

PARISH CALENDAR

- Sun Dec 18 Youth Faith Formation, **9:30 AM**, CC
Fr. Barron's *Catholicism* Series, **9:30 AM**
Pageant Rehearsal, **12:00 PM**, C
Youth Group, **5 PM**, CC
Lessons and Carols, **6:00 PM**, C
- Tue Dec 20 Pick up Stuffed Ham Orders, **1:30-3:30 PM**, Community Center Kitchen entrance
- Wed Dec 21 Rehearsals: Cantor **6:30 PM**;
Adult Choir **7:00 PM**
- Thu Dec 22 Pageant Rehearsal, **6:30 PM**, C
Youth Choir, **7:30 PM**, C
- Fri Dec 23 Decorate church for Christmas, **10 AM**
- Sat Dec 24 Children's Christmas Mass & Pageant,
4:00 PM, C (arrival time for those in
pageant: **3:15 PM**)



- Sat., Dec. 24 **4:00 PM** Children's Pageant/Liturgy
- Sat., Dec. 24 **9:00 PM** Christmas Eve Liturgy
- Sun., Dec. 25 **8:30 AM** Mass at Dawn at St. Francis
Xavier, St. George island.
- Sun., Dec. 25 **11:00 AM** Christmas Mass, St. George
- Sat., Dec. 31 **5:00 PM** Mary, Mother of God
- Sun., Jan. 1 **8:30 AM** Mary, Mother of God
- Sun., Jan. 1 **11:00 AM** Mary, Mother of God

MASS INTENTIONS

- Tue Dec 20 9:00 am Rev. Donald P. Worch
- Wed Dec 21 9:00 am Santos Lara & Family (L)
- Thu Dec 22 9:00 am Patrick O'Connor
- Fri Dec 23 9:00 am Julius Owens
- Sat Dec 24 **4:00 pm** Children of St. George
9:00 pm St. George Parishioners
- Sun Dec 25 **8:30 am** Residents of St. George
Island — Mass at S.F.X.
11:00 am St. George Parishioners

LITURGICAL FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

- Wed Dec 21 Our Peter Canisius
- Fri Dec 23 St. John of Kanty

WEEKDAYS LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Daily Lector: J.Blackwell; M.Goldsmith; C.Galli; Volunteer
Meals-on-Wheels: P. Bowes & M.A. Goddard; W.&B.
Walker; G. Crawford

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

	12/11/16	12/13/15	
General Collection	\$3999.50	\$6045.00	-\$2045.50
Identifiable Gifts	108	140	
Maintenance	\$280.00	\$510.00	-\$230.00
Poor Box	\$180.00	\$327.51	-\$147.51
Donations	\$7785.00	\$815.00	+\$6970.00
E-Giving (Weekly)	\$817.00	(20 donors)	

Thank you for your faithful parish support.

Stewardship Lesson from the Sunday's readings:

It is the final Sunday of Advent, the Fourth Sunday of Advent, yet because of the calendar in this year of 2016, Christmas is still a full week away. We may ask ourselves if we are prepared for Christmas, but that question may focus on the wrong things — we may be thinking of decorations and Christmas gifts and Christmas dinners.

However, the question we should be asking is "Are our souls ready for Christmas?" That should be the most important part of our Advent preparation. Is God present within us? Are we ready to welcome Christ? Do we acknowledge our need to be prepared for Christ's Second Coming?

In his letter to the Romans, the Second Reading, St. Paul uses the phrase "the Spirit of holiness." Paul, and in a more important way Christ Himself, calls us to holiness.

Holiness is more than what we do; it has everything to do with what we are. It has to do with our very identity. Holiness is characterized by our relationship with the Lord. We are waiting for Christ, but the reality is that Christ is waiting for us. God loves us; knowing and responding to that love is holiness.

St. Teresa of Calcutta may have said it best when she stated, "It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you. Yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at someone and offer them your hand." Doing that is being holy, too.

OUR PARISH NEWS

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



ST. GEORGE CATHOLIC CHURCH
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18
6:00-7:00 PM

All are invited to join us for the final Advent Preparation to reflect on the meaning of Christmas with Songs, Sacred Scripture, and prayers.



Christmas Giving Tree and Food Baskets

Final return date: Sunday, December 18 for gifts and food items for baskets. When returning gifts please make sure the tags are securely attached to your wrapped gifts.

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.



Church Christmas Decoration is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 23, 2016. Please come to church around 10:30 AM if you are available and would like to help decorate

THANK YOU

Our children from the Sunday's School (YFF) has raised \$221.00 for the Giving Tree during their annual Christmas Cookie Sale last weekend. The Youth Faith Formation and children would like to thank all those who supported and donated for their annual Christmas cookie sale.

Year-End Contribution Statements

Starting on **January 8, 2017**, you can get your yearly contribution statement without waiting!

Here's how:

1. If you have not already registered a user name:
 - a. In your internet browser, go to connectnow.parishsoft.com/washingtondc/
 - b. Click on link for 'New User?'
 - c. Choose 'St. George, Valley Lee' from the drop down list
 - d. Fill in all the areas with a red asterisk and click the 'Submit Registration' button. (If you have given us an email address, please use that address.)
 - e. Once a temporary password has been emailed to you, you can sign-in with your user name and password to check your data.
2. Once you have registered:
 - a. In your internet browser, go to connectnow.parishsoft.com/washingtondc/
 - b. Enter your User Name and Password
 - c. Click on "My Own Church" link
 - d. Click on the "My Offering" tab
 - e. Click on the "Giving History" link
 - f. Click on the "Download Statement" link**
 - g. Print or save as needed

****Please note – you will not be able to download until we release the statements January 8, 2017.**

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. 18, 12:00 PM in the Church.

Also: Thursday, Dec. 22, 6:30pm

* Children age 3 and up are invited to participate.

YFF Christmas break, classes will resume Sunday, January 08, 2017

Apologetics 101:

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

Next Class: Thurs. Jan. 5, 2017 "Why does God act that way in the Old Testament?"

Thur., Jan. 12 "What happens after death?"

"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 in the Community Center.

- Youth Group will not meet on Christmas Day and New Year, will resume Sunday, January 8, 2017.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

OUR REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Little Flower School News

Dec. 22-Jan. 2 – Christmas Break; Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

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 CORNER

Fr. Sebastien De Rose Council # 13091

Grand Knight: Dan Bogan
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.

NEWS IN AND AROUND OUR AREAS

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: 6:00 PM. All welcome. Info: 301-863-8144

Wed., Dec. 28 Holiday Christmas Concert presented by Chesapeake Orchestra Brass Players, Sacred Heart Church, Bushwood, MD, 6:30 PM. (works of Bach, Handel and holiday favorites) No admission charge, free will offering appreciated. Doors open, 5:45pm. Info: 301-769-3100

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@saintaloyiuschurch.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 or visit our website – 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@saintaloyisiuschurch.org
www.saintaloyisiuschurch.org

Beginning the New Year with the Lord Forty Hours at Chapel Point

On December 31 2016 and January 1, 2017 we will celebrate the 40 Hours Devotion of Eucharistic adoration. There will be several prayer services during the times of exposition. Most of the time will simply be dedicated private time before the Lord. We will be soliciting volunteers from other parishes to join us. We need people to promise to be present for periods of time, such that there are always two people watching and praying. Sign up for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament on-line. Go to www.chapelpoint.org follow the Forty Hours links.

Men's Discernment Retreat

Friday, February 3 through Sunday, February 5, 2017, men in their 20s, 30s or 40s who are considering a call to the priesthood are invited to attend a discernment retreat at Saint John Paul II Seminary in Washington, DC (145 Taylor St., NE) led by priests of the Archdiocese of Washington. The weekend will offer time away from your daily routine and will provide an opportunity for prayer and reflection to examine God's call. There is no fee to attend. Registration is now open at www.dcpriest.org, or email vocations@adv.org for more information.

REFLECTION ON THE SUNDAY'S READINGS

It was only a few short weeks ago that we began our Advent journeys, and now we find ourselves at the 4th Sunday of Advent with Christmas a short week away. In these final days we need to increase our awareness of all that is going on in our lives. There is inevitably a longing and a desire associated with Christmas, and the purpose of Advent is more than waiting anxiously; we should be preparing to find an intimacy with God.

Christmas should not just be a symbolic feast of God's presence or just a ritual commemorating the birth of the Lord. It is the Feast of God taking on a real body in the person of Jesus. In this body Jesus offered Himself to His Father. Christmas should be a feast of our consecration to God, and we live out that consecration at this time through the birth of Christ. Now is the time to love one another as He has loved us. Christmas is not an empty feast; it demands a commitment on our part as believers and people of faith.

Our First Reading is from the Prophet Isaiah. Within that reading we hear, "Therefore, the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel." How often have we heard that famous prophecy? The older we are the more often most likely. This is such a clear statement of prophecy about the birth of Jesus the Messiah. We know that within a week that prophecy will have a fulfillment, but we also need to be aware that it has a distant fulfillment for us as well.

Jesus is indeed Emmanuel. That means "God with us." That name has so much significance for us always, but especially at this time. With His birth, the Lord is indeed with us. He is with us in our lives today, and by becoming man He was with us here on earth. It is not just a title; it is a fact. He is both near to us and near to God His Father.

Like Mary we believe. Christmas is a feast of faith. Just as Mary gave birth we are called to give birth to Christ in our world through our own faith. We live in a world that desperately needs a Savior, someone who gives ultimate meaning to our lives.

St. Matthew relates the prophecy from Isaiah exactly as we heard it in the First Reading. Jesus is Emmanuel. He is "God with us" as He brings God to us; and He is "God with us" because He lives within us and next to us always. Salvation is here, and it is here in the Person of Jesus Christ.