

# ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA CATHOLIC CHURCH, LEONARDTOWN, MARYLAND

## A Word from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Happy Anniversary! Today we celebrate our 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and as we do we welcome back to our parish Archbishop Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington. As you recall, Archbishop Wuerl inaugurated our 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration 3 years ago, and it is a great pleasure to welcome him back to preside at our anniversary Mass. We also welcome back Fr. Francis Burch, S.J., Fr. John Barry and two of our former pastors, Fr. James Meyers and Fr. Rory Conley. It's good to have each of you with us this weekend. Thank you for joining us, and thank you for your many years of service to our community of faith.

As we celebrate our anniversary it's important to do so remembering the life of the saint under whose patronage our parish was established, Aloysius Gonzaga. Aloysius' life was relatively short, a mere 23 years. During those years, though, he demonstrated what Jesus meant in today's gospel when he says, "Follow me."

Aloysius was destined for the military by his father who was in service to Philip II, but by the age of 9 he had decided on a religious life. When he was twelve, he came under the spiritual guidance of St. Charles Borromeo and from him received his First Communion. In 1581 he went with his father to Spain where he and his brother were made pages of James, the son of Philip II, all the while keeping up his devotions and austerities. While there he formed the resolution of becoming a Jesuit, though he first thought of joining the Discalced Carmelites. A kidney disease prevented him from a full social life for a while, so he spent his time in prayer and reading the lives of the saints. In 1584 his family moved back to Italy, and after much difficulty securing his father's consent, renounced his heritage in favor of his brother. When he was 18, he joined the Jesuits. During his fourth year of theological studies famine and pestilence broke out in Italy. Though in delicate health, he devoted himself to the care of the sick, serving in a hospital eventually falling ill himself from the plague, dying from it on June 21, 1591 at the age of 23, after receiving the last rites from St. Robert Bellarmine.

St. Aloysius' story is important for us because as our parish's patron saint he demonstrates what it means to fully follow Christ. It means, as Jesus points out in the gospel, to be willing to put the Kingdom of God above everything else – possessions, family, even our health and security. It means putting the Kingdom of God first in our lives. Yes, Jesus asks for a lot, but in response to our generosity He gives even more. "For Freedom Christ set us free," St. Paul writes to the Galatians. Giving our lives fully and completely to Christ frees us from the enslavements of this world, allowing us to love God with all our being and to love one another as Christ loves us. Nothing is greater than this.

As we Celebrate 300 Years of Catholic Faith in St. Mary's County this weekend, let us pray through the

intercession of St. Aloysius Gonzaga for the freedom to follow Christ with our entire lives. Let us pray that through our words and deeds we may always show ourselves to be sons and daughters of the one true God.

Peace,  
Fr. John

## Worship

### Mass Intentions

<b>Tuesday, June 29:</b> 12:15pm	<b>St. Peter &amp; St. Paul, Apostles</b> Fathers – Living & Deceased
<b>Wednesday, June 30:</b> 8:30am	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Martyrs of the Church of Rome:</b> Fathers – Living & Deceased
<b>Thursday, July 1:</b> 12:15pm	<b>Blessed Junipero Serra, priest</b> Massey Connelly James B. Beavan
<b>Friday, July 2:</b> 8:30am	Gerald & Anne Bowman
<b>Saturday, July 3:</b> 7:30am	<b>St. Thomas, apostle</b> John Wood Patricia Anne Norris James Michaud Marguerite Carberry
5:00pm	
<b>Sunday, July 4:</b> 8:00am	<b>14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Parishioners of St. Aloysius.
11:00am	Raymond A. Dicus Ralph Bowles

**Please Pray for the Sick and Homebound of our Parish Community:** Let us remember in prayer: P.J. Aldridge, Paul Bolden, Mary Agnes Buckler, Jane Bussler, Wanda Butler, Mary Alice Brennason, Mary Agnes Burroughs, Robert Cooper, Fran Dicus, Richard Edwards, Susan Fenwick, Pat Gibson, Sara Hammett, Richard Hendel, Mary Catherine Kane, Denise Lacey, Emily Latham, Agnes Long, Jerry Price, Donna Walker, Mary Wathen and Edith Wood.

**First Friday:** Please note that there will be no First Friday devotions for July and August. Morning Mass will be celebrated at 8:30 am. Thank you.

## 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  
Redmond and Dionne Saul.**

## Prayer List for our Military Men & Women

Located on the Altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary are the names of parishioners and friends of St. Aloysius currently deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. If you would like to add the name of your son or daughter, spouse, loved one or friend to our prayer list, please notify the rectory. We are also including this prayer list on our website, [www.saintaloyiuschurch.org](http://www.saintaloyiuschurch.org) under the heading "About Us." Along with the names of our parishioners and friends, we are also including pictures. If you have a picture you'd like to include please e-mail it to Jaime Thomas at [Jaime@jamiethomas.com](mailto:Jaime@jamiethomas.com)

**A Reminder to EMCs, Lectors and Altar Servers:** With the arrival of summer comes vacations and many of us will be leaving town for some well deserved rest and relaxation. Prior to departing, please review the Ministry Schedule. If you are assigned to a ministry during your vacation, please remember to secure a substitute to replace you. Also, please keep in mind our dress code when ministering at the altar. Shorts, jeans, t-shirts or flip-flops are not allowed. Thank you.

## Sick or Hospitalized?

Caring for the sick is a very important ministry of the Church. In this ministry the Church prays for the sick, visits the sick, provides the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and Viaticum (one's last Communion) if a person is dying. In order to ensure that no one who is sick will be neglected, we are asking that a family member notify the parish office as soon as possible when a family member is sick, hospitalized or homebound. To notify, pray, visit and anoint is an essential part of the healing process, and every one in the parish can be a part of this vital caring ministry by simply picking up the phone. Hospital information can be left on either Fr. John's line (ext. 14) or on Denise Becher's line, the parish secretary (ext. 10).

## Stewardship

### Sharing our Treasure: Weekly Offertory Contributions

June 19/20, 2010

June 20/21, 2009

1<sup>st</sup> Collection: \$8,092.50

1<sup>st</sup> Collection: \$8,198.50

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: Assessment – \$1,605.50

**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection Next Weekend:** Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection for the weekend of July 3/4 is for Father Andrew School. Thank you for your continued generosity to our parish.

**Patron of the Week: True Value.** Please remember to patronize our bulletin sponsors.

**Please Note:** When preparing your contribution envelopes, please remember to record your contribution amount on the space provided on the front of the envelope. Doing this makes the job of our volunteer offertory counters much easier. It also ensures that your donation is recorded

appropriately for your year-end tax reporting. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

## Parish Life & Evangelization

**Summer Office Hours:** Summer office hours for the rectory are now in effect. Please note that summer office hours are M-Th 9 am till 4 pm and 9 am till 3 pm on Fridays. Regular office hours will resume on Monday, August 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Gum in Church:** In the past few weeks we have found a lot of gum on the floor, carpet and pews of the church. Once again we are asking parishioners and guests to PLEASE refrain from the chewing of gum in the church. To begin with, and most importantly, when chewing gum and receiving Communion some of the sacred Body of Christ will end up remaining in the gum. When the gum is thrown away, the consecrated Body of Christ is also being thrown away which is a desecration of the Lord's body. Secondly, throwing gum on the floor or carpet of the church or sticking it to the pew demonstrates a lack of respect for the Lord's house and for all who worship here. So once again we are asking everyone to please refrain from chewing any gum in church. Thank you for respecting this request.

**Vandalism in the Ladies Room:** Once again we are having problems in the Ladies Room of the Church. A few months ago we were forced to remove all drinking cups from the room due to an unsanitary and potentially harmful act that was occurring with their use. Now someone is taking the air freshener and rubbing it on the sink, toilet and floor causing the floor to be slippery and therefore potentially hurting the next person who enters the room. The same person or another has also taken to breaking off parts of the toilet seat. All of these actions are signs of disrespect to the community, destruction of property and harmful. Parents are being asked to accompany children to bathrooms; parishioners are asked to report any problems with the bathrooms or if they see someone acting inappropriately and the ushers are now going to be asked to monitor their use.

## Meals for Friends...

...is looking for volunteers and recipients! Are you or someone you know recovering from a hospital stay/surgery, grieving the loss of a loved one, or welcoming the arrival of a new baby? Meals for Friends is here to support our parishioners and community members. To request meals or become a volunteer you can contact: Jody Cacko 301-904-2362 [jacacko@msn.com](mailto:jacacko@msn.com) or Mary Jo Geisz 240-538-6207 [mary.jo.geisz@comcast.net](mailto:mary.jo.geisz@comcast.net)



## 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorabilia

To commemorate the parish's 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, St. Aloysius, commissioned artist George McWilliams to paint our church. We have also had glass etchings of the church made as well as key rings. All memorabilia will be on sale at the dinner on June 26<sup>th</sup> as well as at the rectory. Prints by George McWilliams, ready for framing and numbered, are \$45.00., Glass etchings with stands are \$20.00. Key rings sell for \$5.00. If you pay by check, please make the check payable to *St. Aloysius Church*.

## Anniversary Time Capsule

4At the end of our 11:00 am Mass this 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weekend we will be burying a 100 Year Time Capsule to be opened in June of 2110. The Time Capsule will be buried at the foot of our statue of the Welcoming Christ outside the main doors of the church. Contained in the capsule are memories from our 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration these past three years:

- The Inaugural Mass Program from July 1, 2007
- *The Catholic Standard* from July 5, 2007 featuring our 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
  - our 300th Anniversary Pictorial Directory
    - a copy of our history
    - our Tri-Centennial Prayer
    - our Litany of St. Aloysius Gonzaga
- copies of "Leonardtown Today" and the "Leonardtown Beacon" featuring St. Aloysius Church
- the Mass Program from the Celebration of Mass with Pope Benedict XVI at Nationals Park on April 17, 2008
  - a picture of Pope Benedict XVI and prayer card
  - three issues of *The Catholic Standard* featuring Pope Benedict XVI's visit to Washington in April of 2008
- programs from the Golden Apple Awards Dinner in 2009 and 2010 featuring Mrs. Ellen Boyd and Mrs. Betty Lynn Armsworthy from Father Andrew White School
- Mass Programs from this year's First Communion and Confirmation
- Pictures of this year's Confirmation and First Communion Classes
  - the 100th Anniversary program from our Knights of Columbus Council - St. Mary's Council #1470 (they celebrated their 100th Anniversary on May 2nd, 2010)
    - a copy of our 300th Anniversary Invitation
    - and a Maryland State Quarter
- a recorded copy of our 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass from June 26, 2010

The Time Capsule is on display in the Church this weekend.

## Religious Education, Youth Ministry & School

**High School Youth** are invited to our annual tubing trip in Luray, VA on August 5 – 7. Enjoy three days of beautiful scenery, two nights of camping, and one day of tubing down the Shenandoah River! Cost of participation is \$90. Contact Leonard Wathen to sign up by June 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Register for VBS.** Vacation Bible School will be held at Father Andrew White School from **July 12 – 16<sup>th</sup>** for children Age 4 to Grade 6. Registration forms are available at the parish website. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Leonard Wathen.

## HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT BEING A CATECHIST?

*"The apostolic work of the catechist springs from the Sacrament of Baptism through which all believers come to share in the prophetic ministry of Christ and the evangelizing mission of the Church. The call to the ministry of catechist is a vocation, an interior call, the voice of the Holy Spirit."* NDC #54

We are currently in need of a few people who are willing to give their time once a week to bring our young people to a deeper understanding and love of their Catholic Faith. If you would like more information, please contact Leonard

Wathen at 301-475-8064 or e-mail him at

[lwathen@saintaloyiuschurch.org](mailto:lwathen@saintaloyiuschurch.org)

## Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

### 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Theme: Christ calls us to "come follow."*

**Reading I:** 1 Kings 19:16b, 19-21

You shall anoint Elisha

**Reading II:** Galatians 5:1, 13-18

My brothers and sisters, you are called to freedom

**Gospel:** Luke 9:51-62

I will follow you wherever you will go.

### Questions for Children:

To follow Jesus means to do what is right. When in the past week did you follow Jesus by doing the right thing you were asked to do, the first time, without an excuse?

### Questions for Teens:

The people in the story had lots of reasons why they couldn't follow Jesus. What makes it hard to be a disciple of Jesus? Why do you make the choice to follow Jesus even though it is hard?

### Questions for Adults:

Sometimes we are like the people in the Gospel and have many excuses for why we cannot follow Jesus. When was a time this past week that you followed Jesus even though you had many excuses not to?

**Next Sunday's Gospel, 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time:**

**Luke 10:1-12, 17-20**