

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun Mar 11 YFF Classes: **9:30am**, CC
 Sun Mar 11 Catechist Meeting, **12pm**, CC
 Sun Mar 11 Youth Group, **5pm**, CC
 Wed Mar 14 Cantor Practice, **6:30pm**, C
 Wed Mar 14 Choir Practice, **7pm**, C
 Wed Mar 14 Confessions: **7-7:30pm**, C
 Thu Mar 15 Book Study, **7pm**, CC
 Fri Mar 16 Bible Study, **10am**, CC
 Fri Mar 16 Fish Dinner, **4-6:30pm**, CC
 Fri Mar 16 Stations of the Cross, **7pm**, C
 Fri Mar 16 Confessions, **7:30-8pm**, C
 Sun Mar 18 YFF Classes: **9:30am**, CC
 Sun Mar 18 Youth Group, **5pm**, CC

MASS INTENTIONS

Tue Mar 13 9:00 am Walter Chimiak
 Wed Mar 14 9:00 am Brenda Hanson
 Thu Mar 15 9:00 am Fr. Bob Riedel
 Fri Mar 16 9:00 am Charles F. Norris
 Sat Mar 17 5:00 pm Joe Browne
 Sun Mar 18 8:30 am Aliene Springer
 Sun Mar 18 11:00am St. George Parishioners

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 17 St. Patrick

WEEKDAYS LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Daily Lector: J. Blackwell; M.Goldsmith; C.Galli; C.Galli
Meals-on-wheels: P.Bowes & M.A Goddard, B.Adams, M.A Rymer & N.J Jubeck
Altar Preparation: P. Browne

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 **Ethel Odetta Pilkerton**, sister of Marie Redman. *May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

Help us keep our parish records up to date. If you are new or have recently changed your mailing address, e-mail address, phone number, please use the on-line census by going to our website (www.StGeorgeRCC.org) and following the link to update your information. Thank you.

STEWARDSHIP — FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

	3/4/2018	3/5/2017	
Gen. Collection	\$4069.00	\$4751.41	
E-Giving (Weekly)	\$1022.00	\$952.00	-\$697.41
E-Giving (Monthly)	\$870.00	\$955.00	
Identifiable Gifts	140	148	-8
Maintenance	\$1674.00	\$1136.00	+\$488.00
E-Giving (Maint.)	\$470.00	\$520.00	
Poor Box	\$435.00	\$278.31	+\$156.69
Donations	\$591.20	\$2195.00	-\$1603.80

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.

A message from this Sunday's readings:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." Do we really need a more powerful reminder of the importance of Lent and Easter than that?

That verse (from John 3:16) has become very popular in modern culture, to the point that we see it often at athletic events. When the University of Florida played for the national college football championship in 2009, quarterback Tim Tebow did not wear the regular eye black under his eyes. Under his right eye it said "John" and under his left eye it said "3:16." God sends us messages all the time, if we listen and are attentive.

Tebow did not have a remarkable professional career, but he was the quarterback of the Denver Broncos against the Pittsburgh Steelers in the 2012 playoffs. The Broncos won, and in that game Tebow passed for 316 yards; his completed passes averaged 31.6 yards; perhaps the key play in the game came on third down and 16; the TV ratings for the game were 31.6%.

That is not the important aspect, however. What is important is that the truth of that statement is so simple; nevertheless, it is difficult for us to completely grasp its significance. The truth is that God loves us, no matter what we are or what our attitude toward God is. The world that God gave His Son to save is our world. We are the children of God. This Lenten season is a time to see that and accept it as truth.

OUR PARISH NEWS

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!



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.



LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

Every Lent, parishes across the Archdiocese of Washington collect food to help food-insecure families and individuals in our community. Bags are available in the Vestibule and will be collected 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.

Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land

On Good Friday, the Archdiocese of Washington will take up the annual Pontifical Collection for the Holy Land. The challenges for Christians living in the Holy Land are great. Many have chosen to leave, and others continue to do so, depleting the Christian faith communities there and making the need of families that remain all the more urgent. The Good Friday Collection aids the ministry of the Holy Land Franciscans, who for 800 years have nourished Christians in the Holy Land with presence, care, and service. Your support helps the Church to minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools, and offer religious education. It also helps to preserve the sacred shrines in the land where our faith was born. Please be generous as you are able.

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.

Landings

The next session will be April 5 – June 11, 2018, at IHM, 6:30-8:00pm. Please contact Colleen Galli or church office (301) 994-0607 for more information.

OUR PARISH FAITH FORMATION

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

**Bible Study: The Bible & The Sacraments
Fridays 10:00-11:30AM
Sundays 9:45-10:45AM**

All are welcome!

Video presentation first 30 minutes
Discussion and faith sharing 30 minutes

YOUTH MINISTRY

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

Maryland March for Life, Monday 12 March

Schedule of Events:

- 4:30 p.m. Youth Rally
- 5:15 p.m. Mass
- 6:30 p.m. March to Lawyers Mall (next to MD State House)
- 8:00 p.m. Mixer w/free Chic-fil-A

All events start or take place at:

St. Mary's Church: 109 Duke of Gloucester St., Annapolis, MD 21401

For event details visit www.mdmarchforlife.com
For share-a-ride information contact: John Cruz, jcinpax@md.metrocast.net, 240-538-1023

NEWS IN OUR AREA & AROUND

Sun, Mar 11 Breakfast with Easter Bunny: Easter Egg Hunt (IF WEATHER PERMITS) - All-You-Can-Eat; starts 8-11am – Cost: adults - \$9, children ages 6 – 12 - \$5, children 5 & under - free; Menu: Scrambled Eggs, Home Fried Potatoes, Pancakes, French Toast, Sausage Links, Ham, Bacon, Creamed Chipped Beef, Sausage Gravy, Spiced Applesauce, Grits, Hot Biscuits, Assorted Juices, Milk & Coffee; For more information call 301-994-9999

Sun, Mar 11 Kalnasy Concert Series, Father David Beaubien in Concert with the St. Aloysius Handbell Choir, St. Aloysius Church, 3pm, Free, for more info: keyofgmh@gmail.com.

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

Sat, Apr 21 Spaghetti Dinner, All-You-Can-Eat; 5. – 7pm – Cost: adults \$10, children ages 6 – 12 - \$5, children 5 & under-free; Menu: Spaghetti w/sauce or Spaghetti w/meat sauce, Green beans, Garden Salad, Bread & Butter & Homemade Dessert Table for a Donation

Lenten Evening of Recollection for Men & Women

Tuesday, March 13, from 6pm to 8pm
Our Lady of the Wayside Church Chaptico

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.

Light the World! is a Summer Institute that takes place at The Catholic University of America. Rising Juniors and Seniors are invited to join us either June 24-July 30 July 8-14 as we explore how our faith is lived within the fields and careers of Art, Science, Sport, Business, and Politics. Visit lighttheworldcua.org for more information and application materials.

Called to Leadership: Spirituality for Catholic Women

On Saturday, April 21 at the Church of the Resurrection in Burtonsville, MD, women are invited to discover how to enhance their spirituality to be a faith-filled leader in the home, parish, workplace, and community. Keynoter Dr. Susan Timoney, archdiocesan Secretary for Pastoral Ministry and Social Concerns, will speak on women's unique leadership gifts. After lunch, Shelia Parker, President of the Archdiocesan Sodality Union, will speak on how to be a better leader by being a better follower of Jesus. The third speaker, Desi Balla, will share leadership experiences in her amazing pro-life apostolate. The conference starts at 8:30am (check-in at 8am) and will conclude at 3pm. Open to 70 people, registration can be accessed at www.facebook.com/washaccw and is \$50 per person. For more information, email archdioceseCCW@gmail.com.

Quo Vadis Hiking Trip

On Sunday, April 15, all high school aged men who are interested in learning more about the priesthood are invited to go on a Quo Vadis hiking trip in Montgomery County. The day will include Mass, lunch, Eucharistic Adoration, dinner, and the opportunity to spend time with priests, seminarians, and other high school aged men who are open to the priesthood. Bus transportation is available from throughout the archdiocese. More information is available and registration is open at www.DCpriest.org. Please contact the Office of Priest Vocations (vocations@adw.org or 202-636-9020) with any questions.

24th Annual Archdiocesan Vocations Mass for 8th Graders

The 24th Annual Archdiocesan Vocations Mass for 8th Graders will be held on Tuesday, April 24 at 10:30am in the Upper Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. Mass will include a homily by an archdiocesan priest and a talk by a religious sister. After Mass, students will be given the opportunity to visit and speak with seminarians, priests, and consecrated religious women and men. For more information, please contact the Office of Priest Vocations at vocations@adw.org or 202-636-9020.

Student Lenten Pilgrimages to the Franciscan Monastery

Take a Student Lenten Pilgrimage with school or family at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land. Students who take a guided tour of the church, Tomb of Christ and catacombs, and pray the Stations of the Cross (indoors or in the gardens) receive a certificate of participation with a blessing. Reservations are required. The monastery, at 1400 Quincy St. NE, Washington, DC 20017, is the US home of the friars who have cared for the sacred shrines and Christians in the Holy Land for 800 years. Visit myfranciscan.org or call 202-526-6800.

SCAM WARNING !!!**A Message from Catholic Charities - Parish Partner Program**

This is to inform you of a scam that has been occurring across the Archdiocese. Over the past few months, several parishes have reported an encounter with a gentleman who interrupts Mass by standing up and asking the parishioners for financial assistance. The specifics of his story have varied from time to time. In most cases caring parishioners have given him cash after Mass.

If this individual comes to your parish seeking assistance we recommend you discourage parishioners from handing him cash. Parishioners who want to help can be invited to give their donations to the poor box or to the parish office.

REFLECTION ON THE SACRED SCRIPTURE

2 CHR 36: 14-16, 19-23; PS 137: 1-6; EPH 2: 4-10; JN 3: 14-21

Today, the Fourth Sunday of Lent, is what is called Laetare Sunday. Most of us are quite accustomed to the Mass being conducted in our native tongue, and we may have lost track of the fact that Latin is still the official language of the Church. On occasion Latin reasserts itself. This Sunday is one of those times as *Laetare* means "Rejoice" in Latin. In the Introit to the Mass (the entrance antiphon) it begins *Laetare, Jerusalem* ("Rejoice, Jerusalem!")

The actual midpoint of Lent occurred this past Thursday, and this day has traditionally been viewed as a day of celebration, when we sort of lessen the soberness normally attached to Lent. You may notice some changes in the church itself in terms of environment, and priests and deacons have the option of wearing pink or rose vestments rather than purple or violet. This Sunday has a corresponding day during Advent called *Gaudete* Sunday. The point of both these days is providing us with encouragement in the midst of our penitential seasons.

As part of this more upbeat attitude and approach to our celebrations of Mass this weekend, there is a focus on salvation and redemption, which is the reason we have to "rejoice."

There are two Books of Chronicles — First Chronicle and Second Chronicle. Although Chronicles tends to repeat much of what has gone before in the Bible, the writer (the chronicler) brings a different approach to some aspects. The material of Chronicles lists genealogies from Adam to King Saul and covers the death of Saul, the reign of King David, the reign of King Solomon, and from the division of the monarchy into the northern and southern kingdoms to the end of the Babylonian exile.

Our First Reading comes from the final chapter of Second Chronicles, so it includes the beginning of the Babylonian Exile (607-586 B.C.). The chronicler spent a lot of time addressing the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem (thus the statement *Laetare, Jerusalem*

or "Rejoice, Jerusalem"). The final verses of today's readings are indeed the closing of Chronicles. Chronicles points out to the Jewish people, and to us also, that they are strongly connected to God's overall plan. "Whoever, therefore, among you belongs to any part of his people, let him go up (return to Jerusalem) and may his God be with him." The people were released from exile by King Cyrus of Persia in the first year of his reign. Where the Books of Kings seems to be centered on stern moral judgments, Chronicles is essentially a book of hope. That is why we rejoice. Christ's saving grace gives us hope during this time of Lent.

St. Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, our Second Reading, reminds us "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God." What a reason to rejoice. God loves us even when we are not lovable. He loves us even when we do not give Him a reason to do so.

We are also reminded that God created each of us. In this same reading St. Paul declares, "for we are his (God's) handiwork." In the original Greek the word translated as "handiwork" is *poiema* (ποίημα). Another meaning of the word is considered by some scholars to be "masterpiece." The word *poiema* is also the root word for "poem" and "poetry." What a joyous thought for us to consider and appreciate! We, each and every one of us, are God's masterpiece, His poem. That is a reason to celebrate, but it is also a reason for us to be doing things during Lent to make us more that way.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish, but might have eternal life." (John 3:16) There are well more than 30,000 verses in the Bible as we know it, but this particular verse has been held forward as the most succinct declaration of the entire Gospel message. Yet, we may dissect all the meanings too much, but because of its brevity and its power it is worthy of a close look. **"God so loved the world..."** This includes all of us, the entire world; it does not limit this love to a particular group or location. **"He gave..."** That is what God does; He gives. We are the recipients. Stewardship is understanding that is the case, and striving to share some of those gifts.

"...so that everyone believes." This is much more than an intellectual conviction. It means to trust in God, to rely on God, and to cling to God in many ways. That is also at the basis of a stewardship way of life. We respond to God by becoming disciples and placing our total trust in Him. **"...might have eternal life."** The concept of eternity is beyond our ability to comprehend as humans. This is much more than living forever; it means living with God, in His glory forever. That is what we all strive for; that is why we do what we do always, not just during this Lent. That also is a reason to "rejoice."