

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun Jan 15 Youth Faith Formation, **9:30 AM, CC**
 Sun Jan 15 Fr. Barron's Catholicism, **9:30 AM, CC**
 Sun Jan 15 Youth Group, **5:00 PM, CC**
 Wed Jan 18 Cantor/Choir Practice, **6:30/7:00 PM, C**
 Thu Jan 19 Apologetics Class, **6:30 PM, CC**
 Sun Jan 22 Youth Faith Formation, **9:30 AM, CC**
 Sun Jan 22 Coffee, donuts, faith talk, **9:45 AM, CC**

MASS INTENTIONS

Tue Jan 17 9:00 am Catherine Thompson
 Wed Jan 18 9:00 am Father Mark Ervin
 Thu Jan 19 9:00 am Special Intention
 Fri Jan 20 9:00 am Father Mark Ervin
 Sat Jan 21 5:00 pm St. George Parishioners
 Sun Jan 22 8:30 am Father Mark Ervin
 Sun Jan 22 11:00 am Joseph Zook

LITURGICAL FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Tue Jan 17 St. Anthony
 Fri Jan 20 St. Fabian; St. Sebastian

WEEKDAYS LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Daily Lector: J.Blackwell; M.Goldsmith, C.Galli, Volunteer
Meals-on-Wheels: P. Keen; M.A. Springer; J. Farrell
Altar Preparation: P. Browne

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 **David C. Wood, Sr.**, brother of parishioner Betty Mundie. *May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace*

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) and following the links.

New registrations are always welcome. Please use the online census (www.StGeorgeRCC.org). Forms for this purpose are also in the rack in the church front entrance for those who are not able to use a computer.

STEWARDSHIP — FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

	1/8/2017	1/10/2016	
General Collection	\$1516.00 (snow)	\$4876.05	-\$3360.05
Identifiable Gifts	34	156	
Maintenance	\$880.00	\$350.00	+\$530.00
Poor Box	\$101.00	\$237.36	-\$136.36
Donations	\$625.00	\$395.00	+230.00
E-Giving (Weekly)	\$842.00	(21 donors)	

Thank you for your faithful parish support.

Stewardship Lesson from the Sunday's readings:

Our Gospel Reading today is quite short. However, it contains an important revelation from St. John the Baptist about Jesus, our Lord and Savior. John the Baptist testifies, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and remain upon him." We are fond in the Church to use the symbol of the dove to represent the Holy Spirit, but what John says is not that the Spirit was a dove, but it descended like a dove.

The Spirit descends upon us as well throughout our lives as Catholics. At our Baptism the Holy Spirit came upon us, and we received the fullness of the Holy Spirit's gifts at Confirmation. Nevertheless, we receive the Holy Spirit at every Mass and especially at the Eucharist. Just as John the Baptist spoke of seeing the Holy Spirit descend upon the Lord, that same Holy Spirit descends upon us.

You probably have never paid much attention to how a dove actually descends. It sort of hovers and floats downward. Its descent is smooth, deliberate, and in its own unique way. This Spirit has descended upon us and continues to do so. It fills us. What do we do with it? It is part of our very being, but for it to be effective we must share it and use it.

Our Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI once said, "No one can give that which they do not personally possess, which means we cannot transmit the Holy Spirit if we ourselves are not close to the Spirit."



OUR PARISH NEWS

**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.*



Resisting Happiness...We all know the things that will make us happy, but we don't always do them. Why? We're resistant. With his signature combination of the profound and the practical, *New York Times* bestselling author Matthew Kelly helps you learn why we sabotage ourselves, feel overwhelmed, set aside our dreams, and lack the courage to simply be ourselves . . . and how to start choosing happiness

again. Resisting Happiness will inspire you to break through resistance so you can become the-best-version-of-yourself and start living with passion and purpose.

These BOOKs are still available in the vestibule for you as a GIFT from the parish.

MARCH FOR LIFE - January 27 - Washington, D.C.

Bus transportation is available for parishioners desiring to attend the March for Life on Friday January 27th. The bus will leave Immaculate Heart of Mary parking lot at **9:45 AM** and return at approximately **6:00 PM**. Bus ride is free for St George Catholic Church parishioners courtesy of our Knights of Columbus council. The bus is expected to fill up so please notify John Cruz at 240-538-1023 or jcinpax@md.metrocast.net if you plan on attending.

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 takes place on the second and third Sundays each month in the Community Center. 9:30-10:45 AM. All invited to attend.

Apologetics 101

**Thur., Jan. 19 "All I Need is the Bible! Right?"
Find answers at 6:30 pm, Community Center**

OUR YOUTH GROUP NEWS

**Youth Group gathers every Sunday, 5:00-8:00 PM
in the Community Center.**

Faith, Food, Fun, Friendship

IN OUR MAILBOX

"Thank you to all who have remembered me in my illness, with cards, phone calls, meals and most of all, your prayers. I am so grateful to you and will keep you in my prayers as well. God bless you – one and all.

Sincerely,
Marie Redman"

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/
 - 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/
 - 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 16 No School – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Tue., Jan 17 School Mass, Holy Face Church; **10:15am**
8th Grade Bake Sale
- Wed., Jan 18 Doors open for Cash Bingo! **5:30pm**
- Fri., Jan 20 6th & 7th Gr. Parent/Student Mass, **8am**
1st Gr. Parent/Student Lunch, **11:20am**
Report Cards go home today!

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) and “follow” us on Twitter and Instagram (@LFSpatriots)!

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) 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

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

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. The Archdiocese of Washington will observe the annual Day of Penance and Prayer for the Legal Protection of the Unborn, coinciding with the annual March for Life.

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. 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; chris@mdcatholic.org.

Camp Maria – Help Wanted - Cook

Camp Maria Retreat Center seeks a Kitchen Manager-Cook who is able to commit to the mission and values of Camp Maria Retreat Center. She/he is responsible for food service and dining room management. This includes supervision of all kitchen and dining room staff. Strong cooking skills in a commercial kitchen and organizational skills are needed to organize, delegate, facilitate tasks for daily operation as well as the ability to prioritize and implement goals in areas of responsibility. Knowledge of purchasing, cost savings and inventory control is needed. The position is responsible for menu creation, meal planning, preparation and serving of all meals. Reports to: Director. For more information or to apply, contact: Director, Camp Maria Retreat Center, 41290 Camp Maria Road, Leonardtown MD 20650. Full job description is available at www.campmaria.org. Please submit a cover letter and resume by January 19, 2017.

Care Net Pregnancy Center of Southern Maryland is in desperate need of gently worn winter children's clothing sizes 18M, 24M, 2T, 3T and 4T, for both boys and girls. Our winter

clothing supplies are extremely sparse, if not completely gone, and we are unable to meet the needs of our clients. If you are able to donate clothing, please contact any of our three centers to arrange a drop-off, as we will have limited hours for the Christmas holiday. You will receive a tax receipt, as well as the blessing of knowing you are helping children in need. Lexington Park Center, 301-737-4604; Leonardtown Center, 301-475-5333; Prince Frederick Center, 410-326-6866. Thank you.

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.

REFLECTING ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

IS 49: 3, 5-6; PS 40: 2, 4, 7-10; 1 COR 1: 1-3; JN 1: 29-34

Today we celebrate the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time. Many Catholics do not fully understand the meaning and importance of Ordinary Time. Ordinary is based upon the fact that the Sundays during this time are numbered, and that is because they do not fall into the various seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, or Easter. That does not make this time of year unimportant; in fact Ordinary Time is far from unimportant or uninteresting.

As indicated in today's Gospel Reading from John, John the Baptist refers to Jesus as the Lamb of God. That means this is the time of year when Christ, the Lamb of God, walks among us and can transform our lives. There is certainly nothing "ordinary" about that.

On most Sundays within the readings for the liturgy there are some gems and special messages that might get lost in the midst of everything else. This Sunday is no exception. The prescience of the prophet Isaiah who was writing some six centuries before the birth of Christ is sometimes amazing. Today's First Reading from Isaiah closes with this statement: "I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth." How often do we hear the Lord called the Light of the World, not just the light of Israel, but the light to everyone everywhere? Jesus does not just bring salvation to all of us; He is salvation for all of us.

The Second Reading comes to us from the very beginning of St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. Paul understood

the forms and traditions of his day. When someone was writing a letter, they needed to state at the very beginning whom the letter is for and from whom it comes. That in part is the gist of today's reading. Paul spent as much time in Corinth as he did anywhere during his ministry. As a result we may know more about the faith community in Corinth than we do about any other community in the New Testament.

Perhaps the two key ingredients of this introductory message of the letter is that first of all Paul makes it quite clear that he is a "called" apostle. He is not an elected apostle or an appointed apostle, but one called by God. Each of us is also called to apostleship. That is what being a steward and being a disciple of Christ involves. We need to recognize and accept our calling, and then live it out.

Also, Paul makes reference to the people of the Corinthian Christian community as "the church of God that is in Corinth." Too often we may think of a church as being a building, but the Greek word that is translated as "church" is *ekklesiae*. That means literally an "assembly of people," quite often a group that gathers for a very definite purpose. That is what we are as Church, not so much a structure, but a group of people with a common purpose and commitment, which should be to serve God and one another.

As is the case on many a Sunday, this entire reflection could be on the Gospel Reading from John. The first witness to Christ is John the Baptist. As he states in the Gospel, "I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God." Personal witness is still important within our communities, as individuals and couples and groups witness to their own realization of what John the Baptist maintains. This Gospel is from the very beginning of Jesus' public ministry, but John already accurately states that "Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." The shadow of the Cross is over Jesus then and throughout His existence on earth.

John the Baptist additionally emphasizes the divinity of Jesus when he says, "...He existed before me." In truth John was born before Jesus and was older than the Lord, at least in terms of earthly existence. However, when John says "He existed before me," he is testifying to the pre-existence of Jesus. Jesus was and is God. More than thirty times in the New Testament Jesus is referred to as a lamb. We are called to live lives similar to His, not as representatives of strength and power, but as symbols of obedience and love and peace and humility. It takes great strength to show that kind of acceptance and love, but that is what we are called to do.