

# 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@stgeorgerrcc.org](mailto:secretary@stgeorgerrcc.org)

## First 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.stgeorgerrcc.org](http://www.stgeorgerrcc.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@stgeorgerrcc.org](mailto:kim.browne@stgeorgerrcc.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@stgeorgerrcc.com](mailto:fr.paulnguyen@stgeorgerrcc.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@stgeorgerrcc.org](mailto:YouthGroup@stgeorgerrcc.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@stgeorgerrcc.org](mailto:kim.browne@stgeorgerrcc.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@stgeorgerrcc.org](mailto:kim.browne@stgeorgerrcc.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**

<b>Tue</b>	<b>December 3</b>	<b>9:00 am Michael Roberston</b>
<b>Wed</b>	<b>December 4</b>	<b>9:00 am John Re</b>
<b>Thu</b>	<b>December 5</b>	<b>9:00 am Wesley Grider</b>
<b>Fri</b>	<b>December 6</b>	<b>9:00 am Alejandrew Grider</b>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>December 7</b>	<b>9:00 am</b> Vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate & Religious Life
<b>Sat</b>	<b>December 7</b>	<b>5:00pm St. George Parishioners</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>December 8</b>	<b>8:30am Gertrude Britton</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>December 8</b>	<b>11:00am David Shoulten</b>

**WEEKDAY LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

Daily Lector: J. Blackwell, M. Goldsmith, C. Galli, Volunteer, M. Goldsmith

Meals on Wheels: J. & V. Roytson, W. & B. Walker, S. & M. DeMoss-Coward

Altar Preparation: Linda Dean

**LITURGICAL FEAST DAYS**

**Tue, Dec. 3: ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, PRIEST**

**Wed, Dec. 4: St. John Damascene**

**Fri, Dec. 6: St. Nicolas, First Friday of the Month**

**Sat, Dec. 7: ST. AMBROSE BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH**

**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. 1	KoC Breakfast (CC) 9am-10:30am
Tue, Dec. 3	KoC Council Meeting (CC) 6:30pm KoC Admissions Degree (CC) 7:30pm
Wed, Dec. 4	Cantor Practice (C) 6:30pm Choir Practice (C) 7pm
Fri, Dec. 6	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday Mass and Holy Hour: 9am Bible Study (CC) 10:45am
Sat, Dec 7	1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday Mass and Holy Hour: 9am

\*C: Church, CC: Community Center



**Scriptural Reflection of a Faithful Steward***IS 2:1-5; PS 122:1-9; ROM 13: 11-14; MT 24:37-44*

Today begins the beautiful season of Advent. It is a season meant for preparation. For what exactly are we preparing? Two things, actually: the celebration of our Savior's birth and the anticipation of His second coming. These are weighty tasks that have eternal consequences. So, let us Christian stewards make the words of the Prophet Isaiah our motto for the season: "Come, let us climb the Lord's mountain to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may instruct us in his ways and we may walk in his paths."

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, it seems everywhere we turn, we are pushed to spend more, do more, entertain more, and generally rush around at a frantic pace — all to create a "perfect" Christmas day. In contrast to this worldly pressure, the Church's guidance to use these weeks as a time to focus on our spiritual lives can indeed seem like a mountain-climb.

But the intentional and wise use of the gift of time is exactly what the Christian steward is called to do, and with even greater intensity during Advent.

St. Paul makes this so clear in his letter to the Romans, our second reading today. He instructs, "It is the hour now for you to awake from sleep." And, what should we do once awake? We must become like Christ. St. Paul puts it this way: "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the flesh."

Our Lord Himself gives us several powerful images to fix in our minds as we travel through the Advent season.

First, He calls to mind for us the image of Noah preparing the ark in the days before the flood. While Noah used his time (and talents) to follow God's instructions in preparation for the coming flood, everyone else around him was "living it up." This is exactly what it can feel like for us as we attempt to focus our time on spiritual matters in the days leading up to Christmas! But when the flood came, those unprepared were carried away by the water while Noah endured unharmed. Jesus warns that this is how it will be at His second coming.

To further illustrate the suddenness with which He will return, Jesus describes it as two men out in a field. One man gets taken while the other is spared. He also describes it as two women grinding at a mill, one taken, the other spared. Then he describes His return as a thief in the night, certainly the image of a sudden and unexpected event. "Therefore, stay awake!" He implores, adding, "So, too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

How can we Christian stewards prepare ourselves and our families for a holy celebration of Jesus' birth on Dec. 25 and for His certain second coming at a date we do not know? We can push back against the world's pressure to have the

"perfect Christmas." Scale back on the material kind of gift-giving, the complicated menus, the unessential trappings of the season so that we have more time for the spiritual preparations: Confession, weekday Mass, adoration, family prayer time, lighting the Advent wreath, performing acts of kindness.

It may feel like a mountain climb, but in the end we will be prepared to celebrate a truly meaningful Christmas, we will have become more like our Savior, and we will be ready for Him to come again. Let's go climb the Lord's mountain!

**STEWARDSHIP FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Financial report not available due to bulletin printing deadlines.**

*Thank you for your faithful Parish support.*



St. George is participating in Giving Tuesday this year! If you participate in this annual fundraising effort, we respectfully ask you to consider "Giving Catholic!"

**Second Collection Next Weekend:  
Retirement Fund for Religious**

For Sisters Florence and de Lourdes and 30,000 other senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who benefit from the Retirement Fund for Religious-service is a way of life. Most ministered in Catholic schools, hospitals, parishes, and social service agencies, usually for little or no pay. Today, hundreds of religious communities lack adequate savings for retirement and eldercare. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious offers vital support for necessities, such as medications and nursing care. Please be generous.

**CATHOLIC TEACHINGS*****"The Fourth Precept:***

*You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.*

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, "The fourth precept ensures the times of asceticism and penance which prepares us for the liturgical feasts and helps us acquire mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart." (CCC 2043) In our instant gratification culture, fasting seems a very foreign

concept. Yet fasting is very clearly taught by Jesus. In Matthew 6:16-18, Jesus tells His disciples, "When you fast..." and tells them not to be showy about it. And in Luke 9:23, Jesus says, "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." Fasting is simply part of the practice of self-denial about which Jesus spoke. As the Catechism says, fasting "helps us acquire mastery over our instincts." For Catholics, there are only two days each year where fasting is required: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. All Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are bound to observe the fast. On fast days, one full meatless meal may be taken, and two other smaller meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength according to one's needs. Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics over 14 years of age on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays during Lent, including Good Friday. Finally, fasting and abstinence are meant to bring our hearts and minds closer to God. When we feel those pangs of hunger, we turn to God in prayer and ask for the strength to carry on, and are reminded of the hunger in our heart which can only be filled by Christ. For further study: CCC 2043, 538-540, 1434, 1438, Matthew 6:16-18 • Luke 9:23" — *Quoted from A Minute in the Church: Back to the Basics by Gus Lloyd.*

## LITURGICAL NEWS

### Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception – not a Holyday of Obligation in 2019

This year, the First Sunday of Advent falls on December 8, 2019. Because the First Sunday of Advent takes precedence over the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the Solemnity is transferred to Monday, December 9. Because of this, the Solemnity is not a Holyday of Obligation this year.

### 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 from some videos from Dynamic Catholic.

## PARISH NEWS



### ADVENT GIVING TREE

St. George Parish will again provide for 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 **must** made by Sunday, December 15. Please do not take a tag if you cannot return it by this date.

## 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

**Pancake Breakfast:** Sunday, December 1, 9:00am-10:30am

**Council Meeting:** Tuesday, December 3, 6:30pm-7:30pm

**Admissions Degree:** Tuesday, December 3, 7:30pm-9:00pm

The Knights of Columbus would like to thank St. George parishioners for their generous support during the annual Car Raffle. Proceeds of the raffle fund scholarships and charities. Winners of the 2019 Car Raffle drawn on Saturday 12 October are:

**First Prize** – 2020 Ford Mustang or \$18,000 Cash Option

Name: Frank J. Cisneros

Ticket sold by John Jakob Raskob Council, #14189, Centreville.

**Second Prize** – Apple iPad

Name: Tom Jacoboni, Sr.

Ticket sold by St. Vincent Pallotti Council, #14535, Baltimore.

**Third Prize** – \$200 Gift Card

Name: Katy Stanfill

Ticket sold by St. Francis of Assisi Council, #12524, Fulton.

## LOCAL EVENTS

### Apologetics Classes

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

#### Upcoming Topics

Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> ..... Is it Reasonable to Believe in God?  
 Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> ..... Are We Living in the Ends of Times?  
 Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> ..... Is the Nativity Story Historically Accurate?

### Special Needs Mass

All are welcome to attend the Special Needs Mass "Celebrating Our Gifts" on **Saturday, December 7, 2019** at the 5:00PM Vigil Mass at Saint Aloysius Catholic Church in Leonardtown. Our young adults participate in a weekly prayer group at Heavenly Presents named: Friends of Faith. Our Friends of Faith will be using their gifts as lectors, greeters, altar servers, cantors, gift bearers and will be singing in the choir. Please join us this Advent as we prepare the way of the Lord. Any questions contact: Liz Tomaszeski ([liz.tomaszeski@gmail.com](mailto:liz.tomaszeski@gmail.com))

## OTHER EVENTS IN OUR ARCHDIOCESE

### 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.

### Loyola on the Potomac-Saintly Tea

Sunday, December 15th

3:00 to 5:00 pm

Tea will include delicious assorted hors d'oeuvres, finger sandwiches and desserts.

Door Prizes

\$25.00 per person.

Contact Alice Case at (301) 392-0819

### 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. 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).