6:00pm in the church.

2017 CALENDARS

Our 2017 St. Lawrence calendar will be available this weekend. Please pick up a copy for your family.

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.

REFLECT ON YOUR MARRIAGE

"And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." Sometimes we need to reflect how to let God live with us in our marriages.

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, visit welovematrimony.org, or call 301-541-7007.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

This month, Religious Education classes will be on January 15th and 29th. First Eucharist classes begin with an Inscription Mass on January 22nd at 8:30am, followed by a parent/child class.

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

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: 3rd: "Catholic Priests - Origins and Types"; 10th: "Priests - more Types"; 24th: "Mass - origin"; and 31st: "Eucharist - Real Presence".



FORMED RECOMMENDATIONS

January Feature: Become a New Creation in 2017!

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come."

2 Corinthians 5:17

The Church teaches that faith is "to entrust oneself wholly to God and to believe absolutely what he says" [CCC 150]. This is to make an act of the will to repent and give your life to Jesus Christ. Many refer to the joy, peace, and conviction from this decision as becoming a "new creation" or being "born again". In reality, it is the fulfillment of the effects of our baptismal graces where we were "born of water and the Spirit" [John 3:5].

That is our choice. There is no greater New Year's Resolution than to make that decision each and every day of 2017!

To Watch: *Reborn*: In three engaging sessions, *Reborn* explores the deeply personal and sacred relevancy of Baptism. With a step-by-step explanation of the rite itself, including its profound place in Scripture and Tradition, *Reborn* shows how baptism reveals the heart of God's love for His children. Understanding the effects of our baptism and the call to make disciples of all nations, *Reborn* can be instrumental in becoming a parish of missionary disciples.

Found in Programs

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.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible Study will meet at 6:30pm in the Parish Center on January 3rd, 17th, 24th, and 31st. All women are invited to join us.

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 for more information.

150TH ANNIVERSARY PARISH DIRECTORY

The 150th Anniversary Parish Directory is out to the printer! We hope to have it available the first or second week of January.

THANK YOU FOR FLOWER DONATIONS

Thank you to all who donated toward the lovely Christmas flowers. See the flyer in this week's bulletin.

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
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.

MARCH FOR LIFE - FRIDAY, JANUARY 27TH

Please join fellow parishioners and the Knights of Columbus on Friday, January 27th in attending the March for Life in Washington D.C. Please call Tom Lauth at 410-551-8166 for details.

NEEDED: SOCKS

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



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. If needed, elections will occur in January.

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. At the end of January, all that have been collected will be disposed of properly.

HELP US FEED THE POOR /BEANS & BREAD

Come to our Parish Center on Saturday, Jan. 14th at 7:30am to help the Trinitarian 3rd Order make 510 lunches for distribution to the poor at Beans & Bread and the Franciscan Center in Baltimore and Arundel House of Hope in Glen Burnie. This is a good opportunity to earn service hours.

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.

ST. LAWRENCE TRIVIA

Last week's answer: In the Infancy Narratives (*Matthew 1 and Luke 1 & 2*), twelve different names are given to Jesus: Immanuel, Jesus, Messiah, King of the Jews, Christ, Son of David, Son of Abraham, Son of the Most High, Son of God, Lord, Savior, and Nazarene.

This week's question: How many days old was Jesus when he was circumcised and given his name?



This Week In Youth Ministry: Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! We will be back next weekend with a teaching night on The Cross: on the Passion, Death & Resurrection of the Lord.

It might seem strange to be talking about this right after we celebrated the birth of Jesus, but it actually fits hand in hand. We hope to see you all there to dive a little deeper into Scripture.

Also don't forget to sign up for our Chili Cook-off on January 15th!

In Him, through her.

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.

Email me at annamarielink@gmail.com or call 410-799-1970!

Be sure to follow us on Instagram! @SLMLifeTeen