

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

***A Word from the Pastor***

Dear Friends,

In today's reading from Luke's Gospel, the disciples ask Jesus to teach them how to pray, and he teaches them what we refer to as *the Lord's Prayer* or the *Our Father*. The version we're use to isn't Luke's, but Matthew's. Yet what is important to grasp is not the words of the prayer (Luke's is significantly shorter than Matthew's), but the attitude of prayer that Jesus teaches. To pray is not to impose our will on God but to ask God to make us open to his will; in other words, we pray not to change God's mind but for God to change ours.

Authentic prayer, as Jesus taught and which is contained in the Lord's Prayer, has three components. The first is acknowledging the goodness and love of God. Jesus teaches us to call God "*Father*." God is not some celestial tyrant out of whom gifts have to be extracted through shameful or degrading pleading. Rather, God is the loving eternal Father who delights in providing for his children's needs.

The second part to prayer, as Jesus teaches, is asking that we may do God's will. Prayer worthy of God asks for the grace to do the work he calls us to do. What are those works? To begin, there is forgiveness, reconciliation and justice. By doing what he calls us to do we become the people he calls us to become, brothers and sisters under our heavenly Father.

The third and final element to prayer is voicing our hope in the providence of God. We come before God knowing that, just as a friend will aid a friend and a parent will provide for his or her child, God will hear our prayers and give us what we need and more. Even if it seems as if our prayers are unanswered, we live with the confident faith that God is always present to us.

Sometimes the mindset by which we enter into prayer is that of someone who has to go before an unjust judge to plead our cause. The fact is, God knows our needs better than we do and is always willing to provide for them, but we must trust that he knows better how to answer our prayer.

Prayer, in the words of St. Teresa of Avila, "*is the conformity of our will to the will of God.*"

Peace,  
Fr. John

***Please Pray for the Sick and Homebound of our Parish 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, Loretta Norris, Jerry Price, Richard Russell, Sr., Sam Spalding Jr., Meredith Taggart and Donna Walker.

***Worship***

***Mass Intentions***

***Tuesday, July 27:***

12:15pm

Patrick Mattis (L)

William R. Thompson, Sr.

***Wednesday, July 28:***

8:30am

Mary Alice Taylor

James M. Raley

***Thursday, July 29:***

12:15pm

***St. Martha***

Tom & Kathy Baldwin (L)

***Friday, July 30:***

8:30am

***St. Peter Chrysologus, bishop & doctor of the Church***

Glenn Edward Lawrence

Elsie Higgs Woodburn

***Saturday, July 31:***

7:30am

***St. Ignatius of Loyola, priest***

Frances Cooksey

George M. Beavan

5:00pm

Joseph & Alma Wathen

***Sunday, August 1:***

8:00am

***18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time***

Parishioners of St. Aloysius

11:00am

Joseph Lesko

James M. Raley

***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 28<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Mr. Wathen at 301-475-8064, ext. 16 or at [lwather@saintaloyuschurch.org](mailto: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 Elizabeth Swales***

**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.

***Sunday and Daily Mass Readings:*** Interested in finding the texts for the Sunday and weekday Mass online? Go to [www.usccb.org/nab/](http://www.usccb.org/nab/)

Stewardship

Summer Appeal has Begun.

Thank you to everyone who responded so generously already to our annual Summer Appeal. Your response has been great. To those who have not had a chance to respond, 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 have been sent to all parishioners. The *Appeal* runs through Labor Day, September 6<sup>th</sup>.

Sharing our Treasure: Weekly Offertory Contributions

July 17/18, 2010 July 18/19, 2009

1<sup>st</sup> Collection: \$8,541.50 1<sup>st</sup> Collection: \$8,527.51

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: Summer Appeal: \$8,153.03

**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection Next Weekend:** Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection for the weekend of July 31/Aug.1 is for Father Andrew White. Thank you for your continued generosity to our parish.

**Patron of the Week: Allergy & Dermatology.** 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 21<sup>st</sup>. 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](mailto:jdakes@saintalloysiuschurch.org) or [lwathen@saintalloysiuschurch.org](mailto:lwathen@saintalloysiuschurch.org) if you would like to learn more about RCIA. Remember nothing happens until you take the first step of faith.

**What is NFP?** Natural Family Planning (NFP) is a holistic approach to family planning. Both husband and wife understand their fertility, emotions, and family planning intention (*whether to have a baby or not*). Its successful use to avoid pregnancy relies upon a couple's following what they know about the method and one another. Successful use of NFP requires a couple to communicate. In the daily charting of their fertility signs, couples quickly appreciate their shared responsibility for family planning. Husbands are encouraged to "tune into" their wives' cycles, and both spouses are encouraged to speak openly to each other about their desires and their ideas on family size. Couples using NFP to avoid pregnancy abstain when the woman is fertile and can conceive. The total days of abstinence will vary from woman to woman and even from cycle to cycle. Whatever the length of the fertile phase, no barriers or chemicals are used at any time to avoid pregnancy. To achieve pregnancy couples are intimate during the fertile time of the cycle. NFP is not a contraceptive. It does nothing to suppress or block conception. Instead, couples adjust their behavior according to their family planning intention using the naturally occurring signs and symptoms of a woman's cycle. NFP promotes openness to the transmission of human life and recognizes the value of children. Intimacy is understood as love-giving as well as lifegiving. It is true family planning. Because NFP respects the twofold nature of intimacy, it can enrich the bond between husband and wife. Indeed, it can be said that NFP promotes the understanding of "self donation" between spouses. For these reasons it is an acceptable form of family planning for people of various religious and philosophical beliefs ([usccb.org/prolife/issues/nfp/nfpweek/index.shtml](http://usccb.org/prolife/issues/nfp/nfpweek/index.shtml)).

Ten Common MYTHS about NFP

- 10: NFP is just another name for Rhythm.
- 9: NFP can only be used by women with regular cycles.
- 8: NFP is too complicated to be useful for most people.
- 7: NFP is not a reliable method of family planning.
- 6: Couples who use NFP have less intimacy than the average American.
- 5: NFP does not allow for "spontaneity."
- 4: There is no difference between NFP and artificial contraception.
- 3: The Catholic Church wants people to have as many babies as possible.
- 2: Sex is a private decision between two people.
- 1: The Church does not want couples to be intimate for pleasure's sake.

**Check out our Website:** If you haven't had the opportunity, make sure to visit our website, [www.saintalloysiuschurch.org](http://www.saintalloysiuschurch.org) to view pictures from our 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. New pictures are being added regularly

### 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.

**What is our Mission?** Are we a parish that lives the mandate of Christ: "Go and teach all nations" or are we simply a maintenance-oriented community, doing what we have always done without any consideration for spreading the kingdom? *In other words are we an evangelizing community, and if not how can we be or how can we do better?* On **Wednesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>**, the Evangelization Committee is going to gather at **7 pm in the rectory** to discuss that very question with the help of Fr. Frank DiSiano of the Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association, and we would like to invite anyone in the parish who would like to explore this question to join us. We hope to see you there.

### Religious Education, Youth Ministry & School

#### 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)

Check out **Father Andrew White School's** website at [www.fatherandrewwhite.org](http://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 301-475-9795.

### 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](http://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 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:15 – 10:30 am. For questions or inquiries, contact Leonard Wathen by phone or by e-mailing him at [lwathen@saintaloyiuschurch.org](mailto:lwathen@saintaloyiuschurch.org).

### Community

**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, WYD registration, lodging & breakfast, some meals with WYD and three side trips to Avila, Segovia & Toledo. All info is on the website at [www.smrhs.org](http://www.smrhs.org). The trip is open to SMR students, current 8<sup>th</sup> graders, Catholic public school students, middle school students if accompanied by a parent. A \$300 deposit is required by July 31<sup>st</sup>. Total cost: \$3228. Trip leaders are Joan Stevens and Carol Zenthoef

### Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

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

Theme: *A Map for Life: The Lord's Prayer*

#### Reading I: Genesis 18:20-32

Will you sweep away the innocent with the guilty?

#### Reading II: Colossians 2:12-14

God made you alive with Christ for he has forgiven all our sins.

#### Gospel: Luke 11:1-13

Hallowed be your name.

#### Question for Children:

Prayer is talking with God and listening to God in our hearts. Where do you talk to God and how do you listen to what God says to you?

#### Questions for Teens:

Jesus teaches us how important it is to pray. How do you ask God for what you need? How do you listen for his response?

#### Questions for Adults:

Jesus teaches us how to pray. How often do you take the time to pray, to talk to and listen to God? Can you do better?

**Next Sunday's Gospel, 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time:  
Luke 12:13-21**