



St. Aloysius Gonzaga

PARISH COMMUNITY

157 Cleveland Drive, Cheektowaga, New York 14215

Web Site: stalschurch.com

Rectory:..... 833-1715 Religious Education Office: ... 836-9657

Rectory Fax:..... 837-5703 Convent: 834-1889

Rectory E-Mail: ..stalschurch@aol.com Parish Hall: 836-4617

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

Weekend Assistants:

Rev. Martin X. Moleski, SJ

Rev. Msgr. Matt Wendzikowski

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 * 688-1380

Web Master:

John Fahey * 510-6798

Evangelization Committee Coordinator:

John McMahon * 833-3454

Parish Council Contact:

Paul & Donna Lewis * 834-8493

Finance Committee Chairperson:

Thomas Gaulin * 833-1715

Eucharistic Adoration Director:

Frank Guglielmo * 832-1519

Pro-Life Coordinators Contact:

Rose Fera & John Tomasello

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: 6:45 and 8:30 a.m., 12:00 and 7:00 p.m.

Monday thru Friday: 6:45 and 8:30 a.m. Saturdays: 8:30 a.m.



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

Devotions & Prayer:

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Mon.-Fri., 1:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Novena to St. Anthony & St. Theresa: Tuesday before 6:45 a.m. Mass

Stations of the Cross: Fridays of Lent, 7:00 p.m.

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: Registered 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, DECEMBER 16, 2018

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2018 — ADVENT WEEKDAY

- 6:45 AM St. Aloysius Parishioners & Their Families
- 8:30 AM Anne Stepien—req. Friends

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2018 — ADVENT WEEKDAY

- 6:45 AM Ella & Emil Timmel— req. Timmel Family
- 8:30 AM Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Kurzawa—req. Dick Jauch

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2018 — ADVENT WEEKDAY

- 6:45 AM Estate of Leo & Evelyn Smith
- 8:30 AM Elvira “Ellie” Forster—req. Tom Franczyk

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2018 — ADVENT WEEKDAY

- 6:45 AM Estate of Grace E. & James R. Kerr
- 8:30 AM Virginia Arnold—req. Melvin P. Ledger

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2018 — ADVENT WEEKDAY, ST. PETER CANISIUS

- 6:45 AM All Souls
- 8:30 AM Special Intentions of the James R. Caputi Family—req. Family

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2018 — ADVENT WEEKDAY

- 8:30 AM Diodate & Thomas Families—req. Anne Marie & Richard Thomas
- 5:00 PM Deceased Members of the Becker & Beyer Families—req. Chris

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2018 — FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 9:00 AM Estate of Leo & Evelyn Smith
- 11:00 AM Gilbert Aloysius—req. Family
- 5:00 PM Father Matt Wendzikowski—req. Sister Mary Bernard OSF

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Mary Davis, Loretta Phillips, Dorothy Hensen, Barbara Ross, Andrew Hashimi, William Bystrak, Andrew Richesin, Lisa Blount, Sarah Nelson, Rene Meyer, Linda Lempner, Dorothy Coyne, Chris Christopher, Maureen Michaels, Dottie Besant, Janice Kerber, Karen Mitchell, Al Stritzel, John Dedloff, Barbara Kelly, Susan Hilburger, Stacey Grant-Littleton, John & Lori Mento, Paulette Adams, Flora Perez, Susan Duquin, Theresa McKibbin, Anne Dyson, Lina Kujawski, Ruth Vaught, Mary Ellen Kern, Paul Pronti, Nancy Hoffman, Rose Oehler, Robert Clinch, Vivian Kurylo, Rylin Boncore, Linda Mento, Charlotte Braun, Timothy Martin, Harry Flynn, Elaine Luparello, Mary and Ferd Philipps, Joshua Rudnicki, Marilyn Roof, John Gatti, Dominic Palmeri, Ashley Kern, Thomas Martin, Louis Augello, Sue Hartke, Nick Ball, John Halper, Luvena Moore, Eileen Somogye, David, Joy Berry, Father Michael Uebler, Hal Lane, John Albarella, Mary Ann Talarico, Joseph Craddock, Davina Kollaranska, Tom Noonan, Marilyn Fiegel, Ken Schuh, Maureen Boncore, Esther Curtin, Felix Mayer, Loraine Wallmeyer, Anne Stepien, Evangelina St. John, Dorothy Monczynski, Bill Severson, and all our parishioners in Nursing Homes.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED: James Deitzer (husband of Mary Ann, parishioner for over 40 years, Scout Leader), Alfreda Mullen, Sister Therese Marie (a Felician Sister for over 55 years)

WEEKLY STATISTICS

Weekly Collection \$5,215.00 (Last Year: \$5,117.00)
 Weekly Attendance 373 People

John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." - Lk 3:16



Readings for the week of December 16, 2018

- Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18
- Monday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17
- Tuesday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-2
- Wednesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25
- Thursday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38
- Friday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45
- Saturday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56
- Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

FRIDAY BINGO: We begin at 7:30 PM in the school; doors open at 6:15 PM. Prizes total \$3,000. Games are all paper. Assigned workers are asked to report by 6:30 PM.

SATURDAY BINGO: Doors open at noon; Casino Bingo begins at 12:30 PM & Bingo games start at 1:00 PM. Prizes total \$1,800+.

REFLECTING ON THE WORD OF GOD: This Sunday's Gospel continues last week's focus on John the Baptist and his role in preparing the way for Christ. Recall that last week's reading described John's appearance in the desert and established his connection with the prophetic tradition of Israel. If we were to read Luke's Gospel continuously, we would learn about John the Baptist challenging the crowds who came to him and calling upon them to show evidence of their repentance. John tells his listeners that they cannot rely on their lineage as Israelites because children of Abraham can be raised up from stones. Repentance, rather, must be observable in one's actions. Here, Luke is continuing to set up two important themes of his Gospel message: the Christian faith is expressed in one's actions, and the call to salvation is extended to everyone, Jews and Gentiles. In today's Gospel reading, the crowds ask John the Baptist for specifics. What evidence of repentance is required? John replies by naming concrete actions: crowds should share their food and cloaks; tax collectors should be just; soldiers should act fairly. The concern for justice is a hallmark of Luke's Gospel. The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is a Latin word that means "rejoice." This name is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass, which is also echoed in today's second reading from the Paul's letter to the Philippians. We light a pink candle instead of a purple one on the Advent wreath as a reminder that the Advent season is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

- Reflection prepared by parishioner, John Fahey

IN THE WORDS OF POPE FRANCIS: In today's Gospel, there is a question posed three times: "What shall we do?" We feel that this question "What shall we do?" is ours also. Today's liturgy tells us, in the words of John, that it is necessary to repent, to change direction and take the path of justice, solidarity, sobriety: these are the essential values of a fully human and genuinely Christian life. Repent! It sums up the message of the Baptist. And the Liturgy of this Third Sunday of Advent helps us to rediscover a special dimension of repentance: joy. Whoever repents and approaches the Lord, feels joy. The prophet Zephaniah says to us today: "Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion!", addressing Jerusalem; and the apostle Paul exhorts the Christians of Philippi: "Rejoice in the Lord always". Today, it takes courage to speak of joy, which, above all, requires faith! The world is beset by many problems; the future is burdened by uncertainties and fears. Yet, Christians are a joyful people, and their joy is not something superficial and ephemeral, but deep and stable, because it is a gift from the Lord that fills life. Our joy comes from the certainty that "the Lord is at hand": he is close with his tenderness, his mercy, his forgiveness and his love.

ANGELUS, SAINT PETER'S SQUARE,
 SUNDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2015

ADVENT CONFESSIONS: In reflecting upon the Parable of the Lost Sheep, Bishop Robert Barron writes: "There are souls who are like the lost sheep. Spiritually compromised, fundamentally unable to help themselves, they are at least aware that they are in a mess. They are like people who commence the AA process by admitting they have hit bottom and are out of control. They bleat, they cry for help...And God finds them – and when he finds them, he carries them back, for they are unable to move on their own."

This Advent allow God to find you and carry you back to intimacy with Him – to forgive you, heal you, reconcile you, give you pardon and peace. No Advent Journey is complete – no one is ready to welcome the Divine Messiah – unless and until you have gone to Confession. When was the last time you went to Confession?

Confessions will be heard this Wednesday from 6 to 7PM in Church.

HOLY NAME MASS/BREAKFAST: All men of the parish are invited to join our Holy Name members for their monthly Mass this Wednesday, December 19th, at 8:30AM. Breakfast to follow at Milo's Restaurant, Main Street, Williamsville. This is another wonderful way for the men of the parish – and friends from other parishes – to come together for prayer and then share friendship, conversation, wisdom and wit. It is a great way to begin a new day. Hope to see you for Mass and breakfast. Again, all men are invited.

CHRISTMAS OUT-REACH MINISTRY: This is the week Sister Maryann could really use your helping hands. On Monday, Christmas bags and gifts will be prepared following 8:30AM Mass. On Wednesday, Christmas foods and gifts will be picked up from 1 to 3PM. On Thursday, Christmas Gift Bags will be delivered to our homebound and to those living in health care facilities after the 8:30AM Mass. Sister Maryann informs us that 75 families will be given the ingredients for Christmas dinner. Over 100 children will receive Christmas gifts and toys. About 47 parishioners will receive Christmas Gifts and cards. If you can help on any of these occasions, just give Sister Maryann a call or show up at the proper day and time. Your gifts of love, time and talents will certainly help to make Christmas holier and happier for many, many people.

LESSONS AND CAROLS: Advent Lessons and Carols are like looking through the family photo albums. As you look at the oldest pictures, you may not even remember the peoples' names or how they are related to you. But as you page through the photos, you recognize more and more the people pictured and remember in greater detail the events and the relationships.

Lessons and Carols goes back as far as Adam and Eve. Then we hear about Abraham, Isaac, Micah, Isaiah, Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth and many others. The stories of some we know very well; the names of some we don't even recognize. But what we do know is that they are "family". And what we do know is that God used all these people to prepare the world for the advent of His Son.

Join us this Sunday night (December 16th) at 7PM in Church for our annual Lessons and Carols with our St. Aloysius Gonzaga Choir under the direction of Lee Peters. Listen to the stories as God unfolds His plan to send a Messiah to save us, His People. Page through the Family Album – look at the "pictures", hear the names, recall the stories, enter the drama – for your picture is part of this Family Portrait. It is another very simple, but wonderful way, to prepare mind and heart for the Coming of the Lord.

A very nice reception is held for Choir Members and all Parishioners/ Friends who attend Lessons and Carols in the rectory immediately following. All are invited.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS: Our Religious Order Priests, as well as our Brothers and Sisters, express their deep gratitude to you for your generous support of last week's special collection. Your goodness and generosity are signs of your deep appreciation for the many years of service given by our Religious in schools, hospitals, clinics, food pantries and various ministries working to achieve Justice for all. One of our Sisters said that without the help from this special collection they would not be able to meet the many pastoral and spiritual needs of our retired and infirmed Religious even here in the Diocese of Buffalo.

If you have not had a chance to contribute to this annual collection, and still wish to do so, make sure an envelope marked "Retirement Fund for Religious" reaches the rectory in an appropriate way over the next few weeks.

CHOOSING A CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL: With the new year, parents of 8th Grade students begin to think about what high school to send their child to next September. Many of our Catholic High Schools schedule shadow days for 8th Grade students, as well as opportunities for parents to speak with administrators, teachers, and other parents about the Catholicity of the school, the academic programs, extracurricular activities, opportunities for community service, discipline policy and parental involvement. Choosing a Catholic High School is a very wise decision. If you wish more information, contact the school(s) of interest and arrange to visit the school.

There is tuition assistance available through the Diocese and the individual school. The parish also is able to provide some assistance to parents, helping them to meet their full tuition obligations.

This same information is valid for parents who may be considering transferring a child to a Catholic elementary school.

A Catholic Education and Formation is where your child's future begins!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: The Pius Benincasa Knights Council will hold its annual Christmas Party on Tuesday December 18th in the school cafeteria. Everyone is invited to attend. We ask that you bring a dish to pass and a non-perishable food item for Sister Maryann's food pantry. Party starts at 6:15 pm.

ADVENT – MOTHER TERESA: "Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God's own love and concern."

SET IT ON "PAUSE": Things can get hectic this time of the year and stress mounts... Sometimes pressure preparing for Christmas can blind us to what is really important. Put it all on "pause" and remember that Christ lives in your family, friends, co-workers and neighbors. Then continue with the necessary preparations rejoicing in His Presence in all you love. The "Pause" is the key!

ADULT PREPARATION FOR SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: For many different reasons, a person may not have received the Sacrament of Confirmation at the usual time – during the high school years. With the new year, our parish will once again be preparing adult candidates - women and men of college age and older - to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. If anyone wishes to be a part of this Confirmation Preparation, please call the rectory or speak directly with Bob Rybarczyk, our parish Director of Faith Formation, or with Father Peter. It will be a joy and privilege for us to work with all candidates as we grow together in faith and deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS: The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) is a journey in faith for adults who have never been baptized and wish to be baptized in the Catholic Church. It is also a way for Christians baptized in other faiths to become part of the Catholic Church. Finally it is a process for those who were baptized Catholics but really never brought up in the Catholic Faith – so they may need to be prepared for the reception of the Eucharist and to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

If you or someone you know could benefit from participating in our RCIA experience, please let them know we will begin this Faith Journey shortly after the new year here at St. Aloysius Gonzaga and that they would be most welcomed to join us.

What we have found to be consistently true is that if a person is invited by a practicing Catholic to become part of the RCIA experience, that person is more likely to give his/her faith more serious consideration. Often it is that "personal invitation" that brings a person into the RCIA. Don't hesitate to extend the invitation. Your invitation could bring family and friends into the Catholic Church.

For more information on the RCIA, call Bob Rybarczyk (688-1380) or speak with/call Father Peter.

CELEBRATING WITH OUR YOUTH: It is always wonderful to celebrate the achievements of the young women and men of our Parish Family of St. Aloysius Gonzaga.

Emma Warden just returned from Italy where she spent her first semester in college participating in a study-abroad program. Besides her academic work and the cultural experience of living in Rome, Emma was able to travel extensively throughout Europe. In recent weeks, she was joined by her mother and brother in Italy, sharing with them much of what she learned and experienced.

Eric and Adam Wojcik both completed their academic work for their Bachelor Degrees at St. Bonaventure University and thus are members of the December Graduate Class. Both Adam and Eric completed their academic requirements in much less than the traditional four year program. Both were on the Dean's List throughout their college careers. Our prayerful congratulations are extended to Emma, Eric and Adam and their families.

Please let the rectory know when any of our youth distinguish themselves academically, athletically, socially, through community service or involvement in extracurricular activities. Our young people bring pride to their families, friends and the parish of St. Al's.

CALLED TO PRIESTHOOD: More than ever – because of all that is happening in our Church – there is a need for holy and whole men to serve the people of God as Priests – men of courage, faith, integrity, kindness and mercy. Encourage your children and grandchildren to consider the Priesthood. Pray for your Priests each day.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: If you – or someone you love and care about – is a victim of domestic violence and are in need of access to safety planning, spiritual care, legal assistance, limited medical assistance, counseling, law enforcement, the Family Justice Center of Erie County Inc. "Where Families Come First", is for you. All services are free. All conversations are strictly confidential. For more information: call 716-558-7233 or visit: www.fjcsafe.org.

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU... put Christ back into Christmas by making sure your family is filled with peace and your hearts welcome the poor and needy?

Law Office of **Carmen J. Gentile**
 Elder Law- Wills- Estate Planning
716-380-1621
 Ready to Assist You With Your Legal Needs

HELP PROTECT YOUR FAMILY
 With a home security system monitored by A.U.I. professionals 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. As an added benefit, installing a Security System may qualify you for a Homeowners Insurance discount.
CALL NOW! 1-888-331-6501

HOME SECURITY TEAM
 AUTHORIZED DEALER

WAGNER MONUMENTS
 Monuments, Markers, Urns
 Vases, Cemetery Lettering
892-5505
 2953 GENESEE STREET • Between Harlem & Union

PARISHESonline
 Largest online directory of Catholic Churches
NEVER MISS A BULLETIN!
 Sign up to have our bulletin emailed to you at www.parishesonline.com

Morgante Chiropractic
 Anthony V. Morgante, DC
 Theresa M. Morgante, DC
Chiropractic Care PLUS...
 Spinal Decompression • Cold Laser Therapy
 Full Chiropractic Services
 1660 Kensington Ave. (near Century Rd.)
716-833-2960

TONY'S TAKE OUT PIZZA
 Wings Subs
\$1.00 Off Large Pizza
 With this ad **833-1700**
WE DELIVER
 3680 Harlem near Cleveland Drive



THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE
 Call LPi at **1.800.477.4574** for more information.

THE Original PANCAKE HOUSE
 5479 Main St.
634-5515

FREDDIE'S PLUMBING SERVICE INC.
 Residential Installations and Repairs
 Back Up Sump Pump Specialist
 Serving WNY Since 1909
FRED CLABO 631-5513 or 895-3614

AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME
ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE
 Contact **Chris Reeves** to place an ad today!
creeves@4LPi.com or (800) 477-4574 x6206

catholicmatch New York
 CatholicMatch.com/NY

"If your driving is good our rates are better"
TLC Brokerage
 P.A.G. Agency Inc.
 Call Paul Grande: **(716) 835-3221**
www.tlcbrokerage.net
 Low Low Rates — We Shop For you
 Home — Auto — Boats — Rentals — Cycles

LACROSS MONUMENTS
 2609 GENESEE ST. • 896-4654
 MONUMENTS • MARKERS • GRANITE VASES
 CEMETERY LETTERING • STATUARY • PLAQUES
 GRANITE BENCHES • SHRINES • WALKWAYS

Vinyl Tile • Linoleum
 Ceramic Tile • Hardwood
Mario & Son
 Tile & Linoleum Co., Inc.
 2755 Harlem Rd. • Cheektowaga • **894-3298**
 2850 Transit Rd. • West Seneca • **671-2380**

LPi WE'RE HIRING AD SALES EXECUTIVES

- Full Time Position with Benefits
- Sales Experience Preferred
- Paid Training
- Overnight Travel Required
- Expense Reimbursement

CONTACT US AT careers@4LPi.com
www.4LPi.com/careers

Ritter & Sentry Plumbing & Heating Svc.
 "Servicing Erie County Since 1909"
 Your Complete Plumbing Service
 • Kitchen & Bath Remodeling • Hot Water Tanks • Sump Pumps • Underground Sewer & Waterline Installation & Repair
 "Radio-Dispatched Trucks"
894-4181 or 894-6266
 1053 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga, NY 14211
10% Discount with this Ad

When buying or selling Real Estate,
 Call **Joe Sorrentino**
 The Name You Know and Trust!
716-568-0355
716-998-5637 Cell Phone
 Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker
 St Aloysius Graduate!

CARL B. KUSTELL
KUSTELL LAW GROUP, LLP
 ATTORNEYS AT LAW
 (716) 837-1515 • FAX: (716) 837-0090
 1660 KENSINGTON AVE., BUFFALO
 E-MAIL: CKUSTELL@KUSTELL.COM

SUPPORT THE ADVERTISERS THAT SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY

Honoring Over 129 Years of Faith, Family and Friends Pre-Planning • Medicaid Needs • Cremation
THE DIETRICH FUNERAL HOME, INC.
 2480 Kensington Ave., Amherst, NY 14226 • 839-2818 • www.TheDietrichFuneralHome.com
 A Million Questions? One Answer.