

# Saint George Catholic Church

Established in 1851

19199 St. George's Church Road, Valley Lee, Maryland 20692

Phone: 301-994-0607

Fax: 301-994-1793

Email: [secretary@stgeorgercc.org](mailto:secretary@stgeorgercc.org)

Website: [www.StGeorgeRCC.org](http://www.StGeorgeRCC.org)

## WELCOME

Our parish family extends a warm welcome to all who are joining us for worship, guidance or instruction. If you are new to the area or coming home, we invite you to register and make St. George Catholic Church your parish. Registration forms can be obtained in the church vestibule, at the office or online ([www.stgeorgercc.org](http://www.stgeorgercc.org)).



*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent*

## MISSION STATEMENT:

*The Gospel calls all people to holiness of life. Saint George Catholic Church is a family of faith, committing ourselves as a welcoming Catholic community to worship God in Word and in Sacrament; to live and to share our faith; to serve and to reconcile ourselves with God and one another.*

## PARISH STAFF

Fr. Paul Nguyen, *Pastor*

Deacon Joel Carpenter, *Permanent Deacon*

Matthew Hendrick, *Parish Secretary*

Barbara Carpenter, *Business Manager &  
Director of Liturgy and Music*

Kimberley Browne, *Minister of Religious Education*

Rico Romero, *Facility Maintenance Supervisor*

## OFFICE HOURS

Mon., Wed., Fri. 10:00AM-2:00PM

Tues., Thur. 10:00AM-5:30PM

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Weekday Masses

Tuesday — Friday 9:00 AM

First Saturday 9:00 AM

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil — 5:00 PM

Sunday — 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

St. Francis Xavier Mission Chapel (St. George island)

Saturday 7:00 PM (May to September) \*

\* Memorial Day to Labor Day

Holy Day Masses — as announced

## OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Children's Sunday School (YFF) meets in the Community Center 9:30-10:45 AM. Contact Kim Browne for class enrollment and for more information: (301) 994-0737 or email: [kim.browne@stgeorgerc.org](mailto:kim.browne@stgeorgerc.org)

## REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

**Little Flower School** (*pre-K – 8<sup>th</sup> grades*)

For registration or information, please call LFS at (301) 994-0404 or visit us online [www.littleflowercatholic.org](http://www.littleflowercatholic.org)

## YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Group meet on Sundays 5:00-8:00PM in St. George Community Center. All teens grades 6 and up are invited and welcomed to attend our weekly meeting. For more information, please contact the church office (301) 994-0607 or contact one of our Youth Group Team Leaders (Kelly Carpenter, Omotayo Ojo, Chris De-Piazza) at [YouthGroup@stgeorgerc.org](mailto:YouthGroup@stgeorgerc.org)

## SACRAMENTS

### **BAPTISM:**

Arrangements must be made in advance with Deacon Joel Carpenter or Father Paul by at least one parent for children under the age of seven.

### **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION/EUCHARIST:**

Contact Mrs. Kimberley Browne for more information: [kim.browne@stgeorgerc.org](mailto:kim.browne@stgeorgerc.org)

### **RECONCILIATION/CONFESSION:**

Saturday 4:00-4:30PM, or by appointment  
First Friday during Eucharistic Adoration (10-10:30am)

### **ANOINTING OF THE SICK & HOLY EUCHARIST:**

Parishioners unable to attend Mass on the weekends or who are ill are encouraged to call the parish office to receive these Sacraments.

### **CONFIRMATION**

Confirmation is celebrated in the Fall and requires a 2-year preparation in our Sunday Youth Faith Formation.

### **MARRIAGE**

Couples should contact the parish office and priest to make arrangements as soon as possible, at least 6 months in advance of the wedding. Pre-Cana Classes or Engagement Encounter (Marriage Preparation) is required.

### **RCIA (Preparation for Easter Sacraments)**

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a process of inquiry and discernment for prospective converts to the Catholic faith who are above the age of infant baptism. Candidates are gradually introduced to aspects of Catholic beliefs and practices. Classes are held every Saturday at 10:00am-11:30am in St. George Community Center beginning in October and ends in May. For more information and registration, please contact Fr. Paul at the church office or email: [fr.paulnguyen@gmail.com](mailto:fr.paulnguyen@gmail.com)

## DEVOTIONS

**Holy Rosary:** After Daily Masses & Sat. 4:30 PM

**Divine Mercy Chaplet:** Fridays after Mass

**Eucharistic Adoration:** 1<sup>st</sup>Fri. & 1<sup>st</sup>Sat. 9:30-10:30 AM

## WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Tues	Dec.4	9:00 am	The Carroll Family (L)
Wed	Dec.5	9:00 am	Charles David Downes
Thu	Dec.6	9:00 am	Stacie Kendall Beynon
Fri	Dec.7	9:00 am	Melvin Cutchember
Fri.	Dec.7	7:00 pm	St. George Parishioners
Sat.	Dec.8	9:00 am	St. George Parishioners
Sat	Dec.8	5:00 pm	Brenda Hanson
Sun	Dec.9	8:30 am	Gertrude Britton
Sun	Dec.9	11:00 am	St. George Parishioners

## WEEKDAY LITURGICAL MINISTERS

**Daily Lector:** J. Blackwell, M. Goldsmith, C. Galli, J. Re

**Meals-on-wheels:** J/V Royston, K. Owens, M. Rymer,  
N. Jubeck

**Altar Preparation:** C. Galli

## LITURGICAL FEAST DAYS

Mon.	Dec.3	St. Francis Xavier
Tues.	Dec.4	St. John Damascene
Thurs.	Dec.6	St. Nicholas
Fri.	Dec.7	St. Ambrose
Sat.	Dec.8	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary



*Be vigilant at all times (Luke 21:36)*

## **REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS**

Please remember our parishioners who are sick, homebound and those in the nursing homes and hospitals, and all in need of our prayers, especially those who serve our country and their families, and all who are listed in our Parish Book of Intentions.





**PARISH CALENDAR**

- Sun. Dec. 2 KofC Pancake Breakfast **9am-CC**  
YFF **9:30am-CC**  
Youth Group Field Trip **2:30pm**  
Altar Server Training **3pm - C**
- Wed. Dec. 5 Cantor Practice **6:30pm – C**  
Choir Practice **7pm – C**
- Fri Dec. 7 Bible Study **10am-CC**  
Mass for the Immaculate Conception:  
**7pm –C (Holy Day of Obligation)**
- Sat Dec. 8 RCIA **10am-CC**  
Mass for the Immaculate Conception:  
**9am –C (Holy Day of Obligation)**
- Sun. Dec. 9 YFF **9:30am-CC**  
Apologetics **9:30am – CC**  
Christmas Pageant Practice **12pm - C**  
Altar Server Training **3pm - C**  
Youth Group **5pm-CC**

\*C: Church, CC: Community Center

**STEWARDSHIP – FINANCIAL BLESSINGS**

	11/25/2018	11/26/2017	
<b>General Collection</b>	\$2476.00	\$2865.30	-\$419.30
<b>E-Giving (Weekly)</b>	\$1017.00	\$1047.00	
Identifiable Gifts	104	119	-15
<b>Maintenance</b>	\$40.00	\$0.00	+\$40.00
<b>Poor Box</b>	\$172.00	\$223.00	-\$51.00
<b>Donations</b>	\$240.00	\$390.00	-\$150.00

*Thank you for your faithful Parish support.*

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection for **December. 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> will be for the Retired Religious.** The Retirement Fund for Religious (RFR) provides funding to any religious institute in the U.S. that is listed in the religious institute section of the OCD with an identifying OCD number, and that has an unfunded past service liability. It distributes direct care, planning and implementation assistance from the fund to religious institutes based on a formula and criteria approved by the conferences of major superiors and bishops. Annual appeal begun in 1988 and approved through 2017.

**Scriptural Reflection of a Faithful Steward**

*JER 33: 14-16; PS 25:4-5,8-9,10,14; 1THES 3:12-4:2; LK 21:25-28, 34-36*

We have arrived at the powerful season of Advent, a season to prepare with awe and wonder for the Feast of the Incarnation of Jesus — born to us as Savior and Brother. It is a season to prepare for His return at the end of time.

It is also a moment to remind ourselves that that our individual judgment day is coming, too, when we will be

called to give an account for all that God has given to us during our lifetimes. In other words, Advent is a steward’s season!

Our readings for the first week of Advent waste no time in calling our urgent attention to these themes of reflection and preparation. They seem to shout, “Wake up! Get ready!” and offer us some practical advice as we enter into this season.

The Gospel, from Luke, warns, “Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life.” How easy it is to lose focus on our Lord either by too much indulgence in our lives or by too much worry about our lives. Both extremes are easy to fall prey to. To avoid these traps we are told to “be vigilant” and “pray for strength to sustain us.”

During Advent, we Christian stewards must ask ourselves some hard questions. Am I staying faithful to my prayer life? Am I using my energy and skills to serve others? Am I overly concerned about material gain? Am I relying my “stuff” or my investments as my source of comfort or security? Am I living for the moment or for the coming of the Lord?

Our Second Reading, from Thessalonians, offers us a beautiful Advent prayer as we move through this season of reflection and preparation. Let us make it our prayer for each other: “May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all... so as to strengthen your hearts, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones. Amen.”



As we begin this season of Advent, our parish and others across the Archdiocese of Washington are encouraging our parishioners to help others to find the perfect gift of Jesus Christ. You can do this by inviting family, friends, neighbors, or coworkers who are not currently practicing their faith to join us for Mass and other experiences of parish community. To find resources, reflections, and parish Mass times across the region go to [FindthePerfectGift.org](http://FindthePerfectGift.org).

**Saturday, December 8 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.** Even though this is a Saturday this year, all Catholics in the United States are required to attend Mass because the US was dedicated to Our Lady under the title, Immaculate Conception.

**Masses @ St. George: Friday, Dec 7 – 7pm  
Saturday, Dec 8 – 9am**

**Save the Date!** Our parish Lessons & Carols takes place on Thursday, December 20 @ 7pm!

## NEWS IN OUR PARISH

### CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE & FOOD BASKETS

St. George Parish will again serve families who have applied to St. Mary's County Department of Human Services' Christmas Caring program. A tree with tags for gifts is in the front vestibule of the church today. Items needed for the food baskets are also there for your selection. When returning the gifts please make sure that the tags are **securely attached** to your wrapped gifts, and all returns made by **Sunday, December 16.**



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### FLOCK NOTE

We love having you as part of our flock! Let's keep in touch! This new tool we're using lets you choose what info you'd like to receive - via email or text message - from the various ministries and groups in our church. **We will be using this method to send you emails in order to protect you from scammers.**

There are 2 easy ways to connect (pick one):

1. Visit our church on-line at:  
flocknote.com/stgeorgeVL (Once you are here, you will create a password in order to join.)
2. Text STGRCC to 84576 from your phone to subscribe to updates.

(Text HELP to 84576 for help at any time. There is no charge for this service, but your carrier message and data rates may apply. View privacy policy & conditions at [www.flocknote.com/txt](http://www.flocknote.com/txt).)

There is also an 'app for that' for FREE!

On your smartphone, visit the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store and search for "Flocknote" to download and install. Sign in using the email address or phone number and password you signed up with.

Join groups to receive notifications specific to you!

You can join various groups within the parish, such as: Funeral Alerts, YFF Parents, etc.

WE WOULD LIKE EVERYONE TO JOIN THE ST. GEORGE PARISHIONERS GROUP!

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### THE WORD AMONG US!

The Word Among Us Books are available for spiritual reflection during Advent. Please take **two** copies with you today – one for yourself and one to share with someone else.

MANY THANKS!

On behalf of Fr. Paul and the entire St. George Parish Family, we extend a sincere thank-you to all our volunteers! At this time, we wish to thank those who helped with our Stuffed Ham preparation, especially the Bowes and Adams families for leading this huge endeavor. Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, over 540 pounds of ham were ordered!

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### FOOD DONATIONS

A Big "Thank You" to our parish from the St. Vincent de Paul of Immaculate Heart of Mary food pantry for the donations in October which totaled 28.7 pounds

## OUR PARISH FAITH FORMATION

### YOUTH FAITH FORMATION (YFF) GRADES K-8

Registration for the 2018-2019 year is ongoing.

Please contact Mrs. Kim Browne,  
[kim.browne@stgeorgegcc.org](mailto:kim.browne@stgeorgegcc.org)

### Adult Faith Formation

#### APOLOGETICS:

**9:30-10:45AM in the Community Center**

**Sun. Dec.9<sup>th</sup>:** Defending the Incarnation

**Sun. Dec.16<sup>th</sup>:** Is the Nativity Story Historically Accurate?

#### BIBLE STUDY

**Fri. Dec.7<sup>th</sup>, 10-11:30am in Community Center.**

Topic: "Exposing the Mask" Looking at Relativism, not just so that we can cope with sin and suffering, but we can use Moral Relativism to show people God's Love and Compassion.

**Sun. Jan20<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-10:45am in Community Center.**

Topic: "St. Charles Borromeo: The Good Shepherd"  
Looking at His example of choosing the life of service to his Flock.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

**Youth Group WILL NOT meet today at 5pm, as they are attending a play at 2:30pm. 5pm meetings will resume next Sunday.**

## REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

### LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL

**Bingo** every Wednesday, doors open at **5:30 pm**; early bird special starts at **6:45pm**. Cash prizes! Food and drink are also for sale.

**Are you on social media?** Don't forget to "like" us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/littleflowercatholic](http://www.facebook.com/littleflowercatholic)) and "follow" us on Twitter and Instagram (@LFS patriots)!

**Interested in learning more about Little Flower School?** Call (301)994-0404 or ([LFSoffice@littleflowercatholic.org](mailto:LFSoffice@littleflowercatholic.org)).

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS****Fr. Sebastien De Rose Council # 13091**

*Grand Knight: Christopher A. Wilcox*  
CWILCOX@MD.METROCAST.NET

**Upcoming Events:**

**Dec. 18th** Planning Meeting at 6:30PM at St. George/KOC  
Family Christmas Party 6:30PM

**Dec.25th** Christmas (No Planning Meeting)

**Dec.28th** Put up Crosses for Cemetery of the  
Innocence's/Seminarian Dinner w/ Vincent Vu

**Dec.30<sup>th</sup>** - 5<sup>th</sup> -Sunday Rosary at **10:30AM** at St George

**CATHOLIC TEACHINGS****“Holy Days of Obligation**

Catholics are obligated to go to Mass every Sunday. The Catechism of the Catholic Church in paragraph 2181 explains why. “The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice.” As Catholics, we believe that the Mass is the highest form of prayer and worship. Over and above this, Catholics must also attend Mass on Holy Days of Obligation. As the name implies, going to Mass on these days is not optional. The Catechism expounds on this. “For this reason the faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation, unless excused for a serious reason (for example illness, the care of infants) or dispensed by their own pastor. Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin.” In the United States, there are six Holy Days of Obligation – Christmas, New Year’s Day, Assumption, Immaculate Conception, All Saints and Ascension. Ascension is traditionally on Thursday, forty days after Easter. However, many dioceses in the U.S. have transferred the feast to the following Sunday. If you’re not sure whether Ascension Thursday is a Holy Day of Obligation for you, check your parish bulletin or with your diocese. The Orthodox and Eastern Churches have additional Holy Days of Obligation. Even within the Latin Church, these can be different in different locales. For instance, the city of Rome has thirteen Holy Days of Obligation. Rather than look at “obligation” as a negative, we should celebrate these feast days with great joy! Another day to go and receive Jesus in the Eucharist! For further study: CCC 2181-2182” [*Masses for the upcoming Holy Day of Obligation (Immaculate Conception) are Friday, Dec 7 at 7pm & Saturday, Dec 8 at 9am*]

*Excerpt from “A Minute in the Church: Life in Christ” by Gus Lloyd. This book and three other books with one-minute teachings about Catholic life and liturgy may be found in our bookrack in the vestibule.*

**NEWS IN OUR AREA**

Mon.Dec.10<sup>th</sup> American Red Cross **Blood Drive** from 1:30-7pm at the 2<sup>nd</sup> District Firehouse, Contact 800-REDCROSS for more information or to make an appointment.

Tues.Dec.25th St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Aloysius Church. **15th Annual Community Christian Christmas Dinner** at Father Andrew White School in Leonardtown. Dinner is 2-5pm in the School Hall. Please make your delivery reservations or volunteer intentions for Christmas Day on later than Tuesday Dec. 18th. If you have questions, wish to provide information for deliveries, or sign up to volunteer, please contact Regina at SVdP (301-481-2942) or by emailing at svdp@saintaloyuschurch.org.

**BEAR HUGS FOR HEALING** is a program that delivers stuffed bears to hospitalized children during the holidays. **To give a sick child a bear hug this Christmas, please drop off your donated bears by Thursday, December 6 at Heavenly Presents, 22697 Washington Street (on the Square), Leonardtown, Maryland.** Store hours are Tuesday through Saturday, or use the after-hours drop box outside the store front door.

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT THE NATIONAL SHRINE**

**Friday, December 7**, the Choir of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, in conjunction with the Chorus and Symphony Orchestra of The Catholic University of America, will present their Annual Christmas Concert for Charity. This festive concert of beautiful Christmas music is free and open to the public. The concert begins at 7:30pm and seats fill up quickly. No tickets or reservations are required; arrive early for seating. For more information please visit [www.nationalshrine.org](http://www.nationalshrine.org) or call 202-526-8300.

**VIGIL OF THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE**

**Tuesday, December 11 at 6:30pm**, the Saint John Paul II National Shrine will celebrate Vigil of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The principal celebrant and homilist of the 7pm bilingual Mass is Bishop Mario Dorsonville. A prelude serenade to Our Lady by Jorge Zurita will begin at 6:30pm. For more information, contact 202-635-5400 or [events@jp2shrine.org](mailto:events@jp2shrine.org). Find on Facebook by searching for "Vigil of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe."

**ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS**

**Sunday, December 16 from 4-6pm**, the Saint John Paul II National Shrine will hold an Advent concert with reflections on the Nativity story followed by caroling around the Christmas tree. For more information, contact 202-635-5400 or [events@jp2shrine.org](mailto:events@jp2shrine.org).