

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
jean@saintlawrencechurch.org

Mrs. Paula Edwards Pastoral Associate
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Mrs. Martha Haig Coordinator of RE/Youth Minister
martha@saintlawrencechurch.org

Mr. David SwindellFacilities Manager
dave@saintlawrencechurch.org

Ms. Nancy Latham Bookkeeper
nancy@saintlawrencechurch.org

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

Ms. Elizabeth Peterson Receptionist
. Music Minister

Mr. Tony Norio
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

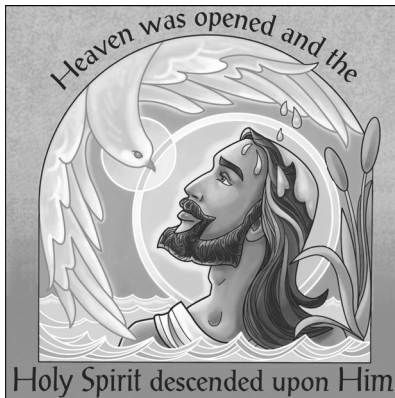
9:00 am to 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm
Monday through Thursday
9:00 am to 12:30 pm each Friday

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.

MANIFESTING THE SPIRIT



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The Christmas season closes this Sunday with the Baptism of the Lord. This feast is a sister to last week's feast of the Epiphany. Each of them celebrates an "epiphany," or a manifestation of the Spirit of God in Jesus—first in his birth, and now at his baptism.

The divine Spirit is manifested in all of the scriptures for this feast. Psalm 104 highlights the Spirit of God creating and renewing the earth, while the reading from Isaiah describes God restoring Israel. In Luke's account of the baptism of the Lord the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus. And the letter from Titus reminds us that the Holy Spirit was "richly poured out" on us also, through the "bath of rebirth" (Titus 3:5, 6).

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A good Steward shares their Time, Talent and Treasure.

CELL PHONES

Please turn your cell phone off before you enter the church. If you must have it on, please set it on silent. Thank You.



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8; Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20; Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Mk 1:29-39
Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45
Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7; 10-22a; Mk 2:1-12
Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Mk 2:13-17
Sunday: Is 62:1-5; Ps 96; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

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

First Collection Weekend Dec. 27	\$ 20,667.48
Total Collections YTD	\$234,994.31
Goal (Based on Budgeted Revenue)	\$237,942.14
Over (Under) Goal	(\$ 2,947.83)

2nd Collection for December Stanford Home (Green)	\$ 2,427.00
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Facility Fund for December 2nd Collection Taken 3rd Sunday (Goldenrod)	\$ 5,575.80
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St. Vincent de Paul Society Since our last 5th Sunday Collection	\$ 142.00
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The 2nd Collection for the month of January will benefit Wellspring Women's Center and Loaves & Fishes.

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

Thank you to all who attended, helped and contributed to make the New Years Eve Party a huge success. The music was great, the decorations very well done and the food plentiful. We hope to have more events in the future. If you would like to be a part of the committee planning these events, please call the parish office at 332-4777 and leave your name and phone number.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Adults: Name a time when you felt your actions were pleasing to God.

Youth: "With you I am well pleased." What are you doing right now that is pleasing to God? How does it feel to live that way?

Children: What are some things you can do to please God?



The next Youth Group meeting is Sunday, **January 10th** in St. Lawrence Hall at 6:30 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 11** at 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Center.

DO YOU KNOW

... the meaning of "Jesus"?

When Advent began we heard the words of Isaiah in the "O antiphons" that says: "O that you would tear open the heavens and come down!" Today God answers this prayer. Jesus goes into the Jordan River to be baptized by John. Suddenly the skies open. God's Spirit comes down in the form of a dove. Then God speaks for everyone to hear: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

In the 5th century, Bishop Maximus of Turin wrote that we have every reason to celebrate this day with the joy of Christmas: "At Jesus' birth His mother Mary held her child close to her heart. So today the Father holds His beloved Son for all people to adore. Jesus is baptized so all Christians may follow Him with confidence."

In Hebrew the name of Jesus is Joshua. This name means Savior. A thousand years before the time of Jesus, in the days of the Exodus, after Moses died a man named Joshua became the leader of the Hebrew people. Joshua led the people through the Jordan River and into the Promised Land.

Our Savior Jesus is a new Joshua. Jesus leads us into the Jordan of baptism. We pass through the water to enter a new life. Sweetened dairy foods such as cheesecake and eggnog are customary during Christmastime in honor of our Savior, who leads us into a "land flowing with milk and honey."

At the time of our baptism we became a child of God. At that time all sins were forgiven as well and we became members of the Catholic Church. Jesus, who was without sin, gave us the example of baptism. As the Father said to Jesus, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased" He says to each of us. As we celebrate the Lord's baptism, we remember that as God's beloved children, we are invited to cooperate with the gift of the Spirit to bring forth justice in our world.

Today ends the season of Christmas and tomorrow we begin with Monday of the first week of winter Ordinary Time.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sat., Jan. 9

4:45 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

Sun., Jan. 10

7:00 a.m.

8:30 a.m.

11:15 a.m.

Mon., Jan. 11

Tues., Jan. 12

Wed., Jan. 13

Thur., Jan. 14

Fri., Jan. 15

VOCATIONS

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 Mass to make it available for the next household to take home. In January the crosses are being rotated at the 11:15 a.m. Sunday Mass and the 4:45 p.m. Saturday Mass. In February the 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Masses will rotate the crosses. Please sign up in the back of the church.



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. 11 Isaiah Brown

Jan. 12 Fred Hughes, Cecilia Bennett

Jan. 13 Eden Cayco, Enrico G. Conti

Jan. 14 Pauline Schmid, Amelia Goday, Marlene Pibbs, Eleanor Danielson, James Mulvaney, Thomas Sierra, Delfin Ompad, Irene McCormack

Jan. 15 Natividad Leon, James Payseno, Joseph Lennington, Gary Fracolli

Jan. 16 Cecilia Brannan, Jesus DeLeon, Rose Edwards, Amanda Smith

Jan. 17 Milo Laumann, Roger Fedor, Coleman Clayton, Manuel Tomas

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

February 1 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/christthekeing.

FACILITY FUND

The second collection next weekend will benefit the Facility Fund. Thank you for your continued generosity. Please remember that our gift to the Facility Fund should be over and above the first collection, which provides funds to keep the parish running.

**Thank you to all those who supported the
E-Waste Collection and Bundle Sunday
on Sunday, December 27th.**

**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.

CAN BANKS

If you did not return your filled can bank this weekend, please return them next weekend.

INFANT BAPTISM CLASS IN ENGLISH

Our next Infant Baptism class in English will be Friday, January 22 at 7:00 p.m. You must fill out a registration form before attending the class. Registration forms are available in the office. The Baptism will be Saturday, February 13 at 10:00 am.

Please join us at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, January 16th to take down the Christmas Tree and decorations. There will be lots of cleaning that will need to be done, so if you can, bring a vacuum cleaner.

**YOGA IS COMING BACK TO
ST. LAWRENCE**

Beginning January 12th & 14th Yoga will be back at St. Lawrence in Extension (the room behind Gabrielli Hall) on Tuesday & Thursday evenings from 6:30 - 8:00. Please bring a matt and towel.

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/christthekeing.

**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.

**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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Important reminder to our Tuesday night classes and our Sunday 8th-12th grade Confirmation classes – **Tuesday, January 12th at 7:00 p.m.** we will have **Reconciliation**. At least one adult must stay with your child. Please come early so that you are checked in and seated by 7:00 p.m. All students receiving sacraments this year must attend.

Confirmation Retreat for 8th-12th grade is Saturday, January 30 from 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. at Christian Brothers High School, 4315 Martin Luther King, Jr., Sacramento.

Prayers to grade level must be learned by Sunday, **January 24** and Tuesday, **January 26**.

Please continue to **bring in non-perishable foods** to stock our shelves for St. Vincent de Paul. Our shelves are empty due to the needs during the holidays.

THE WEEK AT A GLANCE

- Sunday** R.E. All areas until noon
 - Jan. 10** Knights Breakfast STLH 7-11 AM
Knights' Free Throw Comp. STLH 3 PM
Youth Min. STLH 6:30-8 PM
 - Monday** Holy Hour CH 7-8 PM
 - Jan. 11** Lectors PCMR 7 PM
 - Tuesday** RFE 6:30-9 PM CH
 - Jan. 12** **NO Confessions**
Yoga Ext. 6:30 PM
Cub Scouts Committee Mtg 7-8:30 PM GH
 - Wednesday** Harvest Us Home Mtg. PCMR 9-Noon
 - Jan. 13** Heritage Peak Staff Mtg 4-6 PM GH
Lectors in Spanish 7-8 p.m. PCK
Sp. Prayer Group CH 7-9 PM
Boy Scouts GH 7-8:30 PM
 - Thursday** Bounty STLH 1-7 PM
 - Jan. 14** Choir CH 7-9 PM
Grupo Cultural Catolico STLH 7-9 PM
Spanish Group PCYR 7-9 PM
Cub Scouts LIB 6:30-8:30 PM
Yoga class Ext. 6 PM
 - Friday** Eng. Prayer Grp 7-9 PM Rm 3
 - Jan. 15** Bible Class PCYR 9-11AM
Sp. Choir CH 6 PM
 - Saturday** Remove Christmas Tree & Cleaning 9 AM
 - Jan. 16** ICF Mtg. STLH 5:30-9 PM
- 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
Rm. 3 Room 3 of the School

**Confessions will not be heard on
Tuesday, January 12th.**



**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.