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.
ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA CATHOLIC CHURCH, LEONARDTOWN, MARYLAND

**Scripture Corner**

**THE MERCY OF GOD**

Luke 15 is perfect reading for a year when the mercy of God is being proclaimed! Clearly forgiveness is not something we deserve, but is made available to us by the MERCY of God. The Parable of the Prodigal Son, today’s Gospel (Luke 15: 11–32), is a perfect example of the mercy of our Father.

The younger son in the parable is someone who needs forgiveness. He offends his father by leaving early with all his possessions. He then lives a dissolute life in a foreign land. Finally he is without funds and settles for a job feeding pigs – very demeaning for a Jewish person.

In the two previous parables in chapter 15, the lost sheep and the lost coin, the owner finds the sheep and the coin. There is great rejoicing when they are brought home. The evangelist notes these words of our Lord: “I tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance.” (vs. 7) Jesus is speaking of self-righteous people who see no need of God’s forgiveness, of his mercy.

There is an essential difference in the Parable of the Lost Son. He has a free will! He cannot just be picked up and brought home as were the sheep and the coin. But the father has great love for his child. He is out looking for him. As soon as he sees his younger son, he welcomes him with great signs of love and forgiveness, signs of mercy!

The father not only forgives and forgets, but he does it with joy. He arranges a feast for the son and his friends. He is a wonderful example for all followers of Jesus as we struggle to be a forgiving people. The elder son, however, is not forgiving. He is angry and refuses to enter the house and be with his brother. Despite the father’s pleading, he refuses to forgive and forget.

The father sets a great example of joyfully forgiving and forgetting. The elder son reminds the reader of the Pharisees and scribes at the beginning of chapter 15. They complain against Jesus: “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” (vs. 2)

The great mercy of God, symbolized by the father, is also seen in today’s second reading. Saint Paul says about Jesus: “For our sake he [God] made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.” (2 Corinthians 5: 21)

~Msgr. Ralph J. Kuehner

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**PRAYER & WORSHIP**

**MASS INTENTIONS this WEEK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Intention</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, April 2</td>
<td>12:15 pm</td>
<td>St. Francis of Paola, Hermit</td>
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<td>Richard L. &amp; Francis L. Lelonek</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 3</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>James St. Clair Hill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, April 4</td>
<td>12:15 pm</td>
<td>St. Isidore, Bishop &amp; Doctor of the Church</td>
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<td>Jan Esler</td>
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<td>First Friday, April 5</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>St. Vincent Ferrer, Priest</td>
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<td>Scott Mattingly</td>
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<td>7:00 pm</td>
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<td>Stations of the Cross</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Saturday, April 6</td>
<td>7:30 am</td>
<td>Jack &amp; Lou Gardiner</td>
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<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>Jose &amp; Mercedes Aguinaldo (L) 50th Anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, April 7</td>
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**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER** the Sick and Homebound in our Community: John Barnett, Jeanne Bean, Walter M. Bowman, Edna Burch, Timothy Butler, Teresa Cusie, Brenda Davis, Charles Davis Sr., Frances Duke, Tommy Farrell, Carl Guy, George Guy, Warren Guy, Jr., Howard Hensley, John Holly, Deb Johnson, Mary Catherine Kane, Paula Kidwell, Mary Catherine Kohut, Brian Landry, Juliann Leginze, Max Long, Florence “Flo” Michalski, George Nelson, Margaret Nelson, Jermaine Perry, Claudia Queen, Kim Simmons, Mary Agnes Stewart, Steven Tomaszek, Richard & Sally Tomkinson, Nena Underwood, Michael Utzig, Stephanie Vallandingham.

**FASTING & ABSTINENCE for LENT**

Good Friday is a day of fasting and abstinence from meat for those age 18—59. Seafood is permitted. In addition, Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence for those age 14 and up. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal.

(If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil as the “paschal fast” to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully in and to celebrate more readily his Resurrection.)

**RESPECT LIFE**

**WORD OF LIFE:** “Because life is our first and most basic gift from an infinitely loving God, it deserves our utmost respect and protection. Direct attacks on innocent human life are always gravely wrong.”
**EVANGELIZATION & PARISH LIFE**

**Attention Vocalists and Musicians**
If you are a singer or musician and would like to join the music ministry to celebrate the coming of our Lord for Holy Week and this Easter season, please contact Beth Domingue for more information. We welcome all singers, ringers and musicians to serve at any Lenten mass and our Easter Triduum Masses: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Saturday evening Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday. Rehearsals are Wednesday nights in the church at 7:00pm. For more information, Beth can be reached at 571-723-8781 or Bethdomingue@hotmail.com.

**LENTEN SMALL GROUP STUDY**

**2019 ANNUAL JUBILARIAN MASS**
The annual Jubilarian Mass honoring couples married 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and 51+ years will be held **Sunday, June 23, 2019** 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 Friday, April 26.

**BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE**

**BLESSING OF ADORATION CHAPEL AND HALL**
Thanks to all who participated in last Sunday’s Dedication and, especially, to all who have contributed to the building project! We look forward to the granting of the final occupancy permit soon.

**BRICK FUNDRAISER**
**THERE’S STILL TIME TO ORDER!**
The first order went in this past week. The next order will go in when we reach another 100 bricks sold. Details: $250 per brick, 3 lines of personalization, up to 15 letters/space per line. Order forms can be found in the vestibule or at our website www.saintaloysiuschurch.org. For questions, call the rectory at 301-475-8064.

**STATUE OF ST. ALOYSIUS**
To fill the niche in front of the new hall, we have ordered a 6-foot statue to be made of our parish patron St. Aloysius, pictured here. We invite you to consider contributing to the overall cost of $8700 plus shipping. Please contact the rectory if you can help. Thank you! ~Fr. David

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**The Kalnasy Concert Series presents**

**Father David Beaubien**
**in Concert**

with the St. Aloysius Handbell Ensemble

*Georgia M. Harvey, accompanist*

**Date:** Sunday, March 31

**Place:** St. Aloysius Church

22800 Washington Street

Leonardtown

**Time:** 3:00 PM

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**Beautiful sacred music – with vocal arrangements**
by Father David Beaubien

For more information, contact kevofggh@gmail.com

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**IHC Mystery Players: “It’s a Play, It’s a Prayer, It’s a Mystery” - Tuesday, April 16, at 7:30pm**
Since 1981, IHC Seniors have been bringing the stories of Jesus’ birth and death on the cross during the Advent and Lenten seasons. Lent calls to mind many ancient traditions in the Catholic Church, one being the Stations of the Cross. The Immaculate Heart Central High School Mystery Players from Watertown, NY, present, in a very creative way, the centuries old stations. Meditation and contemplation on the death and resurrection of Jesus is the central mystery in the prayer life of the Catholic Church. The Mystery Plays of the Middle Ages focused on the presentation of this central mystery. Connected to ancient Mystery Plays, the IHC Mystery Plays bring the stations to the modern level through use of special lighting, music, pantomime, and paraliturgical readings. Using the sanctuary of the church as a stage, the Paschal Mystery is recreated in a moving, dramatic presentation.

This group has performed extensively throughout NY State, as well as NJ, MA, PA, MD, VA, NC, CT, and Canada. They will perform at St. Aloysius Church on Tuesday, April 16th at 7:30 PM. We strongly encourage everyone to attend this unique and powerful prayer experience.

Please be advised that small children may be frightened due to the nature of the play. It is typically recommended for grades 5 and up. Please refrain from taking pictures during the actual event. If you would like to see a preview, please visit: https://www.ihcschool.org/spiritual-life/mystery-players

*The group will also perform for the Father Andrew White students (upper grades) on Wednesday, April 17th at 10:00 AM.*
**FAMILY OF FAITH**

Our theme for April is Matrimony & Holy Orders. Our teaching gathering is on **Sunday, April 7**. Because of Easter our Community Gathering will be on the fourth Sunday of the month, **April 28**, instead of the third. This is a correction to last week’s bulletin.

**Easter Egg Hunt** - Mark your calendars for our annual Easter Egg Hunt, scheduled for **Sunday, April 28** after the 11:00 Mass!

**High School Graduates Dinner** - Fr. David would like to personally invite all graduating high school seniors to a dinner in their honor at the parish rectory on **Saturday, April 27**, immediately following the 5:00 PM Mass. Please RSVP to Leonard Wathen (lwathen@saintalloysiuschurch.org).

**COMMUNITY**

"In Christ We Are a New Creation" St. Mary's in Bryantown will hold a mission from **Monday through Wednesday, April 1-April 3**. The evening sessions will be from 7 to 8:30 PM. Sessions will also be held in the morning from 11 until 12 noon. The presenter will be **Dr. Mark Nimo**. Mark Nimo comes from Ghana in West Africa, is married to Mercy, and has three daughters. He currently serves as Director of Faith Formation at St. Columbanus Church in Chicago. Mark is a gifted speaker and has ministered in over forty countries worldwide.

**It's time for Spring Training!** Care Net SoMD will be holding Spring Training for new volunteers beginning **April 2nd**. If you've ever thought about volunteering at Care Net, if you want to be a part of your community and see lives changed - this is the training for you. Care Net SoMD is looking for both men and women who want to put their faith into action and be a part of the good work we are doing. Morning and evening sessions are available, to sign up call 301-737-4604 or 410-326-6866.

**3rd Annual “Walk in the Park” - 5K Fun Run/Walk**

Join us at St. Francis Xavier Church on **Saturday, April 6th** for this fun event to benefit our parish’s Newtowne Manor House Preservation/Restoration Fund. This run/walk is open to all ages and abilities. Course starts at St. Francis Xavier Church and follows the road into picturesque Newtowne Neck State Park. Registration starts at 8 a.m. and run/walk starts at 9 a.m. The registration fee of $20 which includes a t-shirt will help preserve this religious and historical landmark. Kids 12 and under are free. Information on registration is available on our website: [www.stfrancisxavierchurch.org](http://www.stfrancisxavierchurch.org). If you need additional information, please contact Sarah Matisick at 301-247-7416.

**Dueling Pianos Show and Silent Auction - April 6**

Join us at St. Francis Xavier Church on **Saturday, April 6**, 6:00 p.m. St. John’s Church, 43900 St. John’s Rd., Hollywood. Dueling Pianos Show and Silent Auction at the Monsignor Harris Center (St. John's Church/School). Entertainers from Cutting Edge Dueling Pianos will provide a high-energy, all-request, sing-along show. Tickets: $45 per person or $80 per couple; price includes dinner. Alcohol available for purchase (must be at least 21 years old to attend). Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Show begins at 6:00 p.m. Purchase tickets online at [https://charityauction.bid/SJSAAuction2](https://charityauction.bid/SJSAAuction2). Contact us to donate your skills or items for auction at [sjsauction2@gmail.com](mailto:sjsauction2@gmail.com).

**The Way Retreat for Survivors of Abuse**

As the Church continues to minister to all survivors of abuse, the Archdiocese of Washington is sponsoring retreats for survivors. The Archdiocese will offer a **men’s retreat on April 5-7**, and a **women’s retreat on April 12-14**, for survivors. These retreats are an occasion for survivors to reflect on God’s plan for their lives and for healing through prayer and the sacraments. For more information and to register go to [https://adw.org/the-way-retreat/](https://adw.org/the-way-retreat/) or call Deborah McDonald at 301-853-4466.

**RELIGIOUS ED & YOUTH MINISTRY**

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**STEWARDSHIP**

**SHARING OUR TREASURE**

Weekly Offertory Contributions

March 23/24, 2019

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<td>Offertory Basket</td>
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<tr>
<td>Direct Debit</td>
<td>$ 1,371.00</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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**FATHER ANDREW WHITE SCHOOL**

Father Andrew White School Crusader Connections

**FAW Musical:** Coming soon to the Father Andrew White School stage, “Snow White and the Seven Fairy Godmothers!” Please join other parishioners and school families on **Thursday, April 11th or Friday, April 12th** to see this amazing show! Tickets and baked goods will be available for purchase at the door. Doors open at 6pm and show-time is at 6:30pm. See you there!

**First Friday Mass:** Father Andrew White School celebrates Mass as a school family every Friday. On First Fridays a class or special group hosts the Mass. These 9am First Friday Masses at St. Aloysius are student led. Students partake by being the lectors, altar servers, gift bearers, and chorus. Older students sit alongside their younger class buddies to help them more fully participate. We invite all parishioners to join us any Friday. This **Friday, April 5th** we hope to see you as the 6th Grade hosts the 9am Mass.