

**PARISH CALENDAR**

- Sun Feb 4 Pancake Breakfast, **9:00 AM, CC**
- Sun Feb 4 Youth Faith Formation, **9:30 am, CC**
- Sun Feb 4 Children's Liturgy, **11 AM, C**
- Sun Feb 4 Youth Group, **5 PM, C**
- Wed Feb 7 Cantor/Choir Rehearsals, **6:30/7pm, C**
- Fri Feb 9 Scripture Study, **10:00 am, CC**
- Sat Feb 10 Stations Practice, **9:30am, C**
- Sun Feb 11 Youth Faith Formation, **9:30 am, CC**
- Sun Feb 11 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Parent Mtg., **9:45am, CC**
- Sun Feb 11 Youth Group, **5 PM, CC**

**MASS INTENTIONS**

- Tue Feb 6 9:00 am Brenda Hanson
- Wed Feb 7 9:00 am Walter Chimiak
- Thu Feb 8 9:00 am Charles F. Norris
- Fri Feb 9 9:00 am Charlie Clausen
- Sat Feb 10 5:00 pm Parishioners
- Sun Feb 11 8:30 am Jenna Stone
- Sun Feb 11 11:00 am Doris Robinson

**Available dates for Mass Intentions in March & April:**  
**March 20, 21, 25 April 5, 10, 15, 18, 19**  
**Please call the church office to reserve (301-994-0607)**

*For those having access to NAS Patuxent River, the rosary is recited Monday through Friday at St. Nicholas Chapel at 11:35am*

**FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK**

- Mon Feb 5 St. Agatha**
- Tue Feb 6 St. Paul Miki and Companions**
- Thu Feb 8 St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine Bakhita
- Sat Feb 10 St. Scholastica**

**WEEKDAYS LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

**Daily Lector:** J.Blackwell; T.Buckler; C.Galli; C.Galli  
**Meals-on-wheels:** J.&V. Royston; B. Adams; M.A. Rymer & N.J. Jubeck

**Altar Preparation:** C. Cantrill

**REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYER**

Please remember our parishioners who are sick, the homebound and those in the nursing homes and hospital, 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 — FINANCIAL BLESSINGS**

	1/28/2018	1/29/2017	
<b>Gen. Collection</b>	\$3396.53	\$4106.50	-\$579.97
<b>E-Giving (Weekly)</b>	\$1057.00	\$927.00	
<b>Identifiable Gifts</b>	137	111	+26
<b>Maintenance</b>	\$135.00	\$68.00	+\$67.00
<b>Poor Box</b>	\$263.71	\$198.00	+\$65.71
<b>Donations</b>	\$440.00	\$297.00	+\$143.00

*Thank you for your faithful Parish support.*

**Important 2017 Tax information**

**OFFERTORY STATEMENT OF 2017 CONTRIBUTIONS**

**Accessing your 2017 contribution letter:**

1. Go to St. George website ([www.stgeorgecc.org](http://www.stgeorgecc.org))
2. Click on banner to access your letter.

**If you are already registered on-line:**

1. Sign in with your User Name and Password
2. Click "My Own Church"
3. Click "My Offering"
4. Click "Giving History"
5. Choose 2017 in the drop-down box
6. Choose "Statement" in DOWNLOAD drop-down box.
7. This will generate a statement on your computer that you can save and print.

**If you are not yet registered on-line:**

1. Click the "New User" link.
2. Follow the process to register. Once we approve your registration, you can then follow the same process above to generate your statement.

**E-Givers** – please note that while you can access your statements through Faith Direct, you may want to generate a statement through the above process in the event that you made any non-electronic donations.

For those prefer a printed statement, please either call the parish office or email [accounting.stgeorge.md@adw.org](mailto:accounting.stgeorge.md@adw.org). We will print your statement for you to pick up at your convenience.

**A message from this Sunday's Gospel:**

The fact that today's Gospel from Mark makes reference to Jesus curing Peter's mother-in-law would seem to point to the fact that Peter was married. However, the majority of scholars are of the opinion that

the wife may have died before Peter was called by Jesus as an Apostle. In fact, there are many misconceptions about St. Peter. For one, although often portrayed as much older, he was probably younger than Jesus. In fact all 12 Apostles were most likely younger than Jesus.

Also, Peter is often presented in paintings and movies and books as being a very old man, but historians have also concluded that Peter was martyred in Rome when he was about 66 years old. He was never the old, old man in his 80's we see quite often.

All of that is secondary to a simple statement in today's Gospel about the mother-in-law. Specifically, St. Mark writes, "He (Jesus) approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them." St. Matthew reveals this same fact in his Gospel (Matthew 8:15), and he writes, "He (Jesus) touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to serve him."

The message for us is very basic. Peter's mother-in-law responded to Jesus the same way we should when Jesus blesses us. She responded to the Lord and immediately served Him out of gratitude. That should be our motivation, and action, as well.

**OUR PARISH NEWS**

**2018 Cardinal's Appeal Follow-up Weekend**

**February 3 & 4**

If you were away last weekend at the time of this annual pledge collection, you may still contribute by using the envelopes found in the pews today.

*Thank you for your prayerful consideration and generous response.*



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

Best wishes to our pastor, Father Paul Nguyen, whose birthday is February 5. May God send many blessings his way.



**SAVE-THE-DATE**

**Sunday, February 18 after 11:00AM Mass**

Please join us in celebrating Mrs. Phyllis Browne, our parish secretary, for her 90th birthday. Come and share in the joy of her great milestone.  
St. George Community Center

**OUR PARISH FAITH FORMATION**

**Youth's Faith Formation (YFF) - Sunday Mornings  
9:30AM - 10:45 AM in Community Center**

Sun., Feb. 4 — 11:00AM next Children's Liturgy  
*"The Mass explained" at this liturgy*

Sat. Feb. 10 Living Stations Rehearsal, 9:30am, C

Sun., Feb. 11 2nd Grade Parent Meeting, 9:45 am, CC  
Preparation for children's First Reconciliation

**YOUTH MINISTRY**

**Mr. Adam Dean, Youth Ministry Coordinator**  
email: [youthgroup@stgeorgegcc.org](mailto:youthgroup@stgeorgegcc.org)

**OUR REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL (LFS)**

**LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL**

SAVE THE DATE - Saturday, **February 24, 2018**

**L.F.S. Annual Benefit Auction  
UNDER THE SEA**

Buffet Style Dinner, Silent and Live Auction Items  
Early Bird Tickets until January 31, 2018

Contact Barbara Stirling:  
[lfsprincipal@littleflowercatholic.org](mailto:lfsprincipal@littleflowercatholic.org)

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**Bingo** every Wednesday, doors open at **5:30 pm**; early bird special starts at **6:45pm**. Cash prizes! Food and drink are also 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 (@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?** Call (301)994-0404 or ([LFSoffice@littleflowercatholic.org](mailto:LFSoffice@littleflowercatholic.org)) the office today 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 NEWS**

**Fr. Sebastien De Rose Council # 13091**  
**Grand Knight: Christopher A. Wilcox**  
[CWILCOX@MD.METROCAST.NET](mailto:CWILCOX@MD.METROCAST.NET)

**Pilgrimage to St. John Paul II Shrine and Basilica of the Immaculate Conception** is rescheduled for our Lenten pilgrimage, **Saturday, MARCH 10, 2018**. Please call the Church Office to reserve your seat on the bus.

**SAVE THE DATE– MARCH FOR LIFE IN 2018**

**Mon., Mar. 12 Maryland March for Life, Annapolis, MD**  
Transportation provided by the Knights of Columbus.

**NEWS IN OUR AREA & AROUND**

**Tue., Feb. 6 Ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially reopen the recently renovated Drayden African-American Schoolhouse, 9:00 AM, 18287 Cherryfield Road in Drayden.** For more information, call 301-769-2222 or log on to [www.stmarysmd.com/recreate/museums](http://www.stmarysmd.com/recreate/museums).

**Fri., Feb. 9 Annual Southern Maryland Spring College & Career Fair featuring Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and local colleges and career organizations,** Dr. James A Forrest Career & Technology Center, Leonardtown, MD. Visit the [website](#) or contact Adrienne Dillahunt @ [amdillahunt@smcps.org](mailto:amdillahunt@smcps.org) or call 301-863-4031 ext. 1312, for more information.

**Feb. 9-11 Men's Retreat – "Actively Engaged in the Spiritual Life", Priestfield Pastoral Center, Kearneysville, WV 25430.** Presenters: Fr. Dave Wells and Fr. Rick Kramer. Cost \$230 (includes accommodations and meals) Register @ 2018 [ADWMEN.EVENTBRITE.com](http://ADWMEN.EVENTBRITE.com)

**Sat., Feb 10** The Archdiocese Office of Worship will conduct workshops at **Holy Face Church, Great Mills (9:00 am-12:00 pm for Extraordinary Ministers and 1:00 pm-4:00 pm for Lectors).** These workshops are open to all. There is a \$5 registration fee which is payable at the door. Please RSVP by emailing [liturgy@adv.org](mailto:liturgy@adv.org).

**Sun., Feb. 11 All You Can Eat Breakfast, 2nd Dist VFD&RS,** Drayden Road, Valley Lee, MD. **8-11 AM,** Great food, excellent menu. Adult \$9; child 6-12 yrs \$5; age 5 and under free. Info: 301-994-9999

**Sun., Feb. 11 Music at the Monastery with organist Samantha Scheff.** Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land, Quincy St. NE, Washington, DC, **4 PM.** For info, visit [myfranciscan.org](http://myfranciscan.org) or call 202-526-6800;

**Tue., Feb. 13 Pancake Supper – All-You-Can-Eat; 5:00 pm-7:00 pm. Adults \$7.00; Children 6-12 \$3.00; & Children 5 & under are free;** Menu: Scrambled Eggs, Pancakes, Sausage Links, & Apple Sauce, Assorted Juices, Milk and Coffee; For more information call 301-994-9999.

**Sat., Feb. 17 Valentine's Dinner Dance & Silent Auction.** Menu: Beef, Stuffed Ham, Fried Shrimp, Parsley Potatoes, Green Beans, Coleslaw, Rolls, Ice Tea, Coffee, and Water, and Assorted Desserts; Music by: Swingaway; Tickets \$30/person in advance or \$40/person at the door. Contact: Georgia W. 301-312-9176 / Cathy C. 301-904-3854 / Dee Dee J. 240-561-2750. Cash Bar; Silent Auction Donations contact Dee Dee J. 240-561-2750; For more info contact Heather Bean at

[fundraising@SDVFDERS.ORG](mailto:fundraising@SDVFDERS.ORG) – Hosted by 2nd District VFD&RS to benefit new building

**Mon., Feb. 19 Red Cross Blood Drive, 1:300-7:00 PM, 2nd Dist Firehouse.** For more information, call 1-800-RED-CROSS to schedule your life-saving donation and visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) to download the blood donor app.

**Thur., Feb. 22 Catholics in Annapolis, 3pm-8pm.** [see notice below]

**Help for Marriages in Trouble**

Is your marriage going down the right road . . . or is it a little off track? Looking for a better way? *Retrouvaille* can help and offers hope for a better relationship. It can help you learn the tools of healthy communication, build intimacy, and heal. For confidential information about or to register for an upcoming program, please visit [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com), call 443-400-7017, or email [3015@retrouvaille.org](mailto:3015@retrouvaille.org).

**Catholics in Annapolis**

The Catholic Conference is hosting **Catholics in Annapolis on February 22 from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.** This annual event is an opportunity for Marylanders to meet with their State legislators and share the Catholic viewpoint on issues before the General Assembly. *Catholics in Annapolis* is one of the best attended advocacy events during the legislative session. Whether you're new to the event, or an old pro, we hope you can join us. **Catholics in Annapolis is a free event, but registration is required.** We encourage you to sign up today and let your lawmakers know you will see them next month: [www.mdathcon.org/lobbysnight](http://www.mdathcon.org/lobbysnight).

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter**

"Remember that my life is like the wind," Let us make the best of our time together with our spouses by enjoying a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME)** weekend. The next weekends are **April 20-22, 2018, November 2-4, 2018** in Gaithersburg, MD and **August 3-5, 2018** in Hanover, MD. Go to [MOMENTS4MARRIAGE.ORG](http://MOMENTS4MARRIAGE.ORG) to sign-up or call 301-541-7007. It's not too early to sign-up!

**Women's Lenten Retreat Sarah, Mother of Faith**  
**Two night/two day retreat with overnight accommodations at Camp Maria Retreat Center, Leonardtown, MD.** The retreat will be led by Sister Marian Stenken, a Sister of Charity of Nazareth from Louisville, KY. **Friday, March 2 - Sunday March 4.** Cost: \$165. Registration and fee due by Feb. 22, 2018. [see notice on bulletin board]

**Married Couples Retreats at Priestfield Retreat Center, Kearneysville, VA**  
**March 16, 17, 18 or March 23, 24, 25, 2018**  
Retreat Master Father Rick Kramer of the Office of Family Life, Washington, D. C. will lead both retreats. For more information call: Elaine Galeone, 410-252-5355.



**“Vocations Tree” Coming Soon!**

Here’s something simple you and your family can do for Lent! Next weekend you will see a “Vocations Tree” in the church vestibule with cards hanging on it. Each card has information about a seminarian of the Archdiocese of Washington. We invite you to choose a card (or more than one!) and pray for that seminarian each day during Lent. Who knows? You could be praying for a future pastor of our parish!

**REFLECTION ON THE SACRED SCRIPTURE**

**JB 7: 1-4, 6-7; PS 147: 1-6; 1 COR 9: 16-19, 22-23; MK 1: 29-39**

It is not always possible to establish a theme in relation to the readings for a particular Sunday. In fact, on this Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time we might say there are two themes — suffering and stewardship. Suffering in particular is something our society has come to view almost as an evil. Yet, suffering is part of life. Our faith takes this into account. Whenever you are suffering, all you have to do is look at a Crucifix. Seeing Christ on that Cross should remind us how much the Lord loves us, enough to be tortured and crucified for us. When we are in agony, Christ is in agony with us.

Our First Reading comes from the Old Testament Book of Job. The suffering of Job is legendary. You perhaps need to read the entire book to put things in perspective with today’s brief reading. Job was blessed with wealth and a blessed family. Then there is a scene in Heaven where Satan tells God that Job is pious and good only because he is so blessed; if he had none of this he would most likely curse God. Job loses everything. Yet he is able to maintain his faith, saying at one point, “Naked I came forth from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I go back there. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; blessed is the name of the Lord.”

Job suffered immensely. In today’s reading he declares, “Is not man’s life on earth a drudgery?” There is a translation of that same phrase that reads, “Is not man’s life on earth a battle?” There is no denying that. The point is not how much we suffer; the point is how we respond to that. As Catholics and Christians we have been given hope in eternal and suffering-free life through Christ’s sacrifice for us. With Lent only a few days away (it begins on Wednesday, February 14) this is a good time to be reminded of that.

St. Paul changes the focus a bit in our Second Reading from his First Letter to the Corinthians. Paul certainly suffered in many ways during his life, although like Job, he was at one time quite comfortable and seemingly blessed. The key line in today’s reading may be “...I

have been entrusted with a stewardship.” The stewardship to which he refers is his role in life to preach the Gospel no matter what the response or the attitudes he faces.

Suffering may not be a situation in which we have a choice. It is thrust upon us. In the same way Paul knew that his ministry was not a matter of choice. It was something he was called to do; it was something he had to do. He was called to preach and he feels compelled to fulfill that call. For many of us we are not certain what our calling is, but stewardship asks that we try to identify what that calling may be, and then, of course, we need to respond by trying to carry that out. In some cases it may require sacrifice and even suffering. However, if we live as God wants us to we can be assured of the same reward Paul understands — eternal life with our Lord and our God. Like Job we can declare, “Blessed is the name of the Lord.”

In our Gospel Reading from St. Mark, we hear the continuation of what we heard last week. Last week Jesus preached in the synagogue on the Sabbath day; today we hear what he did when he left the synagogue. We must remember that Jesus was in Capernaum.



Capernaum was more or less the center of Jesus’ activities and ministry. It was also where the apostles Peter, James, Andrew, John, and Matthew were from. It is thus natural that the Lord would know many people there. The first thing we hear is that he visited Peter’s mother-in-law who was suffering with a fever. This act of healing is significant first because it was

not in front of a large crowd, and second because it indicates that the Lord was interested in individuals. He loved them and cared for them, and was not doing it to promote himself. It was an unselfish act of stewardship.

Also, reflective of how he dealt with the demons possessing the man last week, the Lord did it with authority and simplicity. Perhaps the most telling portion of this Gospel is what Jesus did the next morning. “Rising early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed.” Jesus knew it was important to be alone with God if possible. We need to do the same. Jesus did not pray because he was weak, but because He was strong. He knew the source of His strength — God the Father. When we are busy and under pressure, as the Lord was, it becomes even more important to have a regular and active prayer life. Our personal prayer habits and policies need to reflect the same thing: this is especially important with Lent approaching.