

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun Dec 25 No Youth Faith Formation Classes.  
Classes resume **Sun. Jan. 8, 9:30am**  
Sat Dec 31 Rosary Devotion, **4:30 PM**  
Sat Dec 31 Holy Day, Mary, Mother of God, **5:00pm**  
Sun Jan 1 Holy Day, Mary Mother of God, **8:30am**  
Holy Day, Mary, Mother of God, **11:00am**  
Sun Jan 8 Parish Christmas Party, CC, **12:00 pm**

MASS INTENTIONS

Tue Dec 27 9:00 am Janice Wood (L)  
Wed Dec 28 9:00 am Alejandrew Grider (L)  
Thu Dec 29 9:00 am Catherine Thompson  
Fri Dec 30 9:00 am Wesley & Raquel Grider (L)  
**Sat Dec 31 5:00 pm St. Geo. Parishioners**  
**Sun Jan 1 8:30 am John Springer**  
**Sun Jan 1 11:00 am St. Geo. Parishioners**

LITURGICAL FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

**Mon Dec 26 St. Stephen**  
**Tue Dec 27 St. John**  
**Wed Dec 28 The Holy Innocents**  
Thu Dec 29 St. Thomas Becket  
**Fri Dec 30 The Holy Family of J+M+J**

WEEKDAYS LITURGICAL MINISTERS

**Daily Lector:** J.Blackwell; T.Buckler; C.Galli; D.Orwig  
**Meals-on-Wheels:** S.Sierra, I.Hardy, K.Raley

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.

**DECEASED** Please pray for the souls of **Rev. Matthew E. Thompson** and parishioner **Agnes Geneva Lawrence**. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

**New registrations** are always welcome. Forms for this purpose are in the rack in the church front entrance.

**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

	12/18/2016	12/20/2015	
<b>General Collection</b>	\$5069.00	\$5115.75	-\$46.75
Identifiable Gifts	116	141	
<b>Maintenance</b>	\$50.00	\$290.00	-\$240.00
<b>Poor Box</b>	\$290.00	\$249.70	+\$40.30
<b>Donations</b>	\$115.00	\$215.00	-\$100.00
<b>E-Giving (Weekly)</b>	\$817.00	(20 donors)	

*Thank you for your faithful parish support.*

Stewardship Lesson from the Sunday's readings:

It is Christmas! Our Gospel reading on this festive holy day is the opening words of the Gospel of John. St. John says, "The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him." That is why we celebrate today. Pope Francis opened his sermon on Christmas day last year by saying this: "Christmas is joy, religious joy, an inner joy of light and peace."

At Mass on Christmas Eve we hear, "I proclaim to you good news of great joy; today a Savior is born for us, Christ the Lord." It is this joy we need to feel, this joy we need to carry to others. Many have expressed the joy of today. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI said this about Christmas: "Joy is the true gift of Christmas. We can communicate this joy simply: with a smile, a kind gesture, a little help, forgiveness. And the joy we give will certainly come back to us... Let us pray that this presence of the liberating joy of God shines forth in our lives."

The angel Gabriel greeted our Blessed Mother Mary with the Greek word *Kaire!* That means "Be joyful." God is near us today; He is so near that He became a child. Let us take that joy and share it with others; let us take that joy and change our lives and the lives of others. When we say "Merry Christmas" let us mean it with every fabric of our being.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

**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 Christmas Mass at Dawn on St. George Island at St. Francis Xavier Chapel.**  
**Sun, Dec. 25 11:00 AM Christmas Liturgy, 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**

OUR PARISH NEWS



St. George Parish Staff and Father Paul would like to extend our prayerful best wishes to all our parish families and visitors a Holy and Blessed Christmas. Please pick up a book gift from the parish in the vestibule, that includes our pastor Christmas letter to each family. Merry Christmas!

**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/](http://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/](http://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.**

Special Thanks to Father Paul, the St. George Choir, St. George Youth Choir, Musicians and Readers who made this year's Advent Lessons and Carols a truly reverent, prayerful and beautiful preparation for the Birth of Christ. Thanks also to the St. George Youth Group who hosted the reception afterwards!



OUR PARISH FAITH FORMATION

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

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.  
YFF Classes Resume Sunday, January 8, 9:30AM

***"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**

**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?"

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](http://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](mailto: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](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.

## NEWS IN AND AROUND OUR AREAS

**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@saintaloyuschurch.org](mailto:svdp@saintaloyuschurch.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).

### 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@saintaloyuschurch.org](mailto:dbeaubien@saintaloyuschurch.org)  
[www.saintaloyuschurch.org](http://www.saintaloyuschurch.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](http://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](http://www.dcpriest.org), or email [vocations@adw.org](mailto:vocations@adw.org) for more information.

### Christmas Flowers in Remembrance of Loved Ones

The list of names of deceased loved ones are listed in the **bulletin insert** for those who have requested prayers during the Christmas Masses, and Christmas Flowers Donation in honor of their memory this day.





## CHRISTMAS SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

“For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is the Messiah and Lord, and this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger, and suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: ‘Glory to God in the highest.’”

We are all very familiar with the report of Jesus’ birth. We know about the multitude singing, and we are aware of how the shepherds came from the fields to see and worship the child. On this glorious day we are the heavenly host singing and we in a sense are the shepherds who kneel in admiration of this child. This child is like none other. We know that every child changes the world in his or her own way. But the birth of Jesus, the Son of God and the son of Mary does more than change the world. He changes our lives completely. He comes to save us. He comes to embrace us. And He invites each of us to embrace Him.

Most of us are aware that the first four Books of the New Testament — Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John — are called the Gospels. We also know in general that these Gospels tell the story of Jesus Christ — His birth, ministry, teachings, miracles, death, and resurrection. What you may not know nonetheless is that the first three Gospels, which we call the Synoptic Gospels, are very different from the Gospel of John, from which our Gospel for today comes.

The Gospel of John is unique in many ways. For example, almost 90% of the material it contains about Jesus’ life is not found in the other three Gospels. Also, you might say that the Synoptic Gospels tend to be more historical while the Gospel of John is more theological. Today’s Gospel Reading, which is the opening statement of John’s Gospel, is an example of this difference. Note how John describes Jesus’ birth: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through Him. And without Him nothing came to be. What came to be through Him was life; and this life was the light of the human race: the light shines in the darkness.”

On this magnificent Christmas Day we receive the life and we receive His light. It is no wonder that all of our readings reflect that life and that light and the joy that

results. Just listen to the words and phrases we find in the First Reading from Isaiah. These are perfect descriptions of what we should feel on this day: “beautiful; glad tidings; peace; good news; salvation; shout for joy; break out in song.” What a summary of this day!

The Second Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews complements and affirms the feelings expressed in Isaiah. The writer makes it clear that Jesus is God and that today marks the beginning of salvation for us. This passage from Hebrews parallels our Gospel today in that it is the opening words of the letter to the Hebrews. The first word is “God” as that is where it all begins. God speaks to us in the birth of Jesus, and the author of the letter uses a word to describe Jesus that may be foreign to us: the author speaks of the “refulgence of his glory.” Refulgence means brightness or radiance. The original Greek word from which this is translated is *apaugasma*. That means brightness beyond our understanding. It is as if we cannot see or look upon the Lord — only through the light of Jesus His Son.

The Gospel, as explained previously, speaks of the Christ child in a way that is not found in the other Gospels. Jesus is the Word incarnate. If we review what we know about Jesus, we might say He was from Nazareth or He was born in Bethlehem or He is descended from Abraham through David. However, John wants us to understand that Jesus has come to us directly from God as He is One with God. He is the Word. Toward the end of His Gospel John states of his Gospel: “But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.” Today is day of life and light. It is truly a day on which we must proclaim “Glory to God in the highest.”

