

**ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA CATHOLIC CHURCH, LEONARDTOWN, MARYLAND**

**A Word from the Pastor**

Dear Friends,

People love to talk. They love to speculate. They like to make other people's business their own. It's human nature some say. When I was young my parents taught my brothers, sisters and me that other people's affairs were none of our business. When they found us poking our noses where they didn't belong we would hear a common phrase: *Mind your own business.*"

Jesus seems to be saying something similar in the beginning of our Gospel for this 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent. People are coming up to him and relating the terrible events that have been happening to others – Pilate's brutal treatment of some Galileans and a tower in Siloam that fell killing a group of people. The mindset of those who approached Jesus was set around the Book of Deuteronomy that said the good person prospers while the wicked is punished. Their conclusion was that if something bad happens, the victims must have deserved it.

Jesus' approach is different. He tells those who approached him that instead of looking at the lives of others they should look at their own lives. "What's going on in your own affairs?" he's asking. He wants to know what kind of fruit their lives are producing. His point is that time is running out. The hour to change, the hour of grace, is now. Don't assume that there is plenty of time to change your lives. This is also what St. Paul is saying to the Corinthians: *Whoever thinks he is standing secure should take care not to fall*" (1 Cor. 10:12).

As Jesus spoke to the crowds in his day, so too does he speak to us today. To mind our own business is still a good rule of thumb today. We should not be concerned with the affairs of others. Gossip keeps us from looking at what we really need to see, the events of our own lives. Jesus' basic message 2000 years ago was that of repentance. It's still his message today. What kind of fruit are our lives producing?

Peace,  
Fr. John



Third  
Sunday  
of  
Lent

**Worship**

**Mass Intentions**

**Tuesday, March 9:** **Saint John of God**  
12:15pm Patricia Anne Norris  
Fred Yhrrie (youree)

**Wednesday, March 10:**  
8:30am Goerge M. Beavan  
Eleanor L. Butler

**Thursday, March 11:**  
12:15 pm Hugh Dalton Sterling  
Zosima Villanueva

**Friday, March 12:**  
8:30am Edward Burgess  
Susan Mattis (L)

**Saturday, March 13:**  
7:30am Jack Alvey  
James Forrest, Sr.  
Joseph & Alma Wathen

**Sunday, March 14:** **Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
8:00am Robert & Lillian Miedzinski  
11:00am Barbara & Bernard Wattiker  
6:00pm Parishioners of St. Aloysius

**Please Pray for the Sick and Homebound of our Parish Community:** Let us remember in prayer: P.J. Aldridge, Margaret Breck, Wanda Butler, Gerald Campbell, Joseph Cavanaugh, Robert Cooper, Norm Craley, Fran & Ray Dicus, Mary Dyson, Betty Jo Edwards, Susan Fenwick, Pat Gibson, 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, Mary Wathen and Betty Williams.

**Born to Eternal Life:** The community of St. Aloysius would like to extend our condolences to the family of Massey G. Connelly who passed away this pass week. May the angels lead her into paradise; may the martyrs come and welcome her to the holy city, the new and eternal Jerusalem; and may the peace of Christ which is beyond all understanding give her family comfort and consolation.

**STATIONS**  
*of the*  
**CROSS**

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

**Missionary Cooperative Plan:** Every three years parishes in the archdiocese are visited by a missionary seeking assistance for their diocese or region. This year St. Aloysius received notice that we will be receiving a visit from a priest of the Diocese of Sokoto in Nigeria. Fr. Steven will be at here to speak to us at all Masses next weekend, March 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

### Youth Mass Next Sunday

Next Sunday evening, March 14<sup>th</sup>, is the next of our monthly Youth Masses. The Mass, scheduled for 6:00 pm, is lead by and centered on the youth of our parish, though always open to every member of the community. Following the Mass the Junior High and High School Youth Groups will meet in the gym at FAW School. All youth are encouraged to bring their friends.

### 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 25<sup>th</sup>).

### Stewardship

#### *Sharing our Treasure: Weekly Offertory Contributions*

February 27<sup>th</sup> /28<sup>th</sup> 2010    February 28<sup>th</sup> /Mar. 1st, 2009

1<sup>st</sup> Collection: \$9,196.00    1<sup>st</sup> Collection: \$ 10,767.50

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: Assessment: \$ 1,521.00

**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection Next Weekend:** Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection for the weekend of Mar 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> is for the Building Fund. Thank you for your continued generosity to our parish.

*Patron of the Week: Richard (Dick) Buckler, Realtor*  
Please remember to patronize our bulletin sponsors.

### Parish Life & Evangelization

### 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Dinner Program

As part of our 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 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 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee**  
**P.O. Box 310**  
**Leonardtown, MD 20650**

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

- |                         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| 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 19<sup>th</sup>, 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 300<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:jdakes@saintaloyiuschurch.org) or Jamie Thomas (our webmaster) at [jamie@jamiethomas.com](mailto:jamie@jamiethomas.com)

**The St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to thank our parish community for their support with the following activities during the Christmas season.**

**The ANGEL TREE** helped 38 families this year. The families helped were so appreciated. Some wrote notes of thanks, some called back and some cried as ways of expressing thanks. Thanks to FAW eight graders and the parishioners who assisted in taking the gifts from the church to the rectory. Thank you to Denise, Paul and Jennifer Pietsch and our St. Vincent de Paul members who help to assist in giving out gifts. Thanks to Betty Williams, Denise Becher and Leonard Wathen for their help.

Thank you to Ella Neal who did a wonderful job in coordinating the Angel tree. To our parish, your generosity made a difference in the lives of 38 families this Christmas.

**ST. MARY'S NURSING CENTER:** received donations of lotion, blankets, soap, slippers, socks, playing cards, books, games and puzzles for the residents. On behalf of all who received your help this past Christmas, thank you. Together we can continue to bring comfort and peace to our brothers and sisters who are poor and suffering. May the peace and joy of the New Year be yours.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society.

**Religious Education, Youth Ministry & School**

**Adult Bible Studies** are held every Thursday from 1:00 to 2:30 pm in the rectory and every Sunday from 9:15 to 10:30 am at Father Andrew White. Grow closer to God during this season of Lent through the study of his Word. Contact Leonard Wathen for more information.

**Southern MD Youth Day** is scheduled for Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at St. John's Church for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade to 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth. Cost is \$25. Contact Leonard Wathen or register online at [www.stmaryscatholicyouth.com](http://www.stmaryscatholicyouth.com).

**National Scrapbook Day** Sat. March 13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.fatherandrewwhite.org). Contact Christa Hayes ([christamhayes@gmail.com](mailto:christamhayes@gmail.com)) or Kathy Magiera ([KMagiera\\_5@hotmail.com](mailto:KMagiera_5@hotmail.com)) for more information.

**Community**

**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 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup>. 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.

**The Auxiliary of the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.,** will be hosting a St. Patrick's Day Dinner from 4:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., on Wed 3/17/2010, at the Leonardtown Fire House, 22733 Lawrence Ave., Menu includes ham, cabbage, potatoes, cornbread, dessert, coffee and tea. Adults: \$10.00, Children 3-10: \$5.00, 2 and under: Free. Carry outs Available. Sponsored by the Auxiliary of the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department." For further information, please contact Kit Pilkerton at 301-475-9049, or on the day of the event, 301-475-8996

**Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

*Theme: Lent calls us to conversion.*

**Reading I:** Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15  
The call of Moses.

**Reading II:** 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12  
What is written about Moses is to help us.

**Gospel:** Luke 13:1-9  
Jesus' call to repentance.

**Question for Children:**  
God wants your faith to result in good living. What steps can you take during Lent to make sure that happens?

**Questions for Teens:**  
What needs changing in your life right now? How will you invite God into that change?

**Questions for Adults:**  
What steps are you taking this Lent to make sure that your faith bears fruit in good works?

Next Sunday's Gospel, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

**Don't Forget to Save the Date:  
Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010: 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass with  
Archbishop Wuerl – 5:00 pm  
Followed by our Anniversary Dinner at the LVFD**