

ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA CATHOLIC CHURCH, LEONARDTOWN, MARYLAND

A Word from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Last Sunday our Gospel on the two great commandments included a parable on how to love your neighbor as yourself. Today's Gospel, *Jesus' visit to the home of Martha and Mary*, speaks to us on the other great commandment, love of God.

After Jesus' arrival at the home of his friends, Martha busies herself with preparing a meal for them, while Mary is found sitting "beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak." This, as we learn, provokes Mary who complains to the Lord about being left alone to do all the work. Jesus responds by saying: "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her."

Martha makes a good point regarding her sister. Jesus often spoke of service to others, most recently in last Sunday's parable, *The Good Samaritan*. However to truly appreciate what Jesus says to her we must remember that this scene follows on the heels of the question posed by and then answered last week by the scholar of the law. The focus on Mary's response to Jesus' visit mirrors the singleness of purpose in the command to love God, "with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind."

This is why Jesus responds to Martha as he does. Mary has made room for the love of God, which as Luke demonstrates, is manifested in her listening to Jesus' words. His observations that Martha is anxious and troubled about many things, and that "there is need of only one thing" are his way of talking about the room that must be made for the love of God among many possible, even worthwhile, activities.

Which leads to the question, "What is Jesus calling you from so that you might make more room for him in your life?" If we love God, then that love is expressed first and foremost in our desire to hear God, which necessarily includes making room in our lives to do so.

Peace,
Fr. John

Pray for the Sick & Homebound of our Community

Let us remember in prayer: Francis Abell, P.J. Aldridge, Mary Agnes Buckler, Wanda Butler, Mary Alice Brennason, Mary Agnes Burroughs, Bill Chubb, Robert Cooper, Susan Fenwick, Margaret Johnson, Mary Catherine Kane, Denise Lacey, Agnes Long, Ellen Mattingly, Jerry McCabe, Loretta Norris, Jerry Price, Richard Russell, Sr., Meredith Taggart and Donna Walker.

Worship

Mass Intentions

Tuesday, July 20: 12:15pm	St. Apollinaris, bishop & martyr Sharon Mattis (L) Alice Tappe
Wednesday, July 21: 8:30am	St. Lawrence of Brindisi, priest & doctor of the church Tammy Tambourine (L) R. Courtney Good.
Thursday, July 22: 12:15pm	St. Mary Magdalene Thomas Albert Somerville Jack Long
Friday, July 23: 8:30am	St. Bridget of Sweden, religious James C. Raley, Jr. Mary Magdalene Dyson
Saturday, July 24: 7:30am	St. Sharbel Makhluif, priest Mary Catherine Bell Jack Alvey
5:00pm	William B. Miedzinski Sister Magdalene Bubenko, IHM
Sunday, July 25: 8:00am 11:00am	17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Robert & Lillian Miedzinski Parishioners of St. Aloysius

Altar Server trip to Kings Dominion: Altar Servers, don't forget our annual trip to Kings Dominion this month. The trip is scheduled for Wednesday, July 28th. Please contact Mr. Wathen at 301-475-8064, ext. 16 or at lwather@saintaloyuschurch.org to confirm that you'll be attending. Parents, chaperones are needed, too. If you can assist us that day please contact Leonard as soon as possible.

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 Chris & Abby Sweeney.

EMCs, Lectors and Altar Servers

Please remember prior to leaving for a well-deserved summer vacation to review the Ministry Schedule. If you are assigned to a ministry during your vacation, **please 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).

Sunday and Daily Mass Readings: Interested in finding the texts for the Sunday and weekday Mass online? Go to www.usccb.org/nab/

Stewardship

Summer Appeal Begins Today

This weekend marks the beginning of our annual *Summer Appeal*. Every year *Appeal* contributions fund a new project in or around the parish. In the past we've used the donations to enhance our church PA system, pave the cemetery road, build a new church sign, renovate the church sacristy and seal the church, school and rectory parking lots. This summer's *Appeal* donations have been designated for the creation of a Marian Prayer Garden on a parcel of land between the church and the rectory. The Prayer Garden is a joint effort between the parish and the Eagle Scout project of Dakota Allen, one of our high school youth, a lector and altar server. Please help us with the creation of the Prayer Garden in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. *Appeal* letters and envelopes went home last week. The *Appeal* runs through Labor Day, September 6th. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Sharing our Treasure: Weekly Offertory Contributions

July 3/4, 2010

July 4/5, 2009

1st Collection: \$8,480.50

1st Collection: \$8,238.50

2nd Collection: Father Andrew White: \$1,788.50

July 10/11, 2010

July 11/12, 2009

1st Collection \$ 7,954.50

1st Collection: \$8,612.50

2nd Collection: Building Fund: \$1,635.50

2nd Collection Next Weekend: Our 2nd Collection for the weekend of July 24/25 is for the Archdiocesan Assessment. Thank you for your continued generosity to our parish.

Patron of the Week: VIP LIMOUSINE of Southern Maryland LLC. 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.

Parish Life & Evangelization

COME ONE, COME ALL ... ANSWER THE RCIA CALL!

Do **you** have questions about the **Catholic faith**? Do you want a closer walk with God? If you have **never been** baptized in any Christian faith (a Catechumen), **or have** been baptized in another Christian faith and wish to come into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church (a Candidate) **or** you have been baptized Catholic and have not completed all of your sacraments of initiation and wish to walk the full journey to complete your sacraments, **then the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) may be for you!** Through this journey into the Catholic Church you will learn all the parts of the Roman Catholic faith and eventually be baptized, receive Eucharist for the first time or receive adult Confirmation. The starting date for RCIA this year is September 21st. Please call Fr. John at 301-475-8064, ext. 14 or Leonard Wathen at 301-475-8064, ext. 16 or email them at jdakes@saintalloysiuschurch.org or lwathen@saintalloysiuschurch.org if you would like to learn more about RCIA. Remember nothing happens until you take the first step of faith.

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 or Mary Jo Geisz 240-538-6207 mary.jo.geisz@comcast.net

Check out our Website: If you haven't had the opportunity, make sure to visit our website, www.saintalloysiuschurch.org to view pictures from our 300th Anniversary celebration. New pictures are being added regularly.

What is NFP? Natural Family Planning (NFP) is an umbrella term for certain methods used to achieve and avoid pregnancies. These methods are based on observation of the naturally occurring signs and symptoms of the fertile and infertile phases of a woman's cycle. NFP is not "Rhythm." The Rhythm (or *Calendar*) method was developed in the 1930s. It was based on the scientific theory that ovulation could be predicted by calculating previous cycles. This method was often inaccurate because it did not take account of the unique nature of each woman's cycle. Today's methods of NFP do take account of such variations. Based on observable signs and symptoms of the fertile and infertile phases of the cycle, NFP methods track the changes associated with ovulation and not only treat each woman as unique, but each cycle as well. The accuracy of women's

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

observations has been validated by scientific research (See Richard Fehring, DNSc, RN & Robert Kambic, MSH, *Natural Family Planning Bibliography*. (Washington, DC: Diocesan Development Program for NFP)....*continued next week*.

Here at St. Aloysius, we have a trained NFP instructor who would gladly assist anyone interested in learning more about *Natural Family Planning*. Call Jane Burke at 301-866-2056.

Focus on Evangelization

This summer, entertain with a purpose!

If you are planning cookouts, picnics and trips to parks, the beach or the movies, invite one or more inactive Catholics or unchurched individuals or a family to join you for some wholesome fun. Make this an opportunity to witness to engage in outdoor activities that show good sportsmanship and team work. Watch a meaningful movie together. Introduce them to another guest who is prepared to share a relevant and convincing testimony of conversion, reconciliation or healing. In a word, allow your friends to experience the love of Christ in a non-threatening environment of family fun. This could very well lead to further dialogue about matters of faith.

Religious Education, Youth Ministry & School

Religious Education Registration for 2010-2011:Registration for the 2010–2011 religious education year is currently taking place. Registration forms can be obtained from our website, www.saintaloyiuschurch.org or by calling the rectory (301-475-8064, ext. 16). The registration fee must accompany the registration form, along with a certificate of baptism if your child is receiving the Sacraments of Holy Communion for the first time of Confirmation and was not baptized at St. Aloysius. Religious Education for our children meets on Sunday mornings, beginning September 12th from 9:15 – 10:30 am. For questions or inquiries, contact Leonard Wathen by phone or by e-mailing him at lwathen@saintaloyiuschurch.org.

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

Check out **Father Andrew White School’s** website at www.fatherandrewwhite.org to get information on admissions, summer reading activities and more.

Father Andrew White School is opened a few hours every day during the summer, typically 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. Phone messages are checked regularly (301-475-9795). There are a few openings in our lower grades, kindergarten and grade 1. For information, please call.

Community

Spiritual Renewal Retreat: Come and experience a powerful anointing of the Holy Spirit, to be conducted by Brother Thomas Paul on Friday July 30th, 6:30pm to 9:00pm at St. Francis Xavier Parish Hall, Compton. Fliers available in church vestibule.

World Youth Day! St. Mary’s Ryken is sponsoring a trip to Madrid, Spain in August 2011. Pope John Paul II established WYD in 1986 to take place every 2-3 years. Cost covers airfare (plus airline oil & surcharges), WYD registration, lodging & breakfast plus some meals with WYD and three side trips to Avila, Segovia & Toledo. All info is on the website at WWW.smrhs.org. The trip is open to SMR students, current 8th graders, Catholic public school students, middle-school students if accompanied by a parent. A \$300 deposit is required by July 31st. Total cost: \$3,228.00. Trip leaders are Joan Stevens (SMR Dept. Chair of Theology) and Carol Zenthoefer (SMR School Counselor).

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Theme: Hospitality - Welcoming Jesus into our lives.

Reading I: Genesis 18:1-10a
Abraham offers hospitality

Reading II: Colossians 1: 24-28
The mystery of Christ is your hope.

Gospel: Luke 10: 38-42

Martha entertained her guest, while Mary assumed the role of the disciple.

Question for Children:

When do you make time for spending moments with the Lord?

Questions for Teens:

Martha chose to serve, Mary chose to sit at Jesus' feet and listen to Him. Of those two actions, service or prayer, which do you feel more comfortable with? Why?

Questions for Adults:

The Gospel today invites us to serve and to be hospitable. When have you welcomed Jesus into your home through the presence of a neighbor or a stranger?

Next Sunday’s Gospel, 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time:
Luke 11:1-13