St. Francis Xavier Church (Newtowne)

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 1, 2019

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

Oldest Catholic Church in Original Thirteen Colonies
Reverend Robert G. Maro, Pastor
sfxparishmd@gmail.com
William J. Nickerson, Deacon
Judith Gwynn, Parish Secretary
sfxparishoffice1662@gmail.com
Denise Becher, Bookkeeper
sfxbookkeeper@gmail.com

Mailing address: 21370 Newtowne Neck Road
Leonardtown MD 20650
Telephone: 301-475-9885
Fax: 301-475-5662
Web: stfrancisxavierchurch.org
Tour: roundme.com/tour/249939/view/733

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 after the 4pm Mass, Sundays 7:30-7:50am
& 10:30-10:50am, and by appointment

First Friday Adoration
8:30-9:30am—Benediction at 9:20am

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
Send items to sfx1640bulletin@gmail.com
Deadline is Friday, one week before Sunday date
**THIS WEEK**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1**  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
*Second Collection: FAW School  
*Snack Pack for Kids collection  
*Children’s Christmas Eve Choir Practice: after 11am Mass  

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3**  
**FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER**  
*Special Mass at 7pm; reception in the Parish Hall  

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5**  
*Book Club: 9am, Parish Hall  

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6**  
*First Friday Holy Hour: 8:30-9:30am  

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7**  
*This Man Is You!: 6:30am, Parish Hall  
*Breakfast with St. Nick: 9-11am, Parish Hall  

**LOOKING AHEAD**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
*Second Collection: Retired Religious in the US  
*Snack Pack for Kids collection  
*Food Bank collection  

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 9**  
Mass for the Immaculate Conception: 8am  
*This year the Solemnity is NOT a day of obligation.  

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**SHARING OUR TREASURE**  
**NOVEMBER 24, 2019**  

11/17 Online giving $1,160.00  
Due to the early submission deadline for the Thanksgiving holiday, offertory for 11/24 was not available, but will be published next week.  

“Advent increases our hope, a hope which does not disappoint. The Lord never lets us down.”  
—Pope Francis  

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**MASS ON THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER**  
**TUE, DEC 3, 7PM**  
**IN THE CHURCH**  
Join us for a wine and cheese social following the Mass, to honor our patron saint and to celebrate the completion of the first phase of our Parish Hall renovation!  

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**KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS POSTER CONTEST**  
Deadline is approaching! Poster material, artist and parent permission forms, will be collected Dec 7 & 8 after all Masses.  

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**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2019**  
**7:00 pm**  
**St. Francis Xavier Parish Hall**  

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**CHILDREN’S CHOIR**  
Practices for Christmas Eve will be held at noon on Sun 12/1, 12/15, 12/22. Questions?  
Email Bob Schaller, schaller@md.metrocast.net.
**WE’re collecting two weekends this month, to ensure we have enough to help the 28 children we’re sponsoring**

SFX helps prevent weekend hunger for children in food-insecure homes. Use the approved shopping list below and pick up easy to prepare meals and snacks when you’re at the grocery store. **Drop off your donation in the back of church 11/30-12/1 or 12/6-7.**

Volunteers will pack the snacks into bags, and school counselors at Benjamin Banneker Elementary School will inconspicuously put the packs into student backpacks to take home. For details, or to help with this life-giving ministry, email Wendy Schaller, at schaller@md.metrocast.net

**Snack-Packs for Kids Shopping List**

- Applesauce snack cups
- Cans of pasta with meat - Cracker packs
- Easy Mac N Cheese - Granola bars
- Fruit cups in juice - Fruit Snacks (100% fruit)
- Instant lunch bowls - Instant oatmeal

**New item! Raisins in snack-size boxes**

- Juice boxes (100% fruit) - Ramen noodles
- Rice Krispies treats - Small boxes of cereal
- Shelf-safe milk boxes (single-serving size)

**Unbound Prayer Ministry**

The Gospel promises us peace, but we so often find ourselves bound by feelings of anxiety, fear, guilt, hopelessness, and shame. **Unbound Ministry** is a safe, loving, and effective prayer ministry to help us to respond more fully to the Gospel using five simple keys. To learn more or to sign up for an appointment with a trained Unbound team on Sat, Dec 7, visit www.saintalloysiuschurch.org/unbound.

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**“Feed My Sheep”**

Did you know that last year, an estimated 1 in 9 Americans — 37 million Americans, including more than 11 million children — were food insecure. That means they lacked consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life. You can help by donating to the Mary Lou Gough Food Pantry at Our Lady of the Wayside, to keep it stocked with needed supplies to help our brothers and sisters in need.

For the month of DECEMBER our focus is on MEALS: Spaghetti & sauce, Banquet® Homestyle Bakes, Hormel® Compleats Meals, Ramen Noodles, Hamburger Helper.

**Drop off donations next weekend!**

Of course, **any donation is always welcome and greatly appreciated**. Suggestions are listed on a flyer in the back of church. Bring non-perishable foods to church and place them in the plastic bin in the vestibule. **Donations are delivered weekly to the food pantry.** Thank you for your help with this vital parish ministry.

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**Encore Creativity for Older Adults Presents a FREE Holiday Concert**

**Saturday, December 7, 2019 at 3:00pm at Lexington Park United Methodist Church 21760 Great Mills Road, Lexington Park, MD 20653**

Featuring the Southern Maryland Encore Chorale

This performance will feature seasonal holiday classics and a variety of other choral favorites

For more information contact Encore at 301-361-5747
Email info@encorecreativity.org or Visit www.encorecreativity.org

Members of SFX Choir sing with this group!
**LEARN HOW TO DEFEND YOUR FAITH**
Weekly Apologetics classes on Mon nights, 7pm in the St. Aloysius hall.
Upcoming Topics:
12/2  Is It Reasonable to Believe in God?
12/9  Are We Living in the End Times?
12/16  Is the Nativity Story Historically Accurate?
No session 12/23 or 12/30
1/6  Defending the Jesuit Missions to India
1/13  Spanish Inquisition: Fact and Fiction

Complete list at saintaloysiuschurch.org/news/apologetics-series.

**DECEMBER COLLECTIONS**
Dec 1  FAW School
Dec 8  National Collection for Retired Religious Fund
Dec 15  Maintenance Fund
Please submit your Christmas Flower Fund envelopes by Dec 15
Dec 25  Christmas Offering

**An Advent Evening of Scripture and Song!**
The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century. In this service, we listen to seven Scripture lessons. Each lesson is followed by a carol or other song that reflects on the lesson’s message and a brief prayer. Sunday, Dec 22, 4pm, in the church — join us afterwards for a light reception in the Parish Hall.

**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
NEWTOWNENMANORHOUSE@GMAIL.COM

**FATHER ANDREW WHITE SCHOOL CRUSADER CONNECTIONS**
Cookies with Santa and Santa Shop:
Ho! Ho! Ho! Santa Claus will be making a special visit to FAW School on Sun, Dec 15 from 12-2pm. Enjoy a variety of cookies, coffee, a hot chocolate bar, reindeer games, letters to Santa, a scavenger hunt, a craft station, and more! Cost: Children 12 & under: Free, Adults: $5. While you’re there, allow your children to feel the joy of giving this Christmas when they buy presents for family, friends, grandparents, or pets at the Santa Shop. All gifts are $3. After shopping, the gifts will be wrapped and ready to go under your tree!

Day of Giving:
Giving Tuesday, an international day of charitable giving at the beginning of the Christmas season, provides an opportunity for donors to support a chosen cause. This year, on Tue, Dec 3, consider making a gift to strengthen our Catholic school. Your donation supports the vital programs and the overall accessibility of a Catholic education for our young people. Make a tax-deductible contribution to our school, at http://fatherandrewwhite.org/donate/ or call the school office at 301-475-9795. Thank you!

First Friday Mass:
Our School celebrates Mass as a school family every Friday. This Fri, Dec 6, we invite you to join us as the 4th Grade hosts the 9am Mass.

**WE PRAY THE ROSARY**
† At 7:30AM before our weekday Masses (Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri)
† 30 Minutes Before all Masses
the first Sunday of each month
Dear Parish Family,

While we still have just a month left in the calendar year, the Church is celebrating the beginning of a new liturgical year this weekend with the first Sunday of Advent. In this new year the Sunday Gospel readings will come mostly from Matthew’s Gospel. The word ‘Advent’ is derived from the Latin *ad venio*, “to come.” This is the liturgical season anticipating the coming of the Lord. During this holy season we are reminded to await the coming of Christ on three levels: *in the past* — as a babe in the stable of Bethlehem; *in the present* — as grace in our souls; and *in the future* — as the Judge at the end of time.

There are some great saints’ feast days in Advent. In fact, the first saint’s feast day that we celebrate this Advent also happens to be our parish’s patron. This Tuesday, December 3, is the feast of St. Francis Xavier (1506-1552). He was a companion of Saint Ignatius of Loyola and one of the first seven Jesuits. St. Francis Xavier was a great missionary to Africa, India, and Japan.

St. Francis Xavier converted more people than anyone since the apostle St. Paul. He baptized so many that at night he could not raise his arm from fatigue. Sometimes he would teach the faith by versifying Catholic doctrine and fitting the verses to popular tunes. St. Francis Xavier’s work as a missionary reminds us of our own missionary duty to spread the Gospel and bear witness to Christ to the people in our lives. St. Francis Xavier’s body is still incorrupt and his right arm has been preserved and venerated around the world.

Faithfully in Christ,
Father Rob

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**Pray For**

*Doug Williams, Margaret Bridgwater, Wayne Gonsalves, Annie Hills, Gladys Guy, Joannie Norris, Katherine Mueller, Marian Tennyson, Joan Collette, Mary & Sanford Brooks, Nancy Luginbill, Michelle Brinsfield, Therese Igot, Bill Lavender, Danielle Kirrane, January Donovan, Frank Greenwell, Lisa Davis, Allen Sieverston, Richie Fazio, Bubby Spalding, Judy Bakewell, John Abell, and Erin Schaller.*

**Our beloved dead:** Chanh La

Email sfxparishmd@gmail.com and let us join in prayer for one another. If you are seriously ill or preparing for a surgery, call the Parish Office to arrange for the sacrament of anointing.