

Established 1851

ST. GEORGE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Phone: 301-994-0607
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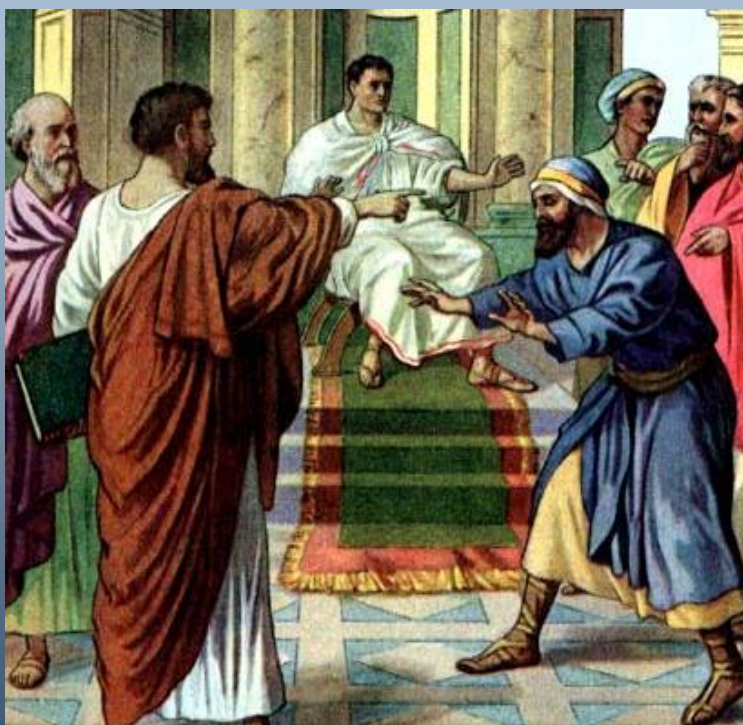


WELCOME

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.



24th 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 39 households that reside together)

Tuesday — Saturday: 9:00 am

Weekend Masses: (all Masses limited to 39 households that reside together)

Saturday — 5:00pm

Sunday — 10:00am

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

Saturday — 7:00pm *Memorial Day - Labor Day

Holy Hour w/ Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament &
Benediction: **Tuesday — Friday: 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.

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. 15	9:00am	Norman Toledo
Wed	Sep. 16	9:00am	Cathy Pielmeier (L)
Thu	Sep. 17	9:00am	Enzo Galli (L)
Fri	Sep. 18	9:00am	Hieu Thi Cao
Sat	Sep. 19	9:00am	Special Intention
		5:00pm	Mayowa Ojo
Sun	Sep. 20	10:00am	Gertrude Britton
		1:00pm	Parishioners

WEEKDAY LITURGICAL MINISTERS

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

Liturgical Feast Days

Mon, Sept 14	THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
Tue, Sept 15	OUR LADY OF SORROWS
Wed, Sept 16	STS. CORNELIUS, POPE AND CYRIAN BISHOP, MARTYRS
Thu, Sept 17	St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Sat, Sept 19	St. Januarius, Bishop and Martyr



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

SIR 27:30-28:7; PS 103:1-4, 9-12; ROM 14:7-9; MT 18:21-35

As Christian stewards, we recognize that all we have and all that we are is gift from God, and we live our lives in a grateful response to such extravagant love. This calls for continuous conversion of heart. The practices of giving a portion of our time, our talents and our treasure are essential steps on the path to conversion. But they serve an even deeper purpose than helping us remember our good intentions. They open our minds and hearts to ever-deepening surrender to the Lord, who has given us every good thing.

Today's readings call us to look inward to the state of our hearts, those aspects of ourselves that cannot quite be quantified or measured, but which are the deepest part of us — our thoughts and emotions.

Our first reading, from Sirach, addresses the complicated emotion of anger. "Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight... Could anyone nourish anger against another and expect healing from the Lord?... If one who is but flesh cherishes wrath, who will forgive his sins?" We have all been wounded by others at some point, some perhaps quite deeply. Our emotions are gifts from God. But we must steward them well, rather than allowing them to overcome us.

How do we do this? Sirach tells us. "Remember your last days, set enmity aside... Think of the commandments... remember the Most High's covenant, and overlook faults." We embrace the stewardship mindset — not brooding over hurts, but recalling all the gifts our good God has given us, all the love He continually pours out upon us, and we put our focus and trust in Him.

In other words, we live for God and not ourselves. What freedom this approach to life brings! All we have is a gift from the Lord. He loves us completely and we can rest in this truth. Knowing this, we need not cling to anger over injustices. God is Lord over

all. St. Paul puts it this way in our second reading from Romans: "For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's."

In our Gospel passage from Matthew, Jesus gives us a provocative reminder of the true position we have before Him in light of all that He has done for us. He compares the kingdom of heaven to a "king who decided to settle accounts with his servants." In the parable, a debtor is brought before the king, owing such an overwhelming debt that it could not possibly be repaid. Yet, the king is filled with compassion for the servant, forgives the debt and lets him go free.

Doesn't that sound like each of us in relation to the King of Kings? The Father has given us life, and then sent His Only Son to die for us to free us from our sin "debts" and make eternal life with Him possible for us. Like the servant in the parable, it is impossible to repay this debt. All we can do is thank God by giving Him our whole selves — our outward actions and our inner selves — and by treating our fellow debtors with the same compassion and forgiveness He has shown to us. In fact, Jesus rightfully and justly commands us to "forgive your brother from your heart."

What joy and freedom of heart we find in the stewardship way of life!



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

STEWARDSHIP FINANCIAL REPORT

	Current Week: 9/6/2020 Wks 10 of FY2021	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Offertory	\$5,058.21	\$44,974.42	\$49,038.50
*E-Giving	----		
Maintenance	\$680.00	\$6,495.00	\$6,153.80
*E-Giving	----		
Poor Box	\$40.00	\$1,314.25	\$2,115.40
*E-Giving	----		
Misc. Donations	\$1,930.00	\$34,292.00	\$11,538.50
*E-Giving	----		
ADW-Cath.U.	\$352.00	\$352.00	N/A
*E-Giving	----		
<i>**E-Giving will be reported after it is received by the parish, typically the 2nd and 4th weeks of the month.</i>			

2nd Collections:

Our second collection this weekend (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.)

Sunday: 1 pm (In Vietnamese)

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 NO LONGER required to attend weekend Masses. Seating will be on a first come, first served basis. 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.

Parishioners are reminded to maintain a distance of 6 feet between themselves and others. Gathering after Mass is not permitted in the vestibule.

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.

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION



Classes begin **Sunday**, September 13!

Registration **ongoing** email
kim.browne@stgeorgerc.org

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] **Being Open to Encounter and New Relationships:**

"To walk humbly with God" requires even more. We know that we do not have all the answers, but a missionary disciple is one who willingly meets every problem and every sinful attitude with the confidence that comes from a deep love of Jesus. As Pope Benedict XVI has said, "Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction."³⁵

The Christian community should draw from this central, ongoing encounter with Christ and seek to combat racism with love, recalling the insight of Pope Francis that “if we have received the love which restores meaning to our lives, how can we fail to share that love with others?”³⁶ With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, this wellspring of strength and courage must move us to act. Consequently, we all need to take responsibility for correcting the injustices of racism and healing the harms it has caused.

To work at ending racism, we need to engage the world and encounter others—to see, maybe for the first time, those who are on the peripheries of our own limited view. Knowing that the Lord has taken the divine initiative by loving us first, we can boldly go forward, reaching out to others. We must invite into dialogue those we ordinarily would not seek out. We must work to form relationships with those we might regularly try to avoid. This demands that we go beyond ourselves, opening our minds and hearts to value and respect the experiences of those who have been harmed by the evil of racism. Love also requires us to invite a change of heart in those who may be dismissive of other’s experiences or whose hearts may be hardened by prejudice or racism. Only by forging authentic relationships can we truly see each other as Christ sees us. Love should then move us to take what we learn from our encounters and examine where society continues to fail our brothers and sisters, or where it perpetuates inequity, and seek to address those problems.

Resolving to Work for Justice:

To foster, in part, such encounters, and to express our strong and renewed resolve to work for justice, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops formed an Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism. The committee has already begun its work—conducting listening sessions; providing resources about racism; giving tools to dioceses, eparchies, and parishes to begin important conversations about this evil; and exploring needed policy initiatives. We charge this Ad Hoc Committee to implement the vision of this pastoral letter. Furthermore, this committee is to develop ways to help facilitate an ongoing national dialogue, bringing successful

models and stories of hope to people at all levels. We also task the leadership of our bishops’ conference to seek meaningful opportunities that deepen understanding, foster reconciliation, and publicly witness to the Church’s commitment to ending racism. We commit all the offices and committees of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to be ever mindful of this imperative.

Nationally, taking concrete action should include advocating for equality in how laws are implemented and advocating for moral budgets that reduce barriers to economic well-being, appropriate healthcare, education, and training. We can also learn from the example of other countries, such as South Africa, Germany, and Rwanda, and from certain institutions that have recognized past wrongs and have come to understand the truth of their history.

Locally, including in our own parishes, practical plans should be made to provide further opportunities for qualified candidates who historically have been excluded, such as through hiring and contracting practices. Likewise, within our dioceses, taking concrete action entails that struggling parishes, schools, and organizations receive resources and training for catechesis, youth ministry, and other pastoral needs. It also means providing necessary support to families, seniors, and ex-offenders.

In addition, “To overcome discrimination, a community must interiorize the values that inspire just laws and live out, in day-to-day life, the conviction of the equal dignity of all.”³⁷ Therefore, we affirm that participating in or fostering organizations that are built on racist ideology (for instance, neo-Nazi movements and the Ku Klux Klan) is also sinful—they corrupt individuals and corrode communities. None of these organizations have a place in a just society.

³⁵Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*, no. 1.

³⁶Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 8.

³⁷Pontifical Commission on Justice and Peace, *The Church and Racism: Toward a More Fraternal Society* (1988), no. 24.

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.

Day of Prayer - St. Clements Island

September 19th, 2020. Meet & Departure from Camp Maria, Leonardtown at 10:00 am. This event is a gathering of youth group and family, along with the Knights of Columbus to pray the Living Rosary on St. Clements Island followed by a picnic (bring your own food and drink). This day of prayer is a little way we can do to pray for healing, unity, and peace for our country. Captain Butch has generously offered his charter boat, The North Star, to anyone who would like to join the Knights and youth in prayer. Please consider a suggested donation of \$5 per person if possible to help him with operating expenses but not required. Please let Theresa Friess, the coordinator (240-298-3879), know as soon as possible if any of you are interested. Theresa will need to know who plans to board the North Star. Please pass the word to your parishes and friends as well. We will also be taking the Maryland Rosaries — handing them out to anyone who may wish one. Please know also that you can go by your own boat or the museum water taxi at Coltons Point, which is also transporting visitors, as another option to get to the island.

FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE**Lord, Teach Me to Pray**

The mission of LTMTTP 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 LTMTTP. 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 LTMTTP is offered. The only resource required is meeting space for a small group to meet once per week. LTMTTP 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.*

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

World Wide Marriage Encounter has cancelled all in-person weekends for this year. However, we have exciting news! There is a way for couples, priests and religious to join a virtual WWME experience from the comforts of their home. This experience will be in 7 sessions beginning on Monday, October 5th and end on Monday, October 26th. The sessions will be on Mondays and Thursdays from 7pm-9:30pm. The content of the sessions will be the same as given on in-person weekends. Maybe you can join us on this virtual experience. It is a great opportunity for priests to join because there are no weekends involved. Check <http://www.wwme.org/> and <http://moments4marriage.org/> For more information. Please contact us if you have any questions. Don, Wink Flanders and Fr. Victor Scocco DC/MD Leadership Team, Worldwide Marriage Encounter, 301-541-7007. SIGN UP EARLY! 15 couples on the experience!

