St. Aloysius Gonzaga
Parish Community

157 Cleveland Drive, Cheektowaga, New York 14215

Web Site: stalschurch.com

Rectory:..... 833-1715 Convent:……...834-1889

Rectory Fax:..... 837-5703 Rectory E-Mail:... stalschurch@aol.com

St. Aloysius Gonzaga
1568 – 1591
Patron Saint of Youth

St. Aloysius Gonzaga is shown carrying a victim of the Roman plague. He eventually succumbed to the illness himself, dying at the age of twenty-three. He is seen in the Jesuit habit, which he donned, having left the royal courts and riches of his family castle.

PARISH LEADERSHIP

Pastor:
Rev. Peter J. Popadick
E-Mail: pjpopadick@aol.com

Parish Trustees:
Thomas L. Franczyk (Business Manager)
Richard W. Jauch

Pastoral Care/Parish Outreach Coordinator:
Sister Maryann Kolb, SSJ * 833-1715

Music Ministry/Choir Director:
Lee Peters * 207-0430

Religious Education/RCIA Coordinator:
Robert Rybarczyk * 572-1132

Web Master:
To Be Determined

Evangelization Committee Coordinator:
John McMahon * 833-3454

Parish Council Contact:
To be Determined

Finance Committee Chairperson:
Thomas Gaulin * 833-1715

Eucharistic Adoration Director:
Cynthia Harder * 836-7630

Pro-Life Coordinator Contact:
Rose Fera

MISSION STATEMENT

Our goal, our purpose, is threefold:

(1) to proclaim the saving mission of Jesus Christ through word and sacrament to the people of St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish and to strengthen them as a Catholic Church Community:

(2) to reach out and proclaim the good news to the un-baptized, the un-churched and the inactive; and

(3) to impact our principles and beliefs upon the community in which we live.

Mass Schedule:
Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.
Sundays: 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
Vigil of Holydays: 5:00 p.m.
Holydays: 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. and Saturdays: 8:30 a.m.

Confessions: Saturday: 4:00 to 4:45 p.m.; anytime upon request

Devotions & Prayer:
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Tuesday (1-7 p.m.) and Wednesday (1-7 p.m.) and Thursday (3-8 p.m.)
Novena to St. Anthony & St. Theresa: Tuesday before 8:00 a.m. Mass

Rectory Office Hours: Monday through Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Baptisms: During or after Sunday Masses; Parents are expected to complete Baptism Training Program.

Marriages: Couples should contact the Rectory six months in advance and are expected to complete the Pre-Cana Program.

Care of the Sick: The pastoral care of the sick and homebound is a priority of our parish ministers. Please notify the rectory immediately if someone is hospitalized, enters a health care facility or is in need of the Sacrament of the Sick or the Eucharist brought to the home.

Letters of Recommendation: Those chosen to be Godparents at Baptism or Sponsors at Confirmation are to be role models in the practice of the Catholic Faith. Therefore, those seeking a Letter of Recommendation are expected to attend Mass regularly, live according to Gospel Values, be at least 16 years of age, have received the Sacrament of Confirmation, and be generous in their service of others.

Parish Registration: New parishioners are always welcome within the Community of St. Aloysius Gonzaga. Members of the Evangelization Committee meet with new parishioners, sharing with them information on our parish and inviting the new parishioners to become actively involved in the faith life and ministerial opportunities of our parish.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2021
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2021 — LENTEN WEEKDAY
8:00 AM Families and Benefactors of St. Aloysius Gonzaga

TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021— LENTEN WEEKDAY,
8:00 AM Deceased Members of the Edwin Jauch Family—req. Dick Jauch

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2021 — LENTEN WEEKDAY, ST. KATHARINE DREXEL
8:00 AM Repose of the soul of Sister Mary DeAngelis—req. Sisters of St. Aloysius Convent
7:00 PM Betty Ernst—req. The Bernice Aloysius Family

THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2021 — LENTEN WEEKDAY, ST. CASIMIR
8:00 AM Special Intentions of the Celebrant—req. Friends from St. Al's

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 2021 — LENTEN WEEKDAY
8:00 AM Special Intentions & God Blessings for Jessica, Heather, Jane T. & Avery Caputi—req. Family

SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2021 — LENTEN WEEKDAY
8:30 AM All Souls
5:00 PM Mary O'Farrell—req. Friends of St. Aloysius

SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2021 — THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
9:00 AM Barbara Becker—req. Allen Ricter
11:00 AM Virginia K. McCue—req. Tom Franczyk
5:00 PM Michael T. Sullivan, Jr.—req. John Forrestel

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Mary Davis, Loretta Phillips, Dorothy Hensen, Barbara Ross, Andrew Hashimi, William Bystrak, Sarah Nelson, Dorothy Coyne, Maureen Michaels, Janice Kerber, Karen Mitchell, John Dedloff, Barbara Kelly, Susan Hilburger, John & Lori Mento, Paulette Adams, Flora Perez, Susan Duquin, Theresa McKibbin, Anne Dyson, Lina Kujawski, Mary Ellen Kern, Rose Oehler, Robert Clinch, Vivian Kurylo, Rylin Boncore, Charlotte Braun, Timothy Martin, Ferd Philipps, Joshua Rudnicki, Marilyn Roof, John Gatti, Dominic Palmeri, Ashley Kern, John Halper, Luvena Moore, David, Joy Berry, Father Michael Uebler, Hal Lane, Joseph Craddock, Davina Kollaranska, Marilyn Fiegel, Esther Curtin, Anne Stepien, Alaina Drzyzga, Kim Paul, Noah Curr, Eric G., Joe Weber, Bob Butters, Rita Vigorito, Marjorie Meissner, Alice Sullivan, Judy Martin, Dorothy Lewandowski, Irene Schwemmer, Daniel Siuda, Debbie Sheehan, Ginny Shea, Tom Martin, Mike Missert, Nicholas Starnes, Phil Chiarello, Dr. Andrew Forrestel, Chester Horn, and all our parishioners in Nursing Homes.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED: Edward Castellano (father of parishioner, Debbie Sperrazza**),** Charles Lennon (father of Dennis Lennon of Christ the King Parish), Eugene "Gino" Urso, John Bacon (brother-in-law of Father Richard Csizmar, Pastor, Holy Family Parish, Albion)

WEEKLY STATISTICS
Weekly Collection ……..…….... $3,964.00
Weekly Attendance…….……...……. 152 People

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "And as Jesus hung dying in complete powerlessness, nailed against the wood of a tree, there was no bitterness, no desire for revenge, no resentment. Nothing to cling to. All to give." – Father Henri J.M. Nouwen

REFLECTING ON THE WORD OF GOD: As we reflect on the first reading from Genesis, God is putting Abraham to the ultimate test, telling him to sacrifice his only son, Isaac. Being a person of deep faith and love for God, he was obedient to the command given to him. As he was preparing the sacrificial altar, a messenger from heaven related the following message: "Do not lay your hand on the boy. Do not do the least thing to him. I know how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son." To echo a statement from Pope Francis in his Encyclical Fratelli Tutti (No. 114): "Families are the first place where the values of love and fraternity, togetherness and sharing, concern and care for others are lived out and handed on." It is not too early to teach these values to young children. Parents play the most integral part in developing faith and values in the lives of their children. They begin when a child is young so that positive values can be ingrained from a tender age.

God the Father sent to us his only Son Jesus to teach us how to live in love with him and with each other. All children are signs of God's presence among us regardless of their race, culture, religious tradition and social condition. We are obligated to watch over and protect all children and to show great love and concern for them.

This Lent let us ask ourselves if we are faith-filled examples to our children and to those we teach. Are we following the examples that Jesus teaches us in the Gospels?

Wishing you a Holy Lent!

- Reflection prepared by Sister Mary Kevin Szeluga, CSSF

IN THE WORDS OF POPE FRANCIS: The Year of Saint Joseph – "Saint Joseph was a carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family. From him, Jesus learned the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one's own labor.

Work is a means of participating in the work of salvation, an opportunity to hasten the coming of the Kingdom, to develop our talents and abilities, and to put them at the service of society and fraternal communion, It becomes an opportunity for the fulfillment not only of oneself, but also of that primary cell of society which is the family. A family without work is particularly vulnerable to difficulties, tensions, estrangement and even break-up. How can we speak of human dignity without working to assure that everyone is able to earn a decent living?

Working persons, whatever their job may be, are cooperating with God himself, and in some way become creators of the world around us…Let us implore Saint Joseph the Worker to help us find ways to express our firm conviction that no young person, no person at all, no family should be without work!"

Apostolic Letter: *With a Father's Heart (Patris Corde)*
- December 8, 2020 - Rome

EASTER DUTY: After they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, all the faithful are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year. This precept must be fulfilled during the Easter season, unless for a good reason it is fulfilled at another time during the year. This obligation may be fulfilled between February 21, 2021 (First Sunday of Lent) and May 30, 2021 (Trinity Sunday).

Because it is necessary that the faithful receive Holy Communion "in the state of grace", it is presumed that those who are aware of serious sin would receive the Sacrament of Penance before approaching the Eucharistic Banquet during the same time period.

LENTEN JOURNEY – WEEK TWO: As we enter the second week of our Lenten Journey, once again we are reminded of the many and varied ways available to us to help bring about that *change of heart* – that living differently and living more like Jesus – which is the ultimate goal of any Lenten Journey. Among the opportunities offered to help make this Lent one of the best Lents of our entire lives are the following:

- Lenten Practices: daily Mass followed by the Rosary in common
- Confessions: Wednesday evenings 6 to 6:45PM in Trautenberg Library
- special Wednesday evening Mass at 7PM
- Stations of the Cross: Fridays following 8AM Mass and at 7PM
- daily reading of our Lenten Reflection booklet
- Eucharistic Adoration
- volunteering at a Soup Kitchen, homeless shelter, tutoring at-risk youth
- planning a generous donation to Catholic Charities and the Bishop's Fund for the Faith

Remember: the greatest temptation each one of us will experience is to waste Lent – to let Lent come and go without any difference in our lives, no change, nothing different – nothing could please the devil more. Lent is graced time. Use each day wisely. Pray! Fast! Do works of charity! Make this Lent one of the best Lents of your entire life.

"HELLO" FROM FATHER MARTY: Father Marty Moleski, SJ, called from Rome last week to speak with Father Peter and to assure the people of St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish of his prayers and best wishes. Father Marty continues to work at the Jesuit University in Rome (the Gregorian University) assisting students and in various administrative duties. He enjoys his academic responsibilities and also enjoys exercising his priestly ministry hearing Confessions and celebrating Holy Mass for various communities of women religious, including one of the convents where the Sisters of Mother Teresa of Calcutta's Community live, pray and serve.

Last summer Father Marty was not able to return to Buffalo because of the virus and the pandemic guidelines. He anticipates the same guidelines will continue to be in effect this summer – so, at this point, does not plan on returning to the States in June. He wants all of us to know he still considers St. Al's his "home" and hopes that soon he will be able to celebrate Holy Mass with us. Again, Father Marty assures all of us of a remembrance in his Masses and prayers. We look forward to the time he is with us again.

2020 INCOME TAX STATEMENT: It is that time of the year again – Tax Time! If you wish a copy of your Statement of Contributions to St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish for the fiscal year 2020 just make sure this request form reaches the rectory or call or e-mail the rectory directly. We are a little bit behind schedule – but we will respond to your request ASAP. Thanks for your patience with us.

REQUEST FOR A STATEMENT OF SUNDAY-ENVELOPE CONTRIBUTION –TOTAL

Weekly-Envelope Number: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No:_____

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: Mother Teresa of Calcutta – now Saint Theresa – wrote that we serve the poor and needy not because they are *like* Christ, but rather we serve them because they *are* Christ. There are many organizations that take care of the poor. What makes Catholic Charities unique is the motive for our service: whatever we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do for Jesus Himself!

That is why our response to the annual Catholic Charities Appeal and the Bishop's Fund for the Faith is so important. We are serving Jesus in disguise. Catholic Charities ministers to the hungry and homeless, those with addictions, marriages in trouble, youth who need job training and so many others. The Bishop's Fund for the Faith ministers to our young adults on college campuses, to the blind and deaf communities, to the sick residing in health care facilities, forming future priests and other ministers of the Gospel. Both bring Hope to the Church of today and the Church of tomorrow.

This year please consider a sacrificial gift to our annual Appeal. Become a first time donor. You can pledge your gift over the coming year. You may use a credit card. Many parishioners have already received a letter and donor card from Catholic Charities headquarters. The parish mailing asking your support will be mailed in a week or two. Remember: everyone we serve is Jesus in disguise. Join us in filling the 8 counties of WNY with Hope through Catholic Charities and the Bishop's Fund for the Faith. God will bless you.

I HEARD GOD LAUGH: Those of us who have been participating in the Virtual Catholic Book Club finish up Matthew Kelly's book, *I Heard God Laugh,* this week. Whether we followed the virtual book club format or read it on our own, we hope that you have found Kelly's book helpful to your spiritual journey. And, if the book is simply gathering dust on a shelf somewhere, give some thought to picking it up and using it as part of the Lenten Journey. You won't regret it…it could become a "game-changer".

Some final questions to reflect upon:

-Why does Kelly title his book, *I Heard God Laugh*?

- What was the most important "lesson" Kelly taught you about prayer?
- Has the book changed the way you pray in any way?

If you want to share your thoughts with other members of the book club or other parishioners, log unto stalschurch@aol.com, click unto the book club page and share your own thoughts. Father Peter will share his thoughts on the web page next week.

As Matthew Kelly says at the end: "Listen carefully to life and closely to your heart, and you will hear God laugh… Everything is better with him."

LENTEN JOURNEY MATERIALS STILL AVAILABLE: At the main entrance to the Church, there are still 2021 Lenten Journey Packets and other Lenten materials available. Please feel free to take as many of these materials as you need for **yourself and** to give/share with family and friends, neighbors and co-workers. Sharing these materials is a very simple way to be an evangelizer, a very simple way to spread the Gospel this Lent. In a particular way, you may wish to drop off a packet to a person you know who is not actively practicing the Catholic Faith.

WORD OF LIFE: "Abortion affects countless marriages more than many people recognize. But there is no doubt that God will bring great healing to those who trust in his infinite mercy. If a past abortion can be acknowledged and addressed, a married couple can make great strides in experiencing even more fully God's design that 'the two shall become one.'"

– The Catholic Bishops of the United States

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