

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.



22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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: (all Masses limited to 20 households that reside together)

Tuesday — Saturday: 9:00 am

Weekend Masses: (all Masses limited to 20 households that reside together)

Saturday — 5:00pm (beginning July 4, reservation required)

Sunday — 10:00am (beginning May 31, reservation required)

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

Saturday CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE *Memorial Day - Labor Day

Holy Hour w/ Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament &

Benediction: **Tuesday – Saturday: 5:00 pm**

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: Tuesday-Friday 5:00pm-6:00pm Saturday 9:30am-10:30am

We can no longer share books, pamphlets and resources. Please bring your own if you have them. If we make resources available, please take them with you or we will be forced to discard them.

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Tue	Sep. 1	9:00am	George & Madeline Gateau's Anniversary
Wed	Sep. 2	9:00am	Sarah Goldsmith
Thu	Sep. 3	9:00am	Alejandrew & Liza Grider (L)
Fri	Sep. 4	9:00am	John Hodges
Sat	Sep. 5	9:00am	Vocations
		5:00pm	Parishioners
Sun	Sep. 6	10:00am	Charlie (D) & Mary Ann (L) Springer (Birthday)

WEEKDAY LITURGICAL MINISTERS

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

Liturgical Feast Days

Thu, Sep 3 ST. GREGORY THE GREAT, POPE 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.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

[JER 20:7-9](#); [PS 63:2-6, 8-9](#); [ROM 12:1-2](#); [MT 16:21-27](#)

If we are striving to live the stewardship way of life, we must be honest with ourselves and admit it's not going to be easy. Dying to self and living for Christ and others is tough. It is the work of a lifetime. But in the end, it is the only work that really matters and the only life that truly satisfies. Our readings today reflect this challenging reality.

Our first reading is from the book of the prophet Jeremiah. After a series of hard knocks as he tries to preach the message God has entrusted to him, Jeremiah sums up the steward's "dilemma" — the choice between living for self or living for God — this way: "I say to myself, I will not mention him, I will speak in his name no more. But then it becomes like fire burning in my heart... I grow weary holding it in."

Haven't we all felt that way, perhaps after frustrations in our ministry or being chided by friends for our "crazy Catholic beliefs"? But God is so good, so loving, so generous to us that, like Jeremiah, even when we're tempted to throw in the towel, we simply cannot turn our back on Him. We hold steady on the stewardship way of life.

The second reading from Paul's letter to the Romans teaches how we get back to the path of discipleship in those moments of discouragement when we feel the temptation to just give up and give in to selfishness. Paul urges us, "Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God." He says, "Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, so that you may do the will of God."

What does this mean for us modern-day stewards? It means we must discipline ourselves — body, mind, and spirit — through a consistent prayer life, continuous formation in our Catholic faith, and setting aside anything in our life (entertainment, material possessions, social activities) that is not pleasing to God. Seems impossible, doesn't it? And it would be impossible, except for the grace of God

which is always available to us in abundance if we simply ask God for it.

Our Gospel passage, from Matthew, continues this theme of the tough demands of the steward's way of life, this time in the words of Jesus Himself. Jesus tells His disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me." This sounds harsh. Why would anyone want to do this? Our Lord has the answer, of course. "Whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

It's all about love. Jesus loved (and loves) us totally, giving us all of Himself on the Cross, in His Word, and in the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist.

And so we must choose: love of self, or love of God and others — which is tough, but fulfilling and leads to the eternal reward of heaven. Jesus promises that He "will come with his angels in his Father's glory, and then he will repay all according to his conduct."

Let us make the tough choice to lose our life for Christ's sake, in grateful response to His love. Honestly, what better life could there be?



*Flowers on the altar are in honor of
Joe and Virginia Royston's
Wedding Anniversary*

<https://www.stgeorgerc.org/donations>

STEWARDSHIP FINANCIAL REPORT			
	Current Week: 8/23/2020 Wks 8 of FY2021	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Offertory	\$2,239.00	\$36,843.49	\$39,230.80
*E-Giving	\$2,835.00		
Maintenance	\$0.00	\$5,695.00	\$4,923.04
*E-Giving	\$150.00		
Poor Box	\$40.00	\$1,164.25	\$1,692.32
*E-Giving	\$0.00		
Misc. Donations	\$20,910.00	\$31,047.00	\$9,230.80
*E-Giving	\$10.00		
ADW-Hum Dev.	\$0.00	\$526.00	N/A
*E-Giving	\$30.00		

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

Upcoming 2nd Collections:

Our second collection next weekend (September 6, 2020) is for The Catholic University of America. The Catholic University of America, located in Washington, D.C., is the national university of the Catholic Church. Founded in 1887, CUA offers students an excellent education in a faith-filled atmosphere that is grounded in the Catholic intellectual tradition. The Collection for The Catholic University of America underwrites scholarships to assist financially deserving students in completing their education at CUA in over 50 disciplines. Thank you for your generosity.

Our second collection on September 13 is for the Pontifical Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land. This collection has been rescheduled from April 10, 2020 due to the COVID19 pandemic. If you have already given to this collection, there is no need to give again - any donations received at that time were sent to this fund.

LITURGICAL NEWS

Sunday Masses: **Saturday: 5 pm**
Sunday: 10 am (Live-streamed to YouTube, Communion available in parking lot.)

Daily Masses: **Tuesday – Saturday: 9 am**

Holy Hour (w/ Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction): **Tuesday – Saturday: 5 pm**
1st Friday, following daily Mass
Saturdays, following daily Mass.

Sign-ups are required only to attend Sunday Masses. Please call the parish office Tuesday – Friday, 10am – 2pm, or visit our parish website to sign up to attend Mass. *Please sign up so we don't have to turn you away if the church is full!*

Reminder: the side vestibule doors will open 15 minutes prior to the start of Mass. On Saturdays, the doors will not open early for the group rosary devotion – for the time being, we still must limit the amount of time spent in groups indoors.

All parishioners who would like to receive the Eucharist, but are not yet comfortable attending Mass in person, are most welcome to call the office and either Father Paul or Deacon Joel will visit you at your home, outdoors or indoors, however you are comfortable.

ADDRESSING RACISM

The topic of racism in our Church can be a delicate and emotional one for many people. We cannot, however, as Catholics, simply ignore the issue and pretend it doesn't exist. Over the next few weeks, we will post here a series of excerpts from: "The document Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love - A Pastoral Letter Against Racism was developed by the Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). It was approved by the full body of bishops as a formal statement of the same at its November 2018 General Meeting and has been authorized for publication by the undersigned. Msgr. J. Brian Bransfield, General Secretary, USCCB

[continued from last week] **Love Goodness:**

Most people would not consider themselves to be racist. A person might admit to being prejudiced but certainly not racist. As Christians, we know it is our duty to love others. St. Paul reminds us that we live by the Spirit, and the "fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Gal 5:22-23). We must be honest with ourselves. Each of us should examine our conscience and ask if these fruits are really present in our attitudes about race. Or, rather, do our attitudes reflect mistrust, impatience, anger, distress, discomfort, or rancor?

When we begin to separate people in our thoughts for unjust reasons, when we start to see some people as “them” and others as “us,” we fail to love. Yet love is at the heart of the Christian life. When approached and asked what is the greatest commandment, Jesus answered: “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Mt 22:37-39). This command of love can never be simply “live and let others be.” The command of love requires us to make room for others in our hearts. It means that we are indeed our brother’s keeper (see Gn 4:9).

The sin of Cain finds its remedy in Christ, in his command to love and in the gift of his Holy Spirit that enables us to respond to his call. When Cain struck and killed his brother, the human family was further divided. But Christ heals all divisions, including those that are at the core of racism. It is through his Cross that we learn the greatest lesson about love. On the Cross, Jesus died for the human race (see 2 Cor 5:15). “He is expiation for our sins, and not for our sins only but for those of the whole world” (1 Jn 2:2). Here is our hope! Here is the grace given to us to be healed of this sin of division! Here is the lesson of love.

Once “we have come to the conviction that one died for all”—and not just for ourselves—then “the love of Christ impels us” to see others as our brothers and sisters (2 Cor 5:14). For, “if [one] part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy” (1 Cor 12:26). It is the love of Christ that binds together the Church, and this love reaches out beyond the Church to all peoples. This love also requires justice. “If we love others with charity,” as Pope Benedict XVI reminds us, “then first of all we are just toward them.”²⁶ In this way, love “is an extraordinary force which leads people to opt for courageous and generous engagement in the field of justice and peace.”²⁷ In doing so, we are also loving goodness.

The Urgent Call of Love

Love compels each of us to resist racism courageously. It requires us to reach out generously to the victims of this evil, to assist the conversion needed in those who still harbor racism, and to begin to change policies and structures that allow racism to persist. Overcoming racism is a demand of justice, but because Christian love transcends justice, the end of racism will mean that our community will bear fruit beyond simply the fair treatment of all. After all, “Within [the human] family,” as St. John Paul II said, “each people preserves and expresses its own identity and enriches others with its gifts of culture.”²⁸

Our faith gives us a treasury of inspiring holy men and women who courageously worked toward racial reconciliation, showing us the way forward. There is, for example, the Servant of God Augustus Tolton, who was born into slavery and escaped to the free state of Illinois. Despite a strong calling to the priesthood supported by clergy who knew his faith, all the seminaries in the United States rejected him. Having eventually made it to a seminary in Rome, he was ordained, and returned to serve as the first black priest born in the United States, where, again, he faced much discrimination and racism.

Once home and ministering to the People of God, Fr. Tolton was tormented by others, especially by a brother priest who was white. This priest made public and ugly statements urging the white people of the city not to go to Fr. Tolton’s parish. Through this long persecution, Fr. Tolton exhibited the love of Christ, forgiving what was done to him and continuing to serve others. Things got so bad, however, that Fr. Tolton accepted an invitation from Archbishop Feehan to move north to Chicago, where he served the faithful until his death in 1897. Fr. Tolton often spoke of how the Church had taught him to always “pray and forgive my persecutors.”²⁹

During his ministry, Fr. Tolton corresponded with Mother (now Saint) Katharine Drexel, who helped support his parish work in Chicago. She is another example of people working for racial reconciliation. Following a directive from Pope Leo XIII in 1887, St. Katharine dedicated her life to working closely with Native Americans and African Americans, exhibiting genuine respect and concern. By the time of her death in 1955, St. Katharine had more than 500 sisters working in 63 schools and had established 50 missions for Native Americans in 16 states. She also founded 50 schools for African American students, including Xavier University of Louisiana, the first and only Catholic university in the United States established specifically for African Americans. Her motivation was clear. As she said, “If we wish to serve God and love our neighbor well, we must manifest our joy in the service we render to Him and them. Let us open wide our hearts. It is joy which invites us. Press forward and fear nothing.”³⁰

²⁶Pope Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate*, no. 6.

²⁷*Caritas in Veritate*, no. 1.

²⁸St. John Paul II, *Address at the Meeting with the Native Peoples of the Americas, September 14, 1987*, no. 4.

²⁹*Address to the first Catholic Colored Congress, Washington, D.C., January 1-4, 1889*.

³⁰“A Eucharistic Focused Mission,” *Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament*. www.katharinedrexel.org/wpcontent/uploads/2016/11/FocusedMissionBro.pdf (accessed Aug. 23, 2018).

Local News



Red Cross Blood Drive

There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive on Monday, September 14, from 1:30 - 6:00 p.m. at the 2nd District Firehouse, 45245 Drayden Rd., Valley Lee, MD. Appointments @ 1-800-REDCROSS.

Virtual Bake Auction

Virtual Bake Auction- Saturday, August 29th starting at 7pm thru Sunday, August 30th at 5pm. Delicious Homemade Desserts, Go to: SDVRDRS Auxiliary Facebook page. On August 29, 2020 after 7pm, items will be available for virtual viewing. After all baked goods have been posted, bidding will begin online thru Sunday, August 30th until 5pm. WINNERS will be posted online, Sunday, August 30th between 6pm and 7:30pm at the 2nd District Volunteer Fire Dept. & Rescue Squade, (aka Company 6/Valley Lee), 45245 Drayden Rd. Valley Lee, MD 20692. Cash or Check accepted (Make checks payable to 2nd Dist. VFD & RS Aux.) For more info, contact: Robin at 240-577-0270

Golf Cart Raffle Fundraiser

GET YOUR TICKETS!! Star 36-2+2 Black with color matching Long Top and Tan Seats, 4 passenger with rear flip seat, Six 6 V (36 V) Batteries, 4 hp Advance DC motor, 300 A Curtis programmable controller with regenerative braking and much more. Tickets are 1 for \$10 or 3 for \$25, Drawing October 14, 2020 SDVRDRS Business Meeting. Do not have to be present to win. For more information or get your tickets call: Dee Dee, 240-561-2750, or Georgia, 410-394-3216 or Robin, 240-577-0270

FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington Internship for the Volunteer Office

Current undergraduate students looking for a remote internship opportunity are invited to apply to the Outreach and Events Intern at Catholic Charities D.C. for the Fall semester. The intern will work with our Volunteer Engagement Office to and

will be responsible for project coordination and communication with our volunteers. This is a good position for someone interested in developing skills in community outreach, event coordination, and learning more about large non-profits. Interested students can find the full job description and apply online <https://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/2020-summer-internships/> Please contact intern coordinator claire.sanfilippo@cc-dc.org with any questions.

NO MARRIAGE IS BEYOND HOPE

The Retrouvaille marriage program is for couples with marital problems that want marriage help. Those who are considering marriage separation and those who are already separated or divorced are encouraged to consider the Retrouvaille Program. There is always hope of reviving your relationship.

For more details, please contact us at 443-400-7017, 3015@retrouvaille.org or www.HelpOurMarriage.org

Help Our Marriage

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program helped many couples experiencing difficulties in their marriages. For confidential information or to register for the upcoming program beginning with a weekend on September 4th – September 6th, 2020. Please visit www.helpourmarriage.org, call (443)400-7017 or email 3015@retrouvaille.org

Lord, Teach Me to Pray

The mission of LTMTMP is straight forward and simple; i.e., to make it easy for more and more people to develop a deep intimate relationship with the Lord through this most beautiful way of prayer. We encourage you to go to www.lordteachmetoprayer.com for more information about LTMTMP. We would like to point out that there is **no charge** for the "Training-Retreat" or for the materials. In addition, there is **no cost** to the parishes where LTMTMP is offered. The only resource required is meeting space for a small group to meet once per week. LTMTMP often begins in a parish with one small group and grows from there. *The training-retreat will conform to CDC Guidelines for COVID-19; Please bring your own face mask.*