

ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA CATHOLIC CHURCH, LEONARDTOWN, MARYLAND

A Word from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

This weekend Dakota Allen and his team of volunteers are beginning to prepare the foundations for the Marian Prayer Garden as Dakota works towards his Eagle badge in scouting. The work includes cutting and clearing away the old sod, removing the existing crape myrtle trees, laying stone dust and eventually laying the slate and pavers. The whole process has been meticulously laid out and calculated by Dakota and will eventually yield a beautiful garden in honor of Our Lady.

In our gospel for this Sunday Jesus outlines three decisions to express the calculating, meticulous preparations we are to make if we wish to be His disciples.

To begin, Jesus tells us that we must put Him first, above every other person, plan and possession. Before family, friends, even before our own life, we must choose Jesus. This same choice had to be made by the apostles and all other disciples in those early days of Christianity, and so it must be made by us. We are called to faithfully live out on a daily basis our commitment to Him in every circumstance of our lives.

Then He tells we must carry our own cross and follow Him. This means taking up whatever duty calls us to lay down our life in service for the sake of others. As the one preparing to build a tower and the king preparing for war discover, our days are limited -- too limited to squander on obsessing about things at the expense of our relationships with family and friends. We must make a realistic appraisal of our resources, count the cost and then commit ourselves. Jesus is challenging us to live every moment of our lives as a time for preparation and planning for much greater and lasting things than this world of ours offers.

Finally, Jesus asks us to renounce all our possessions, allowing nothing to take the place of Him in our hearts. Often we refuse to let go of things that are making our lives so much less than we want them to be. The gifts of God can only be grasped with the open hands of humility and prayer; the grasping hands of materialism and self-centeredness condemn us to a life of emptiness.

These are certainly not easy challenges. Our response will take great effort, calculating effort as we build on the foundations laid by those first apostles and countless Christians before us. But it is possible, as those men and women have demonstrated. We make decisions regularly for the many things we want, time away for vacation, plans for birthdays and anniversaries, trips to the city for a Nats, Skins or Ravens game and more. If we can plan for these which are here today and gone tomorrow, can we not make plans for putting Christ first in our lives? We can, if we really believe in and desire what He has to offer us.

Peace,
Fr. John

Worship

Mass Intentions

Tuesday: Sept. 7:

12:15pm

Catherine Marie Goddard
Massey Connelly

Wednesday, Sept. 8: The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin

Mary

8:30am

Mary Beth Griffin (L)
Dustin Stauffer

Thursday, Sept. 9:

St. Peter Claver, priest

Jerry McCabe
Elsie Higgs Woodburn

Friday, Sept. 10:

8:30am

Mary Edith Wood
Della Louise Buchanan

Saturday, Sept. 11:

7:30am

George M. Beavan
Angela Houtz

5:00pm

Joseph & Alma Wathen

Sunday, Sept. 12:

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00am

James M. Raley
Glenn Edward Lawrence

11:00am

J. Wilmer Bowles

6:00pm

Mary Jane Scully
Parishioners of S. Aloysius

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, Ron Buckler, Wanda Butler, Mary Alice Brennason, Mary Agnes Burroughs, Bill Chubb, Barbara Dotson, Susan Fenwick, Margaret Johnson, Denise Lacey, Mary Katherine Kane, Agnes Long, Ellen Mattingly, Melvin Pilkerton, Sam Spalding Jr., Agatha Stokel, Meredith Taggart, Donna Walker and Michael Wilt.

Youth Mass Returns next Sunday

Beginning next Sunday, September 12th, and on every 2nd Sunday of the month, the parish, in conjunction with our Junior High and High School Youth Groups, will be celebrating a 6:00 pm Youth Mass. The Mass, focused on our teens and their families, involves the gifts and talents of our youth as leaders of song, lectors, Ministers of Hospitality/Ushers and altar servers. Following the Mass members of the youth groups will meet at FAW School for faith-based activities and social time. All Junior High and High School youth of the parish (and their friends), as well as their families are invited as is anyone young at heart. For more information or to be a part of this ministry in the parish please contact either Mrs. Paula Wood, Junior High Ministry Coordinator at 301-472-4272 or Mr. Leonard Wathen, High School Youth ministry Coordinator at 301-475-8064, ext. 16.

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Workshops for NEW Extraordinary Ministers of Communion and Lectors: If you are interested in becoming an Extraordinary Minister of Communion (EMC) or Lector (and we certainly need more volunteers, especially for the 5:00 pm and the 8:00 am Masses), then please contact the rectory. New training is being held through the Archdiocese of Washington on Saturday, October 9th at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Lexington Park from 9:30 am till 2:30 pm. You need only attend one session, but pre-registration is a must. Call 301-475-8064 to speak with a member of the parish staff regarding these sessions. Please note that you can only attend one workshop – EMC or Lector.

Born to Eternal Life The Community of St. Aloysius would like to extend our condolences to the families of Jerry McCabe and Charles Brooks who passed away last week. May the angels lead them into paradise; may the martyrs come and welcome them to the holy city, the new and eternal Jerusalem; and may the peace of Christ which is beyond all understanding give their families comfort and consolation.

Stewardship

Summer Appeal Reaches Goal! Workers Needed.

Kudos to all who donated so generously to our Annual Summer Appeal. As you know, our goal was to raise \$15,000.00, but thanks to your generosity we exceeded that goal with \$16,317.84.

Weather permitting, work on the Marian Prayer Garden begins this weekend and will continue through the first weekend of October.

The work schedule is as follows:

Saturday, September 4, 8am-5pm

Sunday, September 5, 12pm-5pm

Monday, September 6, 8am-5pm (Labor Day)

Saturday, September 11, 8am-5pm

Sunday, September 12, 12pm-5pm

Saturday, September 18, 8am-5pm

Sunday, September 19, 3pm-5pm

Saturday, September 25, 8am-5pm

Sunday, September 26, 12pm-5pm

Saturday, October 2, 8am-5pm

Sunday, October 3, 12pm-5pm

Please contact Dakota Allen at 301-997-0014 or at allenmjbj@hotmail.com if you can assist on any of these days. Cancellations due to weather will be posted on the parish website.

Sharing our Treasure: Weekly Offertory Contributions

Aug. 28/29, 2010

Aug. 30/31, 2009

1st Collection: \$8,439.00 1st Collection: \$8,746.00

2nd Collection: Latin America- \$1,456.00

2nd Collection Next Weekend: Our 2nd Collection for the weekend of September 11/12 is for the Building Fund. Thank you for your continued generosity to our parish.
Patron of the Week: David's Flowers. Please remember to patronize our bulletin sponsors.

Please take 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

Labor Day Holiday: Please note that all parish offices as well as our school will be **closed on Monday, September 6th, Labor Day.**

Evangelization Meeting: By way of follow-up to our meeting with Fr. Frank DiSiano in August, there will be a meeting this Thursday, September 9th for all who are interested in working with the Evangelization Team. The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm in the rectory.

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.

Friends of the Poor Walk: The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is the world's most distinguished "Friend of the Poor". The walk is a national fundraiser which benefits the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in our parish. The goal of the walk is to call attention to the needs of the poor. The St. Vincent de Paul Society helps with rent, oil, electric, medication and food assistance in the community. Your participation in the walk and generous support of our walkers will make a big difference in the lives of those

affected by poverty in our community. All money raised for the walk stays directly in the local St. Vincent de Paul conferences for direct and immediate aid to those in need. On Saturday, September 18th we will hold our 3rd Annual Friends of the Poor Walk. The walk will begin at 9 A.M. at Father Andrew White School and will take walkers through the streets of Leonardtown. Same day registration will begin at 7:30 A.M. We will have a post walk brunch, face painting and balloons for children, live entertainment and door prizes. Health Connections van from St. Mary's Hospital will be at the walk offering blood pressure screenings throughout the morning. You can make a difference! Feed someone you never met. Walk on September 18th. The walk is a healthy and easy way to get involved. To register for the walk or get information about the walk, go to www.walkforthe poor.com or call 301-904-7990. WILL YOU WALK?

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 19th. 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

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Do you wish that you knew more about the Bible and the things that Jesus and the Apostles did back in the first century? Do you have a hunger for God but are unsure of how to become closer to Him? Do you strive to be a person who is known for spiritual knowledge? Our daytime, evening and Sunday Bible studies meet weekly and dig into the Scriptures at a grass roots level. 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, call Cece 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 Cece 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)
- For more information or to sign up for bible study this fall, please contact Leonard Wathen at 301-475-8064,x16 or at lwathen@saintalloysiuschurch.org

FAW School Advisory Board to Meet: Members of the School Advisory Board are reminded of our Mass and Meeting this Tuesday, September 7th. Mass will begin in St. Aloysius Church at 6:30 pm followed by the meeting.

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.saintalloysiuschurch.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 or 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 at the phone number above or by e-mailing him at lwathen@saintalloysiuschurch.org.

Community

Jail & Bail: As announced in last Sunday's pastor's column Fr. John is participating in the 2nd annual *Jail & Bail* fundraiser hosted by St. Mary's County sheriff, Tim Cameron and Care Net Pregnancy Center of Southern Maryland. On Monday, September 20th, Fr. John will be picked up by a 1950 black and white squad car, arrested, handcuffed and taken to the Old Jail Museum in Leonardtown. Once there, he'll be brought in front of *Judge Ment*. In order to be bailed out, he'll need to raise \$1,500.00 and that's where you're help is needed. Any amount toward making bail would be greatly appreciated. If you want to help bail Fr. John out and help the Care Net Pregnancy Center please send your donation in care of the Care Net Pregnancy Center to St. Aloysius Rectory, P.O. Box 310, Leonardtown, MD 20650 by September 20th. Thank you.

The "Loving Hands" Ministry is new this year. Our ministry will focus on making handmade items by crocheting, knitting, or sewing and donating them to local charities for the sick and needy. The St Mary's Nursing Center, Pregnancy Care Center, Children's Hospital NICU, cancer patients at St. Mary's Hospital, and needy families are some of the charities that come to mind for receiving these handmade gifts. Items include blankets, afghans, hats, scarves, and more. We will also be teaching interested Youth Group members. If you would like to join our ministry or help by donating afghan squares, yarn, or material, please contact Karen Frech at karen.frech@verizon.net. Stop by and see us at the Ministry Fair on 9/19.

Room Still Available for students who would like to attend World Youth Day in Madrid, whether in public or private school. All information is on the St. Mary's Ryken website under "Campus Life". For questions, call Carol Zenthoefler at 301-373-41676.