



Main Campus: 7850 Parkside Boulevard • Hanover, MD 21076
Historic Church: 2815 Jessup Road • Jessup, MD 20794 *(not a mailing address)*

ST. LAWRENCE MARTYR

WELCOME + WORSHIP + SERVICE

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday: 9:30 am-1:00 pm, 2:00-5:30 pm
Phone: 410-799-1970 **Fax:** 410-799-1134
Website: www.SaintLawrenceMartyr.org

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday: 9:00 am *(Historic Church)*
 Tuesday-Friday: 9:00 am *(Main Campus)*
 Saturday: 5:00 pm
 Sunday: 8:00, 10:00 am, 12 noon, 5:30 pm

RECONCILIATION: Saturday: 4:00-4:45 pm *(or by appointment)*

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION: 9:00 am, 12 noon, 6:30 pm
(check website and bulletin for info on Easter, Christmas, and Mary, Mother of God)

DEVOTIONS

Morning Prayers: Weekdays at 8:30 am
Rosary: Weekdays after Daily Mass **Divine Mercy Chaplet:** 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month 6:30pm
Eucharistic Adoration: Wednesday from 7:00-9:00 pm; First Fridays from 9:30 am-6:30 pm



Main Campus – open June 2017



Historic Church – circa 1866

CLERGY STAFF

Rev. Victor Scocco, O.S.S.T., Pastor
pastor@saintlawrencemartyr.org
 410-799-1970, ext. 51

Dcn. David Page, Permanent Deacon
deacon@saintlawrencemartyr.org
 410-799-1970, ext. 57

Dcn. Steve Sarnecki, Permanent Deacon
deacons@saintlawrencemartyr.org
 410-799-1970, ext. 57

STAFF

Teresa Ogden, Virtus Coordinator
standcoordinator@saintlawrencemartyr.org
 410-799-1970

Clark Gaughan, Business Manager
businessmgr@saintlawrencemartyr.org
 410-799-1970, ext. 55

Kathleen Leddy, Accounting
kleddy@saintlawrencemartyr.org
 410-799-1970, ext. 53

Michael Levesque, Facilities Manager
maintenance@saintlawrencemartyr.org
 410-799-1970, ext. 56

Sally Rico, Coordinator of Religious Ed.

CRE@saintlawrencemartyr.org
 410-510-5073, ext.54

Parish Center Scheduling:

www.saintlawrencemartyr.org/scheduling
 Parish Office: 410-799-1970, ext. 50

Weekly Bulletin: All announcements must be received in writing in the Parish Office or email office@saintlawrencemartyr.org by 12:00 noon on the Thursday 1 week prior to the weekend in which they are to appear.

SACRAMENTS

Baptism: Members expecting a child are encouraged to make arrangements for Baptism by contacting the office prior to the birth. Adults wanting baptism or other Sacraments of Initiation can contact Jim Leddy at adultfaith@saintlawrencemartyr.org. Preparation Sessions are required.

Marriage: Couples should contact one of the priests or deacon at least six months before the planned marriage. Pre-marriage instruction is required.

Anointing of the Sick: Call the Parish Office before surgery, when serious diagnosis received or at advanced age. A parishioner homebound, in the hospital, or in a care facility wishing to receive a visit or a sacrament, call the Parish Office at 410-799-1970, ext. 50.

PARISH REGISTRATION: All Catholics attending St. Lawrence Martyr Parish are asked to register with the Parish. Cards are available in the Parish Office, from an Usher at any weekend Mass, or from the Information Desk. Return registration cards by placing in the offertory basket. You can also register online at www.SaintLawrenceMartyr.org/joinus.

We will then mail you an informative Welcome Folder.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:

Chair:	Donna Ford	410-674-2887
Vice-Chair:	Dione Meinhardt	410-799-1970
Secretary:	Nina Huff	410-799-1970

MARCH 22, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Lent

GOSPEL REFLECTION – John 9:1-41

“Here’s mud in your eye.” When you think about it, it’s an odd toast, not very flattering or auspicious. Some attribute the origin of the toast to today’s Gospel account. Others suggest that it’s related to horse racing. The winning horse tends to kick mud in the eye of the jockey riding right behind him and thus coming in second. The jockey or other person who offers the toast is really congratulating himself, since he’s wishing second place, not first, to the person he’s toasting. Whatever the origin of the phrase, the experience of having mud smeared or splattered in your eye cannot be very pleasant.



It’s amazing that the blind man submitted to this therapy. I’m not sure that I would have. It would have been much nicer if Jesus chose a different medium for healing. If He had, for instance, mixed glycerin with special herbs, people would have been much more impressed with both the healer and the cure. Folks would have been taken up with the elixir and urged Jesus to bottle it so that they could all buy the powerful potion. They would have missed the deeper origin of the miracle which was the compassion and mercy of God. Maybe that’s why Jesus chose a therapy which would have seemed dubious and unconventional.

Once in an illustrated sermon on this Gospel, I actually smeared a poultice of mud on the eyelids of a young volunteer. I then asked him to identify a person who had come up and stood before him. The response: “Father, I can’t. I have mud on my eyes.” Of course, after he washed the mud off, he could open his eyes and see clearly. My young volunteer was in darkness until the mud was removed.

It’s like that with us. When we become painfully aware of our sins, it’s like our eyes are shut off from the light. We can’t see! When we become aware of our sins we are in darkness. We have trouble seeing much good. We don’t see the good in our ourselves. We are also more prone to seeing the negative in others too. Isn’t that strange? When we’re in darkness we are quickest to point out other people’s darkness...to criticize them, to be impatient and demanding of them. We’re also often blinded often to our own sins.

Well, Jesus and the Church provide the remedy. It’s an uncomfortable remedy. It’s called Confession. Confession is like the mud that Jesus put on the blind man’s eyes. It makes us see the darkness of our sins. It’s painful or, at least, a little uncomfortable. We sometimes can’t see Jesus through that darkness. All we can see or hear is the priest, but Jesus is really right there before us. Finally, the priest *washes* us in the re-baptism, if you will, of the sacrament and, once cleansed, we see clearly again. We recognize that Jesus *was* there and we are able to follow Him as a better disciple.

There are a few weeks left in Lent. Isn’t this a good time to get a little mud on our face, have our sins forgiven and have our sight restored?

“Here’s mud in your eye!”

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

A NOTE ABOUT CONFESSION

The following directive was received from the Archdiocese of Baltimore regarding the manner in which the sacrament of Confession is to be celebrated during COVID-19 restrictions:

The Sacrament of Confession (Reconciliation) may still be offered, provided that:

- Reconciliation rooms be used if they offer the required social distancing and privacy. **Traditional Confessionals should not be used even if the penitent is behind a screen.**
- Signage be posted where people gather before and after receiving the sacrament re: required social distancing, refraining from entering if ill or vulnerable, practicing proper hygiene, and noting the State and CDC limits on gatherings to 50 or fewer;
- Sanitizer be offered, where possible, as people enter and the number of people present is monitored.

*Given these directives, the sacrament of Reconciliation will still be available at Saint Lawrence Martyr on Saturday from 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.; however, the sacrament will be celebrated **face-to-face using the conference room** accessed through the parish office, with penitents lining up in the hallway outside of the office door. Please observe appropriate social distancing. Thank you for your patience as we all adjust to how we practice our faith during this difficult time.*



ST. LAWRENCE MARTYR

WELCOME + WORSHIP + SERVICE

March 22, 2020

Dear Parishioners of Saint Lawrence Martyr,

I am sure you feel as I do the great sadness of this time. Many of us have never experienced such a situation before in our lives. We are reminded during times like this that we are brothers and sisters with one another, and as the world faces COVID-19 (*Coronavirus*) we come to understand that the world cannot be separated from our doorstep. If we are not able to gather for Mass at this critical time, we can know that through our sacrifice we are helping to save lives – perhaps not down the street – but in the neighboring city or state or country. We are brothers and sisters!

I want to let you know that Saint Lawrence Martyr Parish will be open for business as usual Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you need to contact me or a member of my staff, call the Parish Office at 410-799-1970 and we will get in touch as soon as we are able.

As the Pastor, I worry and pray about many issues which confront the parish and our fellow parishioners. One such issue is the financial needs of St. Lawrence. I need to make sure that the bills and the staff are paid.

At this time, I ask that you to drop off your Offertory Envelope during business hours, or mail your weekly checks to us at 7850 Parkside Boulevard, Hanover, MD 21076. Another option is to **sign up for our online giving service**. Just go to our [parish website](#), click the [Online Giving](#) logo and follow the simple steps to set up your account.

If you need assistance in setting up your online account, please send an e-mail to office@saintlawrencemartyr.org, or you can click on the QR Code included here.



[StLM Online Giving](#)

I will be streaming a “private” Mass on Facebook Saturday evening, March 21, at 5:00 p.m., just as we did last weekend.

I would ask your kindness in thought, word, and prayer for our Archbishop, William E. Lori. This decision to cancel Masses until further notice has been the most difficult of his life, and he does not take it lightly. He is our Shepherd given to us by Christ, and we are called to follow his voice as we would that of Jesus – the Good Shepherd.

Millions around the world cannot go to Mass on Sunday because the Eucharist is not available for them. For this short window we stand in solidarity with them. And what a glorious celebration it will be when we celebrate Mass again together and receive the Eucharist – renewed in our appreciation and understanding of the gift that the Eucharist is for us!

In the meantime, I will communicate to you through email (FlockNote), the parish Facebook page, and the parish website on a regular basis, especially if there are needs.

May the Lord bless you and keep you in His care,

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



Don't disconnect from the power of prayer during the current COVID-19 pandemic!

Although the juice in our *Plug Into the Power of Prayer* Lenten soup suppers has been drained for now, why not hold your own soup supper at home?

Choose a good discussion topic from scripture or a favorite Catholic book of reflections. Don't forget about *Formed.org*, which has a plethora of free materials to assist with your journey through Lent! Gather at your own dinner table to relax and have an energetic discussion on the remaining Lenten Wednesday evenings.

Don't let yourself be turned off from the Light of the World during these trying times. Continue to be plugged in to His power this Lent through prayer!

EVERYONE COUNTS!

The 2020 Census, a once-a-decade survey, is more than just a population count. The results are critically important to identifying community needs, defining congressional and state legislative districts, and allocating more than \$675 billion in federal funding. During the last census, 80% of households in Anne Arundel County participated in the count. A loss of \$48 million in federal aid resulted due to the lack of response from 20% of county households. This loss of funding directly affected our county's schools, community initiatives and outreach services, senior centers, and programs like Medicaid and SNAP. New to this year's census: participation can be done by mail, phone, or by going online. For more information, visit www.census.gov. Be counted and help bring vital funding to Anne Arundel County.



**GOD IS NOT KEEPING HIS
SOCIAL DISTANCE.**

TRUST IN HIM ALWAYS.

2020 CENSUS - BE SMART AND BE SAFE

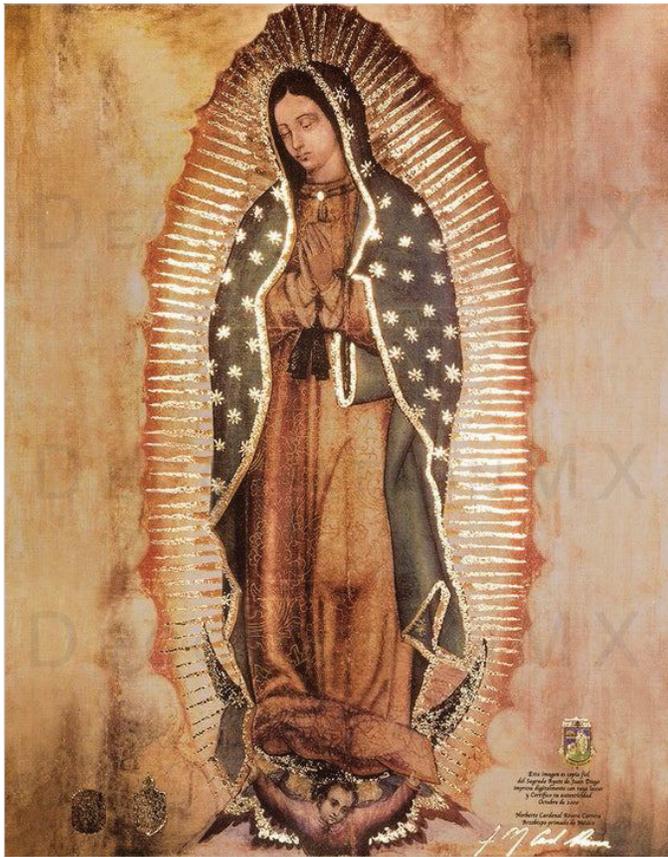
Below is an edited version of an online article dated March 7, 2020 which appeared on www.capitalgazette.com:

Guard your information: Don't give out any personal or financial information (such as your Social Security Number, credit card number, etc.), as a genuine census worker will never ask for it. (This applies to so many situations, not just the 2020 Census!)

Avoid online scams: Ignore any unsolicited emails you may get which direct you to a website which looks "real" but isn't. It may contain malware and viruses which will steal your personal information. Forward any suspicious emails to rumors@census.gov.

Be safe at home: If someone visits your home to collect a response to the census, carefully check their ID. A genuine census worker will have a Department of Commerce badge with their photo on it, be carrying a Census Bureau laptop, and a bag with a Census Bureau logo on it. You can verify a census worker's ID by calling 800-923-8282 to speak with a local Census Bureau representative. Call the police if the visitor was not a genuine Census Bureau employee.

Printed with gratitude to Jim Miller, author of the book "The Savvy Senior" and contributor to NBC's Today Show.



Pray. FAST. *Give.*
(and don't worry!)

RESOURCES TO KEEP YOU CONNECTED TO SAINT LAWRENCE MARTYR PARISH

1. Our parish website: www.saintlawrencemartyr.org
2. [Facebook](#)
3. FlockNote (see the last page of this bulletin)
4. Email: office@saintlawrencemartyr.org
5. Phone: 410.799.1970
6. The *My Parish App* (see below)

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe,
Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas,
We fly to you today as your beloved children.
We ask you to intercede for us with your Son,
as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother,
and gain for our nation and world,
and for all our families and loved ones,
the protection of your holy angels,
that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted,
we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.
Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing,
teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be
patient and kind.
Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to
our hearts.

We come to you with confidence,
knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother,
health of the sick and cause of our joy.

Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,
keep us in the embrace of your arms,
help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus.

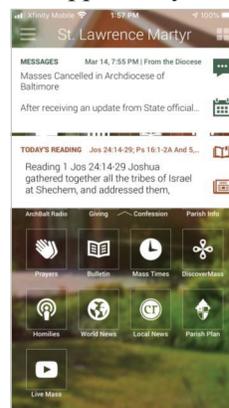
Amen.



MYPARISHAPP.COM

MyParishApp is a Catholic parish app that helps improve parish communication and outreach while offering the features that parishioners enjoy in a good app.

MyParishApp can be downloaded to your tablet or phone from the QR code above. If you don't know how to scan a QR code with your electronic device, feel free to email office@saintlawrencemartyr.org for instructions. Once the app is on your phone, enable your location to see the available parishes near you. Of course we want you to select Saint Lawrence! Follow the prompts to sign in and you're there!



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE OFFICIAL GUIDELINES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Archbishop William E. Lori has announced the following updated guidelines (updates underlined) for the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy during this flu season and in light of concerns about the COVID-19 virus. These guidelines reinforce recommended practices to reduce the transmission of illnesses and are in effect until further notice.

1. The Archbishop of Baltimore has canceled all public Masses until further notice.
2. Holy Water fonts may be drained and remain empty at the discretion of each pastor. If they are not to remain empty, they must be drained, cleaned with a disinfectant, and re-filled with holy water on a regular basis. Please note that the removed holy water should be disposed of appropriately in the *sacrarium* or poured into the ground.
3. Alcohol-based or other appropriate waterless hand sanitizers should be made available at all church entrances. Additional precautions should be used in the maintenance of worship spaces and church halls, in particular the disinfecting of areas or items which come into contact with hands, such as handrails, restroom areas, and the tops of pews.
4. Please be advised that until further notice, weddings and funerals may proceed but attendance should be limited to immediate family. Compliance with all state and local government-imposed restrictions on the number of people at public gatherings is mandatory, regardless of the type of gathering.
5. While churches should remain open for private prayer, including adoration, there should be no scheduled "services" that would bring people together at a specific time. Numbers of those in church should be monitored and signs noting the State order on the limitation of gatherings, social distancing and providing guidance on hygiene should be posted. Hand sanitizer should be made available, if possible. People who are ill or vulnerable to illness should be reminded that they should stay home for their safety and for the safety of others. Ushers/parish staff should be instructed to encourage social distancing if it isn't being properly observed. Changes by the State or local authority could alter this guidance.

Updated March 15, 2020



Keep in touch with us
VIA EMAIL AND TEXT MESSAGE

Father Victor and parish staff ask that parishioners be diligent in watching our [Facebook page](#) and [parish website \(www.saintlawrencemartyr.org\)](#) for up-to-the-minute information. Another way to easily stay informed is to be sure you are subscribed to FlockNote so announcements are delivered directly to your email inbox or phone. Just in case you forgot how to sign up (it's free):

Go online to www.flocknote.com/saintlawrencemartyr or text the letters "SLM" to the number 84576 from your phone to subscribe to updates (regular texting rates apply). Be sure to follow all prompts to complete the easy sign-up process. You also have the option to cancel your subscription at any time.

The Lord wants us to be informed, but not afraid. Peace be with you always.



JOIN THE SSP TEAM!

We need to be ready when Masses at Saint Lawrence Martyr resume. Support our new Safety and Security Plan by becoming a member of Saint Lawrence Martyr's team of SSP Ushers or Greeters!

The successful implementation of the parish's new Safety and Security Plan (SSP) relies upon all Saint Lawrence Martyr parishioners, but especially upon those who serve our parish as ushers and greeters. Our ushers and greeters are here at a time when our largest gatherings occur. On average, they see over 750 individuals in attendance at Sunday Mass.

We are in great need of dedicated women and men to serve who will not only fulfill the traditional role of an usher or greeter, but who will also be willing and capable to support the SSP.

Those who feel called to serve the parish as an SSP Usher or SSP Greeter should contact our business manager, Clark Gaughan, as soon as possible by calling 410-799-1970. You may also email Clark at cgaughn@saintlawrencemartyrparish.org.

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~ Dave Saulter ~



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PARISH REGISTRATION

We encourage your registration in the family of St. Lawrence Martyr Church. Please fill out and drop it in the offertory basket to begin the registration process.

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Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Cell: _____ Email: _____

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