



## PASTOR'S CORNER

## Mary at the Intersection

Matthew 1:18-24

In Jesus, we see the extent to which God approaches man, so much so that Jesus bridges the gap, having both a human and a divine nature. A true Christian, however, recognizes the essential role of Mary in God's plan of salvation. If Jesus is the bridge to God, Mary is the gateway.

In Mary we see the greatest possible extent since the fall of man to which the human being is united to God. Recapitulating the creation of our first parents in Original Justice, free of sin, God prepared Mary with the fullness of grace by her Immaculate Conception at the beginning of her existence. If Christ is the New Adam, then Mary is the New Eve, the exemplar for our participation in the divine nature.

Or, to put it in Cartesian terms, while remaining human, she is at the X-Y intersection between God and man. If the Son of God is the vertical Y axis, he intersects the horizontal X axis by taking upon himself a particular human nature. Mary is there at the origin where the two axes intersect by giving her human nature to the Son of God, whom she named Jesus.

While the scope of sacred scripture details God's continual stooping down to our level with care and mercy, nowhere else is there seen such an intimate bonding between God and a human person than in the Virginal Conception. Whereas the Immaculate Conception of Mary took place without her consent, we know from Luke's version of the Virginal Conception—the Annunciation scene (1:26-38)—that God elicited her freely given agreement to become the mother of the Savior. Moreover, in Matthew's version which we have as our gospel reading today, as the angel indicated to Joseph in a dream, God took care also to probe Mary's betrothed for his consent in bringing his plan to fruition.

Mary is the sign and guarantee that God has supreme respect and value for our human nature and love for every person. If God takes such an initiative with a member of the human race in the likeness of Mary, without neglecting her spouse, how much more should we turn to God and be energized to move toward him! Our devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary is simply a recognition that she is the essential signpost at the intersection, directing us toward her son.

~Fr. David



## CHRISTMAS MASSES:

Wednesday, Dec. 24

5:00 pm and 7:30 pm

Thursday, Dec. 25:

9:30 am

## PRAYER &amp; WORSHIP

## MASS INTENTIONS this WEEK

Tuesday, Dec. 23:

12:15 pm

The Camalier Family

Wednesday, Dec. 24:

8:15am

CHRISTMAS EVE

5:30pm

Thomas "Ricky" Long

7:30pm

Pro populo

Thursday, Dec. 25: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

9:30am

Pro populo

Friday, Dec. 26:

8:15 am

St. Stephen, the First Martyr

Donna Norris

Saturday, Dec. 27:

7:30 am

St. John, Apostle &amp; Evangelist

Fr. Andrew White, S.J.

(anniversary of death, 1657)

5:00 pm

Emilio Balmaceda

Sunday, Dec. 28:

8:00 am

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS,

11:00 am

MARY AND JOSEPH

For our Families

Pro populo

PLEASE  
REMEMBERIN  
PRAYER

*The Sick and Homebound in our Community*  
We lift up in prayer all those in our parish community  
who are ill or hospitalized.

May God's healing grace comfort and strengthen them.

Jeanne Bean, Rita Bond, Wally Bowles, Michael Brooks, Loretta Broxson, Timothy Butler, Fr. Rory Conley, Donna Corcoran, Susie Crocco, Ann Davis, Charles Davis Sr., Nolma Diamond, Jr., Ronnie Domingue Sr., Jeff Flick, Mary Claire FitzGerald, Stephanie Gonzalez, Jim Hutchison, Paula Kidwell, George Lancaster, Sherry Marigliano, Virginia McKeen, Irene Michaud, Chuck Miller, Kristy Nelson & Madison, DeShawn Plater, Mary Pyle, Harry Rogers, Jerry Thompson.



Heavenly Father, As we light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath, we rejoice in the gift of love. You sent your Son into the world, not to condemn, but to save, to bring light into our darkness and hope into our waiting. Fill our hearts with the love that Mary showed in her "yes," the love that Joseph revealed in his quiet faith, and the love that Christ embodies in His coming among us. May this love guide our words, our actions, and our lives, so that we may be bearers of peace and joy to all we meet. Prepare us, Lord, to welcome your Son with open hearts, and to share His love with the world. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.



The office will be closed  
Wednesday, 12/24 and will reopen  
on Monday, 12/29

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### EVANGELIZATION & PARISH LIFE



#### The Jubilee Year will close on Sunday, Dec. 28, 2025.

You can obtain an indulgence each time you participate in Holy Mass, Liturgy of the Hours, Stations of the Cross, the Rosary, or a Penance Service at St. Aloysius Church during the Jubilee Year. **To obtain the indulgence, you must meet certain conditions:** Be in a state of grace / Confession / Receive Communion / Pray for the Pope's intentions / Must complete the specific prayers or works required for the indulgence.

<https://adw.org/the-year-of-the-jubilee-2025-pilgrims-of-hope/>

**VOCATIONS CROSS** –Chris Guy will take the cross home and pray for vocations this week.

<https://saintalosiushurch.org/vocations-cross>



Parishioner *Ann Wyvill*'s beautiful painting of St. Aloysius featured in our art show and Jubilee ornaments is being raffled off. Tickets are \$10 and available online or at the rectory. Proceeds benefit the parish. Don't miss your chance to own this beautiful piece of parish history.



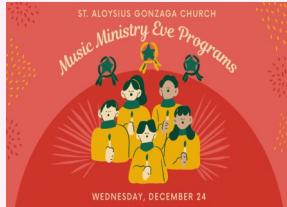
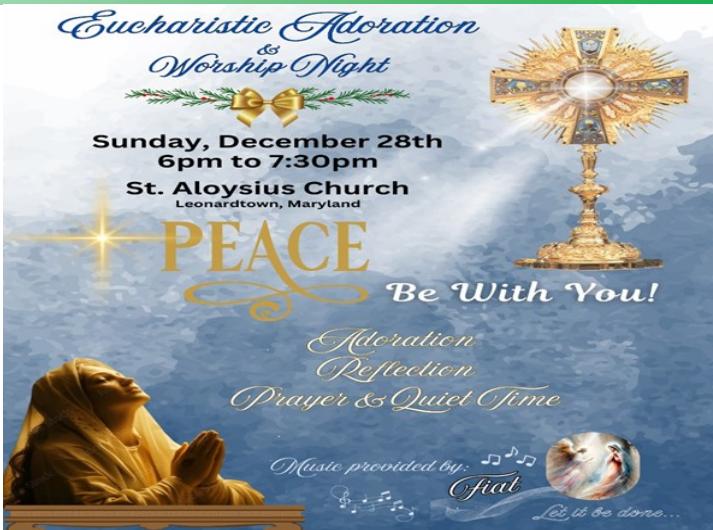
In celebration of the Jubilee Year 2025, St. Aloysius Church is designated as a Jubilee Pilgrimage site and its offering special commemorative ornaments. Each ornament is \$20, with proceeds directly supporting our parish. Ornaments purchased online will be available for pickup at the parish office during regular office hours. Reserve yours today and take home a keepsake.

Order online at

[www.saintalosiushurch.org/jubilee-2025-ornament](https://www.saintalosiushurch.org/jubilee-2025-ornament)

#### QPR (QUESTION, PERSUADE REFER) SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING

Saturday, Jan 24 9:00 AM -NOON in St. Aloysius Parish Hall  
If you have any questions email: liz.tomaszeski@gmail.com



Please arrive early on **Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve** to enjoy our special Prelude Programs, beginning 30 minutes before each evening Mass. At 4:30 PM is The Cross Generation Youth Choir and Student Pianists will perform prior to the 5:00 PM Mass. Then 7:00 PM - The Grateful Heart Adult Choir and Handbell Ensemble will join together prior to the 7:30 PM Mass. If your student would like to participate in singing for the Prelude Program and the 5:00 PM Mass, please contact **Beth at music@saintalosiushurch.org**.



#### St. Aloysius CHRISTMAS DINNER 2025

St. Aloysius Church will be hosting a community Christmas dinner on Christmas Day from 1pm to 4pm in the church hall located at 22800 Washington St, Leonardtown.

All are welcome! Please help spread the word and celebrate with us the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! If you would like to volunteer either in preparation for this event or during the event itself, please sign up for a volunteer position using the sign-up genius link:

*For info, please email Pam Harms at [harms2@mac.com](mailto:harms2@mac.com)*



*“...They shall be comforted” (Matthew 5:4)  
a bereavement ministry*

**“Grieving with Great Hope”** 5-week, small group workshop to help people grieving the loss of a loved one.

#### Bereavement Workshop Dates, 2026:

**Sundays, 1:30-3:30pm: 1/11, 1/18, 1/25 & 2/1, 2/8**

Contact: Jennifer Bicknell (301-475-8064) or [office@saintalosiushurch.org](mailto:office@saintalosiushurch.org)

**SIGN UP NOW- sheet in vestibule  
(so we have enough books for all)**

### STEWARDSHIP

ParishSoft online giving:

<https://giving.ParishSoft.com/app/giving/staloyius>

**DUE TO EARLY SUBMISSION OF THE BULLETIN TO OUR PUBLISHERS**, contributions for Sat./Sun., December 13/14 will be noted at a later date.

**2ND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK - Debt Reduction PATRON OF THE WEEK: James Moran-First Home Mortgage** Please patronize our sponsors.



<https://adw.org/ways-to-give/annual-appeal/> [give.adw.org](http://give.adw.org)

## POOR BOX



**RECIPIENT WILL BE:  
St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry  
to help stock the shelves  
for the monthly distribution**

## ST. VINCENT de PAUL



**The next open pantry is Sat., Jan 17th 9-11AM. Food will be collected after all Masses, January 17/18 Community Sunday. THANK YOU for your generosity, helping the SVP help others!**



**Thank you to all who helped support the ANGEL TREE. If you can assist with the distribution of gifts 12/21, after the 11:00am Mass, Contact Ellen Johnson: 301-919-0160**

## RELIGIOUS ED &amp; YOUTH MINISTRY

Feb 6-8	Mount 2000 Registration Registration opens October 14 and closes December 15, 2025	First Fridays First Friday Adoration & Game Nights 6:30 to 8:30 pm, the first Friday of each month
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**FAMILY OF FAITH CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM-**  
For details go to <https://saintaloysiuschurch.org/>

**INTERESTED** in learning more about the Catholic Faith or becoming Catholic?

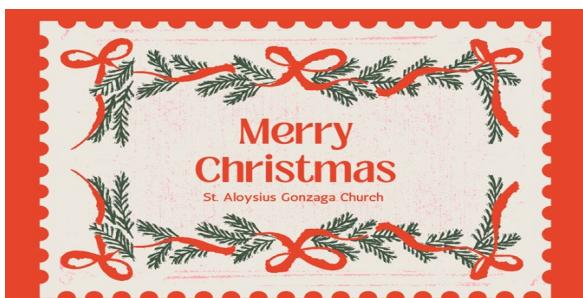
Contact [Leonard Wathen](mailto:lwathen@saintaloysiuschurch.org)  
at [lwathen@saintaloysiuschurch.org](mailto:lwathen@saintaloysiuschurch.org) for more info.

## FATHER ANDREW WHITE SCHOOL

Did you know you can help support Father Andrew White by simply buying your Christmas gifts? Please consider purchasing your gift cards through our **RaiseRight** program! There are hundreds to choose from. A percentage of the cards purchased will go to benefit our school. Please email [fawraiseright@gmail.com](mailto:fawraiseright@gmail.com) to purchase.

Are you looking to be a part of a community that wants to make a difference in a child's life? Are you looking for part time work?

Please consider becoming a member of our Aftercare Team! Hours: Monday - Friday 2:30 - 5:30 Contact: Mrs. Shedd at [shedd@fatherandrewwhite.org](mailto:shedd@fatherandrewwhite.org)



## RESPECT LIFE



"O Blessed Mother, at the angel's word you went in haste to the aid of your cousin Elizabeth. Although pregnant yourself, you placed her needs before your own. By your example of radical solidarity, teach us to reverence and protect those in need, without conditions or expectations. Obtain for us the grace to bring Christ to any expectant mother who is alone and afraid." *USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities Prayer for Radical Solidarity (www.respectlife.org/prayer-for-radical-solidarity)*

## COMMUNITY

## APOLOGETICS- MONDAY, 12/22 at 7:00-8:15pm

Where: St. John Francis Regis Parish

(St. Jude Room in Msgr. Harris Center)

The topic will be: ***Our Duties to Immigrants***

Google Meeting: Apologetics 2025-26

<https://meet.google.com/woq-fmef-djg>

## 2026 WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

**MASS** Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala will celebrate the Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass honoring the Vocation of Marriage on Saturday, February 14, 2026, at 10:00 AM at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. This special Mass celebrates the enduring witness of all couples who reflect the beauty of the Sacrament of Matrimony through their commitment and love. Couples wishing to attend the Mass and/or receive a commemorative certificate from Cardinal Robert McElroy in recognition of their anniversary year must register with the parish office by Friday, February 6, 2026.



## 2025-26 WARM at Camp Maria

28 December 2025—4 January 2026

Warm is a winter sheltering program hosted by faith communities of St. Mary's County on a rotational basis from November to March

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR:

\* Monitors \* Meal Providers \* Supplies  
\* Site Setup/Breakdown Help



To learn more or signup: visit <https://campmaria.org>

Contact: Mary McGinn (240-298-7645)



Explore SOMD Catholic [www.SOMDCatholic.org](http://www.SOMDCatholic.org), created to help unite and support our Catholic community in Southern Maryland. From Mass times and parish events to Bible studies and spiritual resources, everything you need is gathered in one easy-to-use site. Stay connected join our Flocknote for weekly updates on Catholic events and opportunities near you!