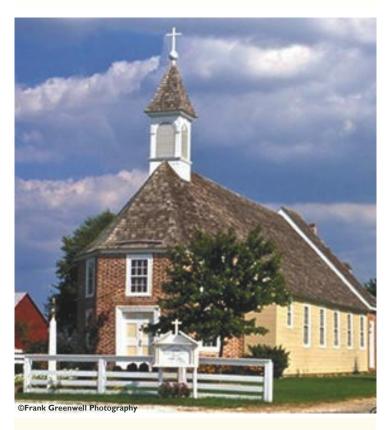
St. Francis Xavier Church (Newtowne)

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD JANUARY 2, 2022





NEWTOWNE MISSION FROM 1640

FIRST CHAPEL BUILT 1662

CURRENT CHURCH BUILT 1731

St. Francis Xavier Parish, founded in Newtowne after the landing of the Ark and the Dove on St. Clement's Island, exemplifies an open-hearted community. As the oldest Catholic Church in the original 13 colonies, we continue to embrace our legacy in serving Christ and embody His teachings.

THE CHURCH IS OPEN DAILY 7AM-5PM WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS!

Registration forms are on our parish website

SUNDAY MASSES—IN PERSON AND ONLINE

Saturday 4pm* (Anticipated), Sunday 8am & 11am
*Livestream: facebook.com/stfrancisxavierchurchmd
Also recorded and uploaded on YouTube
Rosary 30 minutes before Mass 1st & 5th Sunday

DAILY MASSES

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, 8am ◆ Wed, 6:30pm 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month, 8am

CONFESSIONS

30 min before all weekend Masses or by appointment

WEEKLY ADORATION

Friday after 8am Mass, 8:35-9:35am 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month, 7:30-7:55am

BAPTISMS

By appointment with Father

MARRIAGES

Make arrangements with your Pastor at least six months in advance; call the Rectory

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Email Paula McLeod, paula.mcleod@gmail.com

BULLETIN ITEMS • PRAYER LIST

Send bulletin items to SFX1640bulletin@gmail.com
Deadline is Friday, one week before Sunday date
Our Prayer List is refreshed each month:
Send Prayer List requests to PinedaR@adw.org
If you are seriously ill or preparing for a surgery, call the rectory to arrange for the sacrament of anointing

Rev. Ryan Pineda, Administrator

PinedaR@adw.org

Deacon William Nickerson (Retired)
Deacon Joel Carpenter
Judith Gwynn, Parish Secretary
SFXparishoffice1662@gmail.com

Denise Becher, Bookkeeper

Mailing address: 21370 Newtowne Neck Road

Leonardtown MD 20650 Telephone: 301-475-9885

Cemetery: Catholic Cemeteries, 301-475-5005

Web: StFrancisXavierChurch.org

Tour: roundme.com/tour/249939/view/733

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2022
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

*2nd Collection: Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA *No Religious Education class



FR. RYAN WILL BE AWAY FROM JANUARY 4-6.
Intentions requested on these days will be offered when Fr. Ryan says Mass in private.
The church will still be open from 7am - 5pm

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5
Religious Education class

for devotions and prayers.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6
*9am: Book Club, Hall

*6:30pm: RCIA, Hall

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7 6:30pm: Bible Study, Hall

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8 6am: *That Man Is You*, Hall

LOOKING AHEAD

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
*2nd Collection: FAW School
*Religious Education class

JANUARY COLLECTIONS

Jan 2 Archdiocese for the

Military Services, USA

Jan 9 FAW School

Jan 16 Maintenance Fund

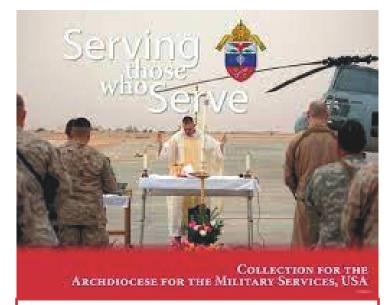


PARISHAXISUPPORT

SHARING OUR TREASURE

Holiday publishing deadlines preclude our reporting collection amounts for Dec 19, Dec 26, and Jan 2.

These reports will be included in the Jan 9, 2022 bulletin.



SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

Your support and prayers are critical to the pastoral mission of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS) – to provide the sacraments to her faithful who fulfill their duties around the world and to meet the spiritual needs of Veterans in the 153 Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers. You make it possible to proclaim Christ all over the world; and to carry out the mission of the Church. Thank you for your aid in this important ministry to those who serve.

SANCTUARY LAMP INTENTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

The sanctuary lamp in the church will be lighted for the soul of Agapito Perada. The sanctuary lamp in the rectory chapel will be lighted for the soul of Justino De Lara. To honor a loved one or pray for a special intention by offering to light the sanctuary lamps, call the office or email Fr. Ryan, PinedaR@adw.org.

POOR BOX

Thank you to all who contribute to our poor box (in the vestibule, near the baptismal font). For the month of January, poor box contributions will be donated to Our Lady of the Wayside Food Pantry.

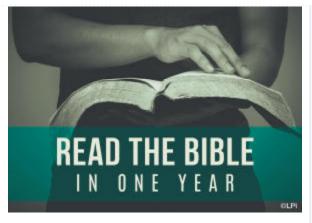
READ THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR

LOOKING FOR A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?

FR. RYAN HAS A SUGGESTION AND A CHALLENGE:

WHY NOT READ THE WHOLE BIBLE IN A YEAR?

This might be a challenging task for most people. You might give up when you reach the laws and precepts in the Book of Numbers. Or you might feel that the prophetic books seem outdated. Nevertheless, the Bible, including both the Old Testament and New Testament is the Word of God.



Our Lord Jesus Christ himself attests to the power of the Scripture when he says that "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away" (Mt 24:35).

Furthermore, according to *Dei Verbum* (21), "The Church has always venerated the Sacred Scriptures as she venerated the Body of the Lord, in so far as she never ceases, particularly in the sacred liturgy, to partake of the bread of life and to offer it to the faithful from the one table of the Word of God and the Body of Christ...It follows that all the preaching of the Church, as indeed the entire Christian religion, should be nourished and ruled by sacred Scripture."

There are 73 books in the Bible, from numerous authors and in various genres. The Old Testament has 46 books, and the New Testament has 27 books. Although both Protestant and Catholic Bibles recognize 27 books in the New Testament, the Protestants only have 39 books in the Old Testament. Tobit, Judith, 1 and 2 Maccabees, Wisdom, Sirach, and Baruch are considered canonical and divinely inspired by Catholics but not by the Protestants. Hence, in order to have access to the whole canon, I recommend that you check your Bible and see what version you have. Make sure you have the *New American Bible* (or *New American Bible Revised Edition*), *Revised Standard Version* (or *New Revised Standard Version*) Catholic edition. One may also use the Douay-Rheims Version, but the translation might be a little difficult for some people. If you have a King James version, although it is very poetic, it is incomplete.

One may argue that if you go to Mass every Sunday for three years (to finish Lectionary Cycles A, B, and C), you will hear the whole Bible. Unfortunately, that is not the case. Even if you do not miss any Sunday Mass for three years, you will only hear less than 4% of the Old Testament (excluding the Psalms) and less than 41% of the New Testament. If you go to daily Mass, the numbers will get higher, but one still will hear less than 14% of the Old Testament (again excluding the Psalms) and about 72% of the New Testament.

Our non-Catholic brethren tease us Catholics about not knowing a lot about the Bible because most of us just rely on what we hear at Mass. The Lectionary that we use is also selective about the psalms because they do not contain several psalms and verses with imprecatory tone.

Thus, I highly recommend that we read the entire Bible (on our own) for a year. There are books, podcasts, videos, and apps that will help you read the entire Bible, such as *Bible in a Year: Your Daily Encounter with God*, published by Augustine Institute.

One easy way to read the Bible in a year is to use the guide prepared by Dr. Mary Healy, a renowned Biblical scholar (https://speakingofscripture.files.wordpress.com/2012/01/bible_in_a_year.pdf). I printed this guide and put this as an insert in this bulletin.

Whichever plan you use, I highly encourage you to read or reread your Bible. If a one-year plan seems difficult, make it into a 3-year plan. You could start with the New Testament this year, then move on to the Wisdom literature, before reading the Old Testament.

The important thing is to read the Bible, every day if possible. After all, St. Jerome says "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." Just do not forget to call on the Holy Spirit to open your hearts and minds before reading the Word of God.

FATHER ANDREW WHITE (FAW) SCHOOL CRUSADER CONNECTIONS

New Year Blessing:

Heavenly Father, we thank you for giving us a new year and the many opportunities to do Your will. We ask you to bless especially our parishioners who answer their call by supporting our students with their love, prayers, and generosity. May Your light shine on their path and bless them abundantly. Amen.

We wish you and your family much holiness and happiness in the months ahead. God bless you always! Happy New Year!



2021 YEAR-END

CONTRIBUTION REMINDER Your Christmas and Dec 26 donation must be received in

the parish office by Fri, Dec 31, 2021 in order to be included in your 2021 Contribution Statement.

Contributions received after Dec 31, 2021 must be considered a 2022 donation.

If you'll be away this season, consider making an electronic donation. Visit the *Online Giving* section of our parish website, at stfrancisxavierchurch.org.

Questions? Call the rectory office, 301-475-9885, or email Judith, SFXparishoffice1662@gmail.com.



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THE HOLY FATHER'S INTENTION FOR JANUARY

FOR TRUE HUMAN FRATERNITY

We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

A THANK YOU NOTE TO OUR PARISH!





Dear Mr. Bowles,

THANK YOU for all your hard work with Box of Joy!

Because of your dedication and selflessness, thousands of boys and girls will feel loved and remembered this Christmas.

Year after year, Cross Catholic Outreach is blessed to work with committed volunteers. It is because of people like you that **Box of**Joy blesses more and more children every year. You are truly an inspiration!

Thank you again for being a valuable member of *Team Joy*. May God bless you for making an eternal impact in the lives of impoverished children and their families!

Blessings,

Dawn Kaszubowski

Logistics Manager, <u>Box of Joy</u> 561-392-9212 ext. 240

Additional Flower donations were made this Christmas Season in memory or honor of the following:

Mr. Jim Bernhardt
Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Daly
Al Faunce Sr. & Family
Joe Gonsalves & Family
Lowmiller Family
Bones Mattingly
Francis Morgan & Family
Deacon Bill Nickerson

Clara Nickerson
Mr. Thomas O'Brien Jr.
Carrie Schaller
Don Schaller
Dr. & Mrs. Stephen
Schmeiser
Tennison Family





When I was a kid, I wanted to be an astronomer. Growing up, I really got interested in planets, the sun, and the stars, especially after learning about Halley's Comet that returned to the inner part of the solar system and was seen on the sky in 1986.

Some people believe that it was the Halley's Comet that appeared and guided the Magi to reach the infant Jesus. In fact, if you look at the Adoration of the Magi, a fresco painted by Giotto in the Arena Chapel in Padua, instead of the usual star, Giotto drew a comet, probably patterned after Halley's comet, since it was seen on the sky about four years before he painted it.

So, was it a star or a comet that appeared to the magi and guided them? Various theories have been presented. Aside from a comet, some believe that it was a supernova, a birth of a new star, or it was the conjunction of the planets Jupiter and Saturn that occurred in 7-6 BC.

The star is not the only point that is not clear in our Gospel narrative. Most believe that there were three kings who visited the Holy Family even though our Gospel did not specify this fact. The number three was probably based on the three different gifts that they presented: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Medieval traditions name these wise men as Melchior, Balthasar, and Gaspar but we do not have a record of them in the Scripture so we cannot really know with certitude. In fact, in the Eastern churches, they believe that there were 12 magi. Meanwhile, the Gospel talks about magi and not kings. Magi are wise men and were a class of Persian priests renowned as astrologers. The concept of king was probably based on Psalm 72 since the psalmist talks about kings offering gifts and paying homage to the true king. Indeed, there were so many symbols in the Gospel that some people, especially the rationalists, were led to question the authenticity and historicity of the narrative.

So what is the point of our Gospel this Sunday? Today is the climax of Christmas. God's Holy word is unveiled to the whole world. The birth of our savior is now revealed to us. Just as the prophet Isaiah tells the Israelites, "Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you," the prophet is telling us to do the same. It is now the time to wake up from our slumber and leave our sluggish ways. Just as the magi followed the star, did Christ homage, and offered gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, we are invited to do the same: follow the true star, Christ our Lord, and give him the praise and homage due to him, and offer him gifts.

In Christ, Fr. Ryan



Saturday – January 1

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God 10am — Pro Populo 4pm — Mercy Aguinaldo †

Sunday – January 2

The Epiphany of the Lord 8am — George "Buster" Payne, Sr. † 11am — Pro Populo

Monday - January 3

The Most Holy Name of Jesus 8am — Fr. John Carroll †

Tuesday - January 4

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

No Public Mass - Intention: Deacon Chester Chen \dagger

Wednesday – January 5

St. John Neumann

No Public Mass - Intention: Fernando Peredo †

Thursday – January 6

St. André Bessette

No Public Mass - Intention: Richard Merrill †

Friday - January 7

St. Raymond of Penyafort 8am — Agapito Perado †

<u>Saturday – January 8</u>

4pm — Donna Gross

Sunday – January 9

The Baptism of the Lord
8am — Pro Populo

11am — Richard Merrill †

Pray For

The sick: Katherine Mueller, Lucy Sambuco Funk, Chloe Thurnbaugh, Lauren Thurnbaugh, Ron Glockner, Brenda Mattingly Garber, Bill Law, Arthur Goeller, Kylee Viola, Elsie Marte, Mickey McAloon, Richard Fezio, Karen Feagley, Willard L. Jones Jr., Amanda Gwynn, Pacencia Santiago, Joan O'Dell, Glenn Priddy, Godilla Anana Gudelos, Kit Pilkerton, Mary Helen Farrell, Karen Huseman, Wally Bowles, Richley (Bunky) Taylor, Erin Schaller; those in hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation & long-term care facilities, or homebound.

Our beloved dead: Amalia Janeo, Fernando Peredo, Cody Blackwell, Mary Virginia Brown, Richard Merrill, all who have died of COVID-19, and all buried in our cemetery.





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