

ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA CATHOLIC CHURCH, LEONARDTOWN, MARYLAND

A Word from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

The Gospel for this First Sunday of Lent is Luke's account of the temptation of Jesus in the desert. The desert is more accurately understood as a wilderness, a dangerous place, inhabited by wild beasts and bandits, and, many believed, haunted by demons.

Jesus' retreat into the desert is a time for discerning and understanding his mission as the Messiah. His forty days are marked by intense prayer and fasting, not out of a sense of penance but to focus totally on God and his Father's will for him. The three temptations all confront Jesus with very human choices:

1. *"Command this stone to become bread"*: The question is: "Will Jesus use his power for his own gratification and acclaim or to accomplish the will of God?"
2. *"All this will be yours, if you worship me"*: The question here is: "Will Jesus compromise the values of God to accommodate the values of the world?"
3. *"Throw yourself down from here"*: This last temptation asks the question; "Will Jesus pray that God will do Jesus' will rather than Jesus seeking God's will? Will Jesus seek to make His Father into Jesus' image or seek to become what God calls him to be?"

Jesus' encounter with the devil depicts the struggle he experienced during this lonely and difficult time to come to terms with the life that lay before him.

The same Spirit that led Jesus into the desert leads us into our 40-day retreat known as Lent. As Jesus was tempted, so, too, are we confronted with the many different choices and goals life presents us. During these days, then, we are to ask ourselves the same kind of questions that the temptations of the devil posed to Jesus. We are to use these days to come to a greater awareness and understanding of who we are and who we are becoming. We are to use these days to discern what God calls us to be as we journey to the Kingdom of God our Father.

May we, like our Savior, discover the way to surrender ourselves to God's will these 40 days and beyond.

Peace,
Fr. John

Lenten Almsgiving Opportunity: As part of the Lenten discipline of almsgiving, coin folders are available in the vestibule of the church. The simple daily giving of a quarter allows us the opportunity to align our sacrifice with the needs of others. During these difficult days and months for the people of Haiti our coin folder donations will go to assisting the work of **Catholic Relief Services in Haiti**. Please plan on returning your completed coin folder on Holy Thursday, April 1st, at the Mass of the Lord's Supper.

Worship

Mass Intentions

Monday, Feb. 22: 8:30am	The Chair of St. Peter, apostle Mary Carrigg
Tuesday, Feb. 23: 8:30 am 12:15pm	St. Polycarp, bishop & martyr Nelson Garner Marie Bassford George M. Beavan
Wednesday, Feb. 24: 8:30am	James C. Raley, Jr. Patricia Anne Norris
Thursday, Feb. 25: 12:15 pm	James & Elizabeth Mattingly
Friday, Feb. 26: 8:30am	Mary Jane Scully Edith Norris
Saturday, Feb. 27: 7:30am 5:00pm	Mary Catherine Bell J. C. Norris. Dick Curry William T. Cooksey
Sunday, Feb. 28: 8:00am 11:00am	Second Sunday of Lent James P. Goldsborough Elizabeth Ann Abell Parishioners of St. Aloysius

Please Pray for the Sick and Homebound of our Parish Community: Let us remember in prayer: Wanda Butler, Gerald Campbell, Robert Cooper, Norm Craley, Fran & Ray Dicus, Mary Dyson, Susan Fenwick, Pat Gibson, Michael Hall, Denise Lacey, Charles Latham, Agnes Long, Jerry Price, Jim Raley, Anita Russell, Amy Saul, Larry Schadegg, Kit Spalding, Agatha Stokel, and Donna Walker.

*The Eucharist: Center of our Parish –
Center of our Lives*
Parish Mission This Week!

St. Aloysius' annual Lenten Mission begins this evening, Sunday, February 21st and continues every evening through Wednesday February 24th. All sessions will be held in the church beginning at 7:00 pm.

For those who do not come out at night, or who would like to spend more time in prayer this week, you are invited to join our retreat leader at weekday Mass and for a presentation afterwards on **Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of this week at 8:30 am in the Church.**

Retreat Leader: Fr. Jude Winkler, OFM, Conv.

Stations of the Cross:

Every Friday evening during Lent at 7:00 pm, except on First Friday, March 5th when they will be at 7:30 pm. All are invited to participate in this ancient ritual of the Church.

Music Notes - Lent 2010

Our parish theme for Lent this year comes to us from the Passion of Christ according to the Gospel of Luke: **“Father, into your hands I command my life”**. Lent is our opportunity to abandon our own wants to re-commit ourselves to God’s will, surrendering our life to our Father.

The music of our Lenten liturgies will change to support our preparation for Easter and our re-commitment to God’s will. We will share forty days of unadorned musical simplicity, clarity and starkness to spark our excitement for the full burst of joy at Easter. We pare back and strip away all but the musical essentials to embrace a simplicity that supports quiet focus, reflection, prayer and the surrender of our lives to our Father. Here are the changes we will experience in the music during Lent:

1. Piano, organ and harmonies will be limited to basic, unadorned support of sung prayer.
2. The use of other instruments will be re-introduced at Easter.
3. Taize’ prayers will be used for gathering songs. Taize prayers are songs with few words and simple repetitive melodies, developed to be meditative and to encourage all to join in sung prayer.
4. The Mass music will change to the “Mass of Glory”.
5. We will be invited to kneel for the Penitential Rite. We will pray the Confetior then sing the “Kyrie”.
6. The “Gloria” is omitted.
7. The word “Alleluia” is omitted from all prayer.
8. We will mark the season of Lent by departing from the church without the use of a sending forth hymn. We will use instrumental music as the ministers depart from the sanctuary.

If you have suggestions, questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 240-925-5804, sweeney@md.metrocast.net.



Lenten Fast & Abstinence

Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years old and older on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent. Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59. Those who are bound by this may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted to maintain strength according to one’s needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted when fasting. The special Paschal Fast and Abstinence are prescribed for Good Friday and encouraged for Holy Saturday.

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).

Stewardship

Sharing our Treasure: Weekly Offertory Contributions

February 13th/14th, 2010 February 14th/15th, 2009

1st Collection: \$13,836.00 *1st Collection: \$9,334.50*
2nd Collection: Building Fund \$2,225.00

Please note: *Due to the three snowstorms occurring on weekends our regular Offertory Collection has significantly decreased. If parishioners have not done so already and if able, we ask you to please consider placing your offertory contributions from December 20th, January 31st and February 7th in the collection this month. Thank you.*

2nd Collection Next Weekend: Our 2nd Collection for the weekend of Feb. 27/28 is for the Archdiocesan Assessment. Thank you for your continued generosity to our parish.
Patron of the Week: Brinsfield Funeral Homes Please remember to patronize our bulletin sponsors.

Parish Life & Evangelization

Community Sunday: Today is Community Sunday at St. Aloysius. Many thanks to everyone who brought non-perishable food items for the hungry of our community to Mass. A reminder that coffee, donuts and juice will be offered in the gym at Father Andrew White School after the 8 am and 11 am Masses today. The Evangelization Committee is also sponsoring their Catholic Book Swap. Stop by their table in the gym and see what is available.
New Titles: Have you seen the pamphlet rack lately? There are a number of new titles: 1. *Lent: Living the 40 Days as Catholics*; 2. *How to Observe Lent as a Catholic*; 3. *How to Celebrate Holy Week*; 4. *Easter: Celebrating the Season as*

Catholics; 5. How to make a Good Confession; 6. Why do we "have to" go to Mass? 7. How to make a Holy Hour; 8. What Catholics Need to Know about Health Reform; 9. What the Church Teaches: Cohabitation; 10. Six ways I Can Make My Parish Better; and 11. Living Catholic Stewardship: Discerning Your Gifts. Stop in the vestibule and pick up one or more today (they're free).

300th Anniversary Commemorative Dinner Program

As part of our 300th Anniversary Dinner on June 26th, the parish is planning a Commemorative Dinner Program with an updated Parish History, new photographs and more. We will also be publishing congratulatory ads and notes from businesses, other parishes, and parishioners. If you or someone you know is interested in taking out an ad or publishing a note of congratulations please send your ad/note to:

St. Aloysius 300th Anniversary Committee
P.O. Box 310
Leonardtown, MD 20650

Or simply drop it by the rectory. Ad/Note Sizes and options are as follows

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| 1. Full Page Ad | \$300.00 |
| 2. Half Page Ad | \$150.00 |
| 3. Quarter Page Ad | \$ 75.00 |
| 4. Business Card Ad | \$ 50.00 |
| 5. Patron (Single Line) | \$ 25.00 |

Text and artwork is due no later than March 19th, 2010.

All ads/notes will be reproduced in black and white format. No photographic reproduction is available and all ads can be submitted as (1) Camera-ready copy; (2) Camera-ready copy and artwork or (3) Text provided by advertiser. Layout completed by the Church.

Your Photographs Needed: The parish is looking for any photographs that have been taken by parishioners (or friends) since we began our 300th Anniversary Celebration. Pictures are needed for both our Dinner Program and for inclusion on our Website. If you have pictures you would like to submit, please drop them by the rectory on a disc or e-mail them to Fr. John at jdakes@saintaloyiuschurch.org or Jamie Thomas (our webmaster) at jamie@jamiethomas.com

Religious Education, Youth Ministry & School

You're Invited to an Open House at Father Andrew White School

Today from 12 Noon till 1:30 pm Father Andrew White School is hosting an Open House for all Perspective Families. Come and see the good things that are happening at Father Andrew White. Information will be available regarding our curriculum, financial aid and free bus transportation. For more information please call: 301-475-9795.

National Scrapbook Day Sat. 3/13 at Father Andrew White School. A large scale crop event with Creative Memories consultants available with products and assistance. Come for a half day from 9am-3pm OR 3pm-9pm, enjoy a meal with dessert, drinks, seat favor and door prize for \$30 in advance (\$35 after 3/6). Come for the whole day from 9am-9pm, enjoy lunch and dinner, favor, and door prize for \$45 in advance (\$50 after 3/6). To register, contact Kim Norris 301-475-0147 or cmlady@md.metrocast.net.

Can You Help? Father Andrew White School is hosting a **Live and Silent Auction** during it's 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.

2nd Annual FAW 5K Fun Run on March 20 beginning at St. Mary's Ryken High School at 8:30 am. Registration form available at www.fatherandrewwhite.org. Contact Christa Hayes (christamahayes@gmail.com) or Kathy Magiera (KMagiera_5@hotmail.com) for more information.

Community

The **Southern Maryland Teen Piano Group**, a nonprofit organization of high-school students who perform live, classical piano music for others, is looking for new members. Venues include recitals at St. Mary's Nursing Center, Chesapeake Shores Nursing Home and Asbury Methodist Center. For more information contact Alex Wyvill at acatjuggler@gmail.com

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

1st Sunday of Lent

Theme: Lent is time to open our hearts more fully to Jesus.

Reading I: Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Worship the Lord your God.

Reading II: Romans 10:8-13

There is only one God.

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

Jesus is led into the desert and tempted.

Question for Children:

When you feel tempted to do wrong, what can you do to remain strong in your faith?

Question for Teens:

What is one thing you will do during Lent to become more open to God in your life?

Questions for Adults:

As you come to understand the temptation of Jesus in the desert, which one of the devil's offerings is hardest for you to resist? What will you do to overcome the temptation(s)?

Next Sunday's Gospel, 2nd Sunday of Lent:

Luke 9:28b-36