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

A VOICE IN THE DESERT

It is impossible to overstress the importance of John the Baptist. Zechariah, his father, said at the time of the Baptist’s circumcision, “You, child, will be called prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways.” (Luke 1:76) Today’s Gospel (Matthew 3:1-12) identifies the Baptist with these wonderful words of the Prophet Isaiah: “A voice of one crying out in the desert, ‘Prepar e the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.’” (Isaiah 40:3)

John the Baptist saw clearly what God expected of him. His first words of ministry are, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Matthew 3:2) Interestingly, our Lord uses those same words to begin his public ministry (4:17). Instead of “kingdom of God,” as found in the other Gospels, Matthew uses “kingdom of heaven.” Matthew is writing for a community made up largely of Jewish Christians. Their great respect for the name of God led to the use of alternatives such as “heaven.”

“Repent” is a very important word. It is the Greek word metanoia, which means “change of mind,” but could well be translated as “change of heart.” This fits well with the season of Advent. This season is not a penitential season, such as Lent. But Advent is a wonderful time for “change of heart.” That could lead us to reflecting on the love of God with the encouragement to respond to that love as one’s Advent preparation. Special concern for the poor and needy would be an Advent observance very pleasing to the Savior. This would also be a great response to the challenge of John the Baptist, “Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance [change of heart].” (3:8)

The first reading today is a wonderful section from Isaiah’s Book of Emmanuel (chapters 6-12). In chapter 11 the prophet teaches that the Christ will come with great blessings. The Spirit of God will give to the Messiah “a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord, and his delight shall be fear of the Lord.” (Isaiah 11:2-3) “Fear of the Lord” could be translated from the Semitic perspective as “reverence for God.”

~Msgr. Ralph J. Kuehner

**PRAYER & WORSHIP**

**MASS INTENTIONS this WEEK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Intention</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Dec. 10:</td>
<td>12:15 pm</td>
<td>Emilio Balmaceda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Dec. 11:</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>St. Damasus I, Pope Mary Catherine Mileto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, Dec. 12:</td>
<td>12:15 pm</td>
<td>Our Lady of Guadalupe Soledad Aguinaldo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, Dec. 13:</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>St. Lucy, Virgin &amp; Martyr Thomas Connelly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Dec. 14:</td>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>St. John of the Cross, Priest &amp; Doctor of the Church Pro populo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>Tommy Combs Liberato Caday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 15:</td>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Thomas “Poke” Norris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>Pro populo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER** the Sick and Homebound in our Community:


**BORN TO ETERNAL LIFE:** The community of St. Aloysius would like to extend our condolences to the families of

- **Mary Catherine Kane**, mother of Ellen Johnson, and
- **Agnes Plater**, sister of Brenda Queen, who passed away recently. 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 family comfort and peace.

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** will be on **Tuesday, and Thursday mornings**, in the Sacred Heart Chapel beginning at 8:00 AM, concluding with Morning Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours at 8:45 AM. All are welcome!

**THE LITANY OF PRAYERS FOR PRIESTS** will be recited every Tuesday after the 12:15 pm daily Mass. Please plan to stay for a few minutes after Mass to pray for our priests.

**THE PATRIOTIC ROSARY** is recited on Wednesdays after the 8:30 am Mass. Come and pray with Mother Mary, Patron Saint of the Americas; our country needs our prayers. Please join us. Questions call Gerda at 301-475-0009 or 860-558-6476.
**MONDAY NIGHT APOLOGETICS**
The next topic will be: “Catholic Church and Slavery”, 7:00 pm in the St. Aloysius parish hall on December 9, led by Ken Scheiber, faculty member at St. Mary’s Ryken.

**PRAISE & WORSHIP THIS WEDNESDAY EVENING**
Wednesday, December 11 - We will begin Praise and Worship with an optional Rosary in the Parish Hall starting at 6:30 pm. Praise and Worship will follow from 7 to 8:30 pm. Please come and join us as we give thanks to the Lord!

**DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS**
Volunteers are needed to help decorate our church for Christmas. Decorating will take place on Sunday, December 22 at 1:00 pm and Monday, December 23 at 9:00 am. If you can help either day, please add your name and phone number on the sheet located in the vestibule of the church.

**SAVE THE DATE**
This year’s Volunteer Thank-You dinner will be held on Saturday, January 25, 2020. Invitations and more information to come.

**MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT SERIES**
Tuesdays: 7:00-9:00 pm, at St. Aloysius hall
January 28 – EQUAL, February 4 – COMMUNICATION, February 11 – SEXUALITY AND INTIMACY, and February 18 – THRIVING VS. SURVIVING
Take the time to invest in your marriage by attending a series of enrichment sessions together, hosted by the Office for Family Life. Presented by Rebecca Mullan, M.S, LPC.
Register at: mestivaloysius.eventbrite.com. For more information: 301.853.4546 or visiblesign@adw.org.

---

**SHARING OUR TREASURE**
Weekly Offertory Contributions
November 23/24

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Collection</th>
<th>2nd Collection: Archdiocesan Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Offertory Basket: $4,630.00</td>
<td>Offertory Basket: $1,121.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Debit: $1,381.00</td>
<td>Direct Debit: $524.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total: $6,011.00</td>
<td>Total: $1,645.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Thanksgiving Collection**
$671.00

November 30/December 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Collection</th>
<th>2nd Collection: Retired Religious Fund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Offertory Basket: $5,675.00</td>
<td>Offertory Basket: $2,668.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Debit: $4,196.00</td>
<td>Direct Debit: $742.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total: $9,871.00</td>
<td>Total: $3,410.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2ND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK** will be for our School Support.

**PATRON OF THE WEEK:** Jim Morgan Mortgage. If in need please remember to patronize our bulletin sponsors.

---

**RELIGIOUS ED & YOUTH MINISTRY**

**Family of Faith:** Our December Family of Faith theme is The Cardinal and Theological Virtues. Our Teaching Sunday gathering this Sunday, December 8 at 9:15 AM (NOTE: We are meeting on the SECOND Sunday of the month instead of the first because of Thanksgiving.) Our Community Sunday gathering will be on Sunday, December 15 at 9:15 AM.

A “Murder Mystery” Dinner for Middle & High School Students - Friday, December 13, 6:30 to 8:30 PM, St. Aloysius Church Hall. The Snowflake Lodge is hosting an Ugly Sweater Party, and you’re invited! The townspeople of Snow Falls are excited about the Christmas celebration, where the “who’s who” of society will gather to show off their not-so-fashionable attire. With the crowd that is expected, something is sure to go wrong...
Visit www.saintaloysiuschurch.org/mysterydinner to choose a character and RSVP.

**Mount 2000:** High School teens are invited to Mount 2000, a weekend Eucharistic retreat at Mount St. Mary’s University, from February 7 to 9, 2020. For details and to sign up, visit https://www.saintaloysiuschurch.org/mount-2000.

**Camp Covecrest:** Our parish has secured 18 spots to attend Lifeteen’s Camp Covecrest from August 3 to August 8, 2020 in Tiger, Georgia! Because a non-refundable $100 deposit is due by October 30 for each of our spots, we need commitments from teens as soon as possible. For details and sign up, visit https://www.saintaloysiuschurch.org/camp-covecrest-2020

---

The 2019-2020 Season of the Kalnasy Concert Series presents the 5th Annual Interfaith Community Christmas Concert "Prepare the Way of the Lord"

**Date:** Sunday, December 8  
**Time:** 3:00 PM  
**Location:** St. Aloysius Catholic Church, 22800 Washington St., Leonardtown

Light Refreshments served.  
Sponsored by St. Aloysius and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Patuxent Ward
**ST. VINCENT de PAUL**

**ANGEL TREE**
If an angel was taken from the Angel Tree, it is important that all gifts and food cards be returned by 11:00 am Mass this Sunday, December 8th.

Remember, Father Andrew White School will be selling Scrip cards after Mass each weekend. We ask that before you go Christmas shopping for items and/or food cards, consider purchasing a scrip card for the store(s) you plan to use for your shopping needs. That way we help the community and our school! For more information regarding the Angel Tree, please contact Vicki Wenke at 301-373-5420.

**NURSING CENTER CARING PROGRAM:** The SVdP will be collecting items for the residents for St. Mary’s Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown. Some item ideas are tissues, lotion, toothpaste, costume jewelry, stationary, slippers, socks, large print books, books on tape, shampoo and cards. A box for the items will be in the vestibule of the church. All items need to be received by 11:00 am Mass on Sunday, December 22. For more information regarding this program, please contact Patty Belanger at 301-475-8000 ext. 160 or 301-904-7990.

**FATHER ANDREW WHITE SCHOOL**

**Father Andrew White School Crusader Connections**

**Cookies with Santa, Santa Shop and SCRIP Cards:** Ho! Ho! Ho! Santa Claus will be making a special visit to Father Andrew White School on Sunday, December 15th from 12pm-2pm. Enjoy a variety of cookies, coffee, a hot chocolate bar, reindeer games, letters to Santa, a scavenger hunt, a craft station, goodies for the children to take home and more! Of course you will have a chance to sit on Santa’s lap as well. Bring your phones and/or cameras for photo opportunities or you may choose to have your family’s picture taken and printed instantly! Cost: Children 12 and under: Free, Adults: $5. While you’re there, allow your children to feel the joy of giving this Christmas when they buy presents at the Santa Shop. All gifts are $3. Shop for parents, grandparents, siblings, friends, and pets! After shopping, the gifts will be wrapped and ready to go under your tree. SCRIP cards will also be available for purchase on site to meet other holiday shopping needs! All are invited and we look forward to seeing you there!

**The Virtue of Patience:** Our parish school is participating in a Virtues in Practice program this year. Each month, the whole school focuses on the same virtue as they hope to grow closer to Jesus by imitating His life and virtues. They also learn more about the saints who exemplify these good habits. This month students and their families are learning about the virtue of Patience. Please join them by praying for the children to wait or endure without complaint during the month of December.

**COMMUNITY**

**Christmas Cantata at St. Mary’s Bryantown**
Come celebrate the Christmas Season with St Mary’s Bryantown and St. Mary’s Newport on Sunday, December 15 at 3 PM. St Mary’s Bryantown and Newport musicians will present a Christmas Cantata and Sing-along. We extend this invitation to your church community, and invite you to join us in the beauty of this holy season. Bring your family! Dessert will be provided in our church hall immediately following the Cantata.

**Monthly Mass with Eucharistic Adoration and Healing Prayers**
Tuesday, December 17, 5:30pm Mass, Confessions start at 5:00pm, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Lexington Park

You are invited to join St. George parish on Friday, December 20 at 7:00 pm for a liturgy of prayer, scripture and music. This special liturgy will feature parish lectors, musicians and some special guest musicians. A reception will follow in the church vestibule.

**Help Our Marriage**
Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue, or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vie) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped many couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information or to register for the upcoming program beginning with a weekend on January 24th - January 26th, 2020, please visit: www.HelpOurMarriage.org, call (443) 400-7017, or email: 3015@retrouvaille.org.

**PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY**

O Most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy, at this most critical time, we entrust the United States of America to your loving care. Most Holy Mother, we beg you to reclaim this land for the glory of your Son. Overwhelmed with the burden of the sins of our nation, we cry to you from the depths of our hearts and seek refuge in your motherly protection. Look with mercy upon us and touch the hearts of our people. Open our minds to the great worth of human life and to the responsibilities that accompany human freedom. Free us from the falsehoods that lead to the evil of abortion and threaten the sanctity of family life. Grant our country the wisdom to proclaim that God’s law is the foundation on which this nation was founded, and that God alone is the True Source of our cherished rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. O Merciful Mother, give us the courage to reject the culture of death and the strength to build a new Culture of Life. Amen.