



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, JANUARY 6, 2019
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2019 — CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY, ST. RAYMOND OF PENYAFORT

6:45 AM Susan Scinta—req. Scandurra Family
8:30 AM Patricia Hoffman—req. Aunt. Sister Maryann

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2019 — CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

8:30 AM For the Military & Their Families—req. Friends from St. Al's (Communion Service?)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2019 — CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

8:30 AM Clifford & Bella Stoll—req. Don Stoll

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2019 — CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

8:30 AM St. Aloysius Parishioners & Their Families

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2019 — CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

8:30 AM Dick Jauch (Happy Birthday)—req. Sister-in-law, Joyce

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2019 — CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

8:30 AM All Souls
5:00 PM Lois Finucane—req. Streit Family

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2019 — THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

9:00 AM Dr. Gerard Schultz—req. Trapp Family
11:30 AM William Popadick (Birthday Remembrance)—req. Family
5:00 PM Msgr. Mecislaus S. Wendzikowski

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, 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, Evangelina St. John, Bill Severson, Anne Stepien, Rosemary Causley, Alaina Drzyzga, Kim Paul, and all our parishioners in Nursing Homes.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED: Patricia Hoffman (niece of Sister Maryann Kolb), Father John Kuhlmann (retired Priest of the Diocese, ordained in 1968), Joyce Vernen

WEEKLY STATISTICS

Weekly Collection \$4,149.00 (Last Year: \$4,238.00)
Weekly Attendance 399 People



They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

Readings for the week of January 6, 2019

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a [8ab]/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:45-52
Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17 [cf. 11]/Lk 4:14-22a
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/Lk 5:12-16
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 3:22-30
Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

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: The word Epiphany means “manifestation” or “showing forth.” The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family’s flight into Egypt. We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. In Matthew’s Gospel, they represent the Gentiles’ search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus. We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus’ role in salvation. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus’ kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus’ death.

- Reflection prepared by parishioner, John Fahey

IN THE WORDS OF POPE FRANCIS: On Christmas Eve Jesus manifested himself to shepherds, humble and scorned men. They were the first to bring a little warmth to that cave in Bethlehem. Then the Magi arrived from faraway lands. They too were mysteriously drawn by that Child. The shepherds and the Wise Men were very different from each other; however, they had one thing in common: heaven. The shepherds of Bethlehem immediately hastened to see Jesus, not because they were particularly good, but because they kept watch in the night and, raising their eyes to heaven, they saw a sign, they heard its message and followed it. It was the same for the Magi: they observed the heavens, saw a new star, interpreted the sign and set out on their journey, from afar. The shepherds and the Wise Men teach us that in order to encounter Jesus it is necessary to be able to lift our gaze to heaven, not to withdraw into ourselves, into our own selfishness, but to have our heart and mind open to the horizons of God, who always surprises us, to be able to welcome his messages and respond with readiness and generosity. May the Virgin Mary, who welcomed the Wise Men in Bethlehem, help us to lift our gaze from ourselves, to allow ourselves to be guided by the star of the Gospel in order to encounter Jesus, and to be able to humble ourselves to adore him. In this way we will be able to bring to others a ray of his light, and to share with them the joy of the journey.

ANGELUS, SAINT PETER'S SQUARE, 6 JANUARY 2016

THE “EPIPHANY STORY”: The late, John L. McKenzie, a New Testament Scholar, shares with us his insights to help us understand the Epiphany Event better:

1. Matthew is the only Gospel writer to tell the story of the Visit by the Magi. Luke has shepherds visit the Child of Bethlehem; Matthew has the magi.
2. The visitors are called *magi*. Originally the term referred to the wise and priestly caste of the Persians.
3. The star: It is impossible to identify a particular star as the star of Bethlehem.
4. The story of the Magi affirms that Jesus is King Messiah.
5. Bethlehem: The place of David’s birth and the place of origin of the King Messiah.
6. The Gifts: gold (king), frankincense (God), myrrh (death)

The theme of the story is not only the royal messiahship of Jesus but also the adoration of him by the Gentiles. In contrast to Luke, who places Jewish poor at the scene of the nativity as the first to worship Jesus, Matthew puts the gentiles first. And the Jews even when informed of the birth, remain indifferent.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS: Two of our outstanding parishioners celebrated their 90th birthdays since Christmas – Ray Missert and Jim Cunning. Our prayerful congratulations are extended to them, as well as our gratitude for all they continue to do to enhance the spiritual, pastoral and ministerial life of our Community here at St. Aloysius Gonzaga. May God bless Jim and Ray with continued peace of mind and heart, with strength of body and spirit. Happy Birthday!

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: “The future does have a name...and its name is Hope!” - Pope Francis

DIOCESAN CELEBRATION OF LIFE: Bishop Richard Malone will celebrate our annual Diocesan Mass for Life as we approach the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision, Roe v. Wade that allowed abortion on demand in our country. The Mass will take place this Saturday, January 12th, at 4PM at Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Genesee and Union, Cheektowaga. Awards will be presented to women and men who have worked tirelessly for the pro-life cause. All are invited.

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS: When the tree is at the curb and the ornaments back in the boxes, when the manger is put away for another year and the lights taken down, when the song of the angels is stilled, the star in the sky is gone, the kings and princes are home, the shepherds back with their flock... Then the work of Christmas begins

- To find the lost,
 - To heal the broken,
 - To feed the hungry,
 - To welcome the immigrant and refugee,
 - To defend the sacredness of life,
 - To release the prisoner,
 - To rebuild the nations,
 - To bring peace among people,
 - To make music in the heart.
- Christmas is not a day – or even a Season

- Christmas is a way of life!
- And so we ask for the Grace
 - to listen like the shepherds
 - to rejoice like the angles
 - to seek like the Magi
 - to believe like Mary and Joseph
 - to wait patiently like Simeon
 - to live all year long with the Peace and Love of Christ in our hearts.
- Amen!

BISON CHILDREN’S SCHOLARSHIP FUND: Parents considering sending their children to a private or Catholic School should be aware of the Bison Children’s Scholarship Fund. Bison’s mission is to provide parents a full range of choices for their children’s education.

The Bison Fund was founded on the belief that children have the best chance at a bright future when families have a choice in selecting an education that best fits their children’s needs. By offering partial scholarships to qualifying families, Bison is empowering parents, often for the first time, with the ability to choose the school that best meets their child’s needs.

Scholarship amounts vary depending on the family’s income, household size and the school’s tuition costs. The highest scholarship amount for the 2019-2020 school year is \$2100.00 per child. Families will be expected to contribute partial tuition towards their child’s education.

For more information on the Bison Fund, parents may visit www.bisonfund.com or call 716-854-0869.

CATHOLIC BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP: Our discussion of Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation, *Rejoice and Be Glad*, will resume on Thursday, January 24th, at 7PM in the rectory. The focus of our discussion will be Chapter 3 (paragraphs 63 thru 109). In this chapter Pope Francis reflects on the Beatitudes as recorded in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Our Holy Father reminds us the Beatitudes teach us “Christianity is meant above all to be put into practice.” Members of the Catholic Book Discussion Group will hopefully discover why Pope Francis recommends “rereading these biblical texts frequently, referring back to them, praying with them, trying to embody them” if we want to be genuinely happy.

You might want to consider making participation in our Catholic Book Discussion Group a new year’s “resolution”. A Discussion Outline will be ready before the meeting, all are invited. (Copies of the book are still available in the rectory, free of charge, for your personal use or to prepare you to be a part of our Discussion Group.)

CALENDARS – YEAR OF GRACE 2019: Our St. Aloysius Gonzaga Calendars for the Year of Grace 2019 have been blessed and are now available in our Church. Please take as many as you need for your own use and to share with others. If permitted, you may even wish to use such a calendar at your place of work. Marking the passage of time with a religious calendar can be a simple, but every effect way, to evangelize.

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU...attended Mass during the week?

ON VACATION AGAIN!: You are correct! The answer is “Yes”! Father Peter will be away on vacation again from January 8th thru the 18th. How well deserved the vacation is always a topic for debate and discussion.

From Tuesday, January 8th, thru Friday, January 18th, there will be only ONE weekday morning Mass at 8:30AM. (6:45 AM Mass will resume on Monday, January 21st.) While Father Peter is away, the Jesuit Fathers will be celebrating Mass, as well as other Priests who were available. (It is getting more and more difficult to find Priests who are able to substitute because of the shortage of Priests). Father Adelmo Dunge will celebrate the weekend Masses on January 12-13, including Confessions on Saturday. Father James Dugan, a Jesuit Father from St. Michael’s, will celebrate most weekday Masses at 8:30AM. Please thank any visiting Priests for their presence and for so generously sharing their Ministry with us at St. Al’s.

If because of inclement weather a Priest is unable to reach our Church, Parish Leadership will celebrate a “Communion Service”, reading the daily Scriptures and distributing the Eucharist for those in attendance. Thank you for your understanding of this adjusted schedule while Father Peter is way. Father Peter assures all of a remembrance in prayer while he is away.

JANUARY CATHOLIC NEWSPAPER: As you leave church this weekend, take with you the January issue of our *Western New York Catholic*. There are excellent articles about Catholic Schools as we prepare to celebrate national Catholic Schools week. Bishop Malone also speaks about the sexual abuse crisis and shares with us more plans to assure that our Catholic Community is a safe haven for all our youth and adults. Information can be found on how various parishes are using the funds generated by their participation in the diocesan Upon This Rock initiative. Our Catholic paper keeps us up-to-date on activities and events in our Diocese, as well as the work of the Church in the United States and around the world.

MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY MASS AND RECEPTION: On Saturday, February 16th, at the 5PM Mass the parish community of St. Aloysius Gonzaga wishes to honor couples from our parish who are celebrating significant Anniversaries of their Marriage during 2019. During the Mass, the Renewal of Marriage Vows will take place. Following Mass, our Anniversary Couples and their guests will be honored at a Reception in the rectory. Sister Maryann, Parish Leaders and Father Peter invite all couples celebrating their 5th, 10th, 15th, etc. anniversary to join us as special guests during this Liturgy. An invitation is also extended to those couples who were married in our Church during 2018.

If you are able to participate in the Mass with Renewal of Vows and Reception, we ask that you make sure this RSVP form is returned to the rectory in any convenient way or by calling Kathie or Mary and sharing with them the necessary information. The Mass and Reception are always wonderful and we hope many couples will participate.

We wish to participate in the Renewal of Vows Celebration at St. Aloysius Gonzaga on Saturday, February 16th, at the 5:00 PM Mass.	
Couple’s Names:	_____ and _____
Address:	_____
Phone Number:	_____
Date of Marriage:	_____
Place of Marriage:	_____
Number of People Attending Reception:	_____

HOLY NAME SOCIETY: Our Holy Name Society will meet on Monday, January 7th in the C.Y.O. Room at 7:30 p.m. Come join us as we discuss our schedule for 2019. We are always looking for fresh ideas and new members, so all men of the parish are cordially invited to attend our business meeting, and stay around to meet fellow parishioners, join in spirited conversation, play cards and enjoy our refreshments.

WORDS OF LIFE: “Human Life is a Gift from God – and, when God gives life, it is forever.”

- Pope St. John Paul II

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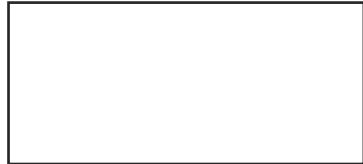
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