

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun Sept 10 Youth Faith Formation classes begin **9:30AM**
 Sun Sept 10 9th gr. Confirmation Class, **3:30pm**, CC
 Wed Sept 13 Cantor/Choir Rehearsals, **6:30/7 PM**, C
 Sat Sept 16 Rosary Devotion, **4:30 PM**, C
 Sun Sept 17 Youth Faith Formation **9:30 AM**, CC

MASS INTENTIONS

Tue Sept 12 9:00 am Florence Whitten
 Wed Sept 13 9:00 am Barbara Leddy
 Thu Sept 14 9:00 am Jim Robison
 Fri Sept 15 9:00 am Joseph Zook
 Sat Sept 16 5:00 pm Anne Patton
 Sun Sept 17 8:30 am Mary Frances Norris
 Sun Sept 17 11:00 am Parishioners

Openings for weekday Mass Intentions are Oct. 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 13. Flowers for the altar openings are Sept. 16/17; Oct. 7/8. Please call the church office if you wish to reserve a date. (301-994-0607)

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Tue Sept 12 The Most Holy Name of Mary
 Wed Sept 13 St. John Chrysostom
 Thu Sept 14 The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
 Fri Sept 15 Our Lady of Sorrows
 Sat Sept 16 Sts. Cornelius & Cyprian

WEEKDAYS LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Daily Lector: J.Blackwell; M.Goldsmith; C.Galli; C.Galli
 Meals-on-wheels: P.Bowes & M.A. Goddard; V.Worch;
 K. Raley
 Altar Preparation: M. Goldsmith

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.

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 by going to our website (www.StGeorgeRCC.org) and following the links to update your information.

STEWARDSHIP — FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

	9/3/2017	9/4/2017	
Gen. Collection	\$4449.75	\$5712.57	
E-Giving (Weekly)	\$912.00	----	+\$674.18
E-Giving (Monthly)	\$1025.00	----	
Identifiable Gifts	131	141	-10
Maintenance	\$2478.00	\$1300.00	+\$1638.00
E-Giving (Maint.)	\$460.00	----	
Poor Box	\$196.00	\$204.64	-\$8.64
Donations	\$820.00	\$525.00	+\$295.00

Thank you for your faithful parish support.

The Take-away message(s) in Sunday's readings:

St. Paul echoes Christ in many ways. In the 13th Chapter from his letter to the Romans, he continues with his thoughts on how we should live to please God, and he uses a sentence which Christ often repeated. After listing several of the 10 Commandments, Paul states, "...whatever other commandments there may be, are summed up in this saying, namely, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'."

There is always much that gets debated in that admonition, such as loving yourself, and who exactly is your neighbor? Paul's point, like that of Jesus, is simply that we are called to treat others as we may like to be treated. We need to show them the respect and caring that we may hope for and wish for. God loves us, and if we realize that, we may ultimately come to the conclusion that we are love-able.

Most of us know someone whose love is evident by how they treat others and how they live. Loving neighbor is a visible expression of everything that Jesus taught. It is a way of expressing the depth of our faith and our belief that we are Disciples of Christ.

St. Francis de Sales captured all about what this love is and who is your neighbor when he wrote, "Examine your heart often to see if it is such toward your neighbor as you would like his or hers to be toward you in his or her place. This is the touchstone of true reason." It is relatively basic and simple — our neighbor is everyone with whom we have contact and love is what makes it all work.

OUR PARISH NEWS

**The Catholic University of America Collection
September 9-10, 2017**

This weekend our parish and all parishes in the Archdiocese of Washington will take up a **second collection** for The Catholic University of America (CUA), which established in 1887, is the National University of the Catholic Bishops in the United States — the only institution of high education founded by the U.S Bishops and chartered by the Vatican. CUA provides an academically rigorous education, guided by the Catholic intellectual tradition, to nearly 7,000 students, including clergy, religious, seminarians, and young lay men and women. It is committed to being a comprehensive Catholic and American institution of higher learning, faithful to the teachings of Jesus Christ as handed on by the Church. Thank you for your generosity. You can learn more at collection.cua.edu.

**Our PARISH Picnic - Sunday, Oct. 15, 2017
12:30 – 3:30pm at Cecil Park, Valley Lee**

Save The Date!



Church Picnic



**St. George Biennial Christmas Bazaar
Saturday, November 25
Community Center**



All craft donations must be at Church by November 16. Please email bazaar@stgeorgercc.org or call the parish office at (301) 994-0607.

Parish Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of St. John Paul II, and Basilica of the Immaculate Conception

Save the Date: **December 9th**, the Parish along with the Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a Pilgrimage to the John Paul II Shrine in Washington DC. This Advent Pilgrimage is open to all, so save the Date and join Father Paul on this Pilgrimage. More information to come...

OUR PARISH FAITH FORMATION

Youth's Faith Formation (YFF) begins Sunday, September 10th, from 9:30AM - 10:45AM, CC 3:30 - 4:45 PM 9th Grade Confirmation Class

Wed., Sept. 13 Child Protection Class, 6-9 PM, CC
For information and sign-up contact:
kim.browne@stgeorgercc.org
or 301-994-0638

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Youth Group meets every Sunday, 5-8:00 PM CC
Mr. Adam Dean, Youth Ministry Coordinator
All youth, grade 6 and above are welcome!

OUR REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL

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 (@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 email (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

The Knights of Columbus are having their annual car raffle. The grand prize is a **2018 Ford Mustang** or a cash option of **\$18,000**, second prize is an **IPAD Air2**, and third prize is a **\$200 gift card**. Tickets are **\$1 each** or a **book of 6 for \$5**. Tickets are on sale after Masses in the vestibule.

The eMembership initiative is now live. Inviting you, Catholic men to join the Order online, visit us at www.KofC.org/JoinUs.



NEWS IN OUR AREA & AROUND

Sun., Sept. 10 Seafood Dinner, Holy Angels Church, Avenue, MD, 11:30am-4:00 pm. Crab balls, steamed spiced shrimp, fried oysters, fried chicken, parsley potatoes, homemade coleslaw, green beans, beets, rolls, fruited jello & beverages. Bake table & Craft table. Adults \$27, Carry-outs \$25, Advance tickets \$25. Child 6-12 yrs. \$8; 5 & under free. \$1,500 Raffle. Info or advance tickets: 301-769-2541.

Sun., Sept 10 All You Can Eat Breakfast, 2nd Dist VFD&RS, Drayden Road, Valley Lee, 8am-11am. Adults \$9 child 6-12 yrs \$5, 5 & under, FREE. Great food; assorted menu. More info: call 301-994-9999.

Sun., Sept. 10 Annual Crab Feast Fundraiser – Loyola on the Potomac 2-5 PM. All You Eat crabs, etc., all you can drink beer, etc. Ticket Price: Adult ticket \$65. For more info: contact Lisa White at (301) 392-0819 or lisa.white@loyolaretreat.org.

Sun., Sept. 10 Music at the Monastery, organ recital by Dudley Oakes of Shenandoah University, **4 p.m.,** at the historic Franciscan Monastery, 1400 Quincy St. NE, Washington, DC 20017. Info: myfranciscan.org and 202-526-6800.

Mon., Sept. 11 American Red Cross Blood Drive, 2nd District Firehouse, 45245 Drayden Rd., Valley Lee, 1:30-7:00 PM. Call 1-800-REDCROSS to schedule an appointment.

Mon., Sept 11 American Heritage Girls, St. Michael's School, Ridge, MD, 6-8 PM. . Please contact Lara Davis, troop vice-coordinator with any questions at saldavis96@gmail.com

Thur., Sept. 14 Training Session for Volunteers at the Catholic Evangelization Booth, St. Mary's County Fair, at Fr. Andrew White Gym. Leonardtown, 6:30 PM. Light supper will be provided. To sign-up for fair <http://www.saintalloysiuschurch.org/countyfair>

Sat., Sept. 16 Women of Faith Prayer Breakfast, 8:30am-Noon, Leonardtown Grill. Francine Dove, guest speaker. Register by 9/14/17 by calling (301) 475-9704 or (301) 475-9770. You can also register online at: www.breadoflifecenterforpeace.org/Events/WomensPrayerBreakfast.aspx. **Note:** Mass is offered at St. Aloysius Church at **7:30 am** on Saturday mornings.

Your future awaits at St. Mary's Ryken!

Parents and 8th grade students are invited to an information session to learn about the St. Mary's Ryken Application Process. Meet the admissions team and learn about the admission process and timeline, scholarship application process, High School Placement Test and financial aid.

Catholic School Families: Tue., Sept. 26 6:30 – 7:30p.m, Romuald Hall. **Public/Non-Private School Families: Wed., Sept. 27, 6:30-7:30 p.m.,** Romuald Hall For more information, visit <http://www.smrhs.org> or contact the Admissions Office at 301-373-4183

Annual Retreat at Mt. Carmel:

On Saturday, October 7, 2017, the Restorers' of Mt. Carmel annual retreat will be held at Mt. Carmel Monastery. Begins with Mass at **8:00 am** in the Church at Mt. Carmel, 5678 Mt Carmel Road (off of Mitchell Road), LaPlata. Father Michael Briese, Pastor of St. Mary's in Newport, will be Retreat Master. Cost \$30; includes welcome bag, breakfast snacks, and boxed lunch. Mass, confessions, several talks, rosary, and time to visit with friends For inf and registration form, please contact Suzanne Carr 301.645.5203/ suzannemcarr@verizon.net.

Men's Annual Retreat – October 27-29, 2017

Give a weekend to God! Ignatian Weekend Retreat – “Come Follow ME” The men of the parishes of Southern Maryland go on retreat each year at **LOYOLA ON THE POTOMAC – A Jesuit Retreat House in Faullkner, MD.** For more information or to make a reservation, contact Dan Ichniowski at djichniowski@yahoo.com or 301-994-1310.). You may also make reservations online at www.loyolaonthepotomac.com **“Come away and rest awhile.”**

Discovering Christ in Ridge, MD

St. Michael's, St. Peter Claver and St. Cecilia Parishes are hosting “Discovering Christ”, a seven week experience where anyone and everyone, from the baptized in the pews to the unbaptized, is invited to hear the Good News and personally encounter Jesus Christ. Discovering Christ helps people enter into or renew a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, experience the love of God the Father and be empowered by the Holy Spirit to live as God's children. This life-changing experience is open to adults of all faiths and a youth tract is offered for grades eight and up. The series is comprised of dinner, music, a video and small group interaction. The series will be held on Wednesday evenings at the St. Michael's School gym starting **Oct 4th – Nov 15th from 6:30 to 8:30 as well as a retreat Saturday, Nov 4th.** The \$10 registration fee includes 7 dinners, the retreat and a participant guide as part of the program. To register or for information, email DiscoverChristInRidge@gmail.com For additional information call Winnie Sullivan @301-904-8568 or Ann Wood @ 240-587-1248.

25TH International Week of Prayer and Fasting October 1st – Oct 9th

Individuals, families, prayer groups and parishes are asked to unite for nine days of prayer and fasting for the following goals: Conversion of all Peoples and Nations, to Build a Culture of Life, to Defend the Sanctity of Marriage and Family Life, to Pray for Peace and to Implore God's Mercy. For the final day, on Monday, October 9th, please join us at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D. C. from 9:00am – 4:30 pm for the International Day of Prayer. Registration is FREE, but please register online at www.iwopf.org to receive a free prayer card at the Basilica event. For more information visit www.iwopf.org or call 888-478-PRAY (7729).

Camp Maria Retreat Center Annual Raffle: Oct. 8, 2017 Prizes: \$5,000; \$1,500; 3rd \$500. \$20 per raffle ticket Info: e-mail: dirctor@campmaria or 301-475-8330

REFLECTION ON SUNDAY'S READINGS

EZ 33: 7-9; PS 95: 1-2, 6-9; ROM 13: 8-10; MT 18: 15-20

Most of us are familiar with the oft-quoted statement taken from today's Gospel that says, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." The key to that passage is the phrase "in my name." That means whether we gather to pray or to socialize or to plan or merely to meet, Jesus is among us if we try to be His disciple and live according to His character and His will. As that is the closing statement of the Gospel, the final of today's readings, that may have the most meaning for us. Nevertheless, there is merit to all of our readings on this Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time.

The prophet Ezekiel, from whom our First Reading comes, was considered a major prophet (as were Isaiah and Jeremiah). The name Ezekiel means "God will strengthen." The opening line in today's reading is "You, son of man, I have appointed watchman for the house of Israel." We are accustomed with associating the term "Son of Man" with Jesus because that is the term He most often utilized to refer to Himself. In this instance though it is God speaking and He is addressing Ezekiel. God points out that he, Ezekiel, is "is appointed watchman for the house of Israel."

Watchman is a term often used in the Bible, and Ezekiel in particular uses it often. In the ancient world of agrarian societies (agricultural societies) the economy, their very livelihood was based on producing and maintaining crops and farmland. Often they would construct watchtowers occupied by watchmen who guarded the fields from animals and thieves. Their role was to issue a warning if a threat occurred. This term became expanded in many ways, and it was a term applied to prophets whose role was to warn and alert people against doing wrong.

Jesus, of course, was a unique Watchman who throughout His ministry warned those around Him and us to be alert to and to guard against sin and other threats to holiness. As a result the role of a watchman became more than just issuing warnings though; it also gained the element of proclaiming the Good News. We, too, fill that role.

St. Paul, in his letter to the Romans, reminds us of guidance offered us by Jesus to "love your neighbor." Doing this more or less lies at the heart of everything

we do. It is at the basis of a stewardship way of life, which is the way each of us is called to live. Much has been written relating to what this means to each of us. One theologian once wrote, "We may pay our taxes and be quit. We may give respect and honor where they are due and have no further obligation. But we can never say, 'I have done all the loving I need to do.' Love then is a permanent obligation, a debt impossible to discharge." That is what Paul means when he refers to this in terms of a debt. It is a debt we all owe and one that can never be completely paid.

There is nothing complicated about it, although it may pose a challenge for us at times. It simply means to love the people you may meet or deal with on any level every day. It is not an abstract or theoretical term. It is an action term, something we must do.

As mentioned in our opening paragraph, Jesus offers some advice and comments to us in Today's Gospel that is worth noting. The Lord's basic premise is that we must deal with one another when we have times of disagreement. When Jesus says, "...if two of you agree on earth," as He does just prior to stating "I am in the midst of you," it is another case when we must look at the original Greek word on which this word "agree" is based. The Greek word is *sumphoneo*. Not only does it mean agree, but also it meant to symphonize. It is the basis for our word "symphony." What a picture Jesus is painting for us!

We are intended to be a symphony, an orchestra, a group that harmonizes and seeks agreement. Jesus is not only part of our ensemble, but He is also the Director. His command is to love one another and through that love to seek to harmonize and to live our lives in emulation of Christ. Earth can never be Heaven, but the Lord certainly offers us ways that we can be holy and make life here more heavenly.

