

St. Aloysius Gonzaga



2018 Parish Directory

St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church

4366 Bridgetown Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45211



Welcome to St. Al's

If you are a visitor and looking for a deeper sense of meaning in your life, you're in the right place.

Please contact an usher or speak to the priest if you wish to know more about the Roman Catholic Church or St. Al's Parish.

We're glad you're here...and so is Christ.

Join us in the life-changing mission of our parish.

To Know Christ....

To Love Christ....

To Bring Others to Christ!

St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish Staff

Pastoral Staff:

Rev. Michael Hay.....	Pastor
Rev. James Ackerman, SJ	Associate Pastor
Diane Robisch	Pastoral Associate
Mr. Matt Moorman.....	Music Minister
Mrs. Sandra Staud	School Principal
Mr. Ken Schultz.....	Business Manager
Rectory Telephone:	574-4840
Fax:	574-4402
School Office:	574-4035
Parish Website:	stalsbridgetown.org

Church Schedule

Sunday Masses:

Saturday Evening:	4:00 p.m.
Sunday Morning:	9:00, 11:15 a.m.

Week Day Masses

Tuesday thru Friday:	8:00 a.m.
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Communion Service

Monday and Saturday	8:00 a.m.
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Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday:	3:00-3:30 p.m.
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Adoration:

Thursday	8:30-9:30 a.m.
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Liturgical Services

The Eucharistic Liturgy (Mass) is usually celebrated once on week days. Parishioners are encouraged to attend this Mass as a community, the Body of Christ worshipping together. For a current schedule of Masses, please consult the weekly parish bulletin.

St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish History

St. Aloysius Gonzaga, patron of our parish, was born in March, 1658, in Italy. He joined the Society of Jesus at an early age, and as a young seminarian dedicated his free time to care for the poor and sick of his community. During the last year of his theology studies, a malignant fever broke out in Rome and Aloysius offered himself for the service of the sick. He died at age 23 on June 21, 1681, having contracted the disease himself. He is the patron saint of youth and HIV/AIDS patients.

The roots of our parish began in 1866. At that time Green Township was a sparsely settled community. There were many Catholics; most of German Descent, living in the surrounding communities, but the nearest churches were Our Lady of Victory in Delhi and St. James in White Oak. On July 8, 1866, a small group of Catholics met at the home of Dr. Pete Leidel near Harrison Pike and the present Grace Avenue to discuss plans for a new parish. Most of the areas Catholics were farmers, who were by no means wealthy, but despite the odds against them, the parish was established in 1866 and land was purchased for a church. The first Mass was celebrated in Dr. Liedel's home in 1867 by Father E. Stehle who assisted the founders in organizing the parish. The privilege of naming the new parish was given to the highest bidder who bid \$51 to name it in honor of his grandfather.

Construction of the first building began in 1867 at the corner of Fenton Avenue (Today Church Lane) and Bridgetown Road. Much of the work was done by volunteer laborers. On November 3, 1967, Archbishop Purcell blessed the cornerstone which has been preserved as part of the present church. The church was dedicated on November 1, 1968, and first pastor was Father George Vaith. The original building had a school on the first floor and the church on the second floor, and also served as the priest's and a teacher's residence. To remedy these crowded conditions, the first rectory was built in 1872, directly west of the church.

The Sisters of St. Francis from Oldenburg, Indiana, sent three teachers to St. Aloysius in 1899, beginning a tradition of service for the education of St. Aloysius children that lasted until the 1990's.

A new church was dedicated in 1914. At the dedication Mass, sermons were delivered in both German and English. The Gothic style church with its graceful tower became a Green Township landmark and served the parish until 1961. The original church building was remodeled into classrooms, while a temporary colony school was built to accommodate the increasing number of students. Beginning in 1922 and for several years, St. Aloysius operated a commercial school which taught bookkeeping and stenography in addition to the normal subjects. The establishment of the diocesan high school system in 1927 put an end to the commercial school and students were then assigned to Elder or Seton highs schools.

St. Aloysius Gonzaga

In 1937, a new school was built with four classrooms and a cafeteria. It remains a part of the present school. Additions were made in 1941 and 1954. In 1955 the original church building was torn down and the present rectory was built on its site. In 1960 the second church building was found to be unsafe due to structural problems, and while a new church was built, Mass was held in Powell's Garage, Called Monsignor Schmitt Hall in honor of Father William Schmitt, St. Al's pastor from 1929-1952. This building, demolished in 1997, was replaced by the current Msgr. Schmitt Hall, attached to the school in 1996.

Our present church was dedicated in 1963. It is in the form of an amphitheater with the altar in the center of a circular sanctuary. There are eight rows of seats with no seat more than 25 feet from the sanctuary. The church holds about 650 people. The dome-like structure is 42 feet high and 77 feet in diameter. It is framed by 12 precast concrete bents which meet in the skylight directly over the altar. The skylight is 12 feet in diameter. Rising above the dramatic contours of the roof is a 16 foot spire and six foot aluminum cross. The full cathedral pipe organ was a special memorial to the pastor builder of the new church, Father Clarence Graf.

In 2016 the St. Aloysius community proudly celebrated their 150th Anniversary. There were special activities throughout the year, culminating with a large anniversary banquet attended by parish families, former priests and Franciscan sisters

St. Aloysius School

St. Aloysius Gonzaga Catholic School is an integral part of St. Aloysius Parish. As such, St. Aloysius participates in the threefold mission of the Universal Church, as stated in the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' *To Teach as Jesus Did*: "The educational mission of the Church is an integrated ministry embracing three interlocking dimensions: message, community, and service. Catholic schools afford the fullest and best opportunity to realize this threefold purpose of education among children and young people."

St. Aloysius School exists to support students more effectively in their understanding of the "Good News" of the Gospel message. The parish community is committed to provide a quality academic program that is consistent with the policies of the Archdiocesan Commission on Education, chartering requirements of the State of Ohio, and laws of the United States of America.

The school fully assumes the policies and the *Philosophy of Education* of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.



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St. Aloysius Gonzaga School is a small, Christ-centered elementary School and Preschool, where the children are empowered to develop academic skills in a Catholic environment. Our goal is to educate, in partnership with the parents, the whole child: spiritually, intellectually, physically, socially, and emotionally. Ultimately, our mission is to enable our students to become full and productive members of adult society and the Catholic Church.

Parents who receive parish tuition rates are expected to be active members of the parish. An active member of the parish:

Participates in the faith life of the parish through regular attendance at Sunday Masses.

Religious Education Program

Preschool Program

Preschool religious class for three, four and five year olds are held during the school year on Sunday morning in the school building. The children are introduced to God in a light, happy environment through activities, games, stories and songs. A minimum fee is charged to defray the cost of the text and materials used in class.

Parish School of Religion (PSR)

The elementary parish religious education program, also known as the Parish School of Religion, is for students in grades one through eight attending public schools. Classes meet on Sunday mornings September through May, in the school building. The program is comprehensive in nature and takes into account any developmental needs of a child. Supervision and implementation of the program is the responsibility of the director of religious education. Volunteer teachers, besides giving instruction in the classroom, attend religious education workshops and various courses to improve teaching ability and become certified in the field. Sacrament preparation is also comprehensive, in that not only is a child catechized, but the whole family is seen as an integral part of the preparation process. Therefore, parental programs are held in connection with the formation of the sacraments.

Adult Education

St. Al's philosophy is that religious education can no longer afford to end in the twelfth year of one's formal education. Today's holistic approach toward religious education encourages us to see the living out of our lives as the appropriate means of integrating both knowledge and what it means to be a Christian. In other words, every act of our daily lives should reflect our religious understanding. Religious education is not just something we do (educate ourselves), it is a way of being for ourselves and for others. If religious education is understood in this fuller context, then the ramifications will permeate the totality of our lives and those whom we touch. To this end, various programs and ministries for adults are conducted throughout the year.

St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish Council

The role of a Parish Council has been described as an agency of planning and also evaluating policies and priorities for parish ministry. Its functions include advising the pastor, implementation of decisions when necessary and accountability for the decisions reached and/or their implementation and coordination of parish activities through the agency of its commissions.

Council membership includes the pastor and heads of parish commissions.

Meetings are held when needed. All meetings are open to any parishioner who wishes to attend or to bring any matter before the Council. To bring a matter to Parish Council, contact the chairperson at least one week prior to the meeting.

Commissions / Finance Council

Finance Council

The Finance Commission advises the pastor and Parish Council on the financial affairs of the parish. The Commission makes recommendations concerning the overall maintenance of the parish buildings and grounds, parish financial reports, the yearly budget, fund-raisers for the parish and the setting of salaries for parish employees and school tuition. The Commission meets when financial issues arise.

Worship Commission

The Worship Commission is directly involved in assisting the pastoral staff in planning, coordinating and evaluating the liturgical celebrations of the parish. The Commission consists of representatives from the lay ministries: Eucharistic ministers, lectors, liturgy planners, usher, music and evangelization. The commission is constantly seeking better ways to enable the members of St Aloysius to worship together as a parish family. Meetings are held bimonthly and are open to parishioners.

Lay Ministries

Servers: The youth of the parish (grade school and high school) are invited to participate in the liturgy by involving themselves in this ministry. Adults are also needed to serve the Sunday 9:00 a.m. Mass and funerals.

Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist are lay men and women who are commissioned to distribute Communion at Mass and carry the Eucharist to the sick and shut-ins.

Lectors are men and women called from our community to witness to the Word of God by reading the Scriptures. Lectors are assigned to read, by schedule, at weekday, Sunday and Holy Day liturgies.

The Ushers are those whose ministry is to welcome their fellow Christians to Mass and coordinate the collection. These men and women provide a valuable service; they are a visible sign of the love we should all show to those with whom we celebrate.

Greeters exercise a ministry of hospitality by welcoming worshippers as they enter church for weekend Masses and special Liturgies.

Those who serve in the preceding ministries are asked to rededicate themselves through further training periodically. Schedules of appointment for each of these ministries are published regularly, tailored to suit the availability of the people involved.

Music Department

Among the many signs and symbols used by the Church to celebrate its faith, music is of preeminent importance. As sacred song united to words it forms a necessary or integral part of the solemn liturgy. The quality of joy and enthusiasm which music adds to community worship cannot be gained in any other way. It imparts a sense of unity to the congregation and sets the appropriate tone for a particular celebration. In addition to expressing texts, music can also unveil a dimension of meaning and feeling, a communication of ideas and institutions which words alone cannot yield. This dimension is integral to the human personality and to growth in faith. (“Music in Catholic Worship,” *The Liturgy Documents Volume One*)

Saint Aloysius currently has two established ensembles which lead music at Mass. The Choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30pm and sings at Sunday Liturgies (September through May), major feast days, holidays, and special events. Membership is open to any parishioner high school age and above. While there is no audition or formal training required, a good ability to follow and a love of singing is essential.

Our other ensemble is a smaller, more contemporary-themed group which sings Sunday Liturgies alternately with the Choir. This includes vocalists, guitarists, and piano. Additional singers and instrumentalists are always welcomed to join. This ensemble has no regularly scheduled rehearsal meetings, and review music for each Liturgy only briefly before Mass. The Contemporary Ensemble gathers periodically through the year to rehearse new and seasonal music. As such, music-reading skills are essential for membership in this group.

Any parishioners who wish to share their talents as singers, cantors, or instrumentalists are encouraged to contact our Music Director via email, phone, or in person after any weekend Mass. More information is available on the parish website or by calling the Rectory office.

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Organizations / Ministries

Regional Spirituality Education Ministry

The focus of this ministry is one of a spiritual nature. Our primary goal is to gather information from the various ministries of the St. Aloysius Gonzaga and St. Jude Parish Region. The main question of each ministry is “What is being done to grow spiritually within this organization”? Each group has a unique focus, and the primary purpose is to help guide one another to grow in faith with charity and joy.

Athletic Association

The purpose of ST. Al’s Athletic Association is the promotion and advancement of the welfare of the children of members of the parish. The Athletic association sponsors and equips athletic teams and encourages participation in supervised leagues so that the principles of good sportsmanship are instilled and incorporated into the character of these children. The Athletic Association also encourages and supports other activities as approved by the membership. Membership meetings are held monthly and there are also monthly board meetings.

The following sports are offered at St. Al’s:

Girls Soccer	Ages 6-18
Boys Soccer	Ages 6-18
Girls Volleyball	Grades 4-12
Boys Volleyball	Grades 5-8
Boys Wrestling	Ages 5-12
Boys Basketball	Grades 1-12
Girls Basketball	Grades 4-12
Boys Baseball	Ages 5-13
Girls Softball	Grades K-8
*Boys Football	Grades K-8
*Boys/Girls Track	Grades 4-8

*In conjunction with St. Jude Parish

Adult Faith Formation

Our faith journey continues after Confirmation and through every phase of our lives. Adult Faith Formation (AFF) welcomes all members of our church community to discover and strengthen their personal relationship with Christ. Through planned opportunities such as Bible studies, Spirit-led discussions, speakers, and especially through prayer and service to others, AFF offers opportunities to enhance each individual’s love of Christ with a deeper understanding of their faith and Church teaching. Knowing that we are at different stages of our Spiritual journey we welcome you, and together we will journey in our faith through these Adult Faith efforts.

Baptismal Program

Parents who are expecting a child are asked to participate in the Baptismal Program at St. Al's to help make the sacrament of Baptism as meaningful as possible. The rite was changed some years ago and the meaning of the new rite, symbolism within the sacrament, and the church's expectation of rearing a child in a Christian atmosphere are discussed. The parents are requested to contact the rectory before the baby is born for information.

Bereavement Committee

The Bereavement Committee is a group of trained parishioners who volunteer their time to help families plan funeral liturgies for their deceased relatives. Committee members are contacted by the parish and in turn they contact a member of the family to set up a time to meet. Committee members are also available to the bereaved in order to encourage a healthy grief process and to suggest resources for them when needed.

A MEMORIAL MASS is celebrated each November to support all the families who have lost a loved one in the previous year.

Catholic Order of Foresters

Gonzaga Court #1572 Catholic order of Foresters has been a part of St. Al's since 1931. It is one of the largest Foresters courts in the state of Ohio with approximately 800 adult and 125 youth members. The court holds meetings twice a month and in May, June, July and August: the second meetings of the month are held as family socials at the Gonzaga Farm in St. Leon, Indiana. The Court sponsors baseball and bowling teams among other activities. An annual raffle and dance is held to help fund donations given to needy families and charitable organizations.

Gonzaga's Sister Court, Queen of Peace #2262, has approximately 150 adult and 75 youth members. They meet monthly.

The Catholic Order of Foresters; motto is, "Friendship, Unity and True Christian Charity." It is a fraternal insurance society for Catholic families and has been in existence since 1883

Evangelization Team

Currently the parish does not have an Evangelization Committee. This committee would be responsible for spreading the Gospel to people of our area by providing programs, outreach and a variety of other means intended to welcome people in our area to come consider (or reconsider) the Catholic Faith. Anyone interested in this aspect of the parish mission ("To know Christ, to love Christ, to bring others to Christ") should contact Fr. Mike at the rectory.

St. Al's Singles

St. Al's Singles provides an opportunity for single persons (those who have never married) to share in spiritual and social functions. An activity is planned for each month.

Garden Club

The Garden Club is a group of parishioners who use their green thumbs to plant and maintain flower beds and pots on the church and rectory grounds. Their work begins in early spring and continues until the first frost. Volunteers are assigned a schedule for watering plants and light weeding. The group is always seeking new volunteers with green thumbs and good backs.

Network of Care

The goal of the Network of Care is to respond to many different needs of St. Al's parishioners and the community. Network of Care members provide the following services: visiting and telephoning those confined to their homes; nursing home visitation; parish nurse referral service transportation to hospitals, doctors, church, grocery, etc.; assistance with minor repairs; ministering to the bereaved and aiding in funeral liturgy planning; coordinating the annual giving tree and annual blood drive. New members are always needed. Meetings are held four times a year.

Old Timers

The St. Al's Old Timers are a group of men, age 35 and older, who play softball in the Catholic Old Timers (COT) League. Most of the Catholic churches on the west side have a team in this league. This is a social league, so free substitution of players is allowed. This allows men who can't run to participate by permitting pinch runners for the batter. The Old Timers play 18 games a year and after each game there are refreshments for the teams and their families. There are also a few get-togethers each year just for the St. Al's players and their families. Each spring there is a social for men interested in playing and their wives.

Parent Teacher Organization

The PTO of St. Aloysius Gonzaga is very active organization. Members conduct many projects to raise funds for the school, and the group also serves as a social organization for parents new to the school to become better acquainted with other parents. Membership fees are nominal and both parents are urged to become members. The PTO solicits volunteers for various school related activities to help the school run more efficiently. General assembly meetings are held every other month starting in September. Board meetings are held every month and are open to all parents. Times and dates of both sets of meeting are announced at the beginning of the school year.

Prayer Groups

Prayer groups have been organized at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church for the purpose of promoting spiritual growth, shared prayer, and a greater familiarity with Scripture. Members meet to pray together, read the Word of God, discuss how the readings fit and guide our lives today, and to sing His praises. The groups are open to both men and women. For further information on any of these groups, call the rectory.

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Prayer Line

Anyone in need of prayers for whatever reason can be put on the daily prayer line. All calls are anonymous. For more information, call the rectory.

Project Linus

Collects homemade blankets for children who are sick, terminally ill or suffering from trauma. The blankets can be crocheted, knitted, quilted or of fleece. The majority of the blankets go to Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Blankets may be dropped off at Church or at the Rectory office.

Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA)

The process of becoming a Catholic for adults at St. Al's happens within the structure of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. The program consists of ritual celebrations with the parish community, experiences of prayer and faith sharing, and instructions on church teachings, doctrine and scripture. Meetings are generally held from September to May. However, this process is individually geared to each participant, so some may choose to remain in the program for a longer period of time.

Rosary Altar Society

Membership in the Rosary Altar Society is open to all women in the parish. Members are available to prepare for and serve at parish activities, such as ecumenical services. Meetings are held monthly except during January and February, and the group also sponsors a monthly dessert card party. Proceeds are used for the needs of the Church. These card parties are open to everyone.

St. Al's Seniors

St. Al's Seniors is an organization to promote closer friendship and entertainment for the senior members of the parish and non-parishioners. Parishioners age 60 and older are welcome. The group holds social meetings weekly. A business meeting is held monthly.

Scouting

Cub Scouts – St. Al's sponsors Cub Scout Pack #187. Scouting teaches boys respect for God, country, and each other. It influences the development of character and encourages spiritual growth. Pack events include the Dan Beard Scout Show, Lad and Dad and Mom and Me campouts, day camp, tours and sporting events.

Boy Scouts – Boys between the ages of 11 (10 if 5th grade has been completed) and 18 are welcome to join the Boy Scouts of America. In 2013 St. Al's Troop 465 merged with St. Martin's Troop 601. The troop offers a program of character development based upon religion, citizenship, and the outdoors. Scouts prepare for adulthood through the earning of awards designed to acquaint them with skills or professions they might choose as lifelong careers. Troop 601 holds weekly meetings and has an active outdoor program that includes monthly camping trips or hikes and a week of summer camp. These events are open to all scouts in the troop. They also participate in council and district events during the year. Adult supervision is present at all events. Parents are invited to become active members of the Troop Committee, which is responsible for providing the support services so the troop can maintain an active program.

Girl Scouts – St. Al's Girl Scouts uphold the corporate goals of the Girl Scouts of America which stress service to God, country and mankind. The program consists of monthly meetings, Girl Scout Sunday Mass and breakfast, father/daughter dance, mom and me tea, and many other activities. Each troop plans numerous activities to entertain and educate the scouts. A girl can join St. Al's Girl Scout Program from grades K to 8. Daisy Scouts are kindergarten -1, Brownie Girl Scouts are for girls in grades 2-3, Junior scouts are girls in grades 4-5, and Cadettes are 6-8. Adults are always needed to help out.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Nothing in the way of charity is foreign to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. All requests for assistance are assigned numbers and any reference to those involved is made by number. This eliminates the possibility of names being divulged outside the conference, and it helps recipients to their self-respect.

All parishioners can become involved by donating money to St. Vincent DePaul through their church envelopes, collected on the fifth Sunday of the month. Meetings are held biweekly. The group invites men and women to join them in their work.

Tender Mercies Dinner

Located in Over-The-Rhine, Tender Mercies is a non-profit organization that transforms the lives of homeless adults with mental illness by providing security, dignity and community in a safe place they call home. Parish families take turns organizing, preparing, and serving dinners to the residents. Members of our community help by donating items for the monthly meal.

Youth Ministry

Currently the parish is without a youth ministry team. Interest had waned considerably over the last few years and it was difficult to get our young people to commit to activities the team was sponsoring. It is difficult to compete with school, sports and work for many young people's attention, but if anyone feels they have a gift or a fresh approach for youth ministry, please contact Fr. Mike at the rectory.