St. Francis Xavier Church (Newtowne)  
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT  
MARCH 18, 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  
sfxparishmd@gmail.com

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21370 Newtowne Neck Road  
Leonardtown MD 20650  
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Fax: 301-475-5662

Web: stfrancisxavierchurch.org  
Email: gertiethomas@outlook.com

**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 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

**HOLY WEEK**

**MARCH 25: PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**
Chaplet of Divine Mercy: 3pm, Church

**MARCH 28**
Confessions 6:30-7:30pm

**THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM**

**MARCH 29: HOLY THURSDAY**
*Spiritual Book Club: 9am, Church Hall
Mass of the Lord’s Supper, 6pm
Washing of the Feet
Eucharistic Adoration until 10pm

**MARCH 30: GOOD FRIDAY**
A DAY OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE
*Stations of the Cross, 3pm
Service of the Lord’s Passion, 7pm
Veneration of the Cross
The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Holy Communion

**MARCH 31: EASTER VIGIL**
8pm only—No 4pm Mass
Service of Light
Liturgies of Word, Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist
Reception of New Members

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

**GOOD FRIDAY IS A DAY OF FASTING & ABSTINENCE**

Fasting applies to Catholics in good health from age 18 to 59 (ends on one’s 59th birthday).
Fasting means we can have only one full, meatless meal. Some food can be taken at the other regular meal times if necessary, but combined they should be less than a full meal. Liquids (including milk and fruit juices) are allowed at any time, but no solid food should be consumed between meals.

All Catholics age 14 and older are to abstain from eating meat on Good Friday.

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God of power, look upon these your servants as they deepen their understanding of the Gospel.

LENA HOVER
CAROL PERIE
RUSSELL PLUNKETT

Grant that they may come to know and love you and always heed your will with receptive minds and generous hearts.

Teach them through this time of preparation and enfold them within your Church, so that they may share your holy mysteries both on earth and in heaven.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

—From the Catholic Book of Blessings

“**You don’t know how to pray?**
Put yourself in the presence of God, and as soon as you have said, ‘Lord, I don’t know how to pray!’ you can be sure you’ve already begun.”

-Saint Josemaría Escrivá
2ND ANNUAL “WALK IN THE PARK”  
Sat, April 28, to benefit our parish’s Newtowne Manor House Preservation/Restoration Fund. Open to all ages and abilities. Course starts at the church and follows the road into picturesque Newtowne Neck State Park. Registration starts at 8am. Run/walk starts at 9am. Kids 12 and under are free. Registration info in the church vestibule and at www.stfrancisxavierchurch.org. Interested in helping as a volunteer or sponsor? Please call Sarah Matisick, 301-247-7416.

Maryland Days March 25 & 26, 2018  
Join in honoring the rich and diverse history of Maryland and St. Mary’s County, the birthplace of the Catholic Church in the English-speaking colonies.  
March 25: At the Drayden African-American Schoolhouse from 1-4pm.  
March 26: At the St. Clement’s Island Museum from 10am-4pm. Museum opens 10am. Reception for the new exhibit, On the River, at noon. Ceremony begins at 2pm, includes SOMD Youth Orchestra and Choir. The guest speaker is Msgr. Ed Coyle, whose parish in Pennsylvania has direct ties to the Jesuits who landed in Maryland in 1634. For more information, call 301-769-3235.

March Second Collections
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, 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).

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. Details and advance ticket sales at mhgp.org. Tickets are $35 online, $40 at the door (cash or check only at door). Gourmet boxed lunches available by pre-paid reservation only; Judy Moe, jmoe@earthlink.net, 301-475-7974.

Buy Mulch and Help Feed 1,000 Children 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 details and to order: www.StJohnsSummerProgram.com/Mulch.

SAVE THE DATE!  
K of C ANNUAL POLISH DINNER  
SUNDAY, APR 8—4-7PM—CHURCH HALL  
DETAILS NEXT WEEK!
Catholic Cemetery Stations of the Cross on Good Friday
This prayerful walk through the mystery of Christ’s Passion and Death is a spiritual work of mercy for the souls at the cemetery. Noon at St. Mary’s Queen of Peace Cemetery, 38888 Dr. Johnson Rd, Mechanicsville MD. Questions? 301-475-5005.

Manor House Meeting
Thu, March 22
All parishioners are invited.
7pm in the Church Hall.
For more information, contact
Lynn Delahay,
240-925-6485, ldelahay@hotmail.com or George Matisick, 301-475-9698, gcmatisick@gmail.com.

I sing as I arise today!
I call on my Creator’s might:
The will of God to be my guide,
The eye of God to be my sight,
The word of God to be my speech,
The hand of God to be my stay,
The shield of God to be my strength,
The path of God to be my way.
—St. Patrick of Ireland
5th Century

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

FROM COMMUNITY TO
COMMUNION & BACK
A Closer Walk with Christ, the Family and the Church
JOIN US
MARCH 22-25.
Dr. Marcellino D’Ambrosio
a.k.a. “Dr. Italy” from Crossroads Initiative
Thu, Mar 22, 6:30pm
PERSONAL PRAYER, PATHWAY TO JOY
Fri, Mar 23, 6:30pm
“WHO NEEDS CONFESSION?”
(CONFESSION FOLLOWS)
Sat, Mar 24, 6:30pm
FAMILY AS DOMESTIC CHURCH
Sunday, Mar 25, 10:15am
GOD IS NOT A GRUMPY OLD MAN
(For the Youth and their parents)

Altar-Flowers
Remember a loved one or honor a family member or friend this Easter with an Easter Flower Offering.
Use the envelope in your monthly packet; place it in the collection basket.
Names will be published in the Easter Sunday bulletin on April 2.

Gatton’s
Barber Shop
Est. 1933
Hollywood MD
Tuesday-Saturday
301-373-5300
www.gattonsbarbershop.com
Dear Parish Family,

As you look around the church, you’ll see that our statues, crucifix, and the painting of St. Francis Xavier are veiled in a stark, purple cloth. The crucifixes remains covered until Good Friday but the other holy images remain covered until the start of the Easter Vigil.

The origins of veiling holy images during the last two weeks of Lent goes back to the former liturgical calendar when the Passion was read on the Fifth Sunday of Lent (hence called “Passion Sunday”) and the start of Passiontide. It is meant to help us focus on the essentials of our Lord’s great work of Redemption. The holy images that once gave us consolation are now removed from our view, so they might give us even more joy when they are unveiled at Easter.

The veils also create a heightened sense of anticipation for Easter Sunday, especially if you attend daily Mass. The very sight of the images each day, covered in darkness, can be a point of meditation for each of us.

The unveiling of the crucifix and other images before the Easter Vigil is a great reminder of our own life on earth. We live in a “veiled” world, in exile from our true home – Heaven. It is only through our own death that the veil is lifted and we finally are able to see the beauty of eternity. In this sense, our celebration of Easter is a foretaste of Heaven.

Families are encouraged to imitate this practice of veiling sacred images at home. It can help us to enter more fully into the solemnity of the Sacred Triduum.

Peace and blessings,
Fr. Rob