St. Francis Xavier Church (Newtowne)

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 4, 2018

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

OLDEST CATHOLIC CHURCH
IN ORIGINAL THIRTEEN COLONIES
✦
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✦
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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
**THIS WEEK**

**MARCH 4:** Third Sunday of Lent  
*Collection:* FAW School  
*Lenten Food Drive*  
Bags distributed at all Masses:  
Please return filled bags next weekend!  
Our collection benefits Our Lady of the Wayside Mary Lou Gough Food Bank  
*Chaplet of Divine Mercy:* 3pm, Church

**MARCH 7**  
Confessions 6:30-7:30pm

**MARCH 8**  
Spiritual Book Club: 9am, Church Hall

**MARCH 9**  
Stations of the Cross: 7pm

**LOOKING AHEAD**

**MARCH 11:** Fourth Sunday of Lent  
*Lenten Food Drive*  
Return filled bags to the vestibule  
Our collection benefits Our Lady of the Wayside Mary Lou Gough Food Bank  
*Collection:* Maintenance Fund  
*Chaplet of Divine Mercy:* 3pm, Church

**MARCH 14**  
Confessions 6:30-7:30pm

**MARCH 15**  
Spiritual Book Club: 9am, Church Hall

**MARCH 16**  
Stations of the Cross: 7pm

**LET US PRAY FOR OUR CATECHUMENS**

**LENA HOVER**  
**CAROL PERRIE**  
**RUSSELL PLUNKETT**

St. Francis is blessed to have three catechumens this year. They will receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation at our Easter Vigil. We invite you to keep them, and their sponsors, in your daily prayers throughout Lent, to help them in their faith journey.

The word *catechumen* comes from the Latin word *catechumenus*, meaning “one being instructed.”

It also has an ancient meaning: to repeat to someone that which you have learned — to echo the faith to a new member of the community.

It is our responsibility to echo the faith we have received back to our catechumens, and to welcome these new members into the body of Christ.

*God of faithfulness and expectation.*  
*Bless these children of yours who seek to follow your ways.*  
*Protect them on their faith journey.*  
*Give them strength as they fight against the forces of evil and selfishness, so that they live for you and your Church.*  
*Give us the strength to journey with them as they walk towards the baptismal font at the Easter Vigil.*  
*I offer this sacrifice of prayer for them, in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.*  
*Amen.*

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“*Our hearts were made for You, O Lord, and they are restless until they rest in You.*”  
— St. Augustine of Hippo
2ND ANNUAL “WALK IN THE PARK”
Join us Sat, April 28, for this fun event to benefit our parish’s Newtowe Manor House Preservation/Restoration Fund. Open to all ages and abilities. Course starts at St. Francis Xavier Church and follows the road into picturesque Newtowe Neck State Park. Registration starts at 8am and run/walk starts at 9am. The registration fee will help preserve this religious and historical landmark. Kids 12 and under are free. Registration info is available in the church vestibule and at www.stfrancisxavierchurch.org. Interested in helping as a volunteer or sponsor? Please call Sarah Matisick, 301-247-7416.

LEDO’S PIZZA LEONARDTOWN
VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD AUXILIARY (LVRSA) FUNDRAISER
March 7, from 4–8pm.
Dine-in or take-out.
Just let your server or cashier know you are there to support the LVRSA fundraiser so we can get credit for your visit. Hope to see you there—and Thank You!

MARCH SECOND COLLECTIONS
Mar 4 FAW School
Mar 11 Maintenance Fund
Mar 18 Easter Flower Offering
Mar 30 Good Friday/Holy Land

THE HOLY FATHER’S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH:
That the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and communitarian levels.

NOTHING THAT YOU HAVE NOT GIVEN AWAY WILL EVER BE REALLY YOURS.
—C.S. LEWIS

SPRING FORWARD
NEXT SATURDAY! Daylight Saving Time begins 2am
March 11

OUR PARISH BULLETIN IS ONE OF OUR MAIN COMMUNICATION TOOLS TO OUR PARISH MEMBERS. It provides inspirational words from Father, Mass intentions, news, and events for the week ahead. We are thankful that this crucial communication piece is provided to our parish at no cost thanks to the generous advertising support of our parishioners and community-minded businesses. Please let us know if you can help. Sponsors of our bulletin recognize the tremendous value of connecting with our Church family, who in turn respond by supporting our sponsors! If you would like to advertise in the weekly bulletin, please contact Victor Verbiest at 973-634-0586, or via e-mail to sverbiest@4lpi.com. Thank you!
**Bulletins just for Kids!**

Find them in the vestibule with the regular Sunday bulletin. Two versions—*My Family and Me* for PK-1st graders; *My Church, My Family and Me* for 2nd-3rd graders. Both are designed to amplify the Sunday Gospel message and to help your child “grow with the Gospel.”

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**Chaplet of Divine Mercy**

Join us every Sunday at 3pm in the church through April 8, as the Knights of Columbus lead us in the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. All are welcome.

For each of the five decades

(On each “Our Father” bead of the rosary, pray)

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

(On each of the 10 “Hail Mary” beads, pray)

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

**Concluding prayer** (Repeat 3 times)

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

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**Annual Spring Craft Show**

At Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department

Sunday, March 25, 10am-3pm


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**Third District Optimist Club Drive-Thru Seafood Dinner**

Fridays through Mar 30, 4-7pm. $10 per dinner: fish, shrimp, clam strips, fries, hush puppies, apple sauce. Their mobile kitchen will be set up in the St. Mary’s Fairgrounds parking lot in front of the main gate. Help the Optimists support the 4-H’s fledgling archery group.

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Dear Parish Family,

It’s hard to believe we’re already mid-way through Lent. How is it going? Don’t be discouraged if you haven’t kept your Lenten resolutions perfectly. And if you haven’t had a good start at all to Lent, it’s not too late to have a great finish. Here are some suggestions for things you can do between now and the end of Lent to help you get back into the game.

**Attend at least one daily Mass a week.**
This is a great habit to get into well after the Lenten season is over. The Eucharist is the source and summit of our Catholic faith, so why not receive the Lord Jesus in Holy Communion more than just once a week if at all possible? Granted, for some it’s not possible because of work or other commitments. But if you can fit it into your schedule, I encourage you to just do it and watch what happens to your spiritual life!

**Read a chapter a day from Mark’s Gospel.**
Mark’s Gospel is only sixteen chapters long. It’s the shortest of all the gospels and it will take you through the life of Christ throughout the remainder of your Lent. The Church teaches that she venerates the Scriptures as she venerates the Lord’s Body because we are nourished from the one table of God’s Word and Christ’s Body. Remember St. Jerome’s old adage: “Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.”

**Reach out to someone in need.**
If you’re unsure where to begin, pray about it and ask the Lord to help you find someone you can bless this Lent. Our Lenten food drive is just one way to do that. Believe that God desires to use you to be His hands and feet this Lent.

Peace and blessings,
Fr. Rob
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