

# ST. GEORGE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Phone: 301-994-0607  
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Website: [www.StGeorgeRCC.org](http://www.StGeorgeRCC.org)  
Email: [secretary@stgeorgerc.org](mailto:secretary@stgeorgerc.org)

## Third Sunday of Advent

### WELCOME STATEMENT

*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.stgeorgerc.org](http://www.stgeorgerc.org))*



### 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 INFORMATION

### PARISH STAFF

**Fr. Paul Nguyen, Pastor**

**Deacon Joel Carpenter, Permanent Deacon**

**Kimberley Browne, Minister of Religious Education**

**Barbara Carpenter, Business Manager**

*Director of Liturgy and Music*

**Divine Stachowski, Secretary**

**Rico Romero, Facility Maintenance Supervisor**

### OFFICE HOURS

**Tuesday – Friday: 10:00AM-2:00PM**

**Closed on Mondays**

### LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Weekday Masses

**Tuesday — Friday: 9:00 a.m.**

**First Saturday: 9:00 a.m.**

Weekend Masses

**Saturday Anticipatory Mass: 5:00 p.m.**

**Sunday: 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**

St. Francis Xavier Mission Chapel (St. George's Island):

**Saturday 7:00 PM (Memorial Day - Labor Day)**

Holy Day Masses: **9:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.**

-----or as announced-----

**OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Youth Faith Formation (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@stgeorgerrc.org](mailto:kim.browne@stgeorgerrc.org)

**RCIA (Preparation for Easter Sacraments)**

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

**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 meets on Sundays, 5:00-8:00PM in St. George Community Center. All teens grade 6 and up are invited and welcome 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 (Maddie Mushrush, Omotayo Ojo and Darren Rogers) at [YouthGroup@stgeorgerrc.org](mailto:YouthGroup@stgeorgerrc.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@stgeorgerrc.org](mailto:kim.browne@stgeorgerrc.org)

**CONFIRMATION**

Confirmation is celebrated in the Fall and requires a 2-year preparation in our Sunday Youth Faith Formation. Contact Mrs. Kimberley Browne for more information: [kim.browne@stgeorgerrc.org](mailto:kim.browne@stgeorgerrc.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.

**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 Prep.) is required.

**DEVOTIONS**

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

**Divine Mercy Chaplet:** Fridays after Daily Mass

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

**WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS**

**Tue December 17 9:00 am Thanksgiving**  
**Wed December 18 9:00 am John Re**  
**Thu December 19 9:00 am Alvin Fenwick**  
**Fri December 20 9:00 am Tom Buckler**  
**Sat December 21 5:00 pm Jack Hodges**  
**Sun December 22 8:30 am John Re**  
**Sun December 22 11:00 am Paul Blackwell**

**WEEKDAY LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

**Daily Lector:** J. Blackwell, M. Goldsmith, C. Galli, J. Blackwell  
**Meals on Wheels:** P. Bowes & M. A. Goddard, V. Worch, J. & J. Lenderman

**Altar Preparation:** Kitten Britton

**LITURGICAL FEAST DAYS**

**Sat, Dec. 14: St. Peter Canisius**

**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. 15      YFF (CC) 9:30am  
                         Pageant Practice (CC) 12pm-1pm  
                         VASMA Language Class in Annex (CC) 12pm  
                         Youth Group (CC) 5pm

Wed, Dec. 18      Lessons & Carol Rehearsal (C) 7pm

Fri, Dec. 20      Bible Study (CC) 10am  
                         Lessons & Carols (C) 7pm

*\*C: Church, CC: Community Center*

**Scriptural Reflection of a Faithful Steward**

IS 35:1-6A, 10; PS146:6-10; JAS 5:7-10; MT 11:2-11

Good news, Christian stewards — we are gaining ground on our Advent mountain climb and it is time to take a moment to rejoice in the Good News that our Savior will come again in triumph one day. Today’s readings on this Gaudete (“Rejoice”) Sunday are filled with reminders of God’s final victory over suffering and injustice, and encouragement to remain steadfast in our mission to live as faith-filled disciples.

Our first reading from the prophet Isaiah seems to shout out good cheer as he paints a picture of what the long-awaited Savior will usher in: “the eyes of the blind will be opened, the ears of the deaf will be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag... the tongue of the mute will sing. Those whom the Lord has ransomed (that’s us!) will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; they will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee.”

Such a day almost seems too good to be true, especially when we look around at the dire circumstances we face in our world at present. But by faith we know this day is coming. Lest we grow weary as we await the glorious day of Christ’s return, St. James, in our second reading, offers wise counsel. “Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord... Make your hearts firm... Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another, that you may not be judged.”

This is excellent advice for us Christian stewards as we face the challenges of everyday life in our broken world, especially in the hectic days that precede Christmas, when stress can make us and those around us less than our best selves. St. James reminds us that we can choose our response to both the great strains and the minor annoyances of life.

In other words, we can be good stewards of our attitude, “making our hearts firm” by practicing patience with others and refusing to give in to the temptation to complain. We can choose to see and rejoice in God’s presence with us, no matter the circumstances surrounding us.

Our Gospel passage, from Matthew, connects the prophecy of Isaiah to the arrival of Jesus, almost word for word. In this passage we find the imprisoned John the Baptist sending his disciples to ask Jesus if he is indeed the long-awaited Messiah. Jesus’ reply is almost identical the Isaiah’s prophetic words. He says, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, and the dead are raised...” The Savior really has arrived just as promised! Yet that arrival

was 700 years after Isaiah’s prediction. God always fulfills his promises, but patience and firmness of heart are required as we await his perfect timing.

As John’s disciples go off to report this wonderful news, Jesus has high praise for John. “Among those born of women, there has been none greater.” Yet, Jesus adds, “The least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.” Honorable as it was for John the Baptist to serve as the one who would announce the Savior’s arrival, it is a much greater privilege to attain membership in His kingdom.

Let us rejoice in the knowledge that God has called us to enter this kingdom. Let us keep our hearts firmly fixed on this eternal goal and strive with all our might to give God and others the very best of ourselves in gratitude for such a privilege.

**STEWARDSHIP FINANCIAL REPORT**

	12/8/2019 (Week 23 of FY)	YTD Actual:	YTD Budget:
Offertory:	\$3,139.03	\$105,425.03	\$115,000.00
**E-Giving	----		
Maintenance:	\$225.00	\$15,647.00	\$14,168.00
**E-Giving	----		
Poor Box:	\$146.52	\$4,556.39	\$4,876.00
**E-Giving	----		
Donations:	\$575.00	\$19,583.00	\$25,208.00
**E-Giving	----		
Retired Relig:	\$1,217.00	\$1,217.00	N/A
**E-Giving	----		
<i>**E-Giving will be reported after it is received by the parish, typically the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> weeks of the month.</i>			

*Thank you for your faithful Parish support.*

**CATHOLIC TEACHINGS**

**“The Virtues:**

What is a virtue? And what does it take to be a virtuous person? The Catechism of the Catholic Church says this: “A virtue is a habitual and firm disposition to do the good. It allows the person not only to perform good acts, but to give the best of himself. The virtuous person tends toward the good with all his sensory and spiritual powers; he pursues the good and chooses it in concrete actions.” (CCC 1803) Being virtuous does not happen by accident and does not “come naturally.” It is something that must be worked at. The Catechism states: “The moral virtues are acquired by human effort. They are the fruit and seed of morally good acts; they dispose all the powers of the human being for communion with divine love.” (CCC 1804) In other words, to practice virtue, one must practice being virtuous! Here’s one way to look at it. Say a man accidentally drops a \$20 bill

without knowing it. A bad person will grab the money and walk away, not giving it a second thought. (Finders, keepers!) A good person will pick up the bill, struggle with the decision about whether to keep it or give it back and will eventually return it to its rightful owner. The virtuous person will pick up the bill and immediately return it, without giving it a second thought. As the Catechism says, "The virtuous man is he who freely practices the good." (CCC 1804) There are four virtues that "play a pivotal role and accordingly are called 'cardinal'; all the others are grouped around them. They are: prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance." (CCC 1805) All "human virtues are rooted in the theological virtues...for the theological virtues relate directly to God. For further study: CCC 1803-1845" – *Quoted from A Minute in the Church: Back to the Basics by Gus Lloyd.*

## LITURGICAL NEWS

### Christmas Mass Schedule

Tuesday, December 24: **4:00 pm** Vigil Mass  
(Christmas Pageant begins at 3:50pm)

Tuesday, December 24: **9:00 pm** Mass in the Night

Wednesday, December 25: **10:00 am** Mass during the Day


### Masses for the Solemnity of Mary

Tuesday, December 31: **5:00 pm** vigil Mass

Wednesday, January 1: **10:00 am**

### Advent Spiritual Helps

Each year, the parish provides some helps for your spiritual Advent journey to Christmas. Free booklets to assist you are available in the vestibule. Please also watch your email for Flocknotes and visit our Facebook page for some videos from Dynamic Catholic.

 Please join Father Paul, our parish lectors, musicians and some special guest musicians on Friday, December 20 at 7pm for a liturgy of prayer, scripture and music. A reception will follow this Advent liturgy in the vestibule.

## Lessons & CAROLS

## PARISH NEWS



### ADVENT GIVING TREE

Gifts and Food donations are due today! If you have forgotten your gift/food, please bring it to the Community

Center by 1:30pm today!

## FAITH FORMATION

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

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

*Classes begin at 9:30am on Sundays for all grades!*

Practices for our Children's pageant, to be presented before the 4pm Mass on Christmas Eve will be as follows: Sunday, December 8 – 12pm, Sunday, December 15 – 12pm, Sunday, December 22 – 12pm

Sunday, December 15: Annual Cookie Sale by our YFF students. Proceeds benefit our parish Giving Tree.

### BIBLE STUDIES

Fridays, 9:30am (1<sup>st</sup> Fridays start at 10:45am)

Sundays, 9:45am

Both groups are studying The Gospel of Mark

## 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 check out the information online ([LFSoffice@littleflowercatholic.org](mailto:LFSoffice@littleflowercatholic.org)).

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS**

**December 17, 2019:** KoC Christmas Party 6:30pm in the Annex

**December 29, 2019:** Fifth Sunday Rosary 10:30am

**LOCAL EVENTS**

**Christmas Cantata and Sing-Along**

Come celebrate the Christmas Season with St. Mary's Bryantown and St. Mary's Newport! On **Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>** at St. Mary's Bryantown School Hall starting at 3:00pm. St. Mary's Bryantown's and Newport musicians will present a Christmas Cantata and Sing-Along. We extend this invitation to your church community, and invite you to join us in the beauty of this holy season. Bring your family! Dessert will be provided in our church hall immediately following the cantata.

**Apologetics Classes**

Apologetics class is being held in the **St. Aloysius parish hall** with Ken Scheiber **on Monday nights at 7pm**

Upcoming Topics

- Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> ..... Is the Nativity Story Historically Accurate?
- Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> ..... Defending the Jesuit Missions to India
- Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> ..... Spanish Inquisition: Fact and Fiction

**Buffalo Wild Wings Fundraiser**

**Present date to 20<sup>th</sup> of December 2019**, Fundraiser at Buffalo Wild Wings located at 46370 Lexington Village Way, Lexington Park, MD; Anytime during hours of operation.; 10% of bill goes to 2<sup>nd</sup> District Volunteer Fire & Rescue Squad; (TEAMMATE Card must be shown to waiter to receive 10% of bill for fundraiser. Call Robin for more info at 301-737-4366 (H) or 240-577-0270(C).

**OTHER EVENTS IN OUR ARCHDIOCESE**

**The Sunday TV Mass**

Do you know someone who can't get to Mass? Since 1952, the Archdiocese of Washington has produced a weekly televised Mass for those who are homebound, broadcast from the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

The Mass airs every **Sunday at 10:30am** on WDCW-50: No cable; Dish or DIRECTV subscribers: Ch. 50, Comcast: Ch. 23 in Washington, DC and Montgomery County; Ch. 3 in Prince George's County and Southern Maryland, RCN: Ch. 15, Verizon: Ch. 3.

**Men's Retreat February 7-9, 2020: "Life in Christ: The Gift of the Sacraments"**

The Office for Family Life is hosting a Men's Retreat February 7 - 9. Join men from around the Archdiocese of

Washington for a weekend retreat directed by Fr. Dave Wells and Msgr. Robert Panke. Are you living the graces of a fully sacramental Life? What does it mean to live out our baptism, to live a Eucharistic life and to access the grace of the sacrament of reconciliation in our daily lives and relationships? This retreat will help you to reflect on the importance of our sacraments and to reconnect with the most important relationship in your life - your relationship with Christ. The retreat will be held at Priestfield Pastoral Center in Kearneysville, WV. To register go to the following link: <https://2020adwmensretreat.eventbrite.com> or for more information call the Office for Family Life at 301-853-4499.

**Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Christmas Dinner**

As in past years, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception will provide meals for hundreds of poor, homeless, elderly and needy individuals living the District of Columbia and surrounding areas on Christmas Day. If you know of individuals who cannot get out and would like a Christmas dinner delivered to their home on Christmas Day, please contact the Basilica of the National Shrine by close business on Friday, December 20, 2019. Please include name, address with apartment number, city, state, SIP CODE and telephone numbers. You can fax requests for meals to be delivered to (202) 526-8313, Attention: Christmas Dinner or email your requests to [eak@bnsic.org](mailto:eak@bnsic.org). Volunteers are always needed to fill many different positions. Those interested in signing up should visit [www.nationalshrine.com/christmasdinner](http://www.nationalshrine.com/christmasdinner).

**Silent Advent Retreat Weekends for Men and Women**

*Experience His Presence in Silence!* Find solace this Advent Season by escaping from the hectic, noisy world and experiencing a personal encounter with the Christ Child. These retreats touch on so many important aspects of the spiritual life. **For Men: Dec 20- Dec 22. For Women: Dec 6-8, 2019.** Cost is \$250 per person. Registration is required. Find more retreats and links to register on our website [www.ourladyofbethesda.org](http://www.ourladyofbethesda.org). Our lady of Bethesda Retreat Center, 7007 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817

**Three to get Married Marriage Preparation Weekend**

Upcoming weekends: Jan. 23-26, Feb. 20-23, Mar. 12-15. Are you Ready?! You're not just planning a wedding; you're preparing for a lifetime! Our marriage preparation course is an intensive preparation experience true to the teachings of the Catholic Church. Convenient one-weekend schedule. FOCCUS Inventory included and we are a partner of the Witness to Love Program! Registration required. Find more information on our website [www.ourladyofbethesda.org](http://www.ourladyofbethesda.org) or call 301-365-0612. These weekends fill up quickly, so reserve your spot today! Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center, 7007 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817