

ST. GEORGE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Phone: 301-994-0607

Website: www.StGeorgeRCC.org

Fax: 301-994-1793 Email: secretary@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.

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 the poor, the vulnerable, and those in need; and to reconcile ourselves with God and one another.

Solemnity of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



“God sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority he confirms over her sons. Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and preserves himself from them.”

Sirach 3:2

PARISH STAFF

Fr. Paul Nguyen, *Pastor*

Deacon Joel Carpenter, *Parish Deacon*

Mrs. Kimberley Browne, *Minister of Religious Education*

Mrs. Barbara Carpenter, *Business Manager &*

Director of Liturgy and Music

Mrs. Divine Stachowski, *Parish Secretary*

Mr. Rico Romero, *Facility Maintenance Supervisor*

OFFICE HOURS

Tues--Fri. 10:00AM-2:00PM, *Closed on Mondays*

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 (on St. George island)

Saturday 7:00 PM (May to September) *

** Memorial Day to Labor Day*

Holy Day Masses — **9am & 7pm...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@stgeorgerc.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. Classes are held Saturdays 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@stgeorgerc.com

REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL: LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL (pre-K – 8th grades)

For registration or information, please call LFS at (301) 994-0404 or visit us online 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@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

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@stgeorgerc.org

RECONCILIATION/CONFESSION:

Saturday 4:00-4:30PM, or by appointment. And 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: 1st Fri. & Sat. 9:30-10:30am

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Tue	December 31	5:00 pm	Bill Goddard
Wed	January 1	10:00 am	John Springer
Thu	January 2	9:00 am	Tom Buckler
Fri	January 3	9:00 am	John Re
Sat	January 4	9:00 am	Vocations
Sat	January 4	5:00 pm	Warren Wince
Sun	January 5	8:30 am	Parishioners
		11:00 am	John Re

Liturgical Feast Days

Mon. Dec. 30 – **6th day** within **Christmas Octave**
Tue, Dec. 31 – **7th day** within **Christmas Octave**
Wed, Jan. 1 – **Mary, Mother of God** (*holy day of obligation and Octave of Christmas*)
Thu, Jan. 2 – **Sts. Basil and Gregory Nazianen,**
Bishops and Doctors of the Church
Fri, Jan. 3 – **The Most Holy Name of Jesus**
Sat, Jan. 4 – **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton,** *religious*

WEEKDAY LITURGICAL MINISTERS

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

Meals on Wheels: M. A. Rymer & N. J. Jubeck

Altar Preparation: Linda Dean



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. 29	KofC Fifth Sunday Rosary @ 10:30am
Mon	Dec. 30	Office Closed
Tue	Dec. 31	Office Closed (Solemnity of Mary Vigil Mass: 5pm)
Wed	Jan. 1	Office Closed (Solemnity of Mary Vigil Mass: 10am)
Thu	Jan. 2	Normal office hours resume
Fri	Jan. 3	1 st Friday Mass & Holy Hour Bible Study 10:45am

*C: Church, CC: Community Center

A REFLECTION FROM A FAITHFUL STEWARD

SIR 3:2-6, 12-14; PS 128: 1-5; COL 3:12-21 or COL 3:12-17; MT 2:13-15; 19-23

Today, as we continue our celebration of the Christmas season, we focus our attention in a special way on the Holy Family. This is a great time thank God for the gift of family life. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* refers to the family as the “domestic church,” so today’s feast is also a fitting time to consider the importance of the virtue of hospitality — a fundamental aspect of the stewardship way of life — within the context of our domestic churches.

Why is hospitality so important to a stewardship way of life, beginning with family life? Well, we can hardly expect our family members to pray together, study their faith, and serve others if we have a home where we are disconnected from each other or the atmosphere is stressful and tense. Of course there will be moments like this. But we must be intentional in creating homes where everyone feels cherished, accepted and important. We want our homes to be the place where we can get recharged and filled up to go out and bring love to everyone we encounter outside our home.

Today’s first and second reading are full of practical wisdom on how to create an atmosphere of true hospitality within our homes.

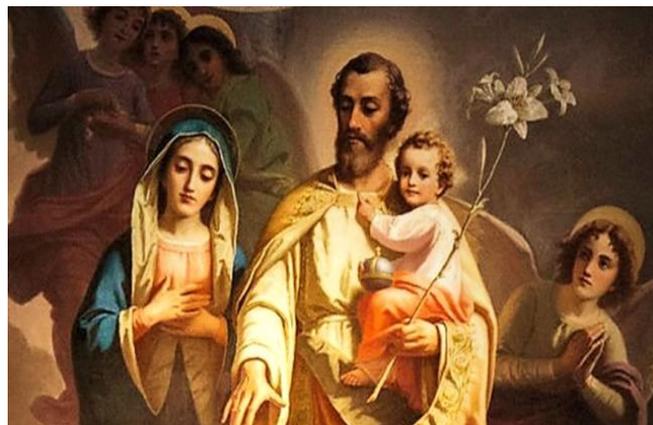
Our first reading, from the Book of Sirach, speaks of the of the blessings that will come when children give honor to their parents — both young children who respect the authority of their mothers and fathers, and adult children who lovingly care for older parents. These are the actions and attitudes that create an atmosphere of respect, tenderness and unity in the family, all key elements of hospitality.

Our second reading, from St. Paul’s letter to the Colossians, gives still more specific instructions on fostering hospitality within our homes. Paul reminds us of our great dignity as “God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved.” This applies to every member of the family, from youngest to oldest and all those in-between. In the daily drudge of family life, it is important to remember that each one of us is cherished by God. We are not just fathers, mothers, children, grandparents; we are all also brothers and sisters in Christ.

Paul’s instruction to “put on” compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and forbearance towards each other is the best possible formula for family hospitality. Paul is reminding us that (especially in the messiness of family life) we won’t always feel the feelings of compassion, kindness, and so forth. What can we do? We can “put them on” — we can act in ways that a compassionate, kind, humble person would act. This will create a transformative atmosphere of hospitality within the home that will spill out in the family’s interactions with those outside the home. Of course this is not easy to do.

But we can turn to the Holy Family for help. Lest we think that the Holy Family is somehow unable to sympathize with our struggles, we see in our Gospel passage from Matthew that this Family was certainly not free from trials and stress; quite the contrary. The very life of the newborn Jesus was threatened by Herod’s extreme jealousy such that the family had to flee suddenly into a foreign land for protection until Herod’s death. Yet Mary and Joseph remained united and ever obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit for direction. Who better to turn to for help and inspiration for our own families?

Happy feast day to all families living a stewardship way of life.



FINANCIAL REPORT

Due to print deadlines, there are no
Financial Report at this time

**Second Collection next weekend for the
Archdiocese of Military Service
Thank you for your generous support!**

CATHOLIC TEACHINGS

“The Theological Virtues: Faith Hope Charity”

Hope

Dictionary.com defines hope as “the feeling that what is wanted can be had or that events will turn out for the best.” In the context of the Christian life, the Catechism of the Catholic Church says this: “Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ’s promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit.” (CCC 1817) So our hope is heaven, and that God’s will, will be done “on earth as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:10) The Catechism says, “Hope is expressed and nourished in prayer, especially in the Our Father, the summary of everything that hope leads us to desire.” (CCC 1820) We must never lose hope. The opposite of hope is despair. The Catechism warns of this sin against hope. “By despair, man ceases to hope for his personal salvation from God, for help in attaining it or for the forgiveness of his sins. Despair is contrary to God’s goodness, to his justice – for the Lord is faithful to his promises – and to his mercy.” (CCC 2091) The Catechism also warns of another sin against hope: presumption. “There are two kinds of presumption. Either man presumes upon his own capacities, (hoping to be able to save himself without help from on high), or he presumes upon God’s almighty power or his mercy (hoping to obtain his forgiveness without conversion and glory without merit). (CCC 2092) The Scriptures are filled with messages of hope, like this from Romans 5:5 – “...hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us.” For further

study: CCC 1817-1821 CCC 2090-2092” – *Quoted from A Minute in the Church: Back to the Basics by Gus Lloyd.*

LITURGICAL NEWS

Masses for the Solemnity of Mary

Tuesday, December 31: 5:00 pm Vigil Mass

Wednesday, January 1: 10:00 am

PARISH NEWS

Parish Party



Epiphany Party

Our yearly parish party, celebrating the Christmas season, will take place on Sunday, January 5th at 12:30pm in Community Center. Please sign up in the vestibule to let us know you are coming and what dish you will bring to share. The parish staff sponsors the party and will provide drinks, some main dishes and the table settings.

Save the Date

Our parish group, VASMA (Vietnamese American of Southern Maryland Association), will once again sponsor a celebration of the Lunar New Year.

**Sunday, January 19, 2020 from 4-7pm
In the Community Center of St. George**

Advent Giving Tree

A special thanks to those who donated for the Advent Giving Tree. Through the generosity of so many Parishioners we took care of 23 Families, a total of 46 children, all who received gifts and a food basket.



FAITH FORMATION

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION (YFF) GRADES K-8

Please contact Mrs. Kim Browne,
kim.browne@stgeorgerc.org

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

BIBLE STUDIES

Fridays, 9:30am (1st 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) 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).

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

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

January 7, 2020: Business Meeting 6:30pm

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

Jan. 6th Defending the Jesuit Missions to India
Jan. 13th Spanish Inquisition: Fact and Fiction
Jan. 27th Defending the Right to Life

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. 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.

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 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

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Remember your honeymoon? Remember how special it was? The worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend helps you bring back the togetherness of those times. It is a positive, simple, common sense experience between a husband and wife. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information, visit our website at moments4marriage.org. The next weekend is on February 28 – March 1, 2020 in College Park MD. Sign up on moments4marriage.org or leave us a message at 301-541-7007. We'll call you back! Sign up early!

Take a Personal "Retreat" Day

February 21, 2020. Are your days overcrowded, jam-packed, and busy, busy, busy? Jesus tells you to "Come away with me..." to Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center where your very own personal retreat awaits. During your personal retreat from 8:30am-4pm, an experience retreat directory will guide you to a place of rest with Christ. The retreat schedule allows for one-on-one spiritual direction, quiet reflection, Mass, Confessions and Eucharistic Adoration, plus continental breakfast and lunch, so you will be nourished and cared for while Our Lord speaks to your soul about the depths of His love for you. Cost is \$120 per person. Advance Registration is required, visit our website www.ourladyofbethesda.org or call 301-365-0612. Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center, 7007 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817.