

ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA CATHOLIC CHURCH, LEONARDTOWN, MARYLAND

A Few Words from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

As the past year taught us, a recession can make the market volatile, and managing investments at the time of an economic slowdown should be done smartly. One way to effectively weather economic turbulence, so I've read, is by going for dividends that pay big in the market. I'm no economist, though, so whether that's good advice or not someone with more knowledge in the field of finances would be better to consult. When it comes to matters of faith, however, that is something I know more about and the big "paying" dividends there are always something we should strive to acquire and help others gain as well. A great way to do just that is through our Catholic schools. **Catholic Schools** as this year's Catholic Schools Week theme states, provide **Dividends for Life**.

As a product of Catholic Schools, I agree with the president of the National Catholic Education Association, Karen Ristau, when she says, "*Catholic schools provide good things for students and families—high expectations and daily experience of faith. In these challenging times, the . . . dividends of a Catholic school education—students prepared in faith, knowledge, morals and discipline—last a lifetime. There is no better way to invest in a child's future—or the future of our world.*"

Our own Father Andrew White School is a perfect example of just how a Catholic school prepares a child for life. We offer an excellent academic curriculum with advanced math classes in pre-Algebra and Algebra, Spanish language classes in our middle school, computer and science labs, technology-integrated curriculum, the STEM Program (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) featuring robotics, Starbase Atlantis, NASA SciFiles and Math in Real life.

In the field of Arts, Athletics and Extra Curricular activities, we provide a media center, music, art and PE programs, beginning and advanced band, chorus and piano lessons, boys and girls JV and varsity basketball, cheerleading, Student Council involvement, a Yearbook Club, an after-school Robotics Club and an extended day program.

Our students also excel in the area of service to our Church and community. For example, some of our 8th grade students volunteer at St. Paul's Soup Kitchen; many other participate in the St. Jude's Research Hospital Math-a-thon; still others participate in the St. Vincent de Paul Walk for the Poor, the American Diabetes Association's Benefit Walk, food and clothing drives, projects to support our troops, the Samaritan's Purse Project and a Baby Shower for the CareNet Pregnancy Center. All of our students also participate yearly in our Mission drive for the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth.

Most importantly, our students are provided with excellent opportunities to know God and grow in their Catholic Faith. They participate in daily Morning Prayer, a weekly Mass, an annual Mass for life, Lenten Stations of the Cross as well as the Living Stations. Opportunities to know God's mercy and love through the celebration the Sacrament of Reconciliation are given during Advent and Lent. There are sacramental preparation retreats, participation in a Vocation Awareness Mass, the Living Rosary, May Processions and Crowning, and, of course, religion classes are held every day and all classes are taught in an environment of faith. This year, too, we had our first school-wide retreat at Camp Maria, an event we hope to continue on a yearly basis.

The motto of our school is "**Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow, Living our Faith,**" and each day that is what our faculty and students do, giving glory to God while providing **Dividends for Life** that will equip our children to be their very best. I invite you to celebrate Catholic Schools with us this week. Stop by our Open House on Thursday, come in and learn about the great education being offered right here at Father Andrew White School. Consider enrolling your child (children), by doing so you'll be making an investment that lasts for eternity.

Peace,
Fr. John

Worship

Mass Intentions

Tuesday, Feb. 2:	The Presentation of the Lord
12:15pm	Robert & Lillian Miedzinski
Wednesday, Feb. 3:	Sts. Blaise, bishop & martyr & Ansgar, bishop
8:30am	Edna Adams James Concannon
Thursday, Feb. 4:	
12:15 pm	Mary Jane Scully Frank Davis
Friday, Feb. 5:	St. Agatha, virgin
9:00am	John F. Spalding
7:00pm	Florence Bergen Kelly
Saturday, Feb. 6:	St. Paul Miki, & his companions, martyrs
7:30am	James Forrest, Sr. Edith Norris
5:00pm	James C. Raley, Jr. James Abell Longmore, Jr.
Sunday, Feb. 7:	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00am	Larry Gibson Zosima Villanueva
11:00am	Parishioners of St. Aloysius

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Please Pray for the Sick and Homebound of our Parish

Community: Let us remember in prayer: Wanda Butler, Gerald Campbell, Mary Carrigg, Judy Cates, Bill Chubb, Fran & Ray Dicus, Mary Dyson, Susan Fenwick, Pat Gibson, Denise Lacey, Charles Latham, Agnes Long, Jim O'Brien, Isabelle Raley, Jim Raley, Amy Saul, Kit Spalding, Agatha Stokel, and Donna Walker.

First Friday Devotions

This Friday, February 5th, is the First Friday of the month.

Masses will be celebrated at 9:00 am and at 7:00 pm.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held in the church from 10:00 am till 6:45 pm with Benediction at 6:45 pm. Confessions will be heard from 6:00 pm till 6:30 pm.

A sign-up sheet for Adoration is in the vestibule of the church.

Scout Sunday: This year's Scout Sunday Mass will be celebrated February 7th during the 8 am Mass. Members of the parish registered in Scouting (girls, boys and adults) are invited to participate wearing their Scout uniform. If you are interested in participating, please contact Matt Allen at 301-997-0014 or at allenmjbj@hotmail.com. Please note that there will be **a brief rehearsal for the Mass on Saturday morning, February 6th.**

Too bad!

Too bad Jesus isn't Tuesday 8/7 central on Fox...

Too bad Jesus doesn't have a Mii...

Too bad Jesus didn't make the playoffs this year...

...because maybe I would spend more time with Him.

Put the ordinary aside and come center yourself on Christ and the Eucharist!

All are invited to this year's Parish Mission with Fr. Jude Winkler, OFM, Conv.

February 21-24, 2010, from 7 pm – 8:30 pm.

Please notify the Parish Office when a loved one is hospitalized: Caring for the sick is an important ministry here at St. Aloysius. In this ministry the Church prays for the sick, visits the sick and provides the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. Please remember to call us so that visits may be arranged and prayers offered.

Special Choir Forming for Easter Triduum – A special choir is forming for the Easter Triduum liturgy, and all are invited to join. The choir will sing the most beautiful and moving music of the liturgical year for Holy Thursday (4/1), Good Friday (4/2) and the Great Easter Vigil (4/3). All voices are needed – new and experienced are welcome. The first rehearsal is Wednesday, Jan. 27th at 7:30pm. All other rehearsals will be held on Wednesday evenings during Lent. If you are considering joining the Triduum Choir please contact Abby Sweeney by Tuesday, Jan; 26h at 240-925-5804 or Sweeney@md.metrocast.net.

Vocation Cross

Devotion to the Vocation Cross involves a designated parish household receiving the cross at Mass and taking the cross home for one week and praying for a few minutes every day for the gift of vocations to the priesthood and religious life from our parish. **Please pray for Vocations this week with the Family of Harry & Catherine Mason.**

Stewardship

Sharing Our Treasure: Weekly Offertory Contributions

January 23rd/24th, 2010

January 24th/25th, 2009

1st Collection: \$9,656.00

1st Collection: \$9,341.43

2nd Collection: \$1,238.00

This Week's Donations for Haiti: \$5,034.00

2nd Collection Next Weekend: Our 2nd Collection for the weekend of Feb. 6/7 is for Father Andrew White School. Thank you for your continued generosity to our parish.

Patron of the Week: Café des Artistes. Please remember to patronize our bulletin sponsors.

2010 ARCHBISHOP'S APPEAL

"I will give you thanks, O Lord."

(Psalm 138:1)

Many of our parishioners have received a mailing from Archbishop Wuerl asking for a pledge to the 2010 *Archbishop's Appeal*. The Appeal not only funds the operations of the archdiocese, it funds services that are of great help to parish ministries. This year, the theme of the Appeal is, *"I will give you thanks, O Lord."* Clearly, we have many reasons to give thanks to God for all He has given us. Our contributions to our parish and our archdiocese multiply the thanks that we give to our God by enabling ministries and services that touch thousands of lives. Please prayerfully consider a pledge to the 2010 Archbishop's Appeal.

Parish Life & Evangelization

300th Anniversary Committee Meeting: The next meeting of the parish's 300th Anniversary Committee is this Thursday, February 4th at 3:00 pm in the rectory.

What is an Annulment?

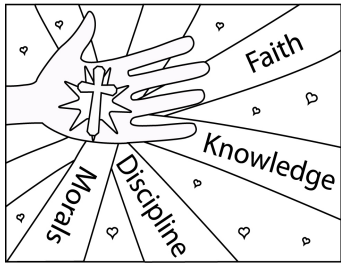
The Church teaches that the Sacrament of Marriage, by its very nature, is ordered towards the good of the spouses as well as towards the procreation and education of children. It is during the marriage ceremony when a couple exchanges their vows that the Sacrament of Marriage officially begins. The Church also presumes that all marriages of all other faiths to be valid until proven otherwise. An annulment is granted only when an essential component of the sacramental consent is found to be missing. An annulment does not mean that "in the eyes of God, it was not a marriage," nor does an annulment mean that the marriage

“never existed.” The main effect of an annulment is that the former marriage no longer has legal recognition or standing in the community of the Catholic Church and, generally, that the parties are now free to marry again in the Church if they so choose. If you have any questions regarding an annulment or would like to learn more about the process, then you are invited to join Fr. Michael King, JCD, on Tuesday, February 2nd, 2010 from 7:00 pm till 8:30 pm in the library at Father Andrew White School. The snow date for this presentation will be Thursday, February 4th, 2010.

Religious Education, Youth Ministry & School

Catholic Schools Week Open House at FAW

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



DIVIDENDS FOR LIFE

Everyone - Parents, Parishioners, Perspective Parents & Students – are welcome to visit Father Andrew White S.J. School this week and see the wonderful things happening in Catholic education in our parish today! The staff and students will host visitors on

Thursday, February 4, 2010 from 9:30 – 11:00 am as well as on Sunday, February 21 from 12:00 – 1:30 pm. Registration of new students for the 2010 – 2011 school year will begin on Monday, March 1. At Father Andrew White S.J. School we are “*Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow, Living Our Faith*”.

Italian Dinner and Brown Bag Auction – FAW School: On Saturday, February 6th, from 4-8 pm, Father Andrew White School is hosting its annual Italian Dinner and Brown Bag Auction as part of our celebration of Catholic Schools Week. Enjoy spaghetti with your choice of sauces, bread, salad, and dessert. Beer and wine available. There will be chances to win a wide variety of themed auction baskets.

FAW School Board to Meet: Members of father Andrew White School Advisory Board are reminded of their meeting this Tuesday evening, February 2nd at 7:00 pm in the faculty room.

Can You Help? Father Andrew White School is hosting a **Live and Silent Auction** during its upcoming Groovy Gala on Saturday, April 24th. We are now collecting auction items. Do you have an item or service you would like to contribute? A Christmas gift you'd like to re-gift? Charitable donation receipts can be provided. Please contact Jane Burke at (301)866-2056 or jburke@md.metrocast.net.

Are you an adult Catholic who has never been confirmed? Many baptized Catholics have received their First Holy Communion, but “missed” Confirmation because they were

away from the Church or did not feel ready as adolescents. *It's not too late.* Each year, adult Catholics from throughout the Archdiocese of Washington prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation at their parishes and then gather at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in D.C. on the Feast of Pentecost to be confirmed by the Archbishop. If you are an adult who is interested in preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2010, please contact Leonard Wathen, Director of Religious Education at 301-475-8064, ext 16 or at lwathen@saintalloysiuschurch.org

Community

SAVE THE DATE: 2nd Annual Knights to Knights Speaker Series with Tim Staples:

All are welcome to a free presentation by nationally renowned Catholic Apologist Tim Staples (from Catholic Answers heard weekly on EWTN radio) on Wednesday April 21, 2010 at St. Mary's Ryken High School's Romuald Hall. The talk will begin at 7:00 pm. This event is sponsored by Knights of Columbus – St. Mary's Council 1470, St. Mary's Ryken High School and J.F. Taylor, Inc. For additional info, contact us at leonardtowntknights@gmail.com or 301 904-0210.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Theme: Jesus' words and love are for everyone!

Reading I: Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19

Before you were born, you were known, consecrated and appointed.

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 12:31—13:13

Faith, Hope, Love. The greatest of these is love.

Gospel: Luke 4:21-30

Jesus was sent for us.

Breaking Open the Word:

Suggested text for faith sharing: Today's 2nd Reading

Question for Children:

What ways do you show God's love to someone who is lonely or hurting?

Question for Teens:

Who are the people in your life who mean the most to you? How do you show them how important they are to you?

Question for Adults:

What are some ways you show members of your family your love for them?

Next Sunday's Gospel, 5th Sunday in ordinary Time:

Luke 5:1-11

Don't Forget to Save the Date:
Saturday, June 26th, 2010: 300th Anniversary Mass with Archbishop Wuerl – 5:00 pm
followed by our Anniversary Dinner at the LVFD.