

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun Feb 25 YFF Classes: **9:30am**, CC
 Sun Feb 25 Youth Group, **5pm**, CC
 Tues Feb 27 Stations of the Cross Practice
 (Choir/Grades 7 & 8), **6:30pm**, C
 Tues Feb 27 KoC Planning Meeting, **6:30pm**, CC
 Wed Feb 28 NO CANTOR/CHOIR REHEARSALS
 Wed Feb 28 Confessions: **7-7:30pm**, C
 Thu Mar 1 Book Study, **7pm**, CC
 Fri Mar 2 1st Friday Mass & Devotions, **9am**
 Fri Mar 2 Bible Study, **10:45am**, CC
 Fri Mar 2 Fish Dinner, **4-6:30pm**, CC
 Fri Mar 2 Stations of the Cross, **7pm**, C
 *(Special presentation by YFF students)
 Sat Mar 3 1st Saturday Mass & Devotions, **9am**
 Sat Mar 3 RCIA, **10am**
 Sun Mar 4 YFF Classes: **9:30am**, CC
 Sun Mar 4 Youth Group, **5pm**, CC

MASS INTENTIONS

Tue Feb 27 9:00 am Brenda Hanson
 Wed Feb 28 9:00 am Fr. Matt Siekierski
 Thu Mar 1 9:00 am Peter Conrad
 Fri Mar 2 9:00 am Walter Chimiak
 Sat Mar 3 9:00 am Vocations to the Priesthood,
 Diaconate and Religious Life
 Sat Mar 3 5:00 pm Jeanette Thompson
 Sun Mar 4 8:30 am St. George Parishioners
 Sun Mar 4 11:00 am Wolfgang(D) & Sofie(L) Doppel

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

Sat, Mar 3 St. Katharine Drexel

WEEKDAYS LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Daily Lector: J. Blackwell; M. Goldsmith; C. Galli;
 C. Galli; D. Orwig
Meals-on-wheels: I. Hardy; M.A Springer; K. Raley
Altar Preparation: M. Goldsmith

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.



DECEASED: Please pray for the soul of **Joseph "Larry" Wood**, brother of Elizabeth (Betty) Mundie. **May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.**

STEWARDSHIP — FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

	2/18/2018	2/19/2017	
Gen. Collection	\$4295.00	\$3587.06	+\$807.94
E-Giving (Weekly)	\$1052.00	\$952.00	
Identifiable Gifts	127	118	+9
Maintenance	\$50.00	\$30.00	+20.00
Poor Box	\$450.65	\$127.00	+\$323.65
Donations	\$390.00	\$90.00	+\$300.00

Thank you for your faithful Parish support.

Notice to E-Givers:

The parish now has printed recyclable giving cards for you to place in the collection basket. You are welcome to pick some up and use these if you wish to cancel the ones the company sends you. E-Giving cards can be found in the small wooden rack across from the Calming Room.

Collection for the Church in the Developing World

This weekend, **February 24-25**, the Archdiocese of Washington will take up a second collection for the Church in the Developing World. This collection is directed toward the Church in Latin America, Central and Eastern Europe, and Africa. It supports evangelization, the education of clergy and laity, youth ministry, catechesis, social service programs, and church construction and renovation. The faithful in these areas are often limited in what they can contribute, so your generosity will provide support for areas of ministry we often take for granted in our archdiocese.

A message from this Sunday's readings:

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) posts notes regarding all the Books of the Bible. In its introduction to Paul's Letter to the Romans (our Second Reading), the USCCB says, "Of all the letters of Paul, that to the Christians at Rome has long held pride of place. It is the longest and most systematic unfolding of the apostle's thought, expounding the gospel of God's righteousness that saves all who believe; it reflects a universal outlook."

Paul's Letter to the Romans is in fact the longest of his letters in the New Testament (Romans is more than 7,000 words; that is much shorter, of course, than the shortest Gospel, Mark, which is still more than 11,000 words.) However, as stated by the Bishops, the Letter to the Romans explained in a more detailed way Paul's theology and spirituality than any other letter.

Regardless the length, today's reading contains a statement with which many of us are familiar, but which has great meaning: "If God is for us, who can be against

us?" The significance of that is that if we are on the side of righteousness, which should be a major goal of our Lenten experience, there should be nothing to threaten us.

We understand that we will be judged. Paul's point is if we are judged "not guilty" by God, who can bring an additional charge with any merit? Or, if Jesus is our advocate, promoting our benefit, then who can condemn us? This is the time to place our trust in God, and in His love.

OUR PARISH NEWS

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA)

The **Rite of Acceptance** begins the Period of the Catechumenate, during which the catechumens receive catechetical, ascetically and liturgical training.

The **Rite of Election** closes the Period of the Catechumenate. This rite normally coincides with the first Sunday of Lent. At this rite, upon the testimony of sponsors and catechists and the catechumens' affirmation of their intention to join the Church, the Church makes its "election" of these catechumens to receive the Sacraments of Initiation. In the presence of the bishop (or his delegate), they inscribe their names in the Book of the Elect at the cathedral as a pledge of fidelity. Now the catechumens are called the *Elect* or *illuminandi* ("those who will be enlightened").

The **Period of Purification and Enlightenment** — the final, intense preparation for the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation. On the next five Sundays of Lent, three scrutinies (*rites for self-searching and repentance*) and the presentations of the *Creed* and *Lord's Prayer* take place. This period concludes with the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil.

Congratulation to our parish Elects!

- David Norman Cohen*
- Dale Cameron Coots*
- Flynn Dennis Stachowski*
- Leigh Daniel Stachowski*
- Mike Wilson*
- Christopher Franks Yagmin*

Please keep these newly Elects in our prayers for their continual conversion and faith journey.



FISH DINNERS every FRIDAYS in LENT

The Knights of Columbus will be offering fish dinners on Fridays in Lent from **4pm – 6:30pm** in the **Community Center**. Come for dinner, stay for Stations of the Cross!



A new Bible Study group is now started!
Join us for "The Bible and The Sacraments,"
every Fridays at 10am (10:45am on First Fridays)
and every Sunday (except on first Sunday of each month) at 9:45-10:45am in the Community Center.
All are welcome to join this 11-week study!

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU!

Are you having difficulty forgiving an acquaintance or a loved one? Have you considered seeking God's healing first in the Sacrament of Reconciliation? To help you do this, we are happy to announce the The Light is ON for you! This Lent, every Catholic parish across the Archdiocese of Washington and Diocese of Arlington, including our own, will offer additional times for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This year you can view all the confession times across the region by using the NEW Confession Finder map online at theLightisON.org and look for additional Lenten resources in the back of church. You can also find additional confession resources in the back of church today.

"Keep Praying for Our Seminarians"
 Thanks to all of you who picked a card from the Vocations Tree. Please keep up the daily prayers for seminarians throughout Lent, and beyond, if you wish. Those who were not able to choose an individual card can take one of the group cards and pray for the seminarian of your choice, or all of them!

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

Every Lent, parishes across the Archdiocese of Washington collect food to help food-insecure families and individuals in our community. Bags will be available next weekend and will be collected on over the weekend of March 10-11. Many in our community face hunger. Our collection will be donated to local food banks. Please be generous with your contribution.

SOFTBALL TEAM BAKESALE!

Our parish softball team will be selling baked goods next weekend after all Masses in order to defray some of the costs associated with having a church team. Please stop by their table after Mass to support their efforts and get a yummy treat!

THANK YOU to all volunteers and helpers, and parishioners who joined us last Sunday to celebrate our parish secretary, Mrs. Phyllis Browne's 90th birthday. It was a very good day and enjoyed by all.

OUR PARISH FAITH FORMATION

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

Tues. Feb. 27 Stations Rehearsal, **6:30pm, C**
Fri, Mar 2 Stations of the Cross presented by our
Confirmation students and Choir, **7pm, C**

YOUTH MINISTRY

Mr. Adam Dean, Youth Ministry Coordinator
email: youthgroup@stgeorgegcc.org

OUR REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL (LFS)

LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL

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) 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?
Call (301)994-0404 or (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

***Pilgrimage to St. John Paul II Shrine and Basilica
of the Immaculate Conception*** is rescheduled for
Saturday, MARCH 10, 2018.

*Please call the Church Office to reserve your seat on
the bus.*

NEWS IN OUR AREA & AROUND

Mon, Feb 26 Mass with Healing Prayers, 7pm at
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Lexington Park.
Confessions will begin at 6:30 pm. All are welcome!

Sun, Mar 11 Holy Angels Church Seafood Dinner, 11:30
am - 4 pm, Holy Angels Church, Avenue, MD Menu:
Fried Oysters, Steamed Spiced Shrimp, Crab Balls,
Fried Chicken, Parsley Potatoes, Green Beans, Cole
Slaw, Pickled Beets, and all the trimmings! Served buffet
style -- all you can eat! Adults: \$28; Children (12 to 6):

\$8, Children (5 & under): Free. Carryout's are available
at \$26 each. For more information to purchase
advanced tickets, please call the rectory on or before
March 1st. at 301-769-3332 or email
holy01angels@aol.com

Sat, Mar 24 Craft and Vendor Fair, 2nd District Firehouse,
9am – 2pm, Reserve a space for \$25, More info-Darlene
after 4pm @ 240-434-1095

Sun, Mar 25 Annual Spring Craft Show, 10am to 3pm,
Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department Social Hall,
Admission & parking FREE. Over 90 craft vendors with
a variety of handmade merchandise available, Lunch
items for sale in our Kitchen. Mobile ATM on site. For
further information, please visit Hollywood Volunteer Fire
Department's website at www.hvfd7.com
www.hvfd7.com

2018 Jubilarian Mass

Cardinal Donald Wuerl will celebrate the annual Jubilarian
Mass honoring couples married 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and
51+ years on Sunday, June 17 at 2pm at the Basilica of the
National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Please call the
parish office to register NO LATER than April 16.

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, call
443-400-7017, or email 3015@retrouvaille.org.

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 to sign-up or call
301-541-7007. It's not too early to sign-up!

**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.

Is God Calling You to the Diaconate? Come and See!

The Office of Permanent Diaconate Formation of the Archdiocese
of Washington will begin a new cycle of recruitment and
preparation of men for the diaconate. The initial selection process
for the next aspirancy class will be preceded with six opportunities
to "Come and See" about the permanent diaconate. These events
will be held at various locations around the Archdiocese in
January-March 2018. To learn more about the specific dates and
locations, please contact Diane Biggs in the Office of the
Permanent Diaconate at 301-853-5345 or biggsd@adw.org. The
mailing address is: Office of Permanent Diaconate Formation,
P.O. Box 29260, Washington, D.C. 20017. Additional information
is available at adw.org/permanent-deacons. **Local event! Wed.,
March 7, 7:00-9:00pm, St. Aloysius, Leonardtown**

Helping Hurting Teens: Parents Workshop with Roy Petitfils

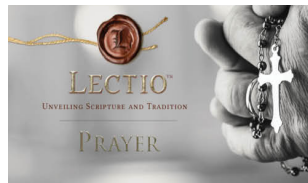
Anxiety, depression, self-injury, sexual orientation, suicidal ideation. These are just a few things faced by parents, ministers, catechists, teachers, and others involved in the lives of today's teens, and it can be daunting to help teens who are dealing with these issues. On Friday, March 2 from 7-9pm at St. Peter Church in Olney, MD, a workshop for parents will be held to help them gain a clearer understanding of the critical role they can play in caring for today's hurting teens. Roy Petitfils is an internationally sought-after speaker who uses humor, passion, and clinical and life experience to help adults connect with teens and to help teens know, understand, and love themselves. He is a therapist at Pax Renewal Center in Lafayette, LA. He holds a Master's in Mental Health and School Counseling from the University of Louisiana, Lafayette. For more information or to RSVP, contact the archdiocesan Office of Youth Ministry at phepelt@adw.org.

High School Rally 2018

The archdiocesan Office of Youth Ministry is excited to welcome Roy Petitfils and Out of Darkness to its High School Rally on Saturday, March 3 at the Pryzbyla Center of The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. Check-in for the Rally will begin at 8:30am, and the day will end with Mass beginning around 5pm. It will be a jam-packed day full of inspiring talks, breakout sessions based on vocations and how to live our Catholic faith in the world today, praise and worship music, Adoration, and fun & games. Lunch will be provided. Group rate for groups of 20+: \$20 per participant. Individual or groups smaller than 20: \$25 per participant. There will be a \$5 fee for each adult chaperone to offset the cost of lunch. For more information or to register, contact the archdiocesan Office of Youth Ministry at berkeleya@adw.org.

LECTIO: PRAYER

“God, are you there?” How often do we feel like our prayer is a one-sided conversation? In this moving and informative presentation on the art of Lectio Divina, Dr. Time Gray reveals how praying with Scripture can be a powerful means of entering into an automatic dialogue and intimate encounter with God. *Watch on **FORMED.ORG***



REFLECTION ON THE SACRED SCRIPTURE

GN 22: 1-2, 9A, 10-13, 15-18; PS 116: 10, 15-19; ROM 8: 31B-34; MK 9: 2-10

The absolute first verse of our First Reading from the Book of Genesis is, “God put Abraham to the test.” Is that not what Lent is all about for each of us? We are being “put to the test.” Although we are less than two weeks into our Lenten journey, how are we doing? Have we even made an effort to let the Lord know that we are being tested? Have we set goals? What have we done to change the way we live?

One of the great gifts we have received, and it is also a challenge, is that God has granted us “free will.” That means we choose the direction we are going to go; this is a time when we should reflect on what we have and what we need to change. Someone once said, “Lent is a time for spiritual ‘spring cleaning.’” What are

the habits we need to eliminate from our lives? What are the behavioral patterns that make us less than what a Christian should do? That is what we need to address.

The First Reading from the Book of Genesis speaks of, as mentioned, the test to which Abraham was placed. It may seem dramatic and excessive to us, but the truth is that it involves trust in God. That total trust is tough for us most of the time. Yet, as we see in the First Reading, Abraham passes it with room to spare. God is not evil or vindictive, but He is interested in how we use our “free will” and how we respond to the challenges offered us. This time, Lent, is the time for us to step up and to respond as Abraham did. God says to Abraham, “I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son.” It was God’s willingness to give to us His beloved Son that has provided us with salvation.

In his letter to the Romans, our Second Reading, St Paul tells us, “If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but handed Him over for us all, how will He not also give us everything else along with Him?” God’s gift to us in His Son Jesus Christ might be considered the ultimate gift. Having received that, how can we think that the Lord will not give us other gifts, smaller gifts?

Nothing, absolutely nothing, can separate us from the love of God. It is this gift, this understanding, which allows us to trust God to the same extent that Abraham did. Yet, is this part of what we see as our Lenten journey and effort? Do we truly incorporate God’s love for us into everything we do, and everything we try to do? We can make all the lists and goals we wish during this Lenten period, but at the base of it all has to be trust in God and a willingness to adjust our lives to pursue holiness.

The Gospel recounts the Transfiguration, that moment when the Lord revealed to us just a glimpse of what Heaven is all about. Of course, we cannot even completely conceive of that (nor could Peter, James, and John). Nevertheless, that is what is very much at the basis of what our efforts and concentration should be during this Lenten season. We must take care not to think of the transfiguration as being a bright light on Jesus. This is not a light coming to Jesus from the outside; it involves a change from the inside. The change, although it may appear to be on the outside, really comes from the inside.

That is what we need to be striving for in our faith lives, and particularly during this Lent. We need to strive to change from within. That is what really allows us to be the disciples we need to be, and to experience the conversion (change) we need to undergo.