

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

***A Word from the Pastor***

Dear Friends,

I don't know many people who are comfortable talking about death. Though it will happen to all of us, it's one of those topics we prefer to put off until . . . well, until it's time to die. Today's feast, however, challenges our fear of death. The Solemnity of the Assumption is Mary's "Easter," in a sense. It is the fulfillment of the promise of her Son's resurrection in her own life, and it challenges us to trust that God who "raised the sinless Virgin Mary . . . body and soul to the glory of heaven" will also raise us from the dead. As St. Paul writes in his letter to the Corinthians today's feast calls us to believe that "In Christ shall all be brought to life" (15:22). Death is nothing to fear, rather, it is something to joyfully anticipate.

Throughout her life Mary embodied the good news of which she sings in the Magnificat, today's Gospel. She is the "lowly servant" whom God lifted up. She is the lowly servant on whom God looked with favor, and as His faithful servant she is the one "all generations call blessed."

With Mary, we, too, are called to be disciples and witnesses of Christ. As Mary welcomed the only Son of God into her life despite the complications that came with that decision, we are called to welcome Christ, the God of compassion and peace into our homes and communities. As Mary journeyed with her son to Jerusalem, we are called to journey with him and take up our crosses. As Mary cradled the lifeless body of her son, we are called to support, hold and bring healing to one another in our sorrow and pain; and as Mary realized the promise of her son's resurrection at the end of her days, we are called to live in the joyful hope of that same Easter promise being fulfilled in our lives.

When Mary's loving generosity becomes our loving generosity, when her "yes" to God becomes our "yes" to God, when her song of faith and hope becomes our song of faith and hope, then the promise fulfilled in her life will be fulfilled in our lives and we will discover that death is not an end, but a joyful beginning.

Peace,  
Fr. John

***Please Pray for the Sick and Homebound of our Parish***

**Community:** Let us remember in prayer: Dorothy Able, P.J. Aldridge, Sheerie Breeden, Mary Agnes Buckler, Wanda Butler, Mary Alice Brennason, Mary Agnes Burroughs, Bill Chubb, Susan Fenwick, Margaret Johnson, Mary Catherine Kane, Denise Lacey, Agnes Long, Ellen Mattingly, Marilyn Penyak, Melvin Pilkerton, Jerry Price, Richard Russell, Sr., Sam Spalding Jr., Meredith Taggart and Donna Walker.

**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/)

***Worship***

***Mass Intentions***

**Tuesday: Aug. 17:**

12:15pm Myrtle Posten  
Frances Abell

**Wednesday, Aug. 18:**

8:30am Margaret Stolmeier  
Elizabeth Ann Abell

**Thursday, Aug. 19:**

12:15pm **St. John Eudes, priest**  
George M. Beavan  
Elsie Higgs Woodburn

**Friday, Aug. 20:**

8:30am **St. Bernard, abbot & doctor of the church**  
James Abell Longmore, Jr.  
James Forrest, Sr.

**Saturday, Aug. 21:**

7:30am **St. Pius X, pope**  
Mary Magdaline Dyson  
Ralph I. Butler, Sr.

5:00pm

Katherine Eble  
Ruth White

**Sunday, Aug. 22:**

8:00am **21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
James Concannon  
Ruth Bell Swann  
11:00am Parishioners of St. Aloysius

**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  
K. P. and Annie Verghese.**

***Stewardship***

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

**Aug. 7/8, 2010**

**Aug. 9/10, 2009**

1<sup>st</sup> Collection: \$8,766.00

1<sup>st</sup> Collection: \$8,612.50

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: Building Fund-\$1,923.00

**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection Next Weekend:** Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection for the weekend of August 21/22 is for Latin America. Thank you for your continued generosity to our parish.

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

## ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

### Summer Appeal continues moving ahead

Our annual Summer Appeal continues to do well. To date we have raised \$13,772.08 leaving us \$1,427.92 to go to meet our goal of \$15,000.00. Thank you to everyone who has generously responded to date. To those who have not had a chance to respond, this year's 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* envelopes have been sent to all parishioners. The *Appeal* runs through Labor Day, September 6<sup>th</sup>.

### LEAVE A LEGACY

*Your Church has been there for you throughout your lifetime; you can be there for your Church's future. Leaving a bequest in your will to the Church, your parish, or school allows you to leave your legacy to an institution that has meant so much to you and thousands of others. Bequests permit you to make a gift without any loss of comfort or security during your lifetime, while allowing you to take advantage of estate tax savings. To request more information from the Planned Giving Office, please call Edward J. D'Antoni at (301) 853-4573 or e-mail: [dantoni@adv.org](mailto:dantoni@adv.org).*

### Parish Life & Evangelization

#### Focus on Evangelization

*Put your evangelistic skills to work by befriending those who will begin their inquiry into the Catholic Church in September.*

Make yourself available to our parish RCIA team to sponsor and accompany others in their journey toward the Easter sacraments of initiation. Share what it means to you to be a Christian, a member of the Catholic Church, and an involved parishioner. Invite others to share their hopes, struggles or questions concerning Christianity and Catholicism. Be a friend. Pray for them regularly during this process of inquiry and entry into the Church. Above all, witness to all inquirers and fellow parishioners by the way you live as a true disciple day by day.

For more information on being a sponsor, or other ways to help our parish RCIA team, contact Leonard Wathen at 301-475-8064 or [lwathen@saintalloysiuschurch.org](mailto:lwathen@saintalloysiuschurch.org)

**Evangelization Meeting Change of Date:** Due to a death, Fr. Frank DeSiano had to re-schedule our meeting on Evangelization. The new date is Wednesday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Hope to see you there.

### ATTENTION, Music Ministry: The Next 300 Years

Singers, musicians and accompanists needed! We are seeking vocalists, drummers, bass guitarists and guitar players, piano players, organists and more. There is a role for all interested in encouraging the assembly's song!

Thank you to all the **cantors, psalmists and accompanists** who have led us this year and this summer. More help is needed - please consider serving in these very important ministries!

**Grateful Hearts**, the adult choir, will come together in song after a summer break. Interested vocalists and musicians can join for a season, or for the year. *Save the date: Wednesday, August 25, from 7:30-9:00 PM* in the church for the first rehearsal.

**Spirit Singers**, grades 3-8, invites new members! *Save the dates: Thursday, August 26 or Friday, August 27* in the church for auditions. *First rehearsal will be Wednesday, September 1, 4:00-5:00 PM.*

**Cross Generation**, for high school music leaders, will begin rehearsals in September.

For inquiries, to join a choir, or to serve as a cantor, psalmists, accompanist or instrumentalist, please email Abby Sweeney, Director of Music Ministries, at [sweeney@metrocast.net](mailto:sweeney@metrocast.net).

**Check out our Website:** If you haven't had the opportunity to visit our website since our 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, please do so. Our site is [www.saintalloysiuschurch.org](http://www.saintalloysiuschurch.org) and on it you will find pictures from our 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass, Dinner & Dance, and the burial of our 100 Year Time Capsule.

**Are you being called to a deeper walk of Faith? Is God calling you to something more, a greater involvement in the life of the Church?** Then make it a point to drop in at our annual Ministry Fair on the Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. The fair offers an excellent opportunity to learn about the many ways you can respond to God's call and share your time and talent through participation in the many ministries of our parish: Worship, Education, Faith Formation and Evangelization, Family and Vocation, Parish Life, Social Concerns, and Youth.

### Religious Education, Youth Ministry & School

**We Welcome Back Teachers:** Father Andrew White School welcomes back our teachers tomorrow, August 16<sup>th</sup>. We hope you had an enjoyable and relaxing summer, and we look forward to the new year of faith development and educational excellence you offer our youth.

**Back to School New Parent Meeting & Open House:** Celebrate the close of summer and the beginning of a new school year. Father Andrew White School will be hosting a meeting for all **new parents** this Thursday afternoon,

## THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

August 19<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00 – 5:00 pm followed by their annual Back to School Open House for all parents and students from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Come meet your teachers, learn what the new year has in store for you and meet up with friends

**Adopt-a-Student Program:** Every year there are families who want to give their children the gift of Catholic education, but they struggle with the tuition cost. These Catholic families could use your help! If you are able to offer any portion of a tuition for a child in our school, please contact your pastor or Mrs. Maloney at 301-475-9795. The names of the recipients and donors are anonymous. Your gift would be greatly appreciated and you will make a difference.

**Small Group Bible Studies** will be resuming in the fall, and now is the time to sign up. The following are scheduled:

- *The Great Adventure Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation* – Wednesdays, 7 – 9 PM, beginning 9/8, at the home of Ceci Price (301-475-2265)
- *The Gospel of Matthew: The King and His Kingdom* – Sundays, 9:15 to 10:30 AM, beginning 9/19, in FAW Library (contact Ceci Price)
- *The Gospel of Matthew: The King and His Kingdom* – Thursdays, 1:00 to 2:30 PM, beginning 9/16, in Rectory (contact Leonard Wathen)
- *That Man is You! The Revelation of the Father* (Men's Bible Study) – Thursdays, 6:30 to 7:30 AM, beginning 9/16, in KofC Hall (contact Leonard Wathen)



## Religious Education

**Children's Religious Education** begins Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 9:15 to 10:30 am. There is a parent orientation on the first day. It is not too late to register – forms can be downloaded at the parish website. Please turn in registration forms before the first day of class.

**Knights of Columbus Altar Server Appreciation Pool Party,** Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> from 7-10pm. Admission is free. For more information call Youth Chairman, Jim Goebel at 240-538-8045.

### Community

**Sunday Concert:** The Southern Maryland Community Gospel Choir will perform its "Praise Is What We Do!" Concert here at St. Aloysius on Sunday August 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. All are invited to attend this free concert. The SMCGC is a non denominational gospel choir whose members include Redmond and Dionne Saul. This concert assists in fulfilling the choir's mission to glorify and praise God through music. Newcomers are always welcome to attend practice on Monday nights at 7:00 pm here at St. Aloysius.

## HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR FAITH?

1. What can we do with our minds?  
What can we do with our will?
2. Name the 12 Apostles.
3. What day is called the "Birthday" of the Church?
4. What is the source of all grace we receive in the sacraments?

**Register to Vote in Maryland for the 2010 Elections:** In order to vote in this Fall's elections, which will include races for governor, U.S. House and Senate, and the Maryland General Assembly, you must be registered to vote. Basic requirements include being an American citizen, a Maryland resident and at least 18 years of age by the next general election. The deadline to register to vote in Maryland's primary election is Tuesday, August 24. Visit [www.elections.state.md.us](http://www.elections.state.md.us) or [www.mdcathcon.org](http://www.mdcathcon.org), or call the Maryland State Board of Elections at 1-800-222-8683 to learn more.

### Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

#### *The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Theme: *God's power among us gives us strength.*

**Reading I:** Revelation 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10  
She was clothed with the sun and moon.

**Reading II:** 1 Corinthians 15:20-27  
In Christ, all will come to life again.

**Gospel:** Luke 1:39-56  
The Magnificat.

#### **Question for Children:**

How does your relationship to the Blessed Virgin Mary help your faith?

#### **Questions for Teens:**

Mary said YES to God, to cooperating with God's plan for her life. What do you think God wants for your life? How well are you cooperating with God's plan?

#### **Questions for Adults:**

How would you describe the role of Mary in the work of Christ? How does your relationship with her bring you closer to her Son?

**Next Sunday's Gospel, 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time:**  
**Luke 13:22-30**

### Answers to "How well do you know your Faith?"

1. We think with our minds. We choose with our wills.
2. Peter, Phillip, James the Less, James the Greater, Judas, Jude, John, Andrew, Bartholomew, Matthew, Simon and Thomas.
3. Pentecost
4. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross