

# Saint Joseph Catholic Church

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 Father Andrew Royals, Pastor

## Fourth Sunday of Lent – Laetare Sunday

March 15, 2026

### Mass Times

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.  
 Tues, Wed, & Fri: Check website  
 Saturday: 5:00 p.m. (Fulfills Sunday Obligation)

### Confessions

Sunday: Before Mass; After 8:00 a.m. Mass  
 Tues, Wed, & Fri: Before Mass; 4:30-5:00 p.m.  
 Saturday: 4:00-4:45 p.m.

### Office Hours

Tues & Fri: 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.,  
 Wed: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

### Adoration

The Church is open for prayer and adoration from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. unless Fr. Drew is away from the premises.

**Please pray for those who are sick in our parish**, especially Barbara Watson, Sarah Hancock, Billy Joe Hill, Annie T. Nelson, Joseph Tippet, Yvonne Lennon, John Hunt, Kathy Norris, Larry Miller, John Campbell, Max Long, Gailann White, James Davis, Tommy Johnson, Barbara Lilly, Joseph “Zip” Douglas, Josh Johnson, Alya Nelson, David Russell, Grant Bidle, Mary Helen Knight, Billy Patton, Jim Dunbar, and George “Gibby” Knight.

### Mass Intentions for March 15<sup>th</sup> through March 21<sup>st</sup>

3/15 Sun – 8 a.m.	<i>Pro Populo: LL SMOOCH</i>
10 a.m.	The Edwards Family
3/17 Tues – 12 p.m.	William “Archie” Pilkerton
3/18 Wed – 5 p.m.	George Burroughs
3/19 Thurs – 5 p.m.	<i>Pro Populo: LL SMOOCH</i>
3/20 Fri – 12 p.m.	Minor Buckler
3/21 Sat – 5 p.m.	Carole “Donie” Alvey
<b>March 8, 2026 Offertory</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$2,292.00</b></span>	
<b>March 8, 2026 School Support</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$454.00</b></span>	
<b>Thank you for your generosity!</b>	



## *From Father's Desk*

My Dear Parish,

The Story of the failure of the Scribes and Pharisees is, like that of Judas, a cautionary one. For the Savior of the World to be handed over by the very ones who were supposed to be expecting to receive him is the highest degree of tragedy. Their own blindness resulting from their sins prevents them from seeing the tragedy unfold. Unless we learn from their mistakes, things will be all the worse for us.

The sight restored to the Man born Blind should be an occasion of joy at the fulfillment of God's promise that his Christ will give sight to the blind. This, instead of announcing the acceptable time of blessing, as Isaiah foretold, results in the hardening of the hearts of the leaders of God's own people. The sin that cannot be forgiven is not a shortcoming on the part of God, but on the part of the sinner. God, it's so clear, wants to forgive. But the sinner treats both God and His forgiveness with contempt. Just as a Lover would not for his beloved to respond lovingly if she should not want it, so too God cannot/would not force his forgiveness upon the sinner who would scorn him.

This is the tragedy of the Pharisees. It contrasts with the delight and acceptance of the Samaritans who received Christ for two days in their town after hearing the encounter of Woman at the Well. The Samaritans accepted him saying, "This is the Savior of the World." His own rejected him.

What about us? We are already Children of God through our baptism? What should we expect if we who have been given so much prefer instead to return to our sins? Rather, let's make the most of this season of penance and return to the Lord.

With paternal affection,  
Fr. Drew

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***Men's Evening of Recollection*** – All men of the parish are invited to join for the next Men's Evening of Recollection on Tuesday, March 24, at 6:30 p.m. in the church.

***Stations of the Cross*** – On Fridays, Stations of the Cross will take place at 5 p.m. in the church. On Good Friday, April 3, Fr. Drew will lead outdoor Stations of the Cross at St. Mary's Queen of Peace Cemetery (38888 Doctor Johnson Road) at 12 Noon.

***Quo Vadis Excursion*** – High school aged boys are invited on Sunday, March 22, 10 AM – 3 PM, for Mass at Sacred Heart in Bowie, lunch, talks, and trampoline fun at Sky Zone. This is a great opportunity for the high-school guys to spend time with seminarians, priests, and other young men, from the Archdiocese of Washington, who are open to the priesthood. Transportation from Sacred Heart Catholic Church (16501 Annapolis Road, Bowie) to Sky Zone and back will be provided. There is no charge for this event, but registration is required at <https://dcpriest.org/event/2026-quo-vadis-excursion-to-prince-georges-county/>. *Registration ends at 5 PM on Wednesday, March 18.*

***St. Mary's Chapel Fundraising Gala*** – Have you ever wanted to leave your mark for future generations? Well, you may have an opportunity during the Gala supporting the construction of the St. Mary's Chapel for perpetual adoration on Friday, May 8, 2026, from 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM, at the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department. During the Gala there will be a chance to buy a beautiful stained glass window to be used in St. Mary's Chapel. For more information and to reserve tickets, visit [www.StMarysChapel.net](http://www.StMarysChapel.net)

***OLW Fish Fry*** – Our Lady of the Wayside (37575 Chaptico Road, Chaptico, MD 20621) will hold a Lenten Fish Fry on Friday, March 27, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. The dine-in menu includes fried fish, fish nuggets, fried popcorn shrimp, French fries, coleslaw, green beans, rolls, iced tea, and desserts. Adults are \$20, children 6-12 are \$10, and children 5 and under are free. Drive-thru carry outs are \$20 with the same menu, except whole fish only. Cash or check only. For more information, please email [office@olwrcc.org](mailto:office@olwrcc.org) or call 301-884-2502.