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
**THIS WEEK**

**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

**LOOKING AHEAD**

**MARCH 18:** Fifth Sunday of Lent
*Chaplet of Divine Mercy:* 3pm, Church

**MARCH 21**
Confessions 6:30-7:30pm

**MARCH 22**
Spiritual Book Club: 9am, Church Hall

**MARCH 23**
Stations of the Cross: 7pm

**MARCH 25:** PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

**MARCH 29:** HOLY THURSDAY
Mass of the Lord’s Supper, 6pm

**MARCH 30:** GOOD FRIDAY
Stations of the Cross, 3pm
Service of the Lord’s Passion, 7pm

**MARCH 31:** EASTER VIGIL
8pm only—No 4pm Mass

**APRIL 1:** EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD
8am & 11am

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**LORD, WE PRAY FOR THESE YOUR SERVANTS WHO HAVE OPENED THEIR EARS AND HEARTS TO YOUR WORD**

LENA HOVER

CAROL PERRIE

RUSSELL PLUNKETT

Grant that they may grasp your moment of grace. Do not let their minds be troubled or their lives tied to earthly desires. Do not let them remain estranged from the hope of your promises or enslaved by a spirit of unbelief. Rather, let them believe in you, whom the Father has established as universal Lord and to whom he has subjected all things. Let them submit themselves to the Spirit of grace, so that, with hope in their calling, they may join the priestly people and share in the abundant joy of the new Jerusalem, where you live and reign for ever and ever.

*From the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*

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**The Kalnasy Concert Series presents……**

**Father David Beaubien**

**In Concert with the St. Aloysius Handbell Ensemble**

Sunday, March 11  3pm  St. Aloysius Church

Beautiful music of Mendelssohn, Dvorak, Wagner, Copland, Vaughan Williams, and more. Free!

For more information: keyofgmh@gmail.com

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**The Light is ON for You**

*Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation*

Confessions each Wednesday in Lent
Through Mar 28: 6:30-7:30pm in the church

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“True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less.”

—C.S. Lewis (1898-1963)
2ND ANNUAL “WALK IN THE PARK”
Join us Sat, April 28, for this fun event to benefit our parish’s Newtowne Manor House Preservation/Restoration Fund. Open to all ages and abilities. Course starts at St. Francis Xavier Church and follows the road into picturesque Newtowne 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.

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.

OUR BULLETIN EDITOR will be happy to get your parish and community faith-related 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.

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

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH AND NEWTOWNE MANOR HOUSE HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 81ST ANNUAL MARYLAND HOUSE AND GARDEN PILGRIMAGE TOUR
MAY 26, 2018 FROM 10AM-5PM.
This popular and highly regarded event features the Newtowne area and includes several nearby locations (visit mhgp.org/Saint-Mary-s-County-2018 for a complete list).

We are very pleased to announce the Newtowne Manor House has been chosen by the St. Mary’s County Garden Club (SMCGC) to be their special project; all proceeds will benefit The Manor House Restoration Fund.

For more information and advance ticket sales visit mhgp.org. Tickets are $35 online, $40 at the door (cash or check only at door). Pre-sales of “Tour Bells” will be available from the SMCGC at Earth Day On The Square; Sunday, April 22 from 12:30-4:30pm. Call 301-861-6112 for details.

Gourmet boxed lunches are available by pre-paid reservation only; must be made by May 12. Lunches can be picked up or enjoyed in the church hall from 11am-2pm. Mail checks payable to SMCGC for $15 along with lunch selection to Judy Moe, 41720 Knight Rd, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Questions? jmoe@earthlink.net, 301-475-7974. Options include Chicken Salad sandwich, Portobello Mushroom sandwich, Stuffed Ham sandwich or gluten-free Caesar salad with chicken; side salad, chips, dessert and bottled water included.

This is an opportunity to share our unique history and natural beauty while helping to preserve and protect this local treasure.
**Catholic Cemetery Stations of the Cross on Good Friday**

Walk the Way of the Cross at a Catholic cemetery. Experience a moving encounter with Jesus and his Mother on the way to Calvary. This prayerful walk through the mystery of Christ’s Passion and Death is a spiritual work of mercy for the souls at the cemetery who await their own fulfillment in his Resurrection from the dead. Noon at St. Mary’s Queen of Peace Cemetery, 38888 Dr. Johnson Rd, Mechanicsville MD. Questions? 301-475-5005.

**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.

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

Fridays through Mar 30, 4-7pm. $10 per dinner. Mobile kitchen in the St. Mary’s Fairgrounds parking lot at the main gate. Help support the 4-H’s fledgling archery group.

**Annual Spring Craft Show**

At Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department
Sunday, March 25, 10am-3pm

**Mulch Sale to Feed 1,000 Children For a year!**

That’s right—For every 15 bags of mulch you buy, you’ve just fed a hungry child for a year. Please help teens from all over St. Mary’s County, who work at St. John’s Summer Program, feed 1,000 children in Malawi for a year by purchasing mulch. All proceeds will be donated to Mary’s Meals, a nonprofit whose mission is to provide one daily meal to hungry children in their place of education. Mulch must be ordered by March 27 and will be delivered/picked up April 7. Bags are $4-$4.25 depending on quantity. For more information and to order online, visit www.StJohnsSummerProgram.com/Mulch. We thank you for your support!

**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.gattonsbarbershop.com
Dear Parish Family,

I recently came across this beautiful reflection on humility from Fr. Jonathan Morris, a priest of the Archdiocese of New York. It’s very appropriate for the Lenten season as we seek more of Christ and less of ourselves.

“By humble I don’t mean quiet, shy, or afraid to speak their mind. The Godly, humble person lives simply, joyfully, and without complication because they live first for God and then for others. They are willing and even eager to take correction or advice, that it might help them love God and others better. They listen more than they speak. They take advantage of every chance that comes their way to show God’s love to others, especially those most in need, even if it makes them feel uncomfortable or inconvenienced.

“They are always ready to forgive and to ask for forgiveness. They don’t always feel spiritual, but they never give up on their faith in God. They laugh readily because they don’t take themselves too seriously. They care deeply about people but aren’t overly worried about what others think of them. Nor are they overly worried about what God thinks of them because they already know and have experienced God’s unconditional love for them. They avoid sin in their life not first out of fear of punishment, but rather because they care deeply about their friendship with God.”

I hope that Fr. Jonathan’s reflection on humility will inspire us in our Lenten practices. With God’s grace, may we keep striving to be the saints that God has called us to be!

Peace and blessings,
Fr. Rob