

ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA CATHOLIC CHURCH, LEONARDTOWN, MARYLAND

A Word from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Our Gospel for this 2nd Sunday of Lent is Luke’s account of the transfiguration, an account filled with Old Testament imagery of the Exodus event from Egypt to the Promised Land. Jesus had just informed his disciples, in no uncertain terms, about the cost of discipleship: *“If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it”* (Lk. 9:23-24).

After instructing them on the cost of following him, he then takes the leaders of the disciples up a mountain and provides them with an experience of the glory that awaits the faithful disciple and a perspective to sustain and empower them. First, while praying, Jesus’ face is changed and his clothes become *“dazzling white.”* Then Moses and Elijah appear with him *“in glory.”* These two faithful servants of the old covenant give those to whom the new covenant will be bestowed, an experience of what the end of a sometimes difficult journey is like. Talking with Jesus about the *“exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem,”* the apostles receive word that following the Lord is a journey with hardships, like the Exodus, but for the faithful disciple life will result in a glorious conclusion. Lastly, Luke tells us that a cloud overshadows them, a voice comes from the cloud *and* that Peter, James and John enter the cloud. The cloud is the symbol of God’s presence, as it was in the Exodus when the Israelites wandered through the desert. What is of special note here is that these three leaders of the disciples are taken into the divine presence when they hear the voice confirming Jesus as God’s Son.

The Church presents us with the transfiguration of Jesus on this second Sunday of Lent to give us encouragement as well. We are to take time during these days to step away from the regular experiences of our lives to experience the Lord and His help that energizes us to be faithful in our commitment to him. We are to take time apart to experience his glory and to be reminded of what we are destined for, citizenship in heaven. We are to take time apart to be reminded, as St. Paul writes to the Philippians in our second reading, that Jesus will come again and *“change our lowly body to conform wit his glorified body”* (Phil. 3:21). In our prayer this week, let us ask God for a glimpse of that glory as we strive to walk by faith throughout these forty 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

Tuesday, March 2:

12:15pm James C. Raley Jr.
H. James O’Brien III

Wednesday, March 3: Saint Katharine Drexel, virgin

7:30am Frank Davis
George M. Beavan

Thursday, March 4: Saint Casimir

12:15 pm Mary Jane Scully
William Nelson Garner

Friday, March 5:

9:00am Edith Norris
7:00pm Marie Bassford

Saturday, March 6:

7:30am James Abell Longmore, Jr
James Forrest, Sr.
5:00pm Josephine Michalski
Mary Catherine Bell

Sunday, March 7:

Third Sunday of Lent
8:00am P.J. Aldridge (L)
11:00am Reni Jose
Patty Schlatter

Please Pray for the Sick and Homebound of our Parish

Community: Let us remember in prayer: P.J. Aldridge, Wanda Butler, Gerald Campbell, Joseph Cavanaugh, Robert Cooper, Norm Craley, Fran & Ray Dicus, Mary Dyson, Betty Jo Edwards, Susan Fenwick, Pat Gibson, Michael Hall, Denise Lacey, Charles Latham, Agnes Long, Jerry Price, Brenda Queen, Isabelle Raley, Jim Raley, Anita Russell, Amy Saul, Larry Schadegg, Kit Spalding, Agatha Stokel, Donna Walker and Betty Williams.

Weekday Mass Change: Wednesday, March 3rd:

Due to two meetings at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center this Wednesday, Mass will be celebrated at 7:30 am. Thank you.



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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Could You Stay With Me One Hour?

This Friday, March 5th, is the First Friday of the month. Every First Friday our church sets time apart for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament draws us into spiritual communion with God and fosters our devotion for participation in the Mass. During this season of Lent it also serves to draw us closer into the suffering, death and resurrection of the Lord. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 10:00 am and continues till 6:45 pm with Benediction at 6:45 pm. A sign-up sheet for Adoration is in the vestibule of the church. Confessions will be heard on Friday from 6:00 pm till 6:30 pm. Masses will be celebrated at 9:00 am and at 7:00 pm and Stations of the Cross will follow the evening Mass at 7:30 pm.



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 21st/22nd 2010 February 22nd/23rd, 2009

1st Collection: \$10,246.26 1st Collection: \$8,952.79

2nd Collection: Fuel: \$2333.00

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 Mar 6th & 7th is for the FAW School Support. Thank you for your continued generosity to our parish.

Patron of the Week: Burch Oil Please remember to patronize our bulletin sponsors.

Parish Life & Evangelization

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@saintalloysiuschurch.org or Jamie Thomas (our webmaster) at jamie@jamiethomas.com

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).

Religious Education, Youth Ministry & School

Welcome St. John's! St. Aloysius welcomes the students and catechists of St. John's Church in Hollywood to our parish and school. Due to the roof collapse of a section of their school St. John's 325 religious education students and catechists will meet at Father Andrew White School on Sunday afternoons from 12:45 – 1:45 pm and on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 – 8:00 pm. Please welcome our guests when you see them and assure them of our prayers and support for their community.

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

National Scrapbook Day Sat. March 13th 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 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.

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

Membership Drive: The Knights of Columbus St. Mary's Council #1470 is conducting a membership drive at all

Masses this weekend. We are seeking a "Few Good Catholic Men" to become members of our Order. The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic men's family fraternal service organization comprised of over 1.8 million members world wide. Please stop and see us after Mass and consider taking advantage of the "Opportunity of a Lifetime".

Share in Hope Food Drive: Hunger is an ever-present reality in our community. Local food pantries are experiencing a great demand for food. To help replenish supplies, Catholic Charities and the Archdiocese of Washington together are sponsoring the **Share in Hope Food Drive** this Lent. Our parish collection for the food drive will take place the weekend of March 20th/21st. Bags for your donations will be provided if you wish to use them. When you come to Mass that weekend, please leave your donation in the vestibule of the church. Our collection will continue to benefit Helping Hands. Thank you for all you do to help the needy among us.

2010 Jubilarian Mass and Registration Process: The annual Jubilarian Celebration of marriage honoring couples married 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and 50+ years will be held Sunday, June 6, 2010 at 2:30 p.m. at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Archbishop Wuerl will preside at the Mass. Please call the parish office (301-475-8064) or use the sign up forms in the back of church to register. Names of Jubilarians need to be turned into the Archdiocese before April 30, 2010.

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

2nd Sunday of Lent

Theme: Lent calls us to transform our lives.

Reading I: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18
God makes a covenant with Abram.

Reading II: Philippians 3:17 -4:1
Christ will transform us.

Gospel: Luke 9:28b-36
As Jesus prayed, he was transformed.

Question for Children:

When you have important choices to make, do you and your family pray to make the right choice?

Question for Teens:

What do you most want God to help you with?

Questions for Adults:

How are your priorities affected by your faith in Jesus Christ?

Next Sunday's Gospel, 3rd Sunday of Lent: Luke 13:1-9

**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.**