St. Francis Xavier Church (Newtowne)

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 21, 2018

Newtowne Mission from 1640  First Chapel Built 1662
Current Church Built 1731

OLDEST CATHOLIC CHURCH
IN ORIGINAL THIRTEEN COLONIES

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WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS!
Registration forms are in the church vestibule
and on our parish website

SUNDAY MASSES
Saturday 4pm (Anticipated), Sunday 8am and 11am

DAILY MASSES
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 8am

HOLY DAY MASSES
As announced in the bulletin

CONFESSIONS
Saturdays 3:15-3:45pm and by appointment

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION
Following the 8am Mass until 5pm

BAPTISMS: By appointment with Father

MARRIAGES: Make arrangements with your Pastor
at least six months in advance; call the Rectory

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES
Email Paula McLeod, paula.mcleod@gmail.com

BULLETIN ITEMS
Deadline is Friday, one week before Sunday date
Send items to sfx1640bulletin@gmail.com
"We are facing an enormous and dramatic clash between good and evil, death and life, the “culture of death” and the “culture of life”. We find ourselves not only faced with but necessarily in the midst of this conflict: we are all involved and we all share in it, with the inescapable responsibility of choosing to be unconditionally pro-life.”

—Pope John Paul II
**Walk in the Park—Mark Your Calendars Now!**

Plan to join in for the “Walk in the Park” on Saturday, April 28, 2018. More details to follow.

**Christ Life Series starts this month at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church: “Discovering Christ”**

This seven week experience consists of a great meal, worship, dynamic teaching and small group discussion about the meaning of life in Jesus Christ.

“Discovering Christ” is for anyone, from the daily Mass goer to the unbaptized person who has never entered a church, and all in between.

Sessions are on Sundays, from Jan 28 – Mar 25, 5-8 pm (including dinner) in the IHM Fellowship Hall, at 22375 Three Notch Rd., Lexington Park. Join us for fellowship and spiritual nourishment and become part of the Christ Life Community.

There is no cost for you, but pre-registration is required to have an accurate number for dinner preparation. For more information or to register, see www.ihmrcc.org/smallgroups and click on Christ Life, or call 301-863-8144.

**Our Bulletin Editor**

will be happy to get your parish and faith-related community news items published in the weekly bulletin.

Email bulletin items to Lynn Marsh Freeman, sfx1640bulletin@gmail.com. Deadline is Friday, one week before the Sunday date.

**Men’s Discernment Retreat Weekend** –

Friday, Feb 2 through Sunday, Feb 4, 2018.

Cardinal Donald Wuerl invites men in their 20’s – 40’s who are considering a call to the priesthood to attend a discernment retreat led by priests of the Archdiocese of Washington at Saint John Paul II Seminary. The retreat will offer time away from your daily routine and provide an opportunity for prayer and reflection to examine God’s call. Registration is required, at dcpriest.org: click on “Events.”

Questions? Contact the Office of Priest Vocations at vocations@adw.org or 202-636-9020.

**Men’s Retreat: Actively Engaged in the Spiritual Life**

The weekend of Feb 9-11, join men from around the Archdiocese of Washington for a retreat directed by Fr. Dave Wells and Fr. Rick Kramer, who will lead talks on keys for men to actively engage in the spiritual life. They will celebrate Mass and offer opportunities for Confession and to spend quiet time with our Lord in Adoration. A retreat is a time away to reconnect and recharge the most important relationship in your life - your relationship with the Lord.

The Men’s Retreat will be held at Priestfield Pastoral Center in Kearneysville, WV. The cost is $230 for the weekend, includes double occupancy room (two double beds, private bath) and meals: dinner Friday night; breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Saturday; breakfast and lunch on Sunday. www.2018adwmen.eventbrite.com or call 301-853-5337.
THE ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRIES PRESENTS

A DAY OF REFLECTION FOR ST. MARY’S COUNTY PARISHES

JANUARY 27, 2018
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

at
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Hall
22375 Three Notch Road,
Lexington Park, MD 20653

This workshop is FREE but registration is required by: January 19, 2018

Please contact:
Specialneedsministry@adw.org
or 301-459-7464

Check-In begins at 9:30 am
Continental Breakfast & Lunch will be served

Stay for the day!
Optional daily Mass at 9 am
Confessions at 2:45 pm
And vigil Mass at 4 pm

Let us gather together to pray, reflect and continue to learn about supporting our families with special needs in faith formation and beyond.

If childcare is needed, please let us know at the time of registration.
For ASL contact 301-841-8210 VP at least two weeks in advance.

301.459.7464   SPECIALNEEDSMINISTRY@ADW.ORG
Dear Parish Family,

This week we remember the 45th anniversary of the Supreme Court Decision, Roe vs. Wade, on January 22. Each year at this time we’re reminded not only of the evil of abortion but also of the great dignity of human life and why we must respect life at every stage of development, from conception to natural death.

Pope St. John Paul II wrote about this in his encyclical entitled, Evangelium Vitae (“The Gospel of Life”). There he made an important distinction between the culture of death and the culture of life. The culture of death exalts individual freedom so much that the sense of God is completely lost. It is so concerned with efficiency that the human person becomes disposable if they are perceived to be a burden to society. In the end, it becomes a war of the powerful against the weak.

In contrast, the culture of life acknowledges that every person’s life must be respected and treated as sacred because we are made in the image and likeness of God. Every person’s life is understood to have a sacred and inviolable character. By the fifth commandment, “thou shall not kill,” we understand that God is the exclusive arbiter of every human life.

Here’s one way we can promote the culture of life. This week I invite you to join me in prayer and penance in reparation for the sins committed against the dignity of innocent human life. The prayer could be a rosary or a chaplet of divine mercy. The penance could be some small sacrifice offered up for the unborn and the end of abortion. Together we can make a difference.

Peace and blessings,

Fr. Rob