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, AUGUST 1, 2021
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 2021 — ST. EUSEBIUS OF VERCELLI, BISHOP
8:00 AM Families and Benefactors of St. Aloysius Gonzaga

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2021— WEEKDAY
8:00 AM Michael T. Sullivan III—req. Forrestel Family

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2021 — ST. JOHN VIANNEY, PRIEST
8:00 AM Paul Kolb—req. Sister, Sister Maryann

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2021 — WEEKDAY, THE DEDICATION OF THE BASILICA OF ST. MARY MAJOR
8:00 AM Helen Popadick (Birthday Remembrance)—req. Family

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 2021 — THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD
8:00 AM The Honorable John J. Gruber—req. Trapp Family

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 2021 — WEEKDAY, ST. SIXTUS II, POPE & COMPANIONS
8:30 AM Repose of the souls of the Klosko & Gentile Families—req. Family
10:30 AM Memorial Mass: Jenny Ralabate
5:00 PM Mr. & Mrs. Richard E. Forrestel—req. Mr. & Mrs. Andrew P. Forrestel

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8, 2021 — NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
9:00 AM Joe Orlowski—req. Apen Family
11:00 AM Art & Lucille Movalli—req. Diane McNally & Movalli Family
2:00 PM Memorial Mass: Richard Odien
5:00 PM Art Mullen (Birthday Remembrance) & Colleen Eisenhardt—req. Mullen Family

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, 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, Hal Lane, Joseph Craddock, Davina Kollaranska, Marilyn Fiegel, Alaina Drzyzga, Kim Paul, Noah Curr, Eric G., Joe Weber, Bob Butters, Rita Vigorito, Marjorie Meissner, Alice Sullivan, Judy Martin, Irene Schwemmer, Daniel Siuda, Debbie Sheehan, Ginny Shea, Tom Martin, Mike Missert, Nicholas Starnes, Phil Chiarello, Dr. Andrew Forrestel, Haleigh Curr, Alaina Drzyzga, Clara Guglielmo, Jessica Winstel, and all our parishioners in Nursing Homes.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED: Catherine Leising (former parishioner and daughter of the late, Al and Marie Leising)

WEEKLY STATISTICS

Weekly Collection ……..……..……... $2,953.00
Weekly Attendance……..……..……. 282 People

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "Start your impossible…"

REFLECTING ON THE WORD OF GOD: The Book of Exodus describes the journey of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. The Israelites find themselves in the desert without food or water. They fail to trust that God will provide for them.

Saint Paul writes the early Christians – writes us – that our Baptism into Christ Jesus changed absolutely everything. Christians can no longer live like the pagans. Our Baptism and incorporation into Christ must mean a complete reassessment of our lives, leading to a new way of thinking and acting. We are to put on Christ – to clothe ourselves with patience, mercy and love.

The people in Capernaum want to know how Jesus has the authority to do the things He does. The response of Jesus is that Moses was sent by God to give them manna to eat. Jesus goes on to say that what they must do is believe He was sent into the world by the Father. And "proof" of this is that He will give them bread come down from heaven – Himself – "the bread of life". This is the beginning of what is called "the Bread of Life Discourse" in the Gospel of John. We will hear parts of this "discourse" throughout the month of August.

We bring the Word of God to prayer: "Loving God, Father of all, give us the grace to follow Your Son, Jesus, boldly, credibly and faithfully. Nourished by the Bread of Life, Jesus Himself, may we walk in his footsteps filling the world with the spirit of Christ. Amen!"

IN THE WORDS OF POPE FRANCIS: "The Gospel of this Sunday's liturgy recounts the famous episode of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes, with which Jesus feeds about five thousand people who came to hear him…'There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people.' It is little, it is nothing, but it is enough for Jesus.

This is a great lesson for us. It tells us that the Lord can do a lot with the little that we put at his disposal. It would be good to ask ourselves every day: 'What can I bring to Jesus today?' He can do a lot with one of our prayers, with a gesture of charity for others, even with our sufferings handed over to His mercy. Our small things to Jesus, and He works miracles. This is how God loves to act: He does great things, starting from those small things, those freely given ones.

…We try to accumulate and increase what we have, but Jesus asks us to give, to diminish. We like to add, we like addition; Jesus likes subtraction, taking something away to give it to others. We want to multiply for ourselves; Jesus appreciates it when we share with others, when we share. The true miracle, says Jesus, is not the multiplication that produces vanity and power, but the sharing that increases love and allows God to perform wonders. Let us try to share more; let us try the way Jesus teaches us.

Be brave, give what little you have, your talents, your possessions, make them available to Jesus and to your brothers and sisters. Do not be afraid, nothing will be lost, because if you share, God will multiply. Believe in love, believe in the power of service, believe in the strength of gratuitousness.

May the Virgin Mary help us to open our hearts to the Lord's invitations and to the need of others."

- Sunday, July 25, 2021, St. Peter's Square, Rome

WORD OF LIFE: "Married love differs from any other love in the world. By its nature, the love of husband and wife is so complete, so ordered to a lifetime of communion with God and each other, that it is open to creating a new human being they will love and care for together. That power to create a new life with God is at the heart of what spouses share with each other."

The Catholic Bishops of the United States

WORDS OF GRATITUDE: A special word of thanks needs to be expressed to all who helped make our annual Outdoor Mass and Parish Picnic such a success. First of all, God smiled again on St. Al's Parish blessing us with another spectacular day. Then Mary Missert needs to be thanked for doing all the buying, making sure we had the right supplies and arranging everything just right for all our parishioners and guests. Dino and Jim were up and at it by 6AM setting up the tables and chairs, bringing out the grills and securing the tents. Andy, Joe and John labored over the hot grills in the hot sun, cooking the burgers, sausage and dogs to perfection. The Choir, Lectors, Ushers and Ministers of Communion helped to make the Liturgy beautiful and prayerful. It was very thoughtful that so many people brought a dish to pass. To all who attended, thanks for joining us in celebration of who we are as a family of faith and service. And, finally, thanks to all who stayed long enough to clean up and put everything away. "Clean-up" is not the easiest of responsibilities. It was a wonderful day…God is so good.

COLLECTION FOR DIOCESAN RETIRED PRIESTS: For next weekend there is a special envelope inserted into your packet for the collection to assist the retired priests of the Diocese of Buffalo. This collection helps to meet the rising costs of health care – insurance and residences – for those priests who have faithfully and generously served the people of Western New York. Many of our "retired" Priests continue to say Mass, hear Confessions and celebrate the Sacraments every day in various parishes. Think of the senior priests of the Diocese who have served you so generously throughout the years. Let your donation be a sign of your gratitude. There will be only one collection – so please place your envelope in the regular collection basket.

CATHOLIC BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP: With the hope that the health and safety issues of the pandemic experience are behind us, one of the ways we want to return to "normal" here at St. Al's is to start up again our Catholic Book Discussion Group. Unless anyone has a better choice, the new book by Matthew Kelly, *Life Is Messy*, will be discussed. Kelly writes: Can someone who has been broken be healed and become more beautiful and more lovable than ever before?" As we read, share, live, listen to *Life Is Messy* participants will discover an answer filled with hope.

The Discussion Group will resume in September with day of the week, frequency of the meetings and time to be determined. Just call the rectory and leave your name and phone number. The book and other materials will be provided by the parish as part of our commitment to Adult Faith Formation.

MEMORIAL MASS – JENNY RALABATE: Jenny Ralabate died during the pandemic on April 6, 2021 at age 104. Jenny taught at St. Al's School for over 25 years and is remembered for her kindness and concern for each of her students. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated this Saturday, August 7, at 10:30 AM by Father Terry Odien, one of her students and life-long friend and neighbor. Former students and parishioners may wish to use the social media to inform others of this Memorial Mass.

TRAUTENBERG LIBRARY: Sitting on the porch or reading in the backyard are great ways to spend a summer evening. Stop by our Trautenberg Library and borrow a book, periodical, tape, DVD. Library materials on available on a wide variety of topics: the Bible, Lives of the Saints, Mary, Liturgy, Church History, the history of St. Al's Parish, Social Justice, Morality. More than ever, a "good Catholic" must be "an informed Catholic". Our parish library can help you become both "good" and "informed".

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. HILMEY: Our prayers and congratulations are extended to Dr. David Hilmey who has been appointed acting Provost and acting Vice-President for Academic Affairs at St. Bonaventure University, Olean. David is the son of parishioners Russ and Ruth, a son of St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish, a graduate of our school. As David assumes his new responsibilities we are confident that he will keep St. Bonaventure University faithful to its Franciscan roots as it molds and forms future leaders in our Churches and Society.

100TH BIRTHDAYS: Two very special people have reached the wonderful age of 100 years young.

First of all, parishioner and friend, Bernice Aloysius will celebrate her 100th birthday on August 6th. Bernice has been a member of our parish since 1971. She remains close to all of us because Sister Maryann regularly brings her the Eucharist and prays with her.

The second person observing a 100th birthday is Msgr. Dino Lorenzetti, a retired priest of the Diocese. Msgr. Lorenzetti turned 100 on July 23. Monsignor still goes out on Sundays to celebrate Holy Mass in various parishes as his health allows. So to call him a "retired priest" is not exactly correct.

Our prayers are extended to both Bernice and Msgr. Lorenzetti. We ask God to bless them with health and strength, with peace and joy on their 100th birthdays and as the journey goes on. Happy 100th Birthdays!

CALL TO PRIESTLY MINISTRY: Father David Baker, Diocesan Director of Vocations, as part of his presentations in various parishes, always mentions that every Catholic is expected to be a Vocation Director – that is every Catholic is called to encourage young men to consider becoming a Priest. In a very real sense, the Catholic Family is the first seminary. It is within the family that children learn to pray and put faith into action by sharing with and serving others. Parents need to let their children know that they would be proud to have their son become a Priest.

St. Al's has a long history of giving her sons to a life of service as a Priest. Pray that God continues to call some of the young men of our parish to the Priesthood. If any young man is thinking about becoming a Priest, speak with a priest he knows or with Father Peter. There are several excellent books on the life of a Priest in the Trautenberg library and available from Father Peter. If every one of us becomes a Vocation Director who prays and invites and encourages young men to consider a life of service to the People of God, then the Diocese of Buffalo will surely be blessed with more Priests – as well as more Sisters, Brothers and Deacons.

GRATITUDE FROM SISTER SARAH NOONAN: Sister Sarah wishes to extend her deepest gratitude to her parish family of St. Aloysius Gonzaga for their most generous response to her presentation on the ministries and work of her religious community, the Sisters of the Poor Household of God. Sister Sarah said that our generous gift of $2,311.00 will enable her and the Sisters to spread the Good News of Jesus and to help those caught in the cycle of poverty to face each new day with hope for a better way of life. In a very personal way, Sister Sarah said it was wonderful to pray again with the people of St. Al's and to reconnect with so many classmates, friends and families that were and continue to be a part of her life journey. Sister will be in the Buffalo area a few more weeks before returning to the Philippine Islands - so we may see her again. She assures us of a remembrance in the prayers of the Poor Household of God Sisters. On our part, we assure her of a remembrance in our prayers.

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