

PARISH CALENDAR

- Sun Jan 8 Youth Faith Formation, 9:30am, CC
- Sun Jan 8 Fr. Barron's Catholicism, 9:30am, CC
- Sun Jan 8 Parish Christmas Party, CC, 12:00 pm
- Sun Jan 8 Youth Group Family Mass 5:00 PM, C  
Youth Group Christmas party, CC
- Wed Jan 11 Cantor/Choir Practice, 6:30/7:00 PM, C
- Thu Jan 12 Apologetics Class, 6:30 PM, CC
- Sun Jan 15 Youth Faith Formation, 9:30am, CC
- Sun Jan 15 Fr. Barron's Catholicism, 9:30am, CC

MASS INTENTIONS

- Tue Jan 10 9:00 am Giuse Thanh Chau
- Wed Jan 11 9:00 am Catherine Thompson
- Thu Jan 12 9:00 am All Souls
- Fri Jan 13 9:00 am Agnes Barnes
- Sat Jan 14 5:00 pm Timothy Babcock
- Sun Jan 15 8:30 am Sarah Muir (L)  
11:00 am Horace "Bubby" Robinson

LITURGICAL FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

- Mon Jan 9 The Baptism of the Lord
- Fri Jan 13 St. Henry

WEEKDAYS LITURGICAL MINISTERS

- Daily Lector:** J.Blackwell; T.Buckler; C.Galli; D.Orwig
- Meals-on-Wheels:** B.Adams; V.Worch; M.A Rymer & N.J. Jubeck
- Altar Preparation:** K. Britton

REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS



Please remember the sick of our parish, 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.

**DECEASED** Please pray for the soul of parishioner **John Thomas Kennedy III** and **Thomas Jordan**. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

STEWARDSHIP — FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

	1/1/2017	1/3/2016	
<b>General Collection</b>	\$3980.55	\$6348.47	-\$2457.92
Identifiable Gifts	76	123	
<b>Maintenance</b>	\$641.00	\$1522.00	-\$881.00
<b>Poor Box</b>	\$107.00	\$293.25	-\$186.25
<b>Donations</b>	\$240.00	\$615.00	-\$375.00
<b>E-Giving (Weekly)</b>	\$842.00	(21 donors)	

*Thank you for your faithful parish support.*

**Stewardship Lesson from the Sunday's readings:**

Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Epiphany. The word "epiphany" comes from the Greek *epiphainen*, a verb that means "to shine upon," "to manifest," or "to make known." What the Church celebrates today is the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ to the whole world; after being made known to the shepherds of Bethlehem, He is revealed to the Magi who have come from the East to adore Him.

The Epiphany should be and is a great Feast for us. The joy we felt at the birth of Christ on Christmas must be renewed today (and every day for that matter). In a sense this is a second Christmas Day as it puts the Lord in a new light. This day manifests the divinity of Jesus. At Christmas it was a few shepherds who were invited by the Angels to go and witness and recognize the Lord.

However, today, at the Epiphany, the voice of God calls the whole world, each and every one of us, to adore Jesus, and to hear Him. The Epiphany or the realization of the divinity and saving grace of the Lord should lead us as individuals to a personal epiphany. In a sense an epiphany is representative of conversion, conversion to the truth.

If we accept Christ as our Savior and if we truly strive to live our lives as His disciple, we begin to pursue lives of stewardship, lives of love and service. Today of all days should help us in that realization and in that goal.

**Help us keep our parish records up to date.** If you have recently changed your mailing address, e-mail address, phone number, or plan to be away temporarily, please use the on-line census by going to our website ([www.StGeorgeRCC.org](http://www.StGeorgeRCC.org)) and following the links.

**New registrations** are always welcome. Please use the on-line census by going to our website ([www.StGeorgeRCC.org](http://www.StGeorgeRCC.org)) and following the links. Forms for this purpose are also in the rack in the church front entrance for those who are not able to use a computer.

OUR PARISH NEWS



St. George Parish Family  
Covered Dish  
*Christmas Party*

**Sunday — January 8, 2017, 12:30 P. M.** in the Community Center. The parish will provide the main meat to accompany the covered dish you bring.

**Collection for Church Missions in the United States and the Archdiocese for the Military Services  
January 14-15, 2017**

The collection for Church Missions in the United States supports home mission dioceses in this country that are unable to offer their people basic liturgical, pastoral, and service ministries without outside help. It also supports vulnerable Black and Native American communities with funds for parish support and evangelization needs. The Archdiocese for the Military Services provides the Catholic Church's full range of pastoral ministries and spiritual services to those in the United States Armed Forces, and is therefore responsible for more than 1.8 million men, women, and children. *Thank you for your generosity to these needs.*

OUR PARISH FAITH FORMATION

**Youth Faith Formation at St. George (YFF)**

YFF Classes (Pre-K to Confirmation)  
9:30AM-10:45AM  
Community Center of St. George

*"Journey around the World and Deep into the Catholic Faith" with Father Barron's Catholicism Series.*

This program will take place on the **second and third Sundays each month in the Community Center. 9:30-10:45 AM. All are invited to attend**

**Apologetics 101**

Next Class: **Thur., Jan. 12 "What happens after death?"**  
6:30-7:30pm in the Community Center.

OUR YOUTH GROUP NEWS

**Youth Group gathers every Sunday, 5:00 PM in the Community Center.**

This week: Youth Group Family Mass 5:00pm, followed by Christmas Party in the Community Center

2016 INCOME TAX PREPARATION

**St. George Year-End Contribution Statements**

**Starting on January 8, 2017, you can get your yearly contribution statement without waiting!**

Here's how:

1. If you have not already registered a user name:
  - a. In your internet browser, go to [connectnow.parishsoft.com/washingtondc/](http://connectnow.parishsoft.com/washingtondc/)
  - b. Click on link for 'New User?'
  - c. Choose 'St. George, Valley Lee from the drop down list
  - d. Fill in all the areas with a red asterisk and click the 'Submit Registration' button. (If you have given us an email address, please use that address.)
  - e. Once a temporary password has been emailed to you, you can sign-in with your user name and password to check your data.
2. Once you have registered:
  - a. In your internet browser, go to [connectnow.parishsoft.com/washingtondc/](http://connectnow.parishsoft.com/washingtondc/)
  - b. Enter your User Name and Password
  - c. Click on "My Own Church" link
  - d. Click on the "My Offering" tab
  - e. Click on the "Giving History" link
  - f. Click on the "Download Statement" link\*\*
  - g. Print or save as needed

**\*\*Please note – you will not be able to download until we release the statements January 8, 2017.**

OUR REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

**Little Flower School News**

- Mon., Jan. 9** – Spirit Night at Chick-fil-A, **5:00-7:00 pm**
- Tue., Jan. 10** – School Mass, Holy Face Church, **10:15 am**  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade Bake Sale;  
Open House for Prospective Families **3:30-5:30 pm**  
Home & School Association mid-year meeting, **6:00pm**
- Wed., Jan.11** Doors open for Cash Bingo! **5:30 pm**
- Fri., Jan. 13** End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter; Tag Day  
Knights of Columbus Basketball Shootout; **8am**  
Early Dismissal, **12:45pm**

**Bingo is back!** 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](http://www.facebook.com/littleflowercatholic)) and "follow" us on Twitter and Instagram (@LFS patriots)!

**Don't forget to save** your Box Tops and Campbell's Soup labels! They add up and help our school to be able to purchase supplies, gym equipment, technology, and other things to enhance our students' learning!

**Interested in learning more** about Little Flower School? email ([LFSoffice@littleflowercatholic.org](mailto:LFSoffice@littleflowercatholic.org)) or call the office (301) 994-0404 to schedule a tour! We'd love to talk more with you about how to make a Catholic education a possibility for your child!

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CORNER**

**Fr. Sebastien De Rose Council # 13091**

*Grand Knight: Dan Bogan*  
[dan.bogan@gmail.com](mailto:dan.bogan@gmail.com)

**FEED THE HUNGRY:** Please answer Christ's call to "Feed the hungry" by regularly donating food items to the food bins in the vestibule. There are many in our community who need our help. The food collected in our food bins goes to food pantries that directly feed the hungry.

**NEWS IN AND AROUND OUR AREAS**

**Sun., Jan. 8 All You Can Eat Breakfast, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dist. VFD & RS, Drayden Rd., Valley Lee, 8am-11am,** Menu: Scrambled Eggs, Home Fried Potatoes, Pancakes, French Toast, Sausage Links, Ham, Bacon, Hot Biscuits, Creamed Chipped Beef, Spiced Applesauce, & Grits; Assorted juices, milk and coffee. Cost: Adults - \$9.00; Children 6 - 12 - \$5.00; Children 5 & under are free; More info call 301-994-9999.

**Sun., Jan. 8 New Year's Choral Festival, St. Aloysius Catholic Church, Leonardtown, MD, 3:00 PM.** Info: 301-475-8064.

**Wed., Jan. 11 Theology on Tap, Olde Town Grill, Leonardtown.** Presenter: Deacon Andy Geisz. Topic: "The Root of All Evil? A Catholic Perspective on Finances." Your questions about this incredibly important topic of faith and finances will be answered. Happy Hour **6pm-7pm**, talk, **7pm** with Q&A to follow. **PAXCatholic** is a regional young adult ministry. For more information about **Theology on Tap** or to find out how you can help **PAXCatholic** in their mission, please email [paxcatholicstmarys@gmail.com](mailto:paxcatholicstmarys@gmail.com) or visit our Facebook page at [facebook.com/paxcatholic](http://facebook.com/paxcatholic)!

**Mon., Jan. 23 Southern Maryland Area Monthly Mass with Eucharistic Adoration and Healing Prayers.** Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lexington Park. Mass: **7:00 pm**; Confessions start 6:30 pm. Info: 301-863-8144.

**Fri., Jan. 27 Annual March for Life.** [information to follow]

**Retrouvaille: A Lifeline for Marriages in Trouble**

Many marriages may experience four stages: (1) Romance, (2) Disillusionment, (3) Misery, and (4) Awakening. Marriages that end in divorce never make it to the 4th Stage of Awakening. Don't give up without learning about the 4th Stage of Awakening. If your marriage suffers from disillusionment or misery, please contact Retrouvaille (pronounced "retro-vie" with a long "i"). The next Retrouvaille weekend is **January 27-29**, and to register or obtain more information, please visit [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com), call 443-400-7017, or email [3015@Retrouvaille.org](mailto:3015@Retrouvaille.org). All calls and inquiries are confidential.

**Men's Retreat: Discover a Courageous Spiritual Life**

A men's retreat, "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom," will be held on **February 10-12** and will be directed by Fr. Dave Wells and Fr. Rick Kramer at Priestfield Pastoral Center in Kearneysville, WV, which is a short drive from the Washington, DC area and provides space for quiet reflection away from all the distractions. Fr. Wells and Fr. Kramer will lead talks on living a courageous life in the Holy Spirit, and they will celebrate Mass and offer opportunities for spiritual direction. You will have the opportunity to go to confession and spend quiet time with our Lord in Adoration. Cost: \$225 for the weekend covers room, meals, including dinner Friday night; breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Saturday; and breakfast and lunch on Sunday. For more information or to register go to [www.adwmenretreat.eventbrite.com](http://www.adwmenretreat.eventbrite.com).

**2017 Pilgrimages**

**June 22 – July 1 63<sup>rd</sup> U. S. National Rosary Pilgrimage - Lourdes, France.** Cost: \$2,879 Depart: Washington/Dulles. Reservation deadline: March 15. Info: Catholic Travel Office, 1-877-276-7279, or [lourdespilgrimageoffice@comcast.net](mailto:lourdespilgrimageoffice@comcast.net).

**Fatima Pilgrimage/Retreat, July 8 to 16, 2017**

2017 celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the messages of Fatima, a very special time to go there on Pilgrimage! Join us on this trip as we fly non-stop out of Dulles to this special place of prayer at a time when we really need to pray for our country and each other. Father Michael Tietjen, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, will be accompanying us as Chaplain. Cost: \$2,989.00, includes: Lodging, Breakfast and Dinner Daily, visits to many special places in Portugal and talks about the importance of living the Fatima Message in

our world today. A \$500 deposit (airlines required) is due with your registration. For registration form, full itinerary or trip information email: [pilgrimage@breadoflifecenterforpeace.org](mailto:pilgrimage@breadoflifecenterforpeace.org) or call: (301) 475-9704.

**Catholics in Annapolis – February 15, 2017, 3-8 PM**

Meet your legislators and build a positive relationship with them by sharing the great work and the Good News of the Church in Maryland lived out through the works of our ministries, charities, hospitals, schools, parishes and communities. How? Mingle with like-minded Catholics at the 33rd Catholics in Annapolis! We will brief you on the relevant issues considered by the General Assembly from a faith perspective and provide shuttles for your visits to your legislators' offices. Then, join us at a reception (catered by the Iron Rooster) for all the members of the General Assembly and our Bishops and other Church leaders.

**Note:** Event and reception are free but registration is required: [www.MdCatholic.org/LobbyNight](http://www.MdCatholic.org/LobbyNight). If you cannot make the **3 p.m.** briefing, we encourage you to attend the **6 p.m.** reception! Questions? Mike Gathagan or Chris Santo 410-269-1155 or 301-261-1979 [mgathagan@mdcatholic.org](mailto:mgathagan@mdcatholic.org); [chris@mdcatholic.org](mailto:chris@mdcatholic.org).

**REFLECTING ON THE SUNDAY READINGS**

*IS 60: 1-6; PS 72: 1-2, 7-8, 10-13; EPH 3: 2-3A, 5-6; MT 2: 1-12*

Today we celebrate The Epiphany of the Lord. The Solemnity of the Epiphany was traditionally celebrated on January 6 (the 12th Day of Christmas), but in the United States the Bishops have opted to move the celebration to the Sunday between January 2 and 8.

For many years now in the English-speaking world the feast of Epiphany has been overshadowed by that of Christmas. But unless we realize the significance of this great day, we see only one side of the mystery of the Incarnation. Now after contemplating the staggering fact that God has become a human child, we turn to look at this mystery from the opposite angle and realize that this seemingly helpless Child is, in fact, the omnipotent God, the King and Ruler of the universe. The feast of Christ's divinity completes the feast of His humanity. It fulfills all our Advent longing for the King "who is come with great power and majesty."

As we might expect our readings for this glorious day reflect the wonder of this Epiphany. Our First Reading from that incredible prophet Isaiah illustrates the special nature of this day: "Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come; the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you

appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance."

Christ is the Light of the World and today is a day that emphasizes this. Initially we, each of us, receive that Light, but then we are called to share that light, to reveal it to others, just as the Magi did. We cannot shine until we accept and receive that light. That is what discipleship is all about. Now is a time when each of us must "arise and shine."

St. Paul is called by some the Apostle to the Gentiles. The word "gentile" is one we hear often, but we may not completely grasp its meaning. The word "Gentile" is an English translation of the Hebrew word *goyim* and the Greek word *ethne* ("nations, people"). The Latin vulgate translated these words as *gentilis*, and this word was carried over into English as "Gentile." Basically the term refers to a person who is not a Jew. In that sense almost all of us are Gentiles.

The importance of Epiphany is that the Magi from the East were most definitely Gentiles. Yet, they, representing all of us to a certain extent, recognized, accepted, and acknowledged Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. The Epiphany brings us all into the fold in terms of Jesus' divinity and saving grace. St. Paul makes it clear in today's reading, as well as in his letter to the Ephesians (who were also Gentiles), that "Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise of Christ through the gospel."

Our Gospel Reading is the story of the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus as reported in Matthew. It is interesting to note that this particular story is only reported in the Gospel of Matthew, not in the other three. Much is made of the gifts that were presented to the Christ child, but those may be secondary to other aspects of the story. It may well be that they initially went to the palace of Herod because that is where they might expect to find the newborn King. However, it soon becomes clear to them that neither is the Lord there, nor is it likely He would be there, so they continue their trek.

Yes, when they arrive at the place of Jesus, they present gifts, but more important they humbly worship Him. It must have been a strange sight indeed to see these holy and royal men bow down before a child. As pointed out by many this story really does manifest the arrival of Christ the Savior. He appears first to the Jewish people as represented by the shepherds, then to the Gentile. He appears first to the humble and unlearned, and then to the royal and educated. He appears first to the West, and then to the East. We need to share in the wonder of the Magi, and we need to join them in honoring and worshipping the Lord.