

PARISH CALENDAR

- Sun Dec 11 Youth Faith Formation, **9:30 AM**, CC  
Fr. Barron's *Catholicism* Series, **9:30 AM**  
Healing Mass, **11:00 AM**, C  
Pageant Rehearsal, **12:00 PM**, C  
Youth Choir Rehearsal, **1:00-1:45 PM**, C  
Youth Group Mass and Dinner, **5 PM**, C
- Wed Dec 14 Cantor/Choir Rehearsals, **6:30/7 PM**, C
- Sun Dec 18 Youth Faith Formation, **9:30 AM**, CC  
Fr. Barron's *Catholicism* Series, **9:30AM**  
Pageant Rehearsal, **12:00 PM**, C  
Youth Group, **5 PM**, CC  
Lessons and Carols, with reception  
followed in the vestibule **6:00 PM**, C

MASS INTENTIONS

- Tue Dec 13 9:00 am Elizabeth "Rosalie" Cusick
- Wed Dec 14 9:00 am Ida Thompson
- Thu Dec 15 9:00 am Mary Smith
- Fri Dec 16 9:00 am Kenneth & Margery Murphy
- Sat Dec 17 5:00 pm Parishioners
- Sun Dec 18 8:30 am Rogelia Lara  
11:00 am Duane Schlosser

LITURGICAL FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

- Mon Dec 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Tue Dec 13 St. Lucy
- Thu Dec 14 St. John of the Cross

WEEKDAYS LITURGICAL MINISTERS

**Daily Lector:** J. Blackwell; T. Buckler; C. Galli; D. Orwig  
**Meals-on-Wheels:** P. Keen, V. Worch, J. Farrell  
**Altar Preparation:** L. Dean

**Note:** Some *Workbooks for Lectors* are on the table in the sub-sacristy. Please take home your copy today.

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.** Please call the church office (301-994-0607) if you have recently changed your mailing address, e-mail address, phone number, or plan to be away temporarily.

STEWARDSHIP - FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

	12/4/2016	12/6/2015	
<b>General Collection</b>	\$5076.00	\$5162.39	-\$105.93
Identifiable Gifts	119	124	
<b>Maintenance</b>	\$1540.00	\$1568.00	
<b>Poor Box</b>	\$96.00	\$343.62	-\$247.62
<b>Donations</b>	\$665.00	\$760.00	-\$95.00
<b>E-Giving (Weekly)</b>	\$807.00	(20 donors)	
<b>E-Giving (Monthly)</b>	\$1015.00	(10 donors)	
<b>E-Giving (Maint)</b>	\$340.00	(15 donors)	

*Thank you for your faithful parish support.*

**Stewardship Lesson from the Sunday's readings:**

Today, the Third Sunday of Advent, we celebrate *Gaudete* Sunday. *Gaudete* means "rejoice." Although Advent is a season of penitence and preparation, today is always set aside by the Church to relax and rejoice in the Lord. All of our readings today deal with Christian joy. This may seem not in keeping with the overall mood encouraged for Advent, but it is most definitely in keeping with what we need to feel, and it is definitely appropriate for those who embrace stewardship as a way of life.

Stewardship is, of course, based upon an "attitude of gratitude" and today is a day to focus on the joy that results from that gratitude. Father Henri Nouwen was a well known Catholic priest, professor, writer, and theologian. In describing the significance of this particular day, Father Nouwen clarified the difference between joy and happiness. He said, "While happiness is dependent upon external conditions, joy is the experience of knowing that we are unconditionally loved by God and nothing — not sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war, or even death — can take that love away. Joy can be present in the midst of sadness."

This "joy" that is reflected in lives of stewardship was also emphasized by Pope Francis, who said in his homily for *Gaudete* Sunday in 2014, "Today is a day of joy. Rather than fretting about all we have not done or accomplished to prepare for Christmas during Advent, we need to think of all the good things God, and life, has given us."

OUR PARISH NEWS



**Sunday, December 18, 6:00 PM**

The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a service of Scripture and Song that dates to the late 19th century. In this service, we listen to nine Scripture lessons which recount the Fall, the promise of a Messiah, the Incarnation, and the Great Commission to preach the Good News. Each lesson is followed by a carol or other song that reflects on the lesson's message and a brief prayer.

**ADVENT Preparation:** *The Word Among Us* Booklet is available for spiritual reflection during Advent. Please take a **complimentary** copy home with you today. *[Booklets are on the bench in the vestibule]*

**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS COLLECTION  
December 10/11, 2016**

Aging religious need your help. Nearly 33,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others—educating the young, comforting the sick, seeking justice for the oppressed. Today many are frail, elderly, and in need of assistance as their communities lack retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to furnish medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please give generously to today's second collection.

**Donations for CHRISTMAS FLOWERS and CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS may be made in memory of deceased loved ones. Envelopes for this purpose are in the rack in the church front entrance. Return deadline: Sun., Dec. 18.**



**Christmas Giving Tree and Food Baskets**

St. George Parish will again service families who have applied to St. Mary's County Department of Human Services' Christmas Caring program. A tree with tags for gifts is in the front vestibule of the church today.



Items needed for the food baskets are also there for your selection. When returning the gifts please make sure that the tags are **securely attached** to your wrapped gifts, and all returns made by **Sunday, December 18. Please do not take a tag if you cannot return it by this date.**

**Notice:** For Christmas Stuffed Ham orders – pick-up date and time: **Tuesday, December 20, 1:30-3:30pm,** Community Center Kitchen entrance.

OUR PARISH FAITH FORMATION

**Youth Faith Formation at St. George (YFF)**

**Pre-K — Confirmation**

**Sundays, 9:30 – 10:45 AM Community Center**

**Annual Children's Christmas Pageant**

**Dec. 24 — 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass.**

**Rehearsals: Sun., Dec. 11, 12:00 PM in the Church.**

**Also: Sun., Dec. 18, 12:00 PM + Thur, Dec. 22, 6:30pm**

*\* Children age 3 and up are invited to participate.*

**YFF Christmas Cookie Sale**

**Sunday December 11 after the masses**



Proceeds benefit our Christmas Baskets for the needy in our area. *Cookie donations are welcome.*

**Apologetics 101:**

**Thursdays, 6:30-7:30PM, Community Center.**

**Thurs., Dec. 15: "Is the Nativity Story historically accurate?"**

**Thurs. Jan. 5: "Why does God act that way in the Old Testament?"**

***"Journey around the World and Deep into the Catholic Faith" with***

**Father Barron's Catholicism Series.**

This program will take place on the **second and third Sundays each month in the Community Center. 9:30-10:45 AM. All are invited to attend**

OUR YOUTH GROUP NEWS

**Our Youth Group meets every Sunday, 5:00 PM**

Please see the items listed on the Youth Group bulletin board. If you would like to make a donation, please take a card. Thank you for helping with things needed at our meetings.

**TODAY Family Mass: Sunday, December 11, 5:00 PM followed by Dinner Service & Reception at the Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship**

OUR REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

**Little Flower School News**

Tue., Dec. 13 - School Mass; **10:15am**

Finance Committee meeting, **6pm**

Wed, Dec. 14 - BINGO IS BACK! Doors open, **5:30pm;**

Early bird special at **6:45pm.** Cash prizes! Food and drink for sale. Every Wed. night!

Thu, Dec. 15 – PreK – Gr. 5 Christmas Concert, **6pm**

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!

**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)! and Instagram (@LFSpatriots)! 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 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! (301)994-0404 or email [LFSoffice@littleflowercatholic.org](mailto:LFSoffice@littleflowercatholic.org)

**Congratulations to October's 500 Club Winners:**

- \$500 - Rachel P., Richmond, VA
- \$250 - Jennifer T., Lexington Park, MD
- \$100 - Jessica C., Lexington Park, MD
- \$50 - Diana P., Valley Lee, MD

**Congratulations to November's 500 Club Winners:**

- \$500 - Paul N., Lexington Park, MD
- \$250 - Betty Lou S., California, MD
- \$100 - Robena K., Valley Lee, MD
- \$50 - Kenny S., Valley Lee, MD

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CORNER**

**Fr. Sebastien De Rose Council # 13091**

**Grand Knight: Dan Bogan**  
[dan.bogan@gmail.com](mailto: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. Items most needed by the food pantries are: canned vegetables, pork & beans, pasta, pasta sauce, macaroni & cheese, peanut butter, jelly, soup, rice, tuna, tuna helper, hamburger helper, & pancake mix.

**NEWS IN AND AROUND OUR AREAS**

**Sun., Dec. 11 Breakfast with Santa All-You-Can-Eat – 8:00am-11:00am** Menu addition: BACON. Price

**Change** - Adults \$9.00, children age 6 – 12, \$5.00, and children 5 and under free; Menu: scrambled eggs, home fried potatoes, pancakes, French toast, sausage links, ham, **BACON**, hot biscuits, creamed chipped beef, spiced applesauce, grits, assorted juices, milk and coffee; For more info: 301-994-9999.

**Sun. Dec. 11 Last 7:30 PM Mass at St. Mary's College until Sunday, January 22, 2017.**

Info: [greg@ihmrcc.org](mailto:greg@ihmrcc.org), (301) 542-2467.

**Mon., Dec. 12 Red Cross Blood Drive, SDVFD&RS, Drayden Road, 1:30-7:00 p.m.** For more info, call 1-800-RED-CROSS to schedule your life-saving donation and visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) to download the blood donor app.

**Sun., Dec. 18 A Loyola Christmas Sainly Tea, 3-5 PM Loyola on the Potomac, Faulkner, MD.** [see notice on bulletin board]

**Mon., Dec. 19 Mass with Eucharistic Adoration and Healing Prayers, Immaculate Heart of Mary, 7 PM.** Confessions start: 6:30 PM. Info: 301-863-8144

**Extending Blessings to the Community**

The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Aloysius Church will be providing Dinner on Christmas Day (Sunday, December 25, 2016) at Father Andrew White School in Leonardtown for those desiring a delicious meal and fellowship. Dinner will be served from **2:00 PM – 6:00 PM** in the school hall.

It is our desire to deliver dinners to those that are unable to come to the school. We are appealing to you for assistance with: Names of needy persons or families in your parish community who may desire delivery of dinner; Volunteers to deliver dinners to the homebound in your parish community (if preferred); Volunteers to prepare, set up, make decorations, serve and/or clean up at Father Andrew White School hall.

If you wish to sign up to volunteer, please contact Regina at SVdP (301-481-2942) or by emailing at [svdp@santalloysiuschurch.org](mailto:svdp@santalloysiuschurch.org). We would like delivery reservations made no later than **Friday, December 16, 2016**. We appreciate your support in this effort to display God's love and express the true meaning of Christmas!

**"Renewed in the Spirit!" – New Year's Eve Retreat, December 31, 2016 at Loyola on the Potomac – A Jesuit Retreat House in Faulkner, MD.** Join us as we pray in the New Year. The retreat begins with dinner on New Year's Eve and is followed by a time of prayer and quiet reflection. Celebration of the Mass brings us into the New Year followed by a social and a light breakfast on January 1 prior to departure. This retreat is led by Fr. Bill Noe, S.J. Retreat Fee: \$110. To register email [lisa.white@loyolaretreat.org](mailto:lisa.white@loyolaretreat.org) or visit our website – [www.loyolaonthepotomac.com](http://www.loyolaonthepotomac.com).

**Looking for the Longest Married Couple in 2017**

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is searching for the longest married couple. One national winner and winners from each of the 50 states are recognized each year. This project is held to honor the commitment of married couples and to give hope and inspiration to younger couples that they too can have long and lasting marriages. Nominations must be received by January 10th, 2017. To nominate a couple you know, please visit us at <http://wwme.org> or contact us directly at [321-804-2310](tel:321-804-2310).

**Great Christmas gift idea:**

Do you have friends or relatives familiar with historic St. Ignatius Church and St. Thomas Manor at Chapel Point? In celebration of the parish's 375th anniversary, a beautiful book is now available for \$30.00. There's a lot of very interesting history (and photos) throughout, making it much more than an anniversary book. Available at Martin's Service Station, Bernie's Frame Shop and Joson Fine Jewelry and Home Boutique, all in LaPlata, or by calling the parish office: 301-934-8245. We will gladly mail for an additional \$5.00.

**Part-time Music Director Needed**

St. Aloysius Catholic Church, Leonardtown, Md. Adult choir, cantors and Youth choir supervision. Keyboard skills desirable. Spirit of collaboration necessary. Compensation commensurate with experience

Contact: Rev. David W. Beaubien, Pastor St. Aloysius Church  
Mailing address: P.O. Box 310 22800 Washington St.  
Leonardtown, MD 20650 Tel: 301-475-8064 ext. 14 Fax:  
301-475-8762 Email: [dbeaubien@saintaloyiuschurch.org](mailto:dbeaubien@saintaloyiuschurch.org)  
[www.saintaloyiuschurch.org](http://www.saintaloyiuschurch.org)

**REFLECTION ON THE SUNDAY'S READINGS**

On this Third Sunday of Advent, *Gaudete* Sunday, all of our readings deal with rejoicing and with joy, which is appropriate for the theme of today. That secondary name for today comes from the Introit for today that in the traditional Latin Mass comes from Philippians 4: 4-5: *Gaudete in Domino semper* ("Rejoice in the Lord always."). We have passed the midpoint of Advent, and much that we celebrate and our traditions relax a bit. Rather than the purple vestments of penitence, the priest can wear rose-colored vestments, and on our Advent wreaths we light a rose-colored candle rather than a purple one.

Even the prophet Isaiah, from whom our First Reading comes and who can sometimes be a bit dour and negative, begins with this statement, "The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom. They will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song." We are on a journey, a trek of faith that we might also call our stewardship journey. It is a life-long journey and when we reach the end of it, according to

Revelation 21:4, "God will wipe away every tear from our eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

The point may be that we need to be both on the journey and aware we are on the journey, which is what Advent is really concerning. If we have not committed to the journey, if we have not made the conversion necessary to be a part of it, and if we have not made an effort to pursue our lives as Disciples of Christ, now is the time.

We have often made reference to agricultural thoughts expressed in Holy Scripture. The Second Reading from the letter of James is another example of that. James notes, "See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and late rains." Farmers offer us two great examples for our reasons to be joyous. A farmer plants a crop and knows that it takes time for it to come to fruition. Although the farmer cannot see it, the farmer believes that it will bear fruit and produce what is wanted and needed.

That faith is followed by patience and endurance as the farmer keeps caring for and preparing for the crop, although it cannot be seen. It does not matter how far away the fruits may be; the farmer believes and trusts and endures. That is the same patience and endurance that lives of stewardship exemplify. It is based upon trust in God and knowing that God will both provide and reward us. That is why we are joyful today, and every day.

St. John the Baptist is so important as the messenger of Jesus, the messenger of the Messiah. Yet, even John, like each of us, harbors doubts. He, like many, may have expected the Lord to arrive with great fanfare and instant political acts and impact. However, Jesus does not and did not work in that way.

Jesus' approach was always simple acts, one at a time, not huge dramatic works. That is an important stewardship message for us as well. Stewardship, and the example of Jesus, is based upon humility, the acceptance that all are more important than we are. As the Lord says in today's Gospel about John, whom he has already glorified and praised, "...yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

On this holy day, as we always do at Mass, we gather to celebrate Christ in the Eucharist, an example of His humility. St. Teresa of Calcutta, an example of humility and stewardship, said this: "The humility of Jesus can be seen in the crib, in the exile to Egypt, in the hidden life, in the ability to make people understand Him, in the desertion of His apostles, in the hatred of His persecutors, in all the terrible suffering and death of His Passion, and now in His permanent state of humility in the tabernacle, where He has reduced Himself to such a small particle of bread that a priest can hold Him with two fingers. The more we empty ourselves, the more room we give God to fill us."