20408 Point Lookout Rd. • Great Mills, MD 20634
Parish Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 8:00am to 3:00pm • Appointments can be made by calling the rectory.
301-994-0525 • FAX: 301-994-1547 • www.holyfacechurch.org

PARISH STAFF
Pastor, Rev. Jerry Gamrot
Deacon, Mr. Paul Bielewicz
Parish Bookkeeper, Mrs. Anya Naegele
Accounting.holyface.md@adw.org
Parish Secretary, Mrs. Kathy Hunt
holyface.md@adw.org
Faith Formation, Mrs. Laura Lang
Youth Ministry, Mr. Chris Harris
Youth@ihmrcc.org
R.C.I.A., Mrs. Ashley Davis

Chairperson, Parish Council, Mrs. Laura Schuyler

Little Flower School, Grades Pre-K-8
Principal, Mrs. Barbara Stirling
lfsprincipal@littleflowercatholic.org
301-994-0404, lfsoffice@littleflowercatholic.org

CONFESSIONS:
Saturday: 4:15pm or by appointment
ROSARY: Monday: 6:00pm

EUCHARIST:
Saturday: Vigil 5:00pm
Sunday: 7:00am, 9:00am, 11:30am
Daily: 8:00am Tuesday through Friday
Tuesday: 10:00am during school year
Holy Days: As Announced

ADORATION WITH BENEDICTION
First Thursday of the Month
6:00pm

Bulletin Deadline: in Writing by Monday 3:00 pm

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT — DECEMBER 22, 2019

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday, December 24th

5:00PM Children's Mass
11:30 PM Christmas Carols

Wednesday, December 25th

12:00AM Midnight Mass
10:00AM Morning Mass

NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday, December 31st

7:00PM Vigil Mass

Wednesday, January 1st

8:00AM
10:00AM

Welcome to the Holy Face Catholic Church family.
On behalf of our parishioners, I invite you to tour our website and get acquainted with our growing and vibrant faith community. Better yet, please come visit us in person, worship with us, and make this your spiritual home. If you need more information about our parish, please do not hesitate to call me. May the peace of Christ be with you.
Your brother in Christ,
Rev. Jerry Gamrot

New Parishioners: The parish family of Holy Face welcomes all new parishioners! Please fill out a registration form available on our webpage or in the back of the church and drop it in the collection basket at Sunday Mass. If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 301-994-0525. You may also reach our Welcoming Committee at holyface.md@adw.org *Welcome*!

Sacrament of Baptism: Expectant parents must attend our Baptism Preparation Program which is offered monthly. Baptism is the first and most important Sacrament as it introduces us to the Faith. Baptisms are offered on the **First Sunday** of the month at the **11:30am Mass** and immediately following. Call the Parish Office to schedule a baptism and to make arrangements to attend our Baptism Program.

Sacrament of Marriage: Arrangements should be made well in advance of an intended marriage, at least six months and even up to a year prior. Please call the Parish Office to arrange an appointment with the Pastor. Attendance at the Marriage Preparation Program is required.

Sick and Hospital Visits: Please let the Parish Office know if you have a family member who is ill at home or in the hospital so we may add them to our prayer list and arrange, if appropriate, for visits from our Homebound Ministry and the Pastor.

R.C.I.A.: If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the Catholic faith or in becoming Catholic, please contact the Parish Office for details about the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults or contact the Parish Office at (301)994-0525.

Choir: Practice is held on Wednesday evenings at 7pm in the Church choir loft. New members are always welcome.

Parish and School Websites and email: Visit our Holy Face website at **www.holyfacechurch.org** for up-to-date information regarding our parish. Questions or concerns may be emailed to: **holyface.md@adw.org.** You can also visit the Little Flower School website at **www.littleflowercatholic.org** for additional information regarding our school.

Parish Cemetery Information: Contact Catholic Cemeteries at 301-475-5005 or 301-932-1766.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: All requests to include activities in our weekly bulletin must be received in writing by **3pm on Monday.** Inclusion of the activity is at the discretion of the Pastor and space availability. Information may be emailed to holyface.md@adw.org.

Exchanging Gifts

Christmas presents are gathering under trees. The opening of gifts opens hearts as well. Gifts are given in love, and they promote love in return. We love all year round, not just on Christmas Day. We may not give wrapped gifts every day of the year, but we love every day. We say it, show it, and feel it. At Christmas we will celebrate the greatest gift of all, the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the human race. It is not Christmas every day, but God is good to us every day, showing love in many and marvelous ways. A Christmas gift of love prompts a response—a hug, a kiss, a note of thanks, or a favor in return. The greatest Christmas gift also prompts a response—a desire to live in ways that please Christ.

St. Paul calls himself an apostle "set apart for the gospel of God," the gospel promised through the prophets in the Scriptures, the gospel about God's Son, "descended from David according to the flesh." Throughout Advent, we have heard prophecies foretelling the birth of Jesus. They help us experience the full wonder of Christmas Day: that God took on flesh and was born into a human family descended from David. That is the gospel, the good news. So great was that gospel, that Paul became its apostle.

And so did we. In all we say and do, we tell others how much the Christian faith means to us. It is the natural response to the greatest gift of all.

Mass Intentions for the Week

December 23, 2019 - December 29, 2019

Monday	8:00am - NO MASS
Tuesday	5:00pm - Robert Mroz
Wednesday	12:00am - Brian Dillow+
	10:00am - Holy Face Parishioners
Thursday	8:00am - Father Jerry's Family, Friends and Benefactors
Friday	8:00am - Father Jerry's Special Intention
Saturday	5:00pm - Ralph Bowles+
Sunday	7:00am - Frank Davis+
	9:00am - Holy Face Parishioners
	11:30am - Alyce Jarboe+

Morning Mass is cancelled if schools are unexpectedly closed or there is a delayed opening. All cancelled mass dedications are moved to the next available date.

Bulletin Board

Monday	6:00pm	Rosary
Wednesday	7:00pm	Choir
	7:00pm	Bible Study

Weekly Readings

Mon) Mal 3:1-4,23-24/Lk 1:57-66
(Tues) 2 Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16/Lk 1:67-79
(Wed) ***The Nativity of the Lord***
Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6
Jn 1:1-18
(Thurs) ***Saint Stephen***
Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22
(Fri) ***Saint John***
1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
(Sat) ***The Holy Innocents***
1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Mt 2:13-18
(Sun) ***The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary And Joseph***
Sir 3:2-6,12-14/Col 3:12-21
Mt 2:13-15,19-23

In Our Prayers

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Please include the following people, as well as all of our family and friends who are ill in your prayers, especially:

Mike Alvey, Beaner Barnett, Ester Mae Battle, Lilly Mae Battle, Shirley Mae Battle, Robert Baumgarten, Nancy Brown, Judy Broyles, John Cardinal, Francis Countiss, Cindy Davis, Rose Daye, Michael Dement, Francis Dominique, Kathy Dominique, Joe Eversole, Marjorie Fechtig, Dillon Fiske, Ariana Gennaro, Gail Gennaro, Bruce Genovese, Caleb Getscher, Elizabeth Gray, Tiffany Grey, Jack Grubber, Jennifer Hills, Maslynn Holmes, Pam Howard, Janice Ivancik, George Izon, Barbara Lamb, Matt Lamb, June Lang, Bie Le, Taylor Love, Janice Lynch, Patricia Madrigal, Joanne McGilloway, Virginia McKeen, Barbara McNary, Norma Miller, Harold Owens, Linda Palchinsky, Gertrude Pirko, Ronald Redding, Dickie Russell, Robert Russell, Duncan Scott, Margaret Sison, Bea Slaske, Norma Szewczyk, Steve Taylor, Lois Testerman, Anthony Thomas, Cathy Thomas, Mary Thomas, Mark Thomason, Robert Wheeler, John Williams, Charlie Wise, Jr., Kathy Wood, Elizabeth Young.

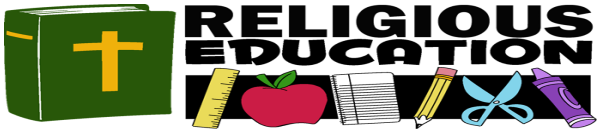
Call the Parish Office to have names added to or removed from our list.

SERVICE PRAYER LIST

Please remember in your prayers all of our troops and their civilian counterparts serving in war zones as well as all those in service around the world:

LCDR Randy Dodds, US Navy
LCDR Richard C. Moebius, Jr., US Navy
Airman Steven M. Lamb, USAF
SSgt Gregory Bergin, USAF
SSgt Andrew Unkle, US Army
SPC Alexander D. Unkle, US Army
LT Kevin Peters, USCG
Capt. Clayton Scott, USMC
Lt Adam Patterson, US Navy
GSgt. Patrick J. Pullman, USMC
PFC Jacob A. Gilbert, USMC
Lt.Col. Brett A. Shilling, USAF
2Lt. Danielle Wilkin, USAF
LT Jacob Schmidt, US Navy
LT Michael Woehrer, US Navy
LTJG Mark D. Sweet, Jr., US Navy
Pvt Gavin Podlaski, US Army
Capt. Matt Barchick, USMC
Capt. Steven Beck, USMC

If you would like to add a loved one to our armed forces prayer list, please contact the Parish Office during normal business hours—301-994-0525 (T-F 8am-3pm).



Like Mary and Joseph, families have a mission to welcome Jesus into their homes and lives, to "listen to him, speak with him, take care of him, protect him and grow with him, and in this way improve the world." -Pope Francis

Sunday Faith Formation serves all parish children. Weekly sessions for Pre-K through 8th Grade meet on Sundays from 10:15am to 11:20am. Two years of faith formation are usually required prior to reception of the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. We always welcome new team members as catechists, substitutes, hall monitors and teen assistants.

Faith Formation Calendar

December 22 - No Classes

December 29 - No Classes

CLOW Upcoming Meeting Dates

December 22 - No CLOW

December 29 - No CLOW

CLOW (Children's Liturgy of the Word) is for children ages 3 to 1st Grade only.

Children coming to CLOW during Advent receive a Nativity cut-out sheet in which they are encouraged to create their own scenes and return them on the 8th/15th to be displayed downstairs by our altar. Keep Christ in Christmas!

RCIA ...a journey in faith
Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

Are You Thirsting For God?

Are you someone who would like to learn more about your Catholic Faith? Do you know someone not baptized or baptized in a non-Catholic Christian tradition, who is thirsting for what it means to become Catholic?

Do you know someone already Catholic but has not yet received Confirmation & Communion?

Others may be thirsting too…

For each of us faith is a journey marked with moments of conversion along the way…we move from unbelief to initial faith, from sin to repentance, from painful isolation to the joyful experience of a loving community, from fear to love.

Faith, conversion, repentance, celebration and community ---five basic elements that are present in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). The RCIA provides a setting where the journey of faith and moments of conversion can be celebrated within the local Church community.

RCIA is a place to ask questions and seek understanding. *Come and See! Invite a friend! All are Welcome!* RCIA meets Sunday's at Little Flower School from 10:15 A.M. to 11:15 A.M. For more information, contact the Parish Office at (301)994-0525.

Bible Study will not be meeting again until January 8, 2020 in observance of Christmas and the New Year. Please plan on joining us on January 8th as we continue our studies of the Old Testament at 7:00pm. Until then, we wish you a Very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Knights of Columbus

Grand Knight Charles Shilling
301-535-8339
shillingassoc@gmail.com

Pro-Life News

Some Abortion Statistics for Our General Area

The East Coast is clearly the major center for abortions in the United States. Among the fifty states and the District of Columbia, the top eight jurisdictions based on abortion rate (i.e. number of abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years for the year 2017, according to Guttmacher Institute data) border the Atlantic Ocean.

Maryland has the fourth highest abortion rate of 25.0, which is almost double the national average of 13.5. The District of Columbia is the most dangerous place to be in utero, with a whopping rate of 30.2. The safest place for the unborn is Wyoming where the abortion rate is 1.3, almost 25 times lower than DC. For more information, check https://abort73.com/abortion_facts/states/

Maryland has 25 abortion facilities. Of these, 16 are independent clinics. The other nine are under the auspices of Planned Parenthood – five of these conduct abortions on site, while the remaining four refer to other PP locations. In addition, several hospitals in the state, such as The Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, perform abortions.

There is a great deal of pro-life work to be done in Maryland.

Upcoming Events:

-January 24, 2020 – March for Life. Go to:

https://marchforlife.org/mfl-2020/rally-march-info/

-February 24, 2020 – Maryland March for Life. For more information, go to www.mdmarchforlife.com/march

-February 27, 2020 – Maryland Catholic Conference sponsors Catholics in Annapolis

If interested in participating in any of these events, contact Mark Sweet, sweets@md.metrocast.net

Admission Degree:

Congratulations to Brothers Marty Beaulieu, Bernie Kneeland and Joe Szymkowiak for obtaining their First Degree at IHM on 12 Dec.

January Events:

7 OBM
12 Remove Christmas Decorations
21 RMM
24 March For Life (Friday)
26 Pancake Breakfast

CELEBRATING 140 YEARS

The 140th Anniversary Parish Directory has arrived!

If you had your picture taken (or submitted a family photo) your *free* copy is available with your name on it in the Parish Hall. Please pick-up after Mass.

Order Your Copy Today!

There are a limited number of copies available for sale. Order your copy using the Blue Envelopes available in the back of the church.

The 140th Directory is over 80 pages filled with parish history, photos of every group in the parish plus individual family photos & roster contact information.

The 140th Directory is a perfect Christmas gift for yourself or a new friend in the parish.

How to order: Pick up a **Blue order envelope** at the back of the church.

Write your name / telephone # on the envelope

Place $10 inside

Drop in the collection plate

You will be called with details for pick-up.

Little Flower School

LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Christmas Break through January 3, 2019. Have a Blessed Christmas and New Year!

Monday, January 6 - Classes Resume
Tuesday, January 7 - Bake Sale (Grade 6)
Friday, January 10 - Parent/Student Mass (Grade 1) 8:00; Parent/Student Lunch (Grade 4)

Ten Reasons to Choose a Catholic Education

1. Catholic tradition and academic excellence in a community grounded in faith
2. Balanced curriculum that includes art, music and fitness
3. Emphasis on moral development, service to others and leadership skills
4. A 99% graduation rate
5. Strong preparation for further education
6. Safe and disciplined environment
7. Exceptional faculty who help students reach their highest potential
8. Individual attention in a caring community
9. Commitment to technology use to enhance education
10. Good stewardship of resources

*Bingo every Wednesday, doors open at 5:30 pm; early bird special starts at 6:45pm. Cash prizes! Food and drink will also be 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 (@LFSpatriots)!

Flowers—Masses—Lamps

If you would like to have a Mass ($10), the Sanctuary Lamp ($5), or Altar Flowers ($50) dedicated in someone's memory or honor, please call the Rectory at 301-994-0525.

Help Support the Church

OFFERTORY

With the Season of Advent upon us, enrolling in Faith Direct is a great way to ensure your gifts to Holy Face are received even while you are away.

Visit www.faithdirect.net and use our church code: MD210.

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family!

God Bless You,

Father Jerry

NOTICE

OUR PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 THROUGH MONDAY, DECEMBER 30. WE WILL REOPEN ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31 AT 8AM.

WE WISH YOU A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Retirement Fund for Religious

Support aging religious

Our second collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Many senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little or no pay. Today, religious communities often do not have enough savings to meet retirement needs. Your gift helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders. Thank you for your generosity.

Help Our Marriage

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue, or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped many couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information or to register for the upcoming program beginning with a weekend on January 24th - January 26th, 2020, please call (443) 400-7017 or visit: www.HelpOurMarriage.org, or email: 3015@retrouvaille.org.

WRAPPING ARMS
WARM
'ROUND MANY

Your help is needed this Christmas Season!

WARM (Wrapping Arms Round Many) is a sheltering program sponsored by the faith community in St. Mary's County. Its purpose is to provide a warm, dry and safe place for men and women to sleep during the cold weather months of November through March. Different local churches provide shelter during these colder months of the year and Camp Maria in Leonardtown hosts the WARM program during the Christmas Season. Holy Face has been asked to provide dinner and volunteers the evening of Dec 27th, through the morning of the 28th. Several volunteers are needed to prepare and serve dinner the night of the 27th for about 25 people. Additionally, male and female volunteers are also needed to monitor the attendees throughout the evening and night, until breakfast the following morning. Shifts are about 5 hours each.

Stay tuned for further announcements in the Parish Bulletin, as well as announcements following upcoming weekend Masses. To find out more about the program please contact Tom and Dee Trudell through the Parish Office, at 301 994 0525.