

# 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 Alvarez** . . . . .Parochial Administrator  
*fatherenrique@saintlawrencechurch.org*

**Deacon Donald Galli** . . . . . Parish Deacon  
*deacongalli@sbcglobal.net*

**Mrs. Jean Nelson** . . . . .Director of Religious Education  
*jean@saintlawrencechurch.org*

**Mrs. Paula Edwards** . . . . . Pastoral Associate  
*paula@saintlawrencechurch.org*

**Mrs. Martha Haig** . . . . . Coordinator of RE/Youth Minister  
*martha@saintlawrencechurch.org*

**Mr. David Swindell** . . . . .Facilities 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@surewest.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

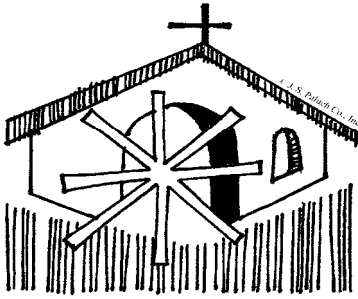
9:00 am to 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm  
Monday through Thursday  
9:00 am to 12:30 pm each Friday

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.

## WRAPPED IN SPLENDOR



The Lord has  
done great things.

Today's readings begin with the announcement by the prophet Baruch: "Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God forever" (5:1). This Advent scripture reading summons us

to be wrapped in splendor. During this time of year when we purchase wrapping paper and wrap our Christmas gifts, the Church asks us to look at what has been "wrapped" around us. Are peace and justice, the hallmarks of God's splendor, the wrapping that others see when they see us? Saint Paul reminds us that this "wrapping" should show that our love for one another increases with the passing of each day. As we await the coming of the One who was wrapped in swaddling clothes at his birth, we pray that we will be wrapped in the splendor of God.

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## CRAB FEED

Knights of Columbus Annual Crab Feed will be **January 30, 2010** at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$35 and will go on sale soon.



## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Monday:** Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26  
**Tuesday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38  
**Wednesday:** Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30  
**Thursday:** Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15  
**Friday:** Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19  
**Saturday:** Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47  
 or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712  
**Sunday:** Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

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

First Collection Weekend Nov. 22	\$ 7,474.23
Total Collections YTD	\$176,160.40
Goal (Based on Budgeted Revenue)	\$180,229.48
Over (Under) Goal	(\$ 4,069.08)

Second Collection for November to benefit Mustard Seed School (For Homeless Children) (Green)	\$ 1,957.79
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Facility Fund for September Second Collection Taken 3rd Sunday (Goldenrod)	\$ 8,535.00
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St. Vincent de Paul Society Since our last 5th Sunday Collection	\$ 919.00
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Campaign for Human Development

During the month of December, the second collection will benefit Stanford Home.

## THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The Masses for this Holy Day of Obligation will be a Vigil Monday, December 7th at 7 p.m., and December 8th at 8:30 a.m., both bilingual.

There will be no Confessions heard on Tuesday, December 15th.

## QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

**Adults:** Name one thing you can do to help "prepare the way of the Lord?"

**Youth:** How do you share the Good News of Jesus with others?

**Children:** What things do you do to get ready for a big event or celebration?



The next Youth Group meeting is Sunday, **December 13** in St. Lawrence Hall from 6:30-8:30 p.m. It is a Potluck so bring a dish to share and bring a friend. Youth Group is open to all 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

The next Core planning meeting, for students 10th grade and above, will be **December 7** at 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Center.

*Pray daily for our parish.*

**DO YOU KNOW**

... today is Santa Claus Day?

Well, not exactly, but Santa Claus is a corruption of St. Nicholas and today is his feast day.

St. Nicholas was a bishop, actually an archbishop of Myra, the capital of Lycia. Nicholas was a native of Patara in Lycia, Asia Minor. He became a monk in the monastery of Holy Zion near Myra. He was made an Abbot and when the See of Myra fell vacant he was appointed Archbishop. He was imprisoned in the reign of Diocletian whose persecutions, while they lasted, were very severe. Nicholas died in Myra in 342.

The characteristic virtue of St. Nicholas appears to have been his charity for the poor. St. Nicholas is regarded as the special patron of children. He has always been honored with great veneration in the Latin and Greek Churches. The Russian Church seems to honor him more than any other saint after the Apostles.

Popular legends have involved St. Nicholas in a number of charming stories, one of which relates Nicholas' charity toward the poor. A man of Patara had lost his fortune, and finding himself unable to support his three maiden daughters, was planning to turn them into the streets. They could not find husbands because they had no dowry. Nicholas heard of the man's intentions and took a bag of gold and secretly tossed it through an open window of the man's house. Here was a dowry for the eldest girl and she was quickly married. Nicholas did the same for the second and then for the third daughter. On the last occasion the father was watching by the window and overwhelmed his young benefactor with gratitude.

In Germany, Switzerland, and the Netherlands gifts were bestowed on children at Christmas time in St. Nicholas' name. Saint Nicholas became Sint Klaes then to Santa Claus.

The story of St. Nicholas came to America in distorted fashion. The Dutch Protestants carried a popularized version of the saint's life to New Amsterdam, portraying Nicholas as nothing more than a Nordic magician and wonder-worker. Our present day conception of Santa Claus has grown from this version. Catholics should think of Nicholas as a saint, a confessor of the faith, and the bishop of Myra – not merely as a jolly man from the North Pole who brings happiness to small children

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

**Sat., Dec 5**

**4:45 p.m. Richard Ardell †  
Paul Ardell †**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Sun., Dec 6**

**7:00 a.m.**

**8:30 a.m.**

**11:15 a.m.**

**Mon., Dec 7**

**Tues., Dec 8**

**Wed., Dec 9**

**Thur., Dec 10 John Nathan Geronimo**

**MICROSOFT CERTIFICATIONS**

St. Lawrence Parish is in need of a parishioner who has multiple Microsoft Certifications who would be willing to volunteer their time. If you are interested, please send your resume to :

Attn: Fr. Enrique Alvarez  
St. Lawrence Catholic Church  
4325 Don Julio Blvd.  
North Highlands, CA 95660



Orders for **Poinsettias** to decorate the church for Christmas are being taken after all the Masses. It is our tradition to purchase Poinsettias in memory of our deceased loved ones. The donation is **\$10 per plant.**

**Let Us Remember Our Dead**

- Dec. 7 Frank Kral, Mark Khan, Donald Sturms, Larry Nagel
- Dec. 8 Orville Cochran, Florence Freitas, Fred Rogers, Jose Martinez, Margie Pilote, Frank Perpich, Margaret Walsh
- Dec. 9 Gerald Calloway, James Smith, Deborah Endebrock, Robert Richter, Freida Cardine, Steve Zincheck
- Dec. 10 Edwin Hitchcock, Ralph Cimo, Richard Smith, David Baudendistel, Theresa Neder, Patrick Haley
- Dec. 11 Helen Williams, Beatriz Coronel, Alice Steinback, Hazel Vigil
- Dec. 12 Peter Martinez, Richard Barr Combs, Helen Ends, Terri Rogal, Lupe Guzman, Connie Walker, Jorge Gonzalez
- Dec. 13 Florence Hartford, Paul Landry, Elizabeth Haas, Yvonne Angelo, Manuel Monzo

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

**December 7** 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 6:15 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, December 14.**

**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.

**HELP FAMILIES FOR CHRISTMAS**

If you are interested in helping families in need for Christmas, please call either the Parish Office at 332-4777 or Ann Parish at 344-3813. You could either adopt a family or bring gift cards, new toys or new clothing to the Parish Office to be given out to the families.



**Saturday, December 19th at 9 a.m.** we will gather in the church to decorate the Christmas Tree and clean the church for Christmas. All parishioners are welcome.



**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](mailto:sbcglobal.net) or you can view the Center at: [www.passionist.org/retreats/christtheaking](http://www.passionist.org/retreats/christtheaking).

**Christmas Schedule 2009**

**Communal Penance**

Wednesday, December 9  
7:00 p.m. (Español)

Wednesday, December 16,  
9:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

**Christmas Eve Liturgies**

Thursday, December 24  
4:45 p.m. Family Liturgy  
7:00 p.m. (Español)

Midnight Christmas Vigil  
Carols begin at 11:30 p.m.

**Christmas Day Liturgies**

Friday, December 25  
8:30 & 11:15 a.m. & 1 p.m. (Español)

**Mary Mother of God**

Thursday, December 31, 6 p.m. (Bilingual)  
Friday, January 1, 2010  
10 a.m. (English), Noon (Español)

**QUINN COTTAGES GRADUATION**

We received an invitation to attend the **Quinn Cottages Graduation on November 19th.** Two members of the parish staff attended. It was very heartwarming to hear the stories of the graduates and how living at Quinn Cottages has changed their lives for the better.

During the presentations we were presented with a framed certificate:

*"Special Recognition: Witness  
St. Lawrence Catholic Church  
...its longevity of investment  
to the Quinn Cottages program has helped nearly  
500 people successfully make the transition  
from the streets to self-sustainability."*

If you would like to see the certificate, it is on the bulletin board in the back of the church. Your generosity over the years has made a difference in the lives of many people.

**BOUNTY CHRISTMAS**

The St. Lawrence Youth Group is collecting items for Bounty guests for Christmas. There is a bin in the entrance of the church for these items. Items needed are: Toiletries and socks for adults and coloring books and crayons for the children.

**LIFE & DIGNITY SUNDAY  
December 5 & 6**

Today is Life & Dignity Sunday in the Diocese of Sacramento. It is the day that Bishop Soto has designated for us to focus on the Catholic responsibility to be good and engaged citizens. You have been invited and had the opportunity to register for a state-wide Catholic Legislative Network, which is to be a strong, clear, moral voice for life and justice in our state. We thank you for registering, if you did; and for your patience and forbearance if you did not. If you did register, we hope that you will be faithful in responding to the Action Alerts that will come asking for your assistance on important issues. If you missed signing up today, you can still register on line at [www.cacatholic.org](http://www.cacatholic.org).

**ST. LAWRENCE  
New Year's Eve Party 2009**

December 31st, 8 p.m. - 1:30 a.m.  
St Lawrence Hall

**Music by DJ - Nene Sablan  
Raffles, No Host Bar**

\$30 Through December 30th  
\$35 at the door

**Includes Hors d'oeuvres,  
Party Favors,  
Champagne Toast & Breakfast**

**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.



**THE WEEK AT A GLANCE**

- Sunday** R.E. All Classrooms till Noon  
**Dec. 6** RCIA PCMR 8-11:30 AM  
 Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena (Rosary) CH 6 PM
- Monday** Adoration of the Blessed Sac. CH All day  
**Dec. 7** Youth Group Core Mtg. PCMR 5:30-7 PM  
 Lectors PCMR 7 PM  
 OLG Novena (Rosary) CH 6 PM
- Tuesday** Bread Bakers-Jan STLK 9:30 AM  
**Dec. 8** Bread Bakers-Sheila STLK 1 PM  
 Confessions 5-6:30 p.m. CH  
 OLG Novena (Rosary) CH 6 PM  
 RFE 6:30-9 School classrooms & Church  
 Cub Scouts Com. Mtg GH 7-9 PM
- Wednesday** Funeral Brunch STLH 7-11:30 AM  
**Dec. 9** Harvest Us Home Mtg. PCMR 9-Noon  
 Lectors in Spanish 7-8 p.m. PCK  
 SVDP PCMR 7-9 PM  
 Heritage Peak Mtg. GH 4-6 PM  
 Boys Scouts Com. Mtg. GH 7-8:30 PM  
 Boy Scouts STLH 7-9 PM  
 Cub Scouts LIB. 7-9 pm  
 Spanish Penance Service CH 7 PM  
 OLG Novena (Rosary) CH 6 PM
- Thursday** OLG Novena (Rosary) CH 6 PM  
**Dec. 10** Bounty STLH 1-7 PM  
 Spanish Group PCMR 7-9 PM  
 Grupo Cultural Católico STLH 7-9 PM  
 Cub Scouts Library 6:30-8:30 PM
- Friday** Bible Class PCYR 9-11:30 AM  
**Dec. 11** Prayer Group English Rm 3 7-8:30 PM  
 Spanish Dance Practice 6:30-9 p.m. STLH  
 Spanish Choir CH 6 p.m.  
 OLG Novena (Rosary) CH 6 PM  
 Guam. Com. Mtg. PCMR 7-9 PM  
 Set-up for Our Lady of Gpe. STLH All Eve
- Saturday** Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration  
**Dec. 12** STLH All Day & Eve
- 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