St. Aloysius Gonzaga
Catholic Church

22800 Washington Street ★ PO Box 310 ★ Leonardtown, MD 20650
Rectory (301) 475-8064 ★ Fax (301) 475-8762

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.

March 4, 2018
Third Sunday of Lent

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
Deacon................................................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
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Pastoral Plan: “The Joy of Love”

Today, at St. Matthew’s Cathedral, Cardinal Wuerl is unveiling a Pastoral Plan for the implementation of Pope Francis’s Apostolic Exhortation “The Joy of Love” (“Amoris Laetitia,” 2016). For the next several weeks, I’ll be printing below excerpts from Cardinal Wuerl’s Plan and its focus on family life and marriage for our present times:

In “Amoris Laetitia,” (AL) we find long-held, theologically sound teaching that displays the reality of practical, pastoral guidance that is offered to someone who, like all of us, is struggling to live up to the fullness of the norm, but within the circumstances and situations in which they find themselves.

In responding pastorally to those whose lives more or less reflect the brokenness of the human condition, rather than the beauty and blessing of the Church’s received teaching, Pope Francis affirms that our task is not to scold, but to sustain them in faith and hope. We need to begin patiently and lovingly to accompany them with special concern, helping them to live as fully as possible the life-giving experience of Christ and his Church. In this spiritual journey, each person can be at a different place. We are called to recognize this fact as we try to go out, encounter and accompany others.

In chapter eight of AL, the Holy Father follows the teaching of Saints John Paul II and Thomas Aquinas to remind us of the distinction between objective moral norms and their application in uniquely concrete circumstances. Thus, he says that pastoral practice needs to take into account individual conscience, which not only can recognize that a given situation does not correspond objectively to revealed Gospel teaching, but can also be that voice of the Spirit which prompts the person to make the most generous response to God he or she can considering the complexity of one’s human limitation (AL, 303).

One starting point is the realization that there is an objective moral order. It is written in our hearts as the natural law and proclaimed in revelation. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that the Decalogue, the Commandments, are a privileged expression of the natural law (CCC, 2070).

(On the ministry of accompanying): In the work of pastoral ministry we must consider the teaching, the role of the priest in working with the person to understand more fully how the law and teaching apply in his or her own life situation. We also must consider the conscientious judgment before God of the person in light of where that person might be and any mitigating factors (AL, 305).

Admittedly, this individual process of discernment may not be easy. A person may know full well Church teaching, Pope Francis notes, yet have great difficulty in either understanding its inherent positive value, or in being able to fully embrace it right away because of circumstances (AL, 301). Yet, the underlying moral principle which should inform both that personal discernment and the priest’s ministry is that a person can still love and grow in the faith, he or she can still take steps in the right direction and benefit from God’s mercy and grace while receiving the assistance of the Church (AL, 305).

“Amoris Laetitia” does not create some sort of internal forum process where, for example, a marriage can be annulled or where the objective moral order can be changed. The teachings of the Church on marriage and family, and conscience and moral decision-making, remain unchanged. The role of the priest in listening and offering affirmation or challenge to persons as they work through their own understanding of their situation, is not the same as absolving from the law or annulling a marriage.

Instead, pastoral dialogue, accompaniment and integration involve the development of conscience and also the expression of a level of support or confirmation for the judgment the individual is making about the state of his soul or her soul. That judgment is the act of the individual and is the basis for their accountability before God.

In all of this, we must also remember both God’s liberating truth and saving mercy. None of us can claim yet to be perfect as is our heavenly Father. But we can grow closer to the Lord, who will by his grace heal us so that we can have the life he wants for us.

Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Every Friday during Lent.
1:00 pm - with the FAW Middle school students
1:30 pm - with the FAW Primary grade students
and 7:00 pm
All are invited to participate in this ancient ritual of the Church.

FRIDAY NIGHT APOLOGETICS: The next topic: “The Case for the Shroud of Turin.” Classes will be held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Lexington Park from 6:30 - 8:00 pm, on Friday, March 9, led by Ken Scheiber, faculty member at St. Mary’s Ryken.

The Light is On for You!
God created us for a life-giving relationship with him and one another. I invite you to renew your relationship with the Lord through the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Lent. In addition to the regular times, confessions will be available immediately after all Vigil and Sunday Masses during Lent. Please remember, too, that it is a Precept of the Church that all of us should make a confession at the minimum of once a year, especially during the Lenten or Easter seasons. But more often is greatly beneficial to our spiritual life!
~ Fr. David

LITTLE BLACK BOOKS: As a companion for prayer during the season of Lent the parish is once again offering The Little Black Book. These pocket size books help us spend six minutes each day in meditation on the Passion according to St. Mark. The Little Black Book is available in the vestibule with voluntary $1 donation to offset the cost.

DEACON “COME & SEE” EVENT
The Office of Permanent Diaconate Formation of the Archdiocese of Washington will be hosting a “Come & See” event for potential applicants to attend and learn more about the permanent diaconate and the formation program. The “Come & See” event will be held at Father Andrew White School in the library on Wednesday, March 7, from 7:00-9:00 pm. Please RSVP to Ms. Diane Biggs at 301-853-5345 or biggsd@adw.org. Wives are encouraged to accompany their husbands.

PLEASE NOTE: St. Aloysius Cemetery will be cleaned up on Monday, March 19th. All flowers and decorations must be removed by Sunday, March 18th. Thank you for your cooperation!

Parish Cemetery

The Kalnasy Concert Series presents....
Father David Beaubien
In Concert
With the St. Aloysius Handbell Ensemble
Georgina M. Harvey, accompanist

Date: Sunday, March 11
Place: St. Aloysius Church
Time: 3:00 PM

Beautiful songs of Mendelssohn, Dvorak, Wagner, Copland, Vaughan Williams, and more.

For more information, contact keyofgmh@gmail.com.

Intercessory Prayer Group
Make time for prayer this Lent. Our prayer group will meet every Thursday, after Mass at 1:00 pm in the church’s St. Lawrence room. Flyers available in the vestibule of the church.

VOCATIONS TREE:
PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS
Thanks to all of you who picked a card from the Vocations Tree. Please keep up the daily prayers for seminarians throughout Lent -- and beyond, if you wish. By the way, did you notice each seminarian’s card lists his year of formation? Did you wonder what it meant? Archdiocesan seminarians go through many years of formation before ordination! Seminarians who have just graduated from high school work on earning a bachelor’s degree in philosophy (First College, Second College, Third College, Fourth College). Then they go on to study graduate-level theology (First Theology, Second Theology, Third Theology, Fourth Theology). Men who have already earned a bachelor’s degree before coming to the seminary may need to spend 2 years in a pre-theology program before going on to graduate-level theology (First Pre-Theology, Second Pre-Theology). At some point before ordination, a seminarian may spend a year at a parish (Pastoral Year). Usually a seminarian is ordained a transitional deacon the year before he is ordained a priest. If you picked a deacon, pray for him in a special way: He is preparing for ordination in June!

Let us invoke the intercession of St. Junipero Serra for priestly and religious vocations and pray this week with Pat and Teresa Leard, who have the Vocations Cross!
**RELIGIOUS ED & YOUTH MINISTRY**

**Family of Faith Update** – Our next Family of Faith Teaching Sunday is on March 4, 9:15-10:30 am, and our next Community Gathering is on March 18, 9:15-10:30 am. Our topics for March are the **Holy Spirit and the Church**.

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**STEWARDSHIP**

**SHARING OUR TREASURE**

Weekly Offertory Contributions  
Feb. 24/25

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<th>1st Collection</th>
<th>2nd Collection: Church in the Developing World</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Offertory Basket: $6,197.00</td>
<td>Direct Debit: $1,288.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Direct Debit: $1,288.00</td>
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**2ND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND** will be for the Building Fund.

**PATRON OF THE WEEK:** Ace Hardware. If in need please remember to patronize our bulletin sponsors.

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**RESPECT LIFE**

**WORD OF LIFE:** “O God our Creator...give us courage in making our voices heard on behalf of the rights of your Church and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.”

Caring for families who have suffered the loss of a child through miscarriage:

In the spirit of the recent Year of Mercy, Catholic Cemeteries is offering a plan to help grieving parents.

As a background, one in every four pregnancies ends in miscarriage. The established protocol within the medical community is to dispose of the remains of children under 20 weeks gestation (one pound in weight or smaller) as “medical waste”. This long-held practice denies parents the chance to bury their beloved child and acknowledge his or her existence and eternal destiny.

The five major Archdiocesan cemeteries - All Souls, Gate of Heaven, Mount Olivet, Resurrection, and Queen of Peace - have now established dedicated sections to bury these miscarried children at no cost to our Catholic families. The cemeteries will provide a burial space, outer container and opening and closing of the site free of cost Monday through Friday. Please contact Father David to make arrangements.

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**ST. VINCENT de PAUL**

**HELPING HANDS FOOD DRIVE**

Hunger is an ever-present reality in our community. Local food pantries are experiencing a great demand for food. To help replenish supplies, Catholic Charities and the Archdiocese of Washington together are sponsoring the Lenten Food Drive. Our parish collection for the food drive will take place the weekend of March 17 & 18. Bags for your donations will be provided on March 10 & 11. When you come to Mass on March 17 & 18, please leave your donation in the Vestibule. Our collection will be donated to Helping Hands. Please be generous with your contribution. Thank you for all you do to help the needy among us.

**Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin’-by-World**” A journey has begun, for investigators and volunteers. A great group of “investigators” are fully engaged in Getting Ahead (GA), and committed to understanding poverty, learning about language, hidden rules of economic class, and the eleven resources to create change and build their future story. The group volunteer facilitators are inspired by the strength and knowledge of the investigators. This is truly an opportunity for everyone involved to share in God’s grace, in coming together to build all up. The effort embodies the heart of the Vincentian mission: person to person care, to grow in holiness through service to those in need, embracing both charity and justice.

You can help or be a part of this journey:

**Mentor!** You’re not a counselor or an expert, but a neighbor willing to walk with an investigator. To listen, validate, question and affirm their actions. To facilitate community connections. To empower GA graduates to build their resources.

**Support!** Prepare a meal for 10-13 investigators, facilitators and guest mentors to share prior to their meeting. Help fuel the “kitchen table” discussions! The program meets from 5:00-8:00 PM on Mondays, in the art and music room at Fr. Andrew White, S.J. School in Leonardtown. For more information please call Teresa at SVdP, 301-481-2942 or email svdp@saintaloysius.org. Thank you!

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**COMMUNITY**

**2018 Annual Jubilarian Mass**

Cardinal Donald Wuerl will celebrate the annual Jubilarian Mass honoring couples married 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and 51+ years on Sunday, June 17, at 2:00 pm at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Please call the parish office or use the sign-up forms in the back of the church to register. Names of jubilarians need to be turned in to the parish office by Monday, April 16.
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