



Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam

For the greater glory of God...

Dear Parish Family,

As I write this column, I am deeply saddened to learn about Mrs. Christin Gaston's sudden passing from a heart attack this past week. Mrs. Gaston was a first grade teacher at Father Andrew White School and beloved by all who knew her. Please keep Mrs. Gaston's family and the students and staff of Fr Andrew White School in your prayers during this most difficult time. Today's 11:00 am Mass will be offered for the blessed repose of her soul. The funeral Mass will be at 10:00 a.m. at St. Aloysius Church on Tuesday, August 8th.

This side of eternity, we will never fully understand why these things happen the way that they do. Human words are often not enough to express how much we care when we want to console someone who has lost a loved one. But the Word of God never falls short because it is a living Word – an encounter with Christ Himself. And today's Gospel on this feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord offers us the hope we long for as Christians.

Our Lord's Transfiguration on Mount Tabor was not only a foreshadowing of his glory after the resurrection. It was also a foretaste of Christ's second coming in glory, when he will transform our humble bodies to be like his own glorious body. The Church wants us to think of the Transfiguration as a sign, pointing to our own bodily resurrection (for the just) at the end of time. We profess this truth every Sunday at Mass when we recite the Nicene Creed: "*and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.*" This is an essential part of our Catholic faith because we live in the hope that for Christin life has changed, but not ended. Our faith gives us the hope that we *will* see her again in eternity. May she rest in the peace of Christ.

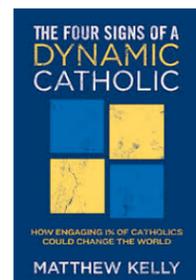
Peace and blessings, Fr. Rob



Theology on Tap returns to Olde Town Pub in Leonardtown on **Wednesday, August 9** at **7 pm**. Our speaker will be Eve Tushnet, well-known Catholic blogger and author of *Gay and Catholic: Accepting My Sexuality, Finding Community, and Living My Faith*. Eve will be speaking about her conversion to Catholicism and her experiences and struggles living as a faithful Catholic with same-sex attraction. Theology on Tap is brought to you by PAXCatholic, a regional ministry by and for young adults in St. Mary's County. Check us out on Facebook or join our email list by emailing paxcatholicstmarys@gmail.com



Catechists Needed
Our Religious Education program is in need of volunteer catechists for the 2nd & 4th grades. Teacher's aides are needed for all grades. For more information, please contact Paula McLeod at: paula.mcleod@gmail.com



Spiritual Book Club
The SFX spiritual book club will resume this fall with its next book, *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic* by Matthew Kelly on **Thursday, September 14** at **8:45 am** in the **rectory**. The book club will meet every other Thursday. The author explores four key things that make the difference between highly engaged Catholics and disengaged Catholics. Find out what they are and see if you agree! If

you are interested in joining, please email Fr. Rob at: sfxparishmd@gmail.com.



You Can Understand the Bible!

Our parish Bible Study resumes this fall on **Tuesday, September 12** at **6:30 pm** in the **rectory**. Reading the Bible should bring us closer to Christ, but understanding it is often difficult. The good news is that *you can understand the Bible*, and *The Bible Timeline* makes it easy. This year, our study will include a series of twenty-four videos presented by Jeff Cavins. Each video will be preceded by a lively group discussion. For more information or to register, please contact Fr. Rob at: sfxparishmd@gmail.com

Want to Learn More About the Catholic Faith?



R.C.I.A. stands for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. It is a journey of conversion to God and what He intends for us. R.C.I.A. is the process by

which persons who were never baptized, or were baptized in another Christian tradition, become members of the Church. We also welcome Catholics who would simply like a refresher in the basics of the faith. R.C.I.A. classes will meet on **Thursdays at 7:00 pm** in the **rectory** beginning on **September 14**. For more information, please contact Fr. Rob at: sfxparishmd@gmail.com

MASS INTENTIONS

For the Week

Saturday – August 5th

The Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major
4:00 p.m. – Rev. John Mattingly
Confessions at 3:15 p.m.

Sunday – August 6th

The Transfiguration of the Lord
8:00 a.m. – SFX Parishioners
11:00 a.m. – Christin Gaston+

Monday – August 7th

Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time
8:00 a.m. – Dcn. Robert Connelly+

Tuesday – August 8th

Saint Dominic
No Mass

Wednesday – August 9th

St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross
8:00 a.m. – Dcn. Robert Connelly+

Thursday – August 10th

St. Lawrence
8:00 a.m. – Bernard Lynch+

Friday – August 11th

St. Clare
8:00 a.m. – Rev. Arne A. Panula+

Saturday – August 12th

St. Jane Frances de Chantal
4:00 p.m. - Rev. Arne A. Panula+
Confessions at 3:15 p.m.

Sunday – August 13th

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 a.m. – Rev. Thomas Crowley+
11:00 a.m. – SFX Parishioners