

Established 1851

ST. GEORGE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Phone: 301-994-0607
Fax: 301-994-1793

Website: www.StGeorgeRCC.org
Email: secretary@stgeorgerc.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.



Fifth Sunday of Lent

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

Closed on Mondays
Tuesday & Thursday 10:00am-4:00pm
Wednesday & Friday 10:00am-2:00pm

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's 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.org

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	March 31	Masses will be offered privately by Fr. Paul at various times.	Linda Beauverd
Wed	April 1		Vinn & Tuyen Nguyen (L)
Thu	April 2		Miracles of Mercy, Sleep, and Healing
Fri	April 3		Alex DePiazza (L)
Sat	April 4		Vocations
Sun	April 5		Thomas Leo Dougherty Eddie Dourth Parishioners

Please rest assured that Father is saying private Masses daily for these intentions

WEEKDAY LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Daily Lector: No daily Mass until further notice

Meals on Wheels: P. Keen, H. & K. Britton, K. Raley

Altar Preparation: No Altar preparation until further notice

Liturgical Feast Days

Thu. Apr. 2 – St. Francis of Paola, *Hermit*

Sat. Apr. 4 – St. Isidore, *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		
		All activities and programs are cancelled until further notice
		*C: Church, CC: Community Center

A REFLECTION FROM A FAITHFUL STEWARD

1 SM 16:1B, 6-7, 10-13A; PS 23:1-6; EPH 5:8-14; JN 9:1-41 or JN 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

At this point in our Lenten journey, it is tempting to grow weary of the spiritual disciplines we have taken on. Today's readings inspire us to remain faithful, in grateful response to a God who loves us so much. What's more, these readings give us wonderful guidance on just how to make this grateful response.

In our first reading, from Ezekiel, the prophet speaks God's own words to us. "I will put my spirit in you that you may live... I have promised, and I will do it, says the Lord." Our God wants only goodness for us. He wants to be so closely united to us that we are one with Him. And He has promised He will do it.

But only if we allow Him. He will not force His way into our lives. That would not be loving and God is Love itself. We must invite Him in. We must make room for Him by making Him THE priority of our lives. Putting God first is a grateful response that is very pleasing to Him.

How can we please God by putting Him first? Our second reading, from St. Paul's letter to the Romans, gives us good instruction. "Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh... you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you." To be "in the flesh" means that we allow our own selves — our whims, our pleasure, our comfort-seeking — to determine our daily decisions. To be "in the flesh" is to spend our time, talent and material gifts primarily on ourselves. When we are in the flesh, we leave no room for the Spirit of God to fill our thoughts, our hearts and our souls.

The disciplines of Lent and the disciplines of a stewardship way of life are wonderful gifts that free us from too great an attachment to "the flesh." The sacrifices we make in a particular way during this holy season, and every day when we truly embrace a stewardship way of life, are not meant to restrict our freedom and joy. Quite the contrary — they are tools to help us find the real freedom and joy that only come when we make room in our lives for God. In fact, the more we allow God to take over every aspect of our lives, the freer and more joyful we become.

And our loving God is always ready to renew His Spirit within us whenever we find ourselves led astray by the temptation to selfishness. Today's Gospel passage from John recounts Jesus 'raising of His friend, Lazarus, from the dead. In Jesus 'poignant reaction to the death of Lazarus and the grief of his sisters, we see once again how closely our God identifies with us and all of our sufferings and burdens. His tenderness and compassion teach us that we can safely surrender our lives to Him knowing that He will care for us. His raising of Lazarus from the dead demonstrates His power over all things, even death itself, reminding us that it would be foolish not to surrender to such an awesome God!

As we journey ever closer to the powerful days of Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord, let us intensify our Lenten resolutions and our stewardship way of life. Let us invite the Holy Spirit to take over more and more of our lives. By Easter, we will be freer to rejoice in Him and truly pleasing to God.

Please note: No Mass means no church income! We truly appreciate those who are able who continue to support the church throughout this crisis!			
STEWARDSHIP FINANCIAL REPORT			
	3/22/2020 (Week 38 of FY)	YTD Actual:	YTD Budget:
Offertory:	\$515.00	\$174,314.68	\$190,000.00
**E-Giving	\$2,425.00		
Maintenance:	\$25.00	\$25,049.00	\$23,408.00
**E-Giving	\$145.00		
Poor Box:	\$40.00	\$9,845.30	\$8,056.00
**E-Giving	----		
Donations:	\$60.00	\$40,068.43	\$41,648.00
**E-Giving	\$10.00		
Ch in the Dev World:	\$20.00	\$140.00	N/A
**E-Giving	\$40.00		

***E-Giving will be reported after it is received by the parish, typically the 2nd and 4th weeks of the month.*

Thank you for your faithful Parish support.

2019 DONATION STATEMENTS

In the interest of being good stewards of our financial gifts, we do not send statements in the mail. **You can request that we print a statement for you to pick up from our office, or we can email you a copy of your statement.** If you wish to receive your statement via email, please send a request to: accounting.stgeorge.md@adw.org.

CATHOLIC TEACHINGS

“WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I CAN’T GO TO MASS?”

Catholics are encouraged to make a ‘spiritual communion’. St. John Paul II writes that “it is good to cultivate in our hearts a constant desire for the sacrament of the Eucharist. This was the origin of the practice of ‘spiritual communion’, which has happily been established in the Church for centuries and recommended by saints who were masters of the spiritual life. Saint Teresa of Jesus wrote: ‘When you do not receive communion and you do not attend Mass, you can make a spiritual communion, which is a most beneficial practice; by it the love of God will be greatly impressed on you.’” (Ecclesia Eucharistia, no. 34)

Catholics in the archdiocese are also encouraged to watch our local TV Sunday Mass. The Mass airs every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. on WDCW-50 and through free online streaming at adw.org/tvmass”.

WHAT IS A DISPENSATION FROM MASS?

A dispensation from the diocesan Bishop releases Catholics from fulfilling their Sunday obligation (Mass). Since public Masses are cancelled in the Archdiocese of Washington until further notice, this means that if you live in the Archdiocese of Washington, the right thing to do is to stay home for your safety and the safety of others.

Though there is a sadness for not being able to participate at Mass, one should not feel guilty for not going to Mass. You have a free conscience to stay home. Catholics are encouraged to offer up their sickness or pastoral care for the sake of those who are seriously ill and for those who have died.

HOW DO I MAKE A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION?

Below are recommendations for how to make a ‘spiritual communion’ when unable to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The recommendations can be adapted based upon personal and family needs.

- Gather with others in your household and begin a time of prayer with the sign of the cross.
- Take time to read and reflect upon the readings from Sunday Mass. The readings are available at usccb.org/bible/readings and a Sunday Gospel reflection on youtube.com/washarchdiocese.
- Share prayer intentions quietly or aloud.
- Pray the Lord’s Prayer.
- Pray one of the following prayers of spiritual communion (see below).
- Close with the sign of the cross.

PRAYER TO THE MOST HOLY REDEEMER (ANIMA CHRISTI)

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
 Body of Christ, save me.
 Blood of Christ, embolden me.
 Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
 Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
 O good Jesus, hear me.
 Within thy wounds hide me.
 Never permit me to be parted from you.
 From the evil Enemy defend me.
 In the hour of my death call me.
 and bid me come to thee,
 that with your saints I may praise thee
 for age upon age. Amen.

PRAYER TO OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST CRUCIFIED

Behold, O good and loving Jesus, that I cast myself on my knees before you and, with the greatest fervor of spirit, I pray and beseech you to instill into my heart ardent sentiments of faith, hope and charity, with true repentance for my sins and a most firm purpose of amendment. With deep affection and sorrow I ponder intimately and contemplate in my mind your five wounds, having before my eyes what the prophet David had already put in your mouth about yourself, O good Jesus: They have pierced my hands and my feet; they have numbered all my bones (Ps. 21: 17-18).

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION BY ST. ALPHONSUS LIGUORI

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

LITURGICAL NEWS

Synopsis of the Sunday Readings:

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

This reading is a loving promise that the Lord will put His spirit into his people and will let them live.

Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11

Paul reminds the Romans that they are not people of the flesh but people of the Spirit because the Spirit of God dwells in them.

Gospel: John 11:1-45

In great detail, John tells the story of the raising of Lazarus to life. Upon learning of the death of Lazarus, his dear friend, Jesus goes to comfort Martha and Mary. After proclaiming, “I am the Resurrection and the Life,” Jesus goes to the tomb of Lazarus and restores him to life.

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

“I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you in your own land, thus you shall know that I am the Lord. I have promised, and I will do it, says the Lord... If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the One who raised Christ from the dead, will give life to your mortal bodies also, through the spirit dwelling in you.”

Jesus told us He came that we might have life, and have it in its fullness. The pending celebration of Holy Week and the Paschal Mystery are the steps He took to restore us to

that life. As He brought Lazarus from death, He wishes us to be renewed. His promises never fail and He wishes to give life to our mortal bodies. What is this life? It is the life of grace, the very life of God, given as a gift, and accepted.

Is the spirit of God dwelling in you? Do you want Him to restore you to life in abundance? Perhaps the Sacrament of Reconciliation, confession, are the steps we can take to be sure that His gift is in us.

We never learned how Lazarus felt when Jesus touched him. How will you feel?



Gospel Today
Fifth Sunday of Lent / John 11:1-45

Jesus is called by Martha & Mary with news their brother Lazarus is very ill. When Jesus arrived in Bethany, Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Jesus loved His friends deeply and was so saddened by their grief, He cried. Jesus called upon His Father, who raised Lazarus, much the same as Jesus will rise Easter morning!

Year A

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Lent
The season of being sorry for sin, asking forgiveness and helping others.

lend / lent
The act of giving assistance or support to helping others.

**WEEK
5**

Dear God,
This week I...

**LEND
for
LENT**

Love,

- Examples**
- Make a special card for someone who is sad or sick.
 - By yourself, or with family members, write a "Thank you Jesus, for Loving Me" prayer. Read it each day from now until Easter.
 - Plant some seeds in a cup or planter, giving it water & sun daily. In a few days, you too will witness the miracle of new life. Your new sprouts should be ready by Easter to give as a loving gift.

L
E
N
T

In the past weeks of Lent we have seen a lending of physical, emotional, spiritual and healing support. With the rising of Lazarus, Jesus' friends experiences all of these comforts, and many people became believers.

Lent is nearing the end. Using these remaining two weeks of Lent, think about how much Jesus loves us, and pass this love on to others. **Lend** your talents to an activity that will comfort someone. Write your lend/lent action on the cross. Color in the cross.

