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.
**Scripture Corner**

**THE HOLY SPIRIT AND MARY**

Mary goes quickly to visit her cousin Elizabeth. The angel Gabriel had told the mother of God that her cousin, who was elderly and considered barren, was actually in the sixth month with her child. Mary’s compassionate response was a quick trip to be helpful to her cousin.

Today’s liturgy highlights this most important person in the season of Advent, the Mother of the Christ Child. The Gospel (Luke 1: 39–45) especially prepares the followers of Jesus for his coming on Christmas Day. Elizabeth, Mary’s cousin, cries out when Mary enters: “Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.” (vs. 42) Given the Hebrew background of those words, Elizabeth is declaring the Blessed Virgin the most holy of all women. The world is now ready for the culmination of salvation history—Jesus is incarnate in the womb of Mary.

Elizabeth also uses a wonderful title for her cousin: “How does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” (vs. 43) The evangelist understands that the word “Lord” (kyrios) was used in Greek translations of the Old Testament to refer to Yahweh. Elizabeth is recognizing the child of Mary as the Messiah and Luke in the light of the Resurrection faith proclaims her the mother of God (Lord).

Elizabeth has further words of praise for her cousin, a beatitude!: “Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.” (vs. 45) Later in the public ministry of our Lord a woman calls out, “Blessed is the womb that carried you and the breasts at which you nursed.” (Luke 11: 27) Jesus reminds the reader of the deep faith of his mother and of Elizabeth when he says, “Rather, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.” (Luke 11: 28) Mary is the first to hear those words of God and respond to them with deep faith. She is the prime example of the disciple who hears the word of God and observes it.

The Gospel of Luke highlights the key role of the Holy Spirit with Jesus and later with his Church. In today’s account of the Visitation one is reminded of the angel Gabriel’s visit to Zechariah, Elizabeth’s husband is promised that his son, the future John the Baptist, “will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother’s womb.” (Luke 1:15) It is not surprising then that at the arrival of Mary the Spirit causes John to leap for joy.

~Msgr. Ralph J. Kuehner

---

**PRAYER & WORSHIP**

**MASS INTENTIONS this WEEK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Mass Intention</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, Dec. 24:</td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>Merrill “Chico” Rivers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Scott Mattingly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:00 pm</td>
<td>Pro populo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Dec. 25:</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Camalier Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Dec. 26</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>St. Stephen, The First Martyr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, Dec. 27 :</td>
<td>12:15 pm</td>
<td>St. John, Apostle &amp; Evangeliest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, Dec. 28:</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>The Holy Innocents, Martyrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Dec. 29:</td>
<td>7:30 am</td>
<td>James Raley Wathen Graves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>James St. Clair Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 30:</td>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary &amp; Joseph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>Pro populo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>For our Families</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER** the Sick and Homebound in our Community: John Barnett, Walter M. Bowman, Timothy Butler, Teresa Cusic, Brenda Davis, Charles Davis Sr., Irene Dixon, Frances Duke, George Guy, Warren Guy, Jr., Howard Hensley, John Holly, Deb Johnson, John Kaeton, Mary Catherine Kane, Paula Kidwell, Mary Catherine Kohut, Juliann Leginze, Max Long, Florence “Flo” Michalski, George Nelson, Margaret Nelson, Jermaine Perry, Claudia Queen, Cindy Sally, Kim Simmons, Mary Agnes Stewart, Steven Tomaszewski, Richard & Sally Tomkinson, Nena Underwood, Michael Utzig, Stephanie Vallandingham.

**BORN TO ETERNAL LIFE:** The community of St. Aloysius would like to extend our condolences to the family of Dorothy A. Schindler, who passed away recently. May the angels lead her into paradise; may the martyrs come and welcome her to the holy city, the new and eternal Jerusalem; and may the peace of Christ which is beyond all understanding give her family comfort and peace.
EVANGELIZATION & PARISH LIFE

**4th Sunday of Advent Prayer**

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Children’s Tableau - 4:30 pm
December 24th Christmas Eve - 5 pm, Children's Mass
December 24th Christmas Eve - 7:30 pm, Vigil Mass
Musical Prelude - 10:30 pm
December 24th Christmas Eve Mass - 11:00 pm
December 25th Christmas Day Mass - 9:30 am

CHRISTMAS OFFICE SCHEDULE

In celebration of Christmas and the New Year our parish offices will close at **noon on Monday, December 24th and Monday, December 31st.** **Offices will be closed on Tuesday, December 25th, Wednesday, December 26th, and Tuesday, January 1st.** On behalf of the entire parish staff we wish all in our community a very Merry Christmas and a safe, happy and holy New Year.

SAVE THE DATE

This year’s Volunteer Thank-You dinner will be held on Saturday, February 9, 2019. Please note the later date change. Invitations and more information to come.

ADORATION 101

**The Church’s Teaching on Adoration of the Holy Eucharist**

The Church strongly encourages both private and public devotion toward the Eucharist and teaches that prayer before the Lord sacramentally present in the Eucharist actually “extends the union with Christ which the faithful have received in communion.” It helps them to live in a more Christian way, trying “to maintain in their lives what they have received by faith and by Sacraments” (*The Rites of the Catholic Church*).

RELIGIOUS ED & YOUTH MINISTRY

**FAMILY OF FAITH,** January’s theme is the “Eucharist”. Our gatherings in January are on **Sunday, the 6th and the 20th from 9:15 to 10:30 AM.**

**MOUNT 2000**, a weekend high school retreat at Mount St. Mary’s University in Emmitsburg, Maryland, is scheduled for February 8—10, 2019. Registration is opening very shortly, and any high school teens who would like to attend are asked to sign up on our parish website at http://www.saintalloysiuschurch.org/mount-2000.

STEWARDSHIP

**SHARING OUR TREASURE**

Weekly Offertory Contributions

**DUE TO EARLY SUBMISSION OF THE BULLETIN TO OUR PUBLISHERS**, contributions for the weekend of December 15/16 will be noted in the bulletin for December 30.

**There will be no 2nd collection next week.**

**PATRON OF THE WEEK:** Verghese & Ling Dermatology. If in need please remember to patronize our bulletin sponsors.

The Kalnasy Concert Series presents

**Youth Musicians in Concert**

Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019 at 3:00 PM at St. Aloysius
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.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
FATHER ANDREW WHITE SCHOOL

Father Andrew White School Crusader Connections

FLL Robotics Competition: Congratulations to both of the FAW First Lego League teams who competed over the weekend. The Comets won The Project Award and the Global Innovation Award. And the Troopers won the Champions Award and will go on to the State competition at UMBC. Way to go Crusaders!

Christmas Blessing: As you prepare for the birth of our Lord, may love come alive in your hearts. May hope fill your homes and bring joy to your families. May peace dwell deep within you. And may your faith strengthen as you become a light for others. God bless you always! Merry Christmas!

RESPECT LIFE

WORD OF LIFE: “To couples who cannot have children of their own, you are no less loved by God; your love for each other is complete and fruitful when it is open to others.”

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Extending our Blessings to the Community

The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Aloysius Church will be sponsoring the 15th Annual Community Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day (Tuesday, December 25) at Father Andrew White School in Leonardtown for those desiring a full meal and fellowship. Dinner is available between 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM in the school hall. Please note the change in time this year.

We would like to deliver dinners to those who are unable to come to the school and are asking your assistance with:
- Names of needy persons or families in our parish community who may desire delivery of dinner
- Volunteers to deliver dinners to the homebound in our parish community (if preferred)
- Donations of items for a white elephant give away table. Items need not be new.
- Volunteers to prepare, set up, make decorations, serve and/or clean up at Father Andrew White School hall.

Anyone wishing to assist with decorations may simply arrive at the hall by 1 pm this Sunday, December 23.

If you have questions, wish to provide information for deliveries, or sign up to volunteer, please contact Regina at SVdP (301-481-2942) or by emailing at svdp@saintaloysiuschurch.org.

We appreciate your support in this effort to display God’s love and express the true meaning of Christmas!

COMMUNITY

SURRENDERING THE SECRET

Care Net Pregnancy Center of Southern Maryland presents a Bible study designed to heal the heartbreak of abortion. Abortion is not a secret anymore; it is freely discussed in our society. Despite this openness, many women have pain and experiences that they don’t feel comfortable telling anyone. Surrendering the Secret allows women who need help to connect with women who can help. You don’t have to be alone. There is hope. There is help. The next class begins in January. To sign up or for more information contact Care Net Pregnancy Center of Southern Maryland at 410-326-6866 or stscarenetsomd.org.

January 26, 2019: Save the Date for World Youth Day in DC

Join thousands of college students and young adults (ages 18-39) on Saturday, January 26, 2019 for a one-day catholic festival at The Catholic University of America. Experience World Youth Day in Panama including world-renowned speakers, live music, simultaneous streaming of Pope Francis in Panama, and authentic Panamanian culture! Registration has begun, so register now! For more information visit www.wvddc.org #wydDC

Men’s Discernment Retreat

St. John Paul II Seminary invites men in their 20’s – 40’s who are interested in learning more about 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 1 – 3 at Saint John Paul II Seminary in Washington, D.C. The weekend will be an opportunity to pray and reflect on God’s call, meet priests and seminarians, hear their stories, and learn more about the seminary and priesthood. Registration is now open at www.DCPriest.org. For more information contact the Office of Priest Vocations 202-636-9020 vocations@adw.org.

June 2019 - Italy/Rome Pilgrimage

Please prayerfully consider joining us on this wonderfully planned pilgrimage to Italy and Rome, June 8 to 17, 2019. The price is $3,995 per person based on double occupancy, Single Supplement Rate is an additional $550. We will be visiting many beautiful places in Italy, including: the Eucharistic Miracle of Lanciano, Our Lady of Loreto, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Padre Pio, St. Rita of Cascia and the major Shrines of Rome and the Vatican. We are so blessed to have Fr. Michal Sajnog, Pastor of Our Lady of the Wayside to join us to provide Mass, Confession and Spiritual Direction! Please contact the Bread of Life Center for Peace for more information at: (301) 475-7139, email: pilgrimage@breadoflifecenterforpeace.org or stop by Heavenly Presents in Leonardtown. This trip is full of holy places and Saints to visit! You will not want to miss this opportunity to be united in prayer -- register today!