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 15, 2019
Third Sunday of Advent
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: (September through June) Masses at 9:00 am 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 Joseph Vavrus
Parish Secretary/Bookkeeper.........................Denise Becher, ext.10
Receptionist/Bulletin Editor .......................Lauren Carney, ext.11
Religious Education/Youth Ministry.........Leonard Wathen, ext.16
Coordinator of Music.................................Beth Domingue
Maintenance.............................................Wally Bowles
Principal, Father Andrew White School ........Heather Francisco
Secretary, FAW School.................................Helen Bowles

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

www.SaintAloysiusChurch.org
www.facebook.com/staloysius20650
www.twitter.com/staloysius20650
Scripture Corner

JESUS AND THE BAPTIST

As the Old Testament comes to an end and the New begins, the two key persons are Jesus and John the Baptist. Jesus, of course, represents new beginnings, while the Baptist is the climax of the Old Covenant. There had been no prophet for the Jewish people for some 400 years. All that changed wonderfully when John came baptizing and asking for repentance. The Baptist was highly regarded by his people. In fact, these were some persons who continued to insist that John was the Messiah until late in the first century. Even our Lord says of John, “Among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist.” (Matthew 11: 11)

The Gospel writers realized that problem and responded to it. In the Gospel of John, for example, the last words of the Baptist were, “He must increase; I must decrease.” (3:30). In today’s Gospel (Matthew 11:2-11), John sends his followers to meet Jesus. They are instructed to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?” (11:3) As a skillful writer, Matthew uses that question to recall the outstanding miracles of chapters 8 and 9, “the blind regain their sight, the lame walk and the poor have the good news preached to them.” (11:4-5) Jesus thus fulfills the Messianic promises of Isaiah in today’s first reading. (Isaiah 35:5-6)

Jesus himself identifies John the Baptist as a prophet, but also as God’s messenger to prepare the way for the Messiah. (11:9-10) Christ will not be the political, military Messiah to free the Jewish people from Rome, as some expected. He will be a humble, loving, suffering Servant. He will assure that the “poor have the good news proclaimed to them.” (11:5)

Jesus adds a beatitude: “Blessed is the one who takes no offense at me.” (11:6) Matthew is preparing the reader for the many who will take offense at Christ in the chapters to follow. In chapter 12, for example, the Pharisees object to the disciples of Jesus eating grain on the Sabbath. They also object to his healing a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath. They even make this incredible charge, “This man [Jesus] drives out demons only by the power of Beelzebul, the prince of demons.” (12:24) By that time, the Baptist is already a prisoner, and as we know, Jesus too will be imprisoned.

~Msgr. Ralph J. Kuehner

PRAYER & WORSHIP

MASS INTENTIONS this WEEK

Tuesday, Dec. 17:
12:15 pm George Wallace Lathroum, Sr.
8:30 pm Walter Rupert Speith

Wednesday, Dec. 18:
12:15 pm Mary Ida & William Bernard Young

Thursday, Dec. 19:
8:30 am Thomas Burroughs
4:00 pm Allison Marie Kohut (L)

Friday, Dec. 20:
7:30 am Queen and Brooks Family
5:00 pm St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Saturday, Dec. 21:
8:00 am Msgr. Richard J. Smola,
33rd Anniversary of Death

Sunday, December 22:
4:00 pm Fourth Sunday of Advent
11:00 am Pro populo


BORN TO ETERNAL LIFE: The community of St. Aloysius would like to extend our condolences to the families of Mary T. Russell, James L. Miles, Jr., and Agnes Dina Plater, 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 is being held 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 is 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.
INTERNATIONAL MISSION/ Hurricane Dorian Relief
Join us for our church’s first International Mission, in early February. Roofers, carpenters, and helpers are urgently needed for a humanitarian mission to Green Turtle Cay, Bahamas. 8 days in Paradise to fix houses, make friends, and have your deeds reflect the blessings of our Lord. Transportation and housing provided. Please join us, bring your talents, and help return families to their homes. Contact Dan Guenther for more info: 301-672-1478.

THANK YOU!
I would like to extend my appreciation to Fr. Andrew White’s 3rd grade class and their teacher Ms. Johnson for making ornaments for the Christmas Tree in the parish hall.
~ Fr. David

MONDAY NIGHT APOLOGETICS
The next topic will be: “Is the Nativity Story Historically Accurate?” 7:00 pm in the St. Aloysius parish hall on December 16, led by Ken Scheiber, faculty member at St. Mary’s Ryken.

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS EVE TABLEAUX
Our annual Christmas Eve Tableaux starts at 4:30pm before the December 24th 5:00pm Mass. The roles include Mary, Joseph, Wise Men, Shepherds, Angels, and Readers. There will be one rehearsal on Saturday, December 21 at 8:30am. This is a wonderful opportunity for your children to participate in the story of the birth of Jesus. Any children who are interested in participating may contact Pam Lange, huzap@yahoo.com.

DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS
Volunteers are needed to help decorate our church for Christmas. Decorating will take place on Sunday, December 22 at 1:00pm and Monday, December 23 at 9:00am. 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. 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
December 7/8, 2019

1st Collection: $5,892.00
Offertory Basket: $1,800.00
Direct Debit: $1,421.00
Total $7,313.00

2ND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK will be for our Archdiocesan Assessment.

PATRON OF THE WEEK: Martins Auto Tech. 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 Community Sunday gathering will be this Sunday, December 15 at 9:15 AM.

IMPROV Your Faith: High School and Middle School teens are invited to “Improv Your Faith,” an evening of faith-filled fun with Fr. Rob Maro, Friday, January 24, from 7:00 - 8:30 pm at Father Andrew White School. Before entering the seminary, Fr. Rob, pastor of St. Francis Xavier, taught “Improv,” improvisational acting. Join us to learn a few lessons in improve and grow in faith! Dinner will be provided.

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. 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 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.
**ST. VINCENT de PAUL**

**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.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society will NOT be sponsoring the Christmas dinner this year. Our conference will revisit having the dinner next year, Christmas 2020. If you are interested in volunteering or donating to an organization that will sponsor a Christmas dinner this year, contact The Mission in Lexington Park by emailing richard@seekingshelter.com.

**COMMUNITY**

Christmas Cantata at St. Mary’s Bryantown
Come celebrate the Christmas Season with St Mary’s Bryantown and St. Mary’s Newport this **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 Advent 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**, please visit: [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org), call (443) 400-7017, or email: 3015@retrouvaille.org.

**FATHER ANDREW WHITE SCHOOL**

**Father Andrew White School Crusader Connections**

Cookies with Santa: Ho! Ho! Ho! Mr. and Mrs. Claus will be making a special visit to Father Andrew White School today, 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! Cost FREE for children 12 and under, Adults: $5

Shoe Drive: Please help the FAW Destination Imagination teams raise money to compete at the regional, state, and possibly global tournaments! The DI team, Seven Lucky Starbuck, is collecting gently used and new shoes for a good cause! Please bring any unwanted shoes that still have some life left to give to St. Aloysius or Father Andrew White School and put them in the shoe collection box any time between now and February 1. The Seven Lucky Starbuck thank you and your soles!

Harris Teeter Rewards Card: Please consider linking your Harris Teeter VIC Rewards Card to FAW School. There is no fee to link your card to FAW and it helps the school raise money (WIN WIN). Just stop by customer service to add Father Andrew White and give them the code: 5002. This is a great way to help the school raise money! Grandparents, aunts/uncles, friends, and parishioners can link their account, even if they are located out of state. For those that have linked their card in the past, kindly remember that your card has to be linked each year.

**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.