

Saint George Catholic Church

Established in 1851

19199 St. George's Church Road, Valley Lee, Maryland 20692

Phone: 301-994-0607

Fax: 301-994-1793

Email: secretary@stgeorgercc.org

Website: www.StGeorgeRCC.org

WELCOME

Our parish family extends a warm welcome to all who are joining us for worship, guidance or instruction. If you are new to the area or coming home, we invite you to register and make St. George Catholic Church your parish. Registration forms can be obtained in the church vestibule, at the office or online (www.stgeorgercc.org).



2nd Sunday of Advent

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Gospel calls all people to holiness of life. Saint George Catholic Church is a family of faith, committing ourselves as a welcoming Catholic community to worship God in Word and in Sacrament; to live and to share our faith; to serve and to reconcile ourselves with God and one another.

PARISH STAFF

Fr. Paul Nguyen, *Pastor*

Deacon Joel Carpenter, *Permanent Deacon*

Matthew Hendrick, *Parish Secretary*

Barbara Carpenter, *Business Manager &
Director of Liturgy and Music*

Kimberley Browne, *Minister of Religious Education*

Rico Romero, *Facility Maintenance Supervisor*

OFFICE HOURS

Mon., Wed., Fri. 10:00AM-2:00PM

Tues., Thur. 10:00AM-5:30PM

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Weekday Masses

Tuesday — Friday 9:00 AM

First Saturday 9:00 AM

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil — 5:00 PM

Sunday — 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

St. Francis Xavier Mission Chapel (St. George island)

Saturday 7:00 PM (May to September) *

* Memorial Day to Labor Day

Holy Day Masses — as announced

OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Children's Sunday School (YFF) meets in the Community Center 9:30-10:45 AM. Contact Kim Browne for class enrollment and for more information: (301) 994-0737 or email: kim.browne@stgeorgerc.org

REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Little Flower School (*pre-K – 8th grades*)

For registration or information, please call LFS at (301) 994-0404 or visit us online www.littleflowercatholic.org

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Group meet on Sundays 5:00-8:00PM in St. George Community Center. All teens grades 6 and up are invited and welcomed to attend our weekly meeting. For more information, please contact the church office (301) 994-0607 or contact one of our Youth Group Team Leaders (Kelly Carpenter, Omotayo Ojo, Chris De-Piazza) at YouthGroup@stgeorgerc.org

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM:

Arrangements must be made in advance with Deacon Joel Carpenter or Father Paul by at least one parent for children under the age of seven.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION/EUCHARIST:

Contact Mrs. Kimberley Browne for more information: kim.browne@stgeorgerc.org

RECONCILIATION/CONFESSION:

Saturday 4:00-4:30PM, or by appointment
First Friday during Eucharistic Adoration (10-10:30am)

ANOINTING OF THE SICK & HOLY EUCHARIST:

Parishioners unable to attend Mass on the weekends or who are ill are encouraged to call the parish office to receive these Sacraments.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is celebrated in the Fall and requires a 2-year preparation in our Sunday Youth Faith Formation.

MARRIAGE

Couples should contact the parish office and priest to make arrangements as soon as possible, at least 6 months in advance of the wedding. Pre-Cana Classes or Engagement Encounter (Marriage Preparation) is required.

RCIA (Preparation for Easter Sacraments)

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a process of inquiry and discernment for prospective converts to the Catholic faith who are above the age of infant baptism. Candidates are gradually introduced to aspects of Catholic beliefs and practices. Classes are held every Saturday at 10:00am-11:30am in St. George Community Center beginning in October and ends in May. For more information and registration, please contact Fr. Paul at the church office or email: fr.paulnguyen@gmail.com

DEVOTIONS

Holy Rosary: After Daily Masses & Sat. 4:30 PM

Divine Mercy Chaplet: Fridays after Mass

Eucharistic Adoration: 1stFri. & 1stSat. 9:30-10:30 AM

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Tues	Dec.11	9:00 am	Julius F. Owens
Wed	Dec.12	9:00 am	The Carroll Family (L)
Thu	Dec.13	9:00 am	Peter Conrad
Fri	Dec.14	9:00 am	Bill Borden
Sat	Dec.15	5:00 pm	Bobby Bowes
Sun	Dec.16	8:30 am	Elizabeth Quinn
Sun	Dec.16	11:00 am	St. George Parishioners

WEEKDAY LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Daily Lector: J. Blackwell, T. Buckler, C. Galli, D. Orwig

Meals-on-wheels: P. Keen, V. Worch, G. Crawford

Altar Preparation: M. Goldsmith

LITURGICAL FEAST DAYS

Tues.	Dec.11	St. Damasus I
Wed.	Dec.12	Our Lady of Guadalupe
Thurs	Dec.13	St. Lucy
Fri.	Dec.14	St. John of the Cross



Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his path (Luke 3:4)

REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Please remember our parishioners who are sick, homebound and those in the nursing homes and hospitals, 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.



PARISH CALENDAR

- Sun. Dec. 9 YFF **9:30am-CC**
 Apologetics **9:30am – CC**
 Pageant Practice 12pm - C
 Altar Server Training **3pm - C**
 Youth Group **5pm-CC**
- Wed. Dec. 12 Cantor Practice **6:30pm – C**
 Choir Practice **7pm – C**
- Fri Dec. 14 Bible Study **10am-CC**
- Sat Dec. 15 RCIA **10am-CC**
- Sun. Dec. 16 YFF **9:30am-CC**
 Apologetics **9:30am – CC**
 Pageant Rehearsal **12pm - C**
 Advanced Altar Server Training **3pm - C**
 Youth Group **5pm-CC**

*C: Church, CC: Community Center

STEWARDSHIP – FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

	12/2/2018	12/3/2017	
General Collection	\$3794.95	\$4354.00	
E-Giving (Weekly)	\$1117.00	\$1047.00	-\$409.05
E-Giving (Monthly)	\$1075.00	\$995.00	
Identifiable Gifts	128	141	-13
Maintenance	\$1207.00	\$1058.00	+\$184.00
E-Giving (Maint.)	\$550.00	\$515.00	
Poor Box	\$283.04	\$232.01	+\$51.03
Donations	\$590.00	\$740.00	-\$150.00

Thank you for your faithful Parish support.

Scriptural Reflection of a Faithful Steward

BAR 5:1-9; PS 126: 1-6; PHIL 1: 4-6, 8-11; LK 3: 1-6

The readings for the Second Week of Advent offer both encouragement and challenge as we reflect and prepare for the two “comings” of Christ — His coming as a baby on the great feast of Christmas, and the anticipation of His second coming at the end of time.

Our First Reading, from Baruch, is a wonderful reminder that God has triumphed over sin and death and that we — His faithful disciples — will live in the light of His glory one day. Until He comes again, we must remain faithful to Him as true disciples and good stewards of all the gifts He has given us.

While it can be tempting to give in to the materialism and calls for self-indulgence that surround us, (ironically more than ever at this time of year), this reading calls us back to the spiritual reality that this life is passing and that we are made for eternal life with God. We are called to


prepare for *eternal* life by the way that we use our time, our talents and our treasure *now*.

In the Second Reading, the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians, Paul gives us a pep talk as we make our stewardship journey, and we modern-day disciples can take heart in his words. He tells us, “I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.” Paul reminds us of two important realities that should greatly encourage us. First, that the stewardship way of life is very much a journey. We don’t have to have every aspect of our life perfectly nailed down; we are all “works in progress” called simply to take one step at a time closer to Christ. Second, it is *God* who started this good work in us — on the day of our Baptism — He cares deeply about this journey of ours and He will give us all the grace and strength we need to stay faithful to Him and continue growing in love and imitation of Christ.

The Gospel reading from Luke shows us how personal and detailed is God’s love for humanity as He prepared the way for Christ’s coming among us. We are told the precise time, place and person, John the Baptist, He appointed to announce the arrival of our Savior.

John tells us how to celebrate to the fullest this first “coming” on the feast of Christmas and how to prepare for the second coming — through repentance.

This Advent, let’s turn away from any bad habits or sin that may have crept in to our lives, and turn our hearts and minds back to Christ. This is what the stewardship way of life is all about — moving ever closer in relationship with Christ and imitation of Him, ready to celebrate His birth, with eyes fixed on eternal life with Him.



Advent is a time when many of us are preparing our homes to gather with family and friends. We play our favorite Christmas music, make seasonal meals and desserts, and practice traditions and rituals from our childhood. Keep Christ at the center of your celebration in these simple ways; include Christian songs in your Christmas playlist, say grace before meals and let people offer intentions, and incorporate a moment or prayer and reflection into your family’s traditions. Then share with other how you celebrate the perfect gift of God’s love by going to FindthePerfectGift.org/traditions

Save the Date! Our parish Lessons & Carols takes place on Thursday, December 20 @ 7pm!

NEWS IN OUR PARISH

HOLY COMMUNION

It is with great sorrow that I bring this important notice to your attention. For the last 3 consecutive weeks, we have found a consecrated host in the pew. This Holy Eucharist had been consumed and spat out and left on the floor in the pew. This is a very grave act of disrespect to the Holy Body and Blood of Christ, a desecration of the Holy Eucharist. Please be aware of your surroundings and help keep sacred the Eucharistic gift of God in Holy Communion at Mass.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE & 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 16. Please do not take a tag if you cannot return it by this date.**



FLOCK NOTE

We love having you as part of our flock! Let's keep in touch! This new tool we're using lets you choose what info you'd like to receive - via email or text message - from the various ministries and groups in our church. **We will be using this method to send you emails in order to protect you from scammers.**

There are 2 easy ways to connect (pick one):

1. Visit our church on-line at:
flocknote.com/stgeorgeVL (Once you are here, you will create a password in order to join.)
2. Text STGRCC to 84576 from your phone to subscribe to updates.

(Text HELP to 84576 for help at any time. There is no charge for this service, but your carrier message and data rates may apply. View privacy policy & conditions at www.flocknote.com/txt.)

There is also an 'app for that' for FREE!

On your smartphone, visit the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store and search for "Flocknote" to download and install. Sign in using the email address or phone number and password you signed up with.

Join groups to receive notifications specific to you!

You can join various groups within the parish, such as: Funeral Alerts, YFF Parents, etc.

WE WOULD LIKE EVERYONE TO JOIN THE ST. GEORGE PARISHIONERS GROUP!

THE WORD AMONG US!

The Word Among Us Books are available for spiritual reflection during Advent. Please take **two** copies with you today – one for yourself and one to share with someone else.

GLASS ETCHING!

A Big "THANK YOU" to all who came out to our Glass Etching event last week.

OUR PARISH FAITH FORMATION

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION (YFF) GRADES K-8

Registration for the 2018-2019 year is ongoing.

Please contact Mrs. Kim Browne,
kim.browne@stgeorgerc.org

Adult Faith Formation

APOLOGETICS:

9:30-10:45AM in the Community Center

Sun. Dec.16th Is the Nativity Story Historically Accurate?

BIBLE STUDY

Fri. Dec.14th, 10-11:30am in Community Center.

Topic: "What is Truth?" Looking at how we can interact with others with Love.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Group meeting today at 5pm in the Community Center. All teens grade 6 and older are welcome to attend.

REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL



Bingo every Wednesday, doors open at **5:30 pm**; early bird special starts at **6:45pm**. Cash prizes! Food and drink are also 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)!

Interested in learning more about Little Flower School? Call (301)994-0404 or LFSoffice@littleflowercatholic.org.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS**Fr. Sebastien De Rose Council # 13091***Grand Knight: Christopher A. Wilcox*
CWILCOX@MD.METROCAST.NET**Upcoming Events:****Dec. 18th** Planning Meeting at 6:30PM at St. George/KOC
Family Christmas Party 6:30PM**Dec.25th** Christmas (No Planning Meeting)**Dec.28th** Put up Crosses for Cemetery of the
Innocence's/Seminarian Dinner w/ Vincent Vu**Dec.30th - 5th** -Sunday Rosary at **10:30AM** at St George**CATHOLIC TEACHINGS****“Mary - Immaculate Conception I**

The Catholic Church teaches the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception. But what does that mean? Well first, here's what it doesn't mean. It's not the conception of Christ in Mary's womb. That happened at the Annunciation. And it's not a football caught by Franco Harris. That was the Immaculate Reception. The Dogma of the Immaculate Conception, defined by Pope Pius IX in 1854, teaches that Mary was conceived in her mother's womb without the stain of original sin. The Catechism of the Catholic Church, number 491, states: “The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin.” Notice that this was in no way the work of Mary herself, but a “singular grace” from God. But, where is the Scriptural evidence for this doctrine? We get a glimpse of this in the angel's greeting to Mary in Luke 1:28. “Hail, full of grace...” Think of this notion of something being full. Now, picture a glass, full. Just as full as it can get. No room for anything else. If Mary was full of God's grace, could there be any room for sin? Absolutely not. And the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception answers this question perfectly. For further study: Luke 1:28 CCC 490-495

Mary - Immaculate Conception II

The Catholic Church teaches the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception, the doctrine that states that Mary was conceived in her mother's womb without the stain of original sin. Many non-Catholics will dispute this, often citing Mary's own words in Luke 1:47, “My spirit rejoices in God, my savior.” They say that if Mary was without sin, she wouldn't need a savior. But this misses the whole point of the Immaculate Conception. God did, indeed, save Mary. But instead of saving her from sin later in her life, He saved her from the moment of her conception. The Catechism number 490 states, “To become the mother of the Savior, Mary ‘was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role.’” And in number 491 it

states that this (the Immaculate Conception) happened “by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ...” Mary is the Ark of the New Covenant, the manifestation of the old Ark of the Covenant, which was so holy that, if someone so much as touched it, they would be struck dead. How much holier is the Ark that would bear the only Son of God? For further study: Luke 1:46-55 CCC 490-495”

Excerpt from “A Minute in the Church” by Gus Lloyd. This book and three other books with one-minute teachings about Catholic life and liturgy may be found in our bookrack in the vestibule.

NEWS IN OUR AREA

Mon.Dec.10th American Red Cross **Blood Drive** from 1:30-7pm at the 2nd District Firehouse, Contact 800-REDCROSS for more information or to make an appointment.

Tues.Dec.25th St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Aloysius Church. **15th Annual Community Christian Christmas Dinner** at Father Andrew White School in Leonardtown. Dinner is 2-5pm in the School Hall. Please make your delivery reservations or volunteer intentions for Christmas Day on later than Tuesday Dec. 18th. If you have questions, wish to provide information for deliveries, or sign up to volunteer, please contact Regina at SVdP (301-481-2942) or by emailing at svdp@saintaloyiuschurch.org.

VIGIL OF THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Tuesday, December 11 at 6:30pm, the Saint John Paul II National Shrine will celebrate Vigil of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The principal celebrant and homilist of the 7pm bilingual Mass is Bishop Mario Dorsonville. A prelude serenade to Our Lady by Jorge Zurita will begin at 6:30pm. For more information, contact 202-635-5400 or events@jp2shrine.org. Find on Facebook by searching for "Vigil of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe."

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 16 from 4-6pm, the Saint John Paul II National Shrine will hold an Advent concert with reflections on the Nativity story followed by caroling around the Christmas tree. For more information, contact 202-635-5400 or events@jp2shrine.org.

SAVE THE DATE - WORLD YOUTH DAY IN DC

Join thousands of college students and young adults (ages 18-39) on **Saturday, January 26, 2019** for a one-day Catholic festival at The Catholic University of America. Experience World Youth Day in Panama, including world-renowned speakers, live music, simultaneous streaming of Pope Francis in Panama, and authentic Panamanian culture! Registration begins late summer 2018. For more information, visit www.wyddc.org #wyddc