

A Few Words from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Some of you know this better than me, but I can't imagine that commercial fishing or crabbing is an easy way to make a living. I would think that it requires a substantial investment of time and money for boat and gear, as well as for their maintenance. I would also think that it entails some risk in leaving the safety of home for the sea. It must also be hard work, sometimes with little reward, and it would compel crews to work together to bring in a sizable catch. The work of the disciple demands a similar kind of risk, personal investment, patience, hard work and sense of community and that is what today's Gospel teaches us.

Today we hear the account of Jesus calling his first disciples, Peter, James and John, and the call comes at a low-point for them. They had been out fishing all night and caught nothing. As commercial fishermen, Peter and the others must have determined that the best fishing was done at night. They probably knew that little is caught during the heat of the day. So agreeing to lower their nets at Jesus' urging was, for this experienced fisherman, an act of considerable faith. And as today's Gospel recounts, their faith was rewarded abundantly. If the first disciples of Jesus had any special grace, it was an openness to Jesus' call and teaching.

After catching so many fish that they need help from "their partners in other boats" Peter asks Jesus to leave him because he is "a sinful man." What Peter acknowledges is that he is not worthy of the gift of Jesus. As Jesus will teach Peter, though, unworthiness does not require him to be separated from Jesus. The gift of a relationship with Jesus isn't just for Peter, but for Peter to share with others. Thus Jesus tells him, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men."

The gift Peter, James and John receive this day (and for years afterwards) prepares them to be bearers of God's message to others. The gift they receive enables them to leave everything and follow Jesus because they have experienced God's generous gift during their own time of disappointment and need. Can we say the same thing?

As Jesus challenged Peter and the others to lower their nets again in the "deep water," to risk their own security and comfort, so, too, does he challenge us. As they were given the gift of faith to share with others, so, too, are we. Throughout the ordinary events of every day lives we are presented with opportunities to share the presence of Christ and His meaning in our lives with others. We might not think ourselves saintly enough, good enough or wise enough. The reality, however, is that God works through us, however imperfect we are, if we simply allow His grace to be enough for us.

Peace,
Fr. John

Worship

Mass Intentions

Tuesday, Feb. 9:

12:15pm James B. Russell, Jr.
Kitty Lee Radford

Wednesday, Feb. 10: *St. Scholastica, virgin*

8:30am Mary Jane Scully
Thomas Joseph

Thursday, Feb. 11: *Our Lady of Lourdes*

12:15 pm Leonard F. Gray
John Pingleton

Friday, Feb. 12:

8:30am James C. Raley, Jr.
R. Courtney Good

Saturday, Feb. 13:

7:30am George C. Duke
Frank Davis

5:00pm Jack Alvey

Elizabeth Lelonek

Sunday, Feb. 14: *Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

8:00am Thomas I. "Poke" Norris
James Michaud

11:00am Brendan & Sue Murphy

6:00pm Parishioners of St. Aloysius

Please Pray for the Sick and Homebound of our Parish

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

Born to Eternal Life: St. Aloysius extends our prayerful condolences to the family of Nelson Garner who passed away last week. May the angels lead him to paradise; may the martyrs come and welcome him to the holy city, the new and eternal Jerusalem; and may the peace of Christ which is beyond all understanding give his family comfort and consolation.



Lent 2010 - The Light is ON for You: Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation:

“It remains one of the great marvels of God’s love that He would make forgiveness so readily available to us. The deepest spiritual joy we can sense is the freedom from whatever would separate us from God and the restoration of our friendship with a loving and merciful Father who receives each of us with all the forgiveness and love lavished on the prodigal son. Renewed, refreshed and reconciled through this sacrament, we who have sinned become a “new creation.” This Lent, I hope that all of us experience this newness of spirit and soul.” (Archbishop Donald Wuerl).

Catholics throughout the Archdiocese of Washington, especially those who have been away from the Church or the sacrament, are invited to experience God’s mercy and forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This Lent our church will be open for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and prayer every **Thursday evening from 7:00 – 8:30 pm** (with the exception of Thursday, March 25th).

It’s A Shame!

Too bad Jesus isn’t on the same mobile network...

Too bad Jesus isn’t a friend on Facebook...

Too bad Jesus doesn’t have His own ringtone...

...because maybe I would talk with Him more.

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.

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. The cross is given to at one of the three weekend Masses after Communion and it is asked that it be returned to the rectory by Saturday morning. Jim Hoffman, the parish’s Vocations Liaison is in the process of calling all homes that signed up to have the Vocation Cross in their home to schedule your week.

Please pray for Vocations this week with the Family of Joe & Gerda Biglin.

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.

Stewardship

Sharing our Treasure: Weekly Offertory Contributions

January 30th/31st, 2010

1st Collection: \$3,844.00

2nd Collection: Assessment - \$346.00

January 31st/Feb. 1st, 2009

1st Collection: \$9,145.35

Please note that because of December’s snowstorm and last weekend’s snow, our regular Offertory Collection is down from the projected budget. If parishioners have not done so already and if you are able, we would ask you to please consider placing your offertory contributions from December 20th and January 31st in the collection this month. Thank you.

2nd Collection Next Weekend: Our 2nd Collection for the weekend of Feb. 13/14 is for the building Fund.. Thank you for you continued generosity to our parish.

Patron of the Week: Allergy & Dermatology. Please remember to patronize our bulletin sponsors.

“I Will Give You Thanks O Lord”

Archbishop’s Appeal 2010

Today you will be asked to respond to Archbishop Wuerl’s request to make a pledge to the Archbishop’s Appeal. The theme of the campaign is: ***“I will give you thanks, O Lord.”*** (Psalm 138:1)

The Archbishop’s Appeal campaign is much different than a one time special collection. It is a pledge campaign where you can make a gift, payable over ten months.

A significant gift to the Archbishop’s Appeal will touch the lives of many others in a very positive way. As you listen to the Archbishop’s words and review the work enabled by your contribution, please reflect on God’s gifts to you. He has given you all that you have. Your gifts to our parish, to the archdiocese and to the work of the Church throughout the world should be given in gratitude for the continuing gifts that God gives you.

Sometimes it is difficult to envision how one pledge can help an organization the size of our archdiocese, how it can make a real difference. But each pledge does make a difference because all parishes participate in the campaign and the gifts of many enable our archdiocese to deliver needed ministries and services.

Our combined gifts not only signify our gratitude to God, they glorify Him by enabling the work of our archdiocese and give Him thanks for all He has given us.

If you received your pledge form in the mail, please complete it and mail it back or bring it with you to Mass. For those of you that did not receive a mailing or have not had time to respond to it, we will conduct our in-pew pledge process at all Masses this weekend.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration and generous response.

Parish Life & Evangelization

Evangelization Committee Meeting: The next meeting of the parish's Evangelization Committee is this Wednesday, February 10th at 7:00 pm in the rectory. New members are always welcome. Currently we are making the final plans for our Lenten Mission with Fr. Jude Winkler, beginning February 21st, while reading the book *From Maintenance to Mission: Evangelization and the Revitalization of the Parish* by Robert S. Rivers, CSP.

Religious Education, Youth Ministry & School

Sunday Breakfast at FAW School: Today is Sunday Breakfast at *Father Andrew White School* from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm. The menu features eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits with gravy, pancakes and more. Stop in and enjoy a great breakfast after Mass with your family and friends!

There will be NO Religious Education on Sunday February 14th in commemoration of President's Day.

February 14th is the second Sunday of the month, and the Youth Mass will be held at 6:00 pm. Life Teen and the Edge will be held immediately after from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

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.

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.

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship: On Monday, February 15th from 9:30 – 10:30am the Knights of Columbus Council #1470 will hold their Free Throw Championship at St. John's gym. Kids can test their free throw shooting skills in the contest at 9:30. At 10:30 the winners will be eligible to compete in the District Free Throw Shooting Championship. Prizes will be awarded to the winning boys and girls in the following age groups: 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14. For more information call Youth Chairman, Jim Goebel at 240-538-8045.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Theme: We are continually invited to follow Jesus.

Reading I: Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8
Here I am! Send me.

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
The grace of God is always with us.

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11
The Apostles were called and so are we.

Question for Children:
What is a way that you can follow Jesus?

Question for Teens:
Following Jesus can mean leaving some things behind. What do you need to let go of to follow Jesus more fully in your life?

Questions for Adults:
When recently did God call you to do something that was difficult? How did you respond?

Next Sunday's Gospel, 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time:
Luke 6:17, 20-26



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.

Leaving a bequest in your will to the Church, your Parish or School allows you to leave your legacy to an institution that has meant so much to you and thousands of others.