



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

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.

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

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, APRIL 21, 2019

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2019 — MONDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

- 6:45 AM St. Aloysius Parishioners & Their Families
- 8:30 AM Deceased members of the Siuda & McMahon Families—req. Family

TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2019 — TUESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

- 6:45 AM Marie & Leo Eberl—req. Timmel Family
- 8:30 AM Sister Elizabeth—req. Mel Saile

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2019 — WEDNESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

- 6:45 AM For the Military & their families—req. Friends from St. Al's
- 8:30 AM Daniel & Patricia Siuda—req. Family

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2019 — THURSDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

- 6:45 AM John & Mary Szucs (Anniversary)—req. Mel Saile
- 8:30 AM Father Edward Czarnecki—req. Tom Franczyk

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2019 — FRIDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

- 6:45 AM Repose of the souls of SM Francetta DeSant & SM Elizabeth Schwab—req. Sisters of St. Aloysius Convent
- 8:30 AM Msgr. Donald Wangler—req. Father Peter

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2019 — SATURDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

- 8:30 AM Davis Farris—req. Allen Richter
- 5:00 PM Bernard & Genevieve Wojtkowski—req. Bernard Wojtkowski, Jr.

SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2019 — SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER OR DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

- 9:00 AM Marilyn Ledger (Anniversary)—req. Melvin P. Ledger
- 11:00 AM Special intentions of Marty & Mary Ann Davis
- 5:00 PM David Colegrande—req. Tom & Bonnie

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Mary Davis, Loretta Phillips, Dorothy Hensen, Barbara Ross, Andrew Hashimi, William Bystrak, Andrew Richesin, Sarah Nelson, 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, Rose Oehler, Robert Clinch, Vivian Kurylo, Rylin Boncore, 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, Luvana Moore, Eileen Somogye, David, Joy Berry, Father Michael Uebler, Hal Lane, John Albarella, Mary Ann Talarico, Joseph Craddock, Davina Kollaranska, Marilyn Fiegel, Ken Schuh, Maureen Boncore, Esther Curtin, Felix Mayer, Evangelina St. John, Anne Stepien, Alaina Drzyzga, Kim Paul, Rose Causley, Noah Curr, Eric G., Joe Weber, and all our parishioners in Nursing Homes.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED: Arthur Grupp (faithful parishioner for over 60 years), Father Joseph Gariolo (a Barnabite Priest, ordained in 1950, ministered with Hispanic Community), Kathleen Pula (aunt of parishioners, Sean and Marcia Elliott), Father Ronald Bagienski (retired Priest of Diocese, ordained 1969)

WEEKLY STATISTICS

Weekly Collection \$4,486.00 (Last Year: \$4,805.00)
 Weekly Attendance 407 People

The women who had come from Galilee with Jesus took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. - Lk 24:1b-3



REFLECTING ON THE WORD OF GOD: Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead by God the Father! Alleluia! Alleluia! The resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of the Christian Faith. In the Gospel, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb while it was still dark. John, the evangelist, is using the same light and dark symbolism of good and evil that he uses throughout his Gospel. It appears to signify Mary's sadness and loss of hope because the light of the world has died. Love urges us toward the light of faith. The beloved disciple observed the burial clothes and "saw and believed." He seems to be the ideal disciple: is loved by Jesus, enjoys an intimate relationship with Jesus, and believes in Jesus. Given this connection with Jesus, he believes, even without understanding. For John, believing is the ultimate goal in any meeting with Jesus. John states the central purpose of his Gospel is to elicit belief that Jesus is the Messiah and Son of God, thus sharing fullness of life in Him. Peter tells us in the first reading of Acts that "everyone who believes in Jesus will receive forgiveness of sins through His name." To me, this faith is to be declared with my lips, believed in my heart, and then put into action. What does Jesus' resurrection mean to you and how do you put it into practice every single day of your life? *We bring the Word of God to prayer:* Jesus, my hope is in You who has been raised!
 - Reflection Prepared by Parishioner, Cynthia Harder

IN THE WORDS OF POPE FRANCIS: "Amid our silence, our overpowering silence, the stones begin to cry out and to clear the way for the greatest message that history ever heard: 'He is not here, for he has been raised.'... The stone before the tomb was the first to leap up and in its own way intone a song of praise and wonder, of joy and hope, in which all of us are invited to join... To celebrate Easter is to believe once more that God constantly breaks into our personal histories... to allow Jesus to triumph over the craven fear that so often assails us and tries to bury every kind of hope... It is an invitation to break out of our routines and to renew our lives, our decisions and our existence... He is not here... he is raised! He invites you to go back to the time and place of your first love and he says to you: Do not be afraid, follow me."
 - Homily, Easter Vigil, March 31, 2018, St. Peter's Basilica, Rome

EASTER GREETINGS AND WELCOME: Alleluia! It is a joy for parish leadership: Father Adelmo Dunge - our Sisters: Sister Maryann, Sister Marcine, Sister Lorette, Sister Edmund, Sister Kevin Sister Eleanor and Sister Dorothy - our Rectory and Parish Staffs: Kathie, Mary, Tom, Lee, Rick, Dino, Bob - and even Father Marty from Rome and Father Pribek from Creighton University - all to join Msgr. Popadick in wishing our parishioners, friends, visitors, guests and strangers - our prayerful best wishes for a Holy and Happy Easter. In a particular way, we are honored that you join us for Holy Mass as we celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

To our loyal parishioners who join us for Holy Mass each week and even more often, please know how grateful we are for your faithfulness to Mass and the Sacraments and generous service within our parish community. We pray the Risen Christ blesses you with Peace!

To our parishioners who only join us for Mass occasionally, we want you to know that we miss you at the Table of the Lord. Please let us know if there is any way we can help you grow in your relationship with Christ or heal your relationship with the Church. We pray the Risen Christ blesses you with Faith!

To our parishioners who are home-bound or residing in health care facilities, you are still very much a part of our parish community. We depend so very much on your prayers. We pray the Risen Christ blesses you with Hope!

To friends from other parish families and to friends who are visiting from out of town this Easter, we are so blessed to have you celebrate Easter with us. Please know you are always welcome at St. Al's. You always have a "home" here. We pray the Risen Christ blesses you with Joy!

To our young people home from college, to the members of our military visiting family and friends, to former parishioners and graduates of our school who return because there are so many memories here, we are just so pleased to have you with us this Easter. We pray the Risen Christ blesses you with Love!

We - the Parish Leadership - our Priests and Sisters, our dedicated staff and all our volunteers - wish you a Blessed Easter. We thank God for all of you in the best way we know how - by bringing you with us to the Altar-Table and lifting you up in our prayer. Indeed, Christ is Risen! So we all pray together: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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; Bingo games start at 1:00 PM. Prizes total \$1,800+.

THREE PILLARS: This weekend (Easter Vigil Mass & Easter Sunday Masses) we turn in our MY FAST envelopes during the regular collection. If you forgot your MY FAST envelope it can be turned during any of the Masses next weekend. This contribution is the visible symbol of our discipline of fasting, prayer and almsgiving that we practiced together this Lent. It is hoped that this discipline helped in some small way to better prepare you for Christ's Resurrection and His gift of eternal life for us. The contributions will be forwarded shortly to the Response To Love Center for their charity mission, ensuring that our Lenten discipline lives on for the least of the Kingdom.

THOUGHTS ON EASTER FROM FATHER JAMES MARTIN, SJ: "Often we find ourselves incapable of believing that God might have new life in store for us. 'Nothing can change,' we say. 'There is no hope.'... How many of us believe parts of our lives are dead? How many believe that parts of our family, our country, our world, our church cannot come to life? How many of us feel bereft of the hope of change?"

This is when I turn to the Resurrection. Often I return to the image of the terrified disciples cowering behind closed doors. We are not called to live in that room. We are called to emerge from our hiding places and to accompany Mary, weeping sometimes, searching always, and ultimately blinded by the dawn of Jesus' new life – surprised – delighted and moved to joy. We are called to believe what she has seen: he is risen. The Resurrection is a message of unparalleled hope – and unparalleled joy."

- excerpt from *Jesus A Pilgrimage* by James Martin, SJ

CATHOLIC BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP: Our Catholic Book Discussion Group will meet this Thursday, April 25, at 7PM in the rectory. Our discussion will center on Chapter 4, "Signs of Holiness in Today's World" (paragraphs 110-157) of Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation, *Rejoice and Be Glad*. Pope Francis wrote this Exhortation to remind all believes that they are called to holiness and that it is possible for all of us to be holy, to be "saints". In Chapter 4, Pope Francis reminds us that God is with us and he opens our eyes to the many and different ways God enters our lives and makes of us "a holy people". This is an amazingly beautiful chapter of the book! All are invited to participate even if you have not been to previous discussions. A Discussion Outline will be available in the rectory and in the Trautenberg Library. Join us this Thursday evening – and bring a friend!

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY: Many area parishes are observing Divine Mercy Sunday, April 28th, with special devotions and prayers. Based on the writings of St. Faustina and promoted by Pope St. John Paul II, Divine Mercy Sunday provides us the opportunity to reflect on the way Jesus manifests His Mercy in our lives. For example, Sacred Heart Church, 5337 Genesee Street, Bowmansville on April 28th will have Confessions from 2-3 PM, the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 2:45PM, Holy Mass at 3PM, and Eucharistic Adoration from 4-5PM. For more information, you may call the rectory of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church at 683-2375.

HOME MISSION COLLECTION: Did you know that over 40% of the dioceses of the United States are considered "missionary dioceses"? That means that these local dioceses do not have the financial resources or adequate personnel to provide basic pastoral services that include Mass and the other Sacraments, religious education for youth, ministry training for religious and lay people, formation for future Priests. That is why the annual Catholic Home Missions Appeal is so important. This appeal supports the promotion of Priest and Religious Vocations, Faith Formation, the strengthening of marriages and family life, the promotion of the dignity of the human person.

This collection for Catholic Home Missions will be taken up in the Diocese of Buffalo next week end, April 17-18. Please join together in strengthening the Church at home.

WORD OF LIFE: "When battered by life's storms or immersed in a dense fog of suffering and uncertainty, we may feel alone and unequipped to handle the circumstances. Yet with words that echo through thousands of years into the corners of our hearts, the Lord says to us, 'Do not fear: I am with you.'" – the Catholic Bishops of the United States

HOT-LINE NUMBERS: Unplanned pregnancy, abortion alternatives, healing...helping mothers, fathers and families in need...St. Gianna Pregnancy Outreach Center (716-842-2229), Mother Teresa Home (716-424-0217), Office of Pro-Life Activities (716-847-2205)...All conversations are strictly confidential. People do care about you and the baby waiting to be born.

HOLY NAME MASS & BRUNCH: All parishioners and friends of St. Aloysius Parish are invited to attend the annual Holy Name Mass and Brunch next Sunday beginning with the 11:00 AM Mass. The Brunch will immediately follow in the parish cafeteria.

Deacon Bill Hynes of the Diocesan Office for Evangelization and Parish Life will be the guest speaker. His topic will be "Handing On Our Faith." Deacon Hynes is with the Diocesan Office of Evangelization and Parish Life and serves as chairperson of the Religion Department at St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute.

The Brunch is open to all parishioners and friends of St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish. There is no charge for the brunch, but a 'free will offering' will be accepted at the door.

CANISIUS COLLEGE ALUMNAE STUDY CLUB: Women alumnae of Canisius College will meet in the rectory this Thursday, April 25th, from 1:30 to 3:00PM. This alumnae group has been in existence for decades, bringing together a group of women, educated in the Jesuit Tradition, for discussion on a wide variety of topics – book reviews, politics, ecclesial issues, arts, music and sports. The group is convened by parishioner, Mary Ann Hoffert. Father James Pribek, SJ, was the unofficial "moderator", but he passed this responsibility to Father Peter when he was sent to Creighton University. If any women of the parish want more information on the group and would like to become a part of the study group, with or without a connection to Canisius College, just give the rectory a call and Mary Ann will be in touch with you with more details.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: Mother – now Saint – Teresa of Calcutta said we do not care for the poor and needy because they are *like* Christ. She said we care for the poor and needy because they *are* Christ! And that is why through the annual Catholic Charities Appeal and the Bishop's Fund for the Faith we bring Hope to our neighbors in need – be that need basic necessities like food, shelter and clothing or be those needs a deeper relationship with Jesus when sick, away at college, or confronted by an unplanned pregnancy.

Our Parish Leadership Team is pleased to inform us that as of Monday, April 15th, the total collected for this year's Appeal from our parish is \$35,308.00 from 144 donors. A comparison with previous years is as follows:

YEAR	AMOUNT CONTRIBUTED	# OF DONORS	AVE. GIFT
2019	\$35,308.00	144	\$245.19
2018	\$51,678.00	233	\$222.00
2017	\$44,297.81 (unofficial)	223	\$198.64

Our parish goal is \$48,400.85.

If you are able, please join the community of St. Aloysius Gonzaga and our friends in bringing Hope to our neighbors in need. The poor and needy (Catholic Charities) and the college student and the pregnant teenager (Fund for the Faith) depend on us to help them, in their time of need. They are actually Jesus in disguise! Your donation to this year's Appeal/Fund may be placed in the regular collection basket or mailed/dropped off at the rectory. Again, because of the challenging times we live in, it is necessary to point out that Bishop Richard Malone has assured us that all funds collected will be used only to achieve the goals of the Appeal and Fund.

For more information on Catholic Charities and the Fund for the Faith, you may log onto www.ccwny.org. This site also gives you the latest information on how each parish of the Diocese is participating in this common effort this year. Remember you may use your credit card to make a donation or you may pledge your gift over the coming year. Please consider a first time donation if you have never contributed before. And consider increasing your donation this year because the number of people living without Hope is increasing dramatically. Thank you for considering carefully and prayerfully participating in this year's Appeal and Fund.

May St. Faustina, Patroness of the 2019 Appeal and Fund, intercede for a successful Appeal in our parish and around the Diocese of Buffalo.

NOVENA IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY OF FATIMA: Rev. Mother Mary Dominic and our cloistered Dominican Nuns invite us to a Novena in Honor of Our Lady of Fatima at the Dominican Monastery, 335 Doat Street, Buffalo, from Sunday, May 5th, thru Monday, May 13th. The theme of the Novena is "Mary: Woman of the Beatitudes". Each evening the Rosary will be recited at 6:40PM, followed by Holy Mass at 7:00PM. If you are able to participate in all or part of the Novena, please lift up in your prayer the spiritual and temporal needs of our parish family here at St. Aloysius Gonzaga.

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