St. Francis Xavier Church (Newtowne)

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 28, 2018

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

**OLDEST CATHOLIC CHURCH**
**IN ORIGINAL THIRTEEN COLONIES**

Reverend Robert G. Maro, Administrator
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Leonardtown MD 20650
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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
“Where most work for degrees after their names, we work for one before our names: ‘St.’ (Saint). It’s a much more difficult degree to attain. It takes a lifetime, and you don’t get your diploma until you’re dead.” —Mother Angelica

**Look Ahead**

**February 2:** First Friday Adoration
8:30am until 5pm — Vespers at 4:30pm
*Sign up in the back of church to spend 30 minutes with our Lord. Let’s not leave Him alone on the altar.*

**February 3:** Memorial of St. Blaise
Blessing of Throats at 4pm Mass

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**Father Andrew White School Open Houses**

Are you considering a Catholic education for your child? You are cordially invited to visit our award winning parish school! Father Andrew White is having Open Houses on Friday, Feb 2 from 10-11:30am and Sunday, Feb 25 from 1-2pm. Come meet the dedicated and caring staff and find out how our students are “Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow, Living our Faith.”

**Father Andrew White School Hosting a Delicious Italian Dinner and Brown Bag Auction**

Saturday, Feb 3, from 5-8pm in the school gym. Spaghetti, homemade marinara sauce, homemade meatballs, Italian sausage, garlic bread, salad, and desserts. Tickets will also be on sale for a variety of filled themed baskets that will be raffled at the dinner. Dinner prices are $10 for ages 12 and older, $5 for ages 4-12, and free for ages 3 and under.

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**THIS WEEK**

**January 28:** 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
*Knight of Columbus Breakfast
8:30am-12:30pm, Parish Hall
*Catholic Schools Week

**February 2:** First Friday Adoration
8:30am until 5pm — Vespers at 4:30pm
*Sign up in the back of church to spend 30 minutes with our Lord. Let’s not leave Him alone on the altar.*

**February 3:** Memorial of St. Blaise
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**Looking Ahead**

**February 4:** 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
*World Day for Consecrated Life

**February 6:** Bible Study resumes
6:30-8pm, Rectory

**February 11:** 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
*World Marriage Day

**February 14:** Ash Wednesday
Mass at 8am & 6:30pm

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Join the Washington Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (ACCW) as we pray the Rosary. Call 605-468-8016 and enter code 357090# to pray as a community, Feb 4, at 8pm.

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Join us for a

**Sunday Breakfast**

Sunday, January 28
St. Francis Xavier Church Hall
8:30am to 12:30pm

Regular and Blueberry Pancakes, Eggs, Bacon, Sausage, or Biscuit with Sausage Gravy - plus Coffee & Juice

Free Will Donation
To Benefit our Community Charities
**Walk in the Park—**
**Mark Your Calendars!**
Plan to join us for the “Walk in the Park” on Saturday, Apr 28. Details to follow.

**Urban Bar-B-Que**
**Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad Auxiliary (LVRSA) Fundraiser**
Thu, Feb 1, 4–8pm in Leonardtown. Let the cashier know you are there for the LVRSA Fundraiser to have your purchase count towards our total. BONUS: if you buy their special cup anytime in February, the Squad gets an additional donation. Hope to see you there—and thank you!

Thank you!

To all the parishioners and the Knights of Columbus at Saint Francis Xavier Church who assisted with the WARM program at Camp Maria Retreat Center. Your efforts to provide food, fellowship, and support on Dec 26 and other days during the Christmas season made a huge, positive difference to the most vulnerable people in our community. Saint Francis Xavier Church had a good turnout of volunteers and Camp Maria could not have hosted the WARM program without the support of Saint Francis Xavier Church. God bless you always

Ann Kovalcik, Director
Camp Maria Retreat Center

**Stewardship at St. Francis**

**2017 Year End Contribution Statements are now available**
Some have been mailed, while others are available for pickup in the church vestibule. Those who participate in the Faith Direct electronic giving program will receive statements directly from Faith Direct.

We provide each parishioner who uses envelopes with a complete record of his or her donations after the end of the calendar year.

In order for the parish to provide you with this record, you must give by check or by using envelopes. If you wish to give cash but have forgotten your envelope, please use our “new parishioner” envelope or a plain envelope and clearly print your name and address on the envelope so that we can acknowledge your gift.

If you don’t currently receive envelopes but wish to receive them, or have any questions, email Claire DeLozier at cad928@gmail.com.

**Many parishioners received a letter from Cardinal Wuerl in early January**
asking us to consider making a pledge to the 2018 Cardinal’s Appeal. The Cardinal’s Appeal not only funds operations in the Archdiocese, but also services that are of great help to the ministries in our local parishes. As in the past years, the theme of the Appeal is, “Seek First the Kingdom of God” (Matthew 6:33). As we seek first the Kingdom of God, we have the ability to help it to be present in our lives and in the lives of those around us through our works of charity. Please prayerfully consider a generous pledge to the 2018 Cardinal’s Appeal.

**Second Collections**

- Feb 4: FAW School support
- Feb 14: Ash Wednesday
- Feb 18: Maintenance Fund
- Feb 25: Church in the Developing World
PRAYER BREAKFAST AND BOOK SIGNING
Join us on Sat, Feb 3, 8:30-11:30am, at Leonardtown Grille, for breakfast and a book signing with Leonard Wathen, author of *Follow Me* and *Remain in Me*, scriptural reflections on living and growing as a disciple of Jesus. Leonard is Director of Religious Education at St. Aloysius Church in Leonardtown. His books will be available for purchase for signing.
Please register by Thu, Feb 1: call 301-475-7139 or go online at www.breadoflifecenterforpeace.org. Cost: $15 in advance, $17 at the door.
You’re invited to join us for Mass before breakfast, at 7:30am at St. Aloysius.

**NEWTOWNE MANOR HOUSE RESTORATION**
**Donations to:**
St. Francis Xavier Church
21370 Newtowne Neck Road
Leonardtown MD 20650
MEMO LINE: MANOR HOUSE RESTORATION
For more information:
LYNN DELAHAY, 204-925-6485
GEORGE MATISICK, 301-475-9698
NEWTOWNEMANORHOUSE@GMAIL.COM

**GATTON’S Barber Shop**
Est. 1933
Hollywood MD
Tuesday-Saturday
301-373-5300
www.gattonbarbershop.com
Dear Parish Family,

There's a true story about a man named Richard Wurmbrand, who spent 3 of his 14 years in prison in solitary confinement. In his book entitled, *In God’s Underground*, Wurmbrand describes how one day a new prisoner named Avram arrived in the prison. When the guards left Avram, he pulled out a small book from behind his plaster cast. None of the other prisoners had seen a book for years. They asked him what the book was – it was the Gospel of John.

Wurmbrand wrote that when he took the Gospel in his hand, nothing could have been more precious to him. From that day on, that worn little book was passed around through the prison. Many put some verses to memory and each day they would talk about it among themselves. In a sense, they were rediscovering their identity as sons and daughters of the Most High God.

As I reflected on this story, I realized that the same is true for us. We need to be immersed in the Word of God so we know who we are. That’s why it’s so important that we reverence God's Word each and every day. Here are some things that have helped me along the way. First, read a small portion of the Bible every day. You can start with the Gospel for daily Mass. Allow God to speak to you. Second, try to memorize some of your favorite verses. My best Lent in the seminary was when we were challenged to memorize a bible verse a day. Third, find someone whom you can talk with about the readings. The Word of God will amaze you!

Peace and blessings,

Fr. Rob