NEW PARISHIONERS...St. Aloysius extends a warm welcome to all who are joining us for prayer, worship, or instruction. If you are new to the area or returning home to the Church, we invite you to register and make St. Aloysius your parish. Registration forms can be obtained at the church, on our website, or by calling the rectory.

FIND A SMALL GROUP... Find Small Group Faith Formation opportunities in our area for both adults and high school teens by visiting www.ConnectStMarys.com.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)...RCIA is the process of welcoming new members to the Catholic Church. It is intended for adults who have never been baptized or for adults who have been baptized Christian and now wish to practice the faith in the Catholic tradition. It is an ongoing process of formation, catechesis and liturgical rites. Anyone interested is asked to call the rectory to discuss the process.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM...Parents are asked to call the parish office to register for the Baptismal Preparation Meeting and for the baptism of their child. Parents are expected to be participating members of the parish.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE...Couples seeking to be married in the Church are to make arrangements with the pastor six months to one year in advance of their intended wedding date, in order to allow time for marriage preparation. At least one of the engaged should be a registered and practicing member of the parish.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK...The Sacrament of the Sick is for the spiritual comfort, strength and healing of the ill. If there is a need for the sacrament in your family or household, please contact the rectory as soon as possible.

FATHER ANDREW WHITE SCHOOL... Pre-K-8th Grade. If interested, please contact Mrs. Helen Bowles in the school office Monday through Friday 8:00am - 3:00pm, 301-475-9795 for space availability.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION...Pre-K-8th Grade, 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month, 9:15 AM to 10:30 AM, during the school year. To register please contact Leonard Wathen at the Rectory or visit the parish website.

December 31, 2017

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

MASS SCHEDULE:
Saturday: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 8:00 am and 11:00 am
Daily: 12:15 pm Tuesday & Thursday
8:30 am Wednesday & Friday
7:30 am Saturday

HOLY DAY MASSES:
As Announced inside the Bulletin.

FIRST FRIDAYS: Masses at 9:00 am (September through June) and 7:00 pm. Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 10:00 am till 6:45 pm followed by Benediction. Confessions from 6:00 - 6:30 pm.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:
Thursday: 11:30-12 Noon
Saturday: 3:30-4:30 pm

STAFF
Pastor........................................Rev. David W. Beaubien, ext. 14
Deacons................................................Deacon Andy Geisz
Deacon Joe Vavrus
Parish Secretary/Bookkeeper................Denise Becher, ext.10
Receptionist/Bulletin Editor ...................Lauren Carney, ext.11
Religious Education/Youth Ministry........Leonard Wathen, ext.16
Maintenance.............................................Wally Bowles
Principal, Father Andrew White School .........Heather Francisco
Secretary, FAW School.................................Helen Bowles

RECTORY HOURS: Monday-Thursday 8 am-4 pm
Friday 9 am-3 pm

www.SaintAloysiusChurch.org
www.facebook.com/staloysius20650
www.twitter.com/staloysius20650
www.instagram.com/staloysius20650
THE CARPENTER FROM NAZARETH

The Church celebrates today the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. This first Christian family sets the example for all families to follow. They represent love for each other and compliance with the word of God.

On Christmas Day all the followers of Jesus celebrated his birthday with great love, responding to the love of Christ for all. Saint Paul tells us, “When the kindness and generous love of God appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done, but because of his mercy.” (Titus 3: 4 – 5)

On New Year’s Day the Church observes the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. One cannot overstate the importance of Mary in salvation history. Already in the Old Testament there is mention of the Mother of God. For instance, Matthew quotes the prophet Isaiah, “Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’” (1: 23; see Isaiah 7:14)

The role of Saint Joseph, the husband of Mary and foster-father of Jesus, should be studied. He is the perfect example of the saying: “Actions speak louder than words.” Saint Joseph does not say a single word in Scripture, but he is called “a righteous man.” (Matthew 1: 19) That title tells the reader that Joseph lived in a life in harmony with the Mosaic law of God. In the Infancy Narratives of Matthew and Luke, Joseph always does what God tells him to do – took Mary as his wife; he helped Mary travel to Bethlehem. The angel had told both Mary and Joseph to call the baby Jesus (Savior). He took Mary and the child Jesus to Egypt to avoid Herod. He also brought Mary and Jesus back to Nazareth.

Saint Joseph has had an amazing influence on Christians down through the ages! Just think of the many children named Joseph. I would like to offer a personal note to indicate the importance of the role of Jesus’ step-father. My father was a carpenter and he had a great love for Saint Joseph, a love which he shared with his children. One of my brothers was named Joseph and several of us, myself included, received that name as our second name at baptism.

I went to a seminary dedicated to Saint Joseph. It was a seminary for poor boys. One could go all twelve years – high school, college and graduate theology and not pay a penny. The parents were asked, IF THEY COULD, to give one hundred dollars a year.

Given the loving concern of Joseph for Mary and Jesus and his continuing concern for all members of the Body of Christ, it is not surprising that the Church has named Saint Joseph the Patron of the Universal Church.

~Msgr. Ralph J. Kuehner, Archdiocese of Washington
OFFICE SCHEDULE
In celebration of the New Year our parish offices will be closed on Monday, January 1st. On behalf of the entire parish staff we wish all in our community a safe, happy and holy New Year.

THANK YOU FROM THE PARISH STAFF: We wish to thank all the parishioners who came by the rectory this Christmas season with cards or gifts for the staff. The tins of cookies, the homemade sweets, cakes and other gifts were truly appreciated, shared and enjoyed. ~Fr. David

The Kalnasy Concert Series presents
YOUTH MUSICIANS IN CONCERT
Sunday, January 7 at 3:00 PM at St. Aloysius Church. All are invited to an afternoon of beautiful piano and instrumental music of the season performed by our very talented high school accompanists and instrumentalists! For more information contact keyofgmh@gmail.com.

THANK-YOU APPRECIATION DINNER/DANCE
Invitations were mailed out on Friday, December 8th. If you are a volunteer over the age of 21 and did not receive your invitation, please call the rectory (301) 475-8064 and speak to either Denise Becher or Lauren Carney. RSVP’s are due back by Thursday, January 4.

THIS LENT, HOW ABOUT GETTING A GIFT RATHER THAN GIVING SOMETHING UP?
Believe it or not, Lent starts on Valentine’s Day, Feb. 14. We are inviting you to mark your calendars now to receive the GIFT: A Life in the Spirit Seminar. This an inspiring and practical series aimed at people of all ages to help them encounter the Holy Spirit and empower them to share their faith. The 6 sessions will meet on Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30 pm and will include dinner. The GIFT series begins on Wednesday, February 21st. The cost of the series is $10. For more information, contact Deb Vavrus at 240-317-5332 or davavrus@msn.com.

2018 CALENDARS are now available in the vestibule of the church. Please pick up your copy after Mass. A special Thank-you to Brinsfield Funeral Home for donating them!

VOCATIONS CROSS
Let us invoke the intercession of St. Junipero Serra for priestly and religious vocations and pray this week with Ceci and Jim Hoffman who have the Vocations Cross!
RESPECT LIFE

WORD OF LIFE: “Your own quiet, patient presence can provide important support as your loved one prepares emotionally and spiritually for his or her passing.”

MARCH FOR LIFE
WASHINGTON, DC
March for Life 2018 (http://marchforlife.org/mfl-2018/) will be held on Friday, January 19. Knights of Columbus Council 1470 will be sponsoring a 55-passenger coach bus, up and back that day, leaving from and returning to the St. Aloysius parking lot. Council 1470 Knights and their families are free. A recommended donation of $10/adult, children free, for non-Council 1470 Marchers. For more information or to reserve seats, contact Ed Donohoe at Ed.Donohoe@gmail.com or 402-850-8664. Also, Knights can sign up by selecting ‘March for Life’ in the January 19th date on the website calendar: https://kofcknights.org/CouncilSite/events.asp?CNO=1470&DATE=1/27/2018.

PLENARY INDULGENCE for participating in the March for Life
Our Holy Father Pope Francis is granting a plenary Indulgence to those who take part in the Masses and the March for Life in Washington. The usual conditions involve 1) sacramental Confession, 2) Eucharistic Communion, and 3) prayer for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff. Being truly penitential and motivated by charity, those seeking the Indulgence may apply it to the souls of the faithful in Purgatory. Those unable to leave home due to illness or infirmity may still obtain the plenary Indulgence when they have the disposition of detachment from any kind of sin with the intention of fulfilling, as soon as possible, the three conditions indicated above if they spiritually join themselves to the March for Life, while also offering their prayers and sufferings to our merciful God.

May the efforts of all across this great nation to lift up the value and dignity of each human life continue to bear fruit, and may we all experience God’s blessings as we participate in this necessary witness!

COMMUNITY

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Solomons, is having its annual dinner theater on January 26th and 27th and February 2nd and 3rd. The show is titled "Alibis". It is a mystery-comedy spoof.

Tickets are $40 per person, which includes the show and a wonderful buffet catered by Thompson Seafood of St. Mary's County. Doors open at 6:00 pm. For tickets, call (410) 326-8272.

THE NEXT CHRIST LIFE SERIES TO START IN JANUARY AT IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH WITH “DISCOVERING CHRIST” This seven-week experience consists of supper, worship, dynamic teaching and small group discussion about the meaning of life in Jesus Christ. “Discovering Christ” is for anyone, from the daily Mass goer to the unbaptized person who has never entered a church, and all in between. The dates of “Discovering Christ” are January 28 – March 25 and it is held on Sundays from 5 – 8 pm in the IHM Fellowship Hall located at 22375 Three Notch Rd., Lexington Park. Join us for fellowship and spiritual nourishment and become part of the Christ Life Community. There is no cost for you. However, pre-registration is required to have an accurate number for supper preparation. For more information or to register, see www.ihmrcc.org/smallgroups and click on Christ Life or call 301-863-8144.

Men’s Discernment Retreat – Cardinal Wuerl invites men in their 20s, 30s, or 40s who are open to a call to the priesthood to attend a discernment retreat led by priests of the Archdiocese of Washington. The retreat will be held on the weekend of February 2–4, at Saint John Paul II Seminary in Washington, D.C. The weekend will offer time away from your daily routine and will provide an opportunity for prayer and reflection to examine God’s call. There is no cost to attend. Registration is now open at www.dcpriest.org. Email vocations@adw.org with any questions.