

Church of Saint Lawrence The Martyr

4325 Don Julio Blvd.
North Highlands, CA 95660



Mission Statement

The mission of our community is rooted in Jesus the Christ. This mission is to hear, respond to and proclaim the word of God as found in the Hebrew and Christian scriptures.

Through the Sunday Eucharist we are called to ongoing conversion and personal spiritual formation. As a community, we are challenged to provide mutual support for a Catholic Christian lifestyle and are empowered to use our gifts to minister to the needs of others. We commit our selves to the beatitudes, to the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, and to minister to the larger communities in which we live and work. We respect the dignity of every person, at all ages and stages of life.

We hand on our Catholic heritage through catechesis, worship, service and witness.

In carrying out this mission we further the kingdom of God in

Parish Staff

Rev. Enrique AlvarezParochial Administrator
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Deacon Donald Galli Parish Deacon
deacongalli@sbcglobal.net

Mrs. Jean NelsonDirector of Religious Education
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Mrs. Paula Edwards Pastoral Associate
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Mrs. Martha Haig Coordinator of RE/Youth Minister
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nancy@saintlawrencechurch.org

Mrs. Yolanda Fletes-Villalba Receptionist/Admin. Assistant
receptionist@saintlawrencechurch.org

Ms. Elizabeth Peterson Receptionist
. Music Minister

Mr. Tony Nario
tony@sbcglobal.net

Schedule of Liturgies

Sunday Eucharist (Mass)

Saturday - Vigil 4:45pm

(Spanish) 7:00pm

Sunday 7:00, 8:30, 11:15am

Daily Eucharist (Mass)

Monday - Friday 8:30am

Morning Prayer

Monday - Friday 8:00am

Reconciliation

Tuesday 5:00 pm-6:30pm

Infant Baptisms: This includes children up to 6 years. This Sacrament is celebrated quarterly. Parents must complete a two session preparation class. Please call the Parish Office for information.

Christian Initiation: Children and adults seeking to become fully initiated members of the Catholic Church may call the Parish Office for information.

Remembering Church: Catholics wishing to return to the church or to become more connected to the church may call the Parish Office.

Weddings: Couples planning marriage at St. Lawrence are asked to call the Parish Office at least six months prior to anticipated wedding date. Couples are also required to complete a marriage preparation program.

Parish Office Hours

9:00 am to 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Monday through Thursday

9:00 am to 12:30 pm each Friday

Parish Office (916) 332-4777

Fax (916) 332-8325

Parish Registration: We welcome new parishioners to the parish. Registration forms are available in the back of the church or by stopping by or calling the Parish Office. Please notify the Parish Office of moves or changes in address or telephone number.

RISE UP IN SPLENDOR



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This great feast of the Epiphany of the Lord opens with these words: "Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you" (Isaiah 60:1). That reading goes on to describe a world covered with darkness. Even in

that world, the prophet announces that the glory of the Lord will shine on Jerusalem. Many would agree that our world is covered with darkness—the darkness that war, terrorism, and famine bring. Today we announce that even in today's world, the Lord can scatter that darkness, if only we would welcome Epiphany's light. As we remember the visit of the magi to the manger, let us pray that one day our weary world will rise up in splendor—the splendor of peace and justice.

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STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Fiscal Year Runs July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| First Collection Weekend Dec. 20 | \$ 10,835.27 |
| Total Collections YTD | \$214,326.83 |
| Goal (Based on Budgeted Revenue) | \$217,570.05 |
| Over (Under) Goal | (\$ 3,243.22) |

| | |
|---|-------------|
| 2nd Collection for December Stanford Home (Green) | \$ 2,317.00 |
|---|-------------|

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| Facility Fund for December 2nd Collection Taken 3rd Sunday (Goldenrod) | \$ 4,597.80 |
|--|-------------|

| | |
|--|-----------|
| St. Vincent de Paul Society Since our last 5th Sunday Collection | \$ 122.00 |
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The 2nd Collection for the month of January will benefit Wellspring Women's Center and Loaves & Fishes.

*Don't forget
to fill your can banks
and return them on
January 10th, 2010,
The Baptism of the Lord.*

*A good Steward shares their
Time, Talent and Treasure.
If you're not already doing so,
try giving 1% of your income
to the church.*

You'll never regret giving to God.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Adults: As children of God, we are called to be light, just as Christ was. Name one way you let your own light shine.

Youth: As the eyes of your heart become enlightened to Christ and his teachings, how does it change the way you live?

Children: Christ is the light of our lives. How does he show you the way to live?

Let us pray for our families.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

| | |
|------------|--|
| Monday: | 1 Jn 3:22 — 4:6; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25 |
| Tuesday: | 1 Jn 4:7-10; Mk 6:34-44 |
| Wednesday: | 1 Jn 4:11-18; Mk 6:45-52 |
| Thursday: | 1 Jn 4:19 — 5:4; Lk 4:14-22a |
| Friday: | 1 Jn 5:5-13; Lk 5:12-16 |
| Saturday: | 1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 3:22-30 |
| Sunday: | Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 29 or Ps 104; Acts 10:34-38 or Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22 |

 Youth
Ministry

The next Youth Group meeting is Sunday, **January 10th** in St. Lawrence Hall from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Youth Group is open to all 7th to 12th grade students.

The next Core planning meeting, for students 10th grade and above, will be **January 4** at 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Center.

Pray for our priests and our seminarians.

DO YOU KNOW

... what does “Epiphany” mean?

Epiphany means “appearance” and “revelation” and “manifestation.” An epiphany is a moment of revelation that manifests something previously hidden. Today’s solemnity celebrates the manifestation of Christ to the nations.

The story of the Magi coming from the East is only reported in Matthew. Matthew’s account of the Gospel says noting of their home country, their status, their religion, their number or their names. So where did the traditions and folklore originate?

Three Magi have prevailed because of the three gifts mentioned in the Gospel (gold, frankincense, and myrrh). Their names of Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar persist because they appeared in ninth-century Italian manuscript. The representation of these Magi as kings comes from the references in both the First Reading from Isaiah and today’s psalm, Psalm 72.

Today is the traditional day for blessing homes and other buildings by marking the lintels of doorways with chalk. The markings commemorate the three Magi. The markings for 2010 are :

20 + C + M + B + 10

These three letters represent the Latin abbreviation for “Christus mansionem benedicat” which means “Christ blesses this house.” It is also sometimes thought to represent the three initials of the Magi’s names (Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar) written between the numbers of the year separated by four crosses. For those who have the blessing boards over their doorways, today we change the year from 2009 to 2010.

This celebration is the 12th Day of Christmas and was originally celebrated on January 6 but in the United States of America the solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord is on the first Sunday after January 1.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Sat., Jan. 2 | |
| 4:45 p.m. | Efren Santiago Andres † |
| 7:00 p.m. | |
| Sun., Jan. 3 | |
| 7:00 a.m. | Steven Gregory Hart † |
| 8:30 a.m. | |
| 11:15 a.m. | |
| Mon., Jan. 4 | |
| Tues., Jan. 5 | |
| Wed., Jan. 6 | |
| Thur., Jan. 7 | Amtilo Arupo † |
| Fri., Jan. 8 | Lon Hammack † |

VOCATIONS

We are taking sign ups for the two Vocational Crosses to be rotated at the 7:00 and 8:30 a.m. Masses during the month of December. Households that participate in this ministry will take the Vocational Cross home that week and pray for Vocations. The parish will provide the prayers. The crosses will then be returned the following weekend to the same Sunday Mass to make it available for the next household to take home. In January the crosses will be rotated at the 11:15 a.m. Mass and the 4:45 p.m. Saturday Mass.



Deacon Don and Susan Galli are the Coordinators for the English Community. Enrique Canto is the Coordinator for the Spanish Community.

Let Us Remember Our Dead

- Jan. 4 Felipa Moreno, Raymond Ballard, Peter Fracolli, Jake Taylor, Cindy Taylor
- Jan. 5 Charles Herman, Benita Torre Campo, Fernando Souza, Louise Jorge, Julia Perpich, Magdeline Decorsey
- Jan. 6 Lotus Stone, Patrick McKenna, Peter Assel
- Jan. 7 Panfilo Arupo, Lucille Geil, Flora Sullivan, Luciano de la Cruz
- Jan. 8 Michael Kraft, Lon Hammack, Blas Soto
- Jan. 9 William Burns, Frank Burns, Gretchen Leytem
- Jan. 10 Henry Werner, Alexander Olguin, Joe Dant, Madeleine Walker, Frances Valencia, Edward Boon

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED
SACRAMENT & HOLY HOUR**

January 4 and each first Monday of the month, there will be **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** in the church after **8:30 Morning Mass until Benediction at 6:00 p.m.** We invite you to **sign up to spend time keeping company with the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.**

There will be a **Holy Hour from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. ending with Benediction** every Monday except the first Monday of the month. The next Holy Hour will be **Monday, January 11.**

WOMEN'S WEEKEND RETREAT

Is it time to take a deep breath? To simply rest in the presence of the Lord? You are invited to experience rest and renewal as you grow closer to God through liturgy & prayer, silence & solitude, conversation & contemplation, sacrament & song. You'll enjoy a good rest, tasty meals, and insightful conferences to help you draw closer to God, to your family and to yourself! We have a limited number of rooms reserved for the weekend of **January 15-17, 2010.** Please call or email our captain Bernadine Mullen for more information or to reserve a room (916) 334-4041 Bernaboop@sbcglobal.net or you can view the Center at: www.passionist.org/retreats/christtheaking.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL REPORT

The Annual Catholic Appeal is the collection where the parish receives back 25% of everything the parishioners give. Our latest check was \$352, which gives a total to date of \$4,277. Since these returned funds are designated to be used to help those in need, a check for \$352 was given to St. Vincent de Paul and used to help provide food to the 19 plus families from our parish and in the immediate community. If you have not yet fulfilled your pledge to the annual Catholic Appeal, it not too late. If you don't know, call the parish office and we can let you know. **Thank you for your generosity**

**HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF
BECOMING A CATHOLIC PRIEST?**

There will be a Discernment Weekend at St. Patrick's Seminary **January 15-17, 2010** in Menlo Park, CA. If you are interested, please contact the Office of Priestly & Religious Vocations (916) 733-0258.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There will be **no R.E. classes Sunday, January 3.**
There will be Sacrament Classes **Tuesday, January 5th**
Please continue to learn your prayers. Prayers, to grade level, must be learned by **Sunday, January 24** and **Tuesday, January 26.**

CHRIST THE KING MEN'S RETREAT

This year's theme is "With Burning Hearts, Proclaiming Our Passion." Sign up now for a wonderful weekend of peace and quiet and the opportunity to enrich your spiritual life. You'll enjoy good rest, tasty food, and insightful conferences to help you draw closer to God, to your family, and to yourself! We'll see you on the weekend of **January 22-January 24, 2010** at Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center in Citrus Heights. For reservations call **Steve Jackson** at **(916) 722-8076** or **email** at weteachem@surewest.net You can also call the Retreat Center directly at (916) 725-4720. You can view the Center at www.passionist.org/retreats/christtheaking.

CATHOLICS COME HOME

Over the past week or so you may have seen the powerful ads on TV, that were shown during Masses a couple of weekends ago. They are being shown on ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, CNN, Telemundo, Univision and many other cable stations. Each ad points viewers in English to CatholicsComeHome.org or CatholicosRegresen.org in Spanish. We know from other dioceses that this is an extremely effective means of evangelization. We plan for many inactive Catholics to return home and for many non-Catholics to begin inquiry into the Catholic Faith. Please help us extend a personal invitation to those who have been away from the church or who presently do not have a church family. For those returning home, our parish will be offering classes on Monday evenings in Gabrielli Hall at 7:00 p.m. starting iFebruary. For more information, please call the Parish Office at 332-4777

**CHRIST THE KING INSTITUTE
for Counseling and Spiritual Direction**

Christ the King Retreat Center offers counseling for individuals and couples. Payment is based on a sliding fee scale. Evening appointments are available. Call (916) 783-9005 for information or appointment.

Respect Life at All Stages.

*Have a Happy & Safe
New Year!*

**Are You Returning to Your Catholic Roots?
Welcome Home!**

Whether you've been away from the Church for 1, 10, or even 30 or more years, our parish family is delighted to welcome you home to the Catholic Church. If you have not already done so, we invite you to visit the Catholics Come Home website/English: CatholicsComeHome.org or Spanish: CatolicosRegresen.org. Our confession schedule here at St. Lawrence is Tuesday evening from 5:00-6:30 p.m. Don't remember how to go to confession? That's not a problem...when you enter the confessional, simply tell the priest you've forgotten how and he will guide you through the process, step by step. Our parish is offering sessions for those returning to the church beginning Monday, **February 1st at 7:00 p.m.** in Gabrielli Hall. For more information please call the Parish Office at (916) 332-4777.

**Not Catholic? Have Questions?
Exploring the Catholic Church
for the First Time?**

Our parish family warmly welcomes you! We offer inquiry sessions for those who are exploring Catholicism. These sessions provide an opportunity for you to come "as you are" to a friendly, welcoming, non-pressuring atmosphere to learn more about the Catholic Faith, even if you don't think you'll want to actually become Catholic. If you desire to take steps towards becoming Catholic, you will have the option to do so, on your own initiative. Please call the Parish Office at 916 332-4777.

**THANK YOU
ST. LAWRENCE PARISHIONERS**

Thank you to all those who did so much to make our Christmas Season here at St. Lawrence so special. You gave food, gift cards, clothing, toys, cash & checks and your labor. Because of your generosity many families were given a better Christmas this year and our church is beautifully decorated. Thank you all.

THE WEEK AT A GLANCE

- Sunday Jan. 3** R.E. All areas until noon
 - Monday Jan. 4** Adoration of Bl. Sac. CH after Mass
Benediction begins at 6:00 PM
Lectors PCMR 7 PM
Youth Group Core Mtg. PCMR 5:30-7 PM
 - Tuesday Jan. 5** RFE 7-8 PM
Confessions 5-6:30 p.m. CH
Cub Scouts Mtg. LIB 7-8:00 PM
 - Wednesday Jan. 6** Harvest Us Home Mtg. PCMR 9-Noon
Lectors in Spanish 7-8 p.m. PCK
Sp. Prayer Group CH 7-9 PM
Cub Scouts Lib 6:30-8:30 PM
STVDP PCMR 7-8:30 PM
Knights GH 7-9 PM
Boy Scouts STLH 7-9 PM
 - Thursday Jan. 7** Bounty STLH 1-7 PM
CDA PCMR 6-9 PM
Grupo Cultural Catolico STLH 7-9 PM
Spanish Group PCYR 7-9 PM
Cub Scouts LIB 6:30-8:30 PM
 - Friday Jan. 8** Guam. Comm. Mtg. 7-9 PM
Bible Class PCYR 9-11AM
Sp. Choir CH 6 PM
 - Saturday Jan. 9** Spanish Baptisms CH 10 AM
Respect Life Mtg. PCMR 3-4 PM
Knights set-up STLH
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| PCK | Parish Center Kitchen |
| PCMR | Parish Center Meeting Room |
| PCCO | Parish Center Counseling Office |
| PCYR | Parish Center Youth Room |
| STLH | St. Lawrence Hall |
| CH | Church |
| GH | Gabrielli Hall |
| Ext. | Extension (Behind Gabrielli Hall) |
| LIB | Library |



**The Knights of Columbus
Annual Crab Feed
Saturday, January 30th at 6:00 p.m.**
Tickets are \$35

Contact Vince @ 961-8912 or Steve @ 338-3816.

Pray for Vocations