



aloysius alive

Vol. 33 No. 4

January - February 2018



Time to Reflect *Student, faculty retreats foster spiritual, personal growth*

Each school year, the students of St. Aloysius School attend retreats. Each grade level is presented with an experience uniquely appropriate to the age and interests of the students.

On Oct. 11, sixth-graders were led in a retreat by Jason Romero. His musical talents and prayer experiences provided the sixth-graders with a day of fun and fellowship centered on the topic, "In His Image - Made for Relationship."

The fourth-grade retreat on Oct. 25 was led by Edie Boudreaux. The retreat focused on saints. Students learned about the apostles. Students also discussed the relic of St. Aloysius and the icons of saints featured in our church. The culmination of the retreat was the creation of icons, some of which were used on banners for the school's All



Saints' Day Mass.

Edie Boudreaux also served as retreat master for the fifth- and third-grade retreats. The topic of the fifth-grade retreat was, "What Would Jesus Do on the Internet?" Students and adult volunteer leaders worked

together to discuss positive and negative impacts of using technology.

The third-grade retreat on Dec. 6 was centered on the topic of prayer. The culmination of the retreat was a student-creat-

Continued on page 4

STEWARDSHIP OF OFFERING **Giving joyfully nurtures St. Aloysius parish, community**

By Matt Zylicz

When I became St. Aloysius business manager in 2017, I began to see the parish from a new perspective. My eyes were quickly opened to the steady and sometimes frenetic pace of a large and thriving parish. I became familiar not only with the financial make-up of the parish but also with the parish as it functions through Jesus.

The Celebration of the Eucharist nourishes parishioners as stewards. We turn to prayer and service through ministries that naturally build relationships and feed into Leadership Commission topics. Commission topics lead into Pastoral and Finance Council discussions to help guide decision making. It's beautiful to witness how the Body of Christ in the Eucharist becomes the Body of Christ in our parish.

My financial focus was on the 2017-18 budget for review by Father Randy and the Finance Council and then the annual report for the diocese. After collaborating with church staff commission liaisons to prepare the 2017-18 budget, my efforts turned to analyzing and finalizing the annual report.

While doing so, I was drawn to the disaster relief collection for the August 2016 flood, which took place early in the 2016-17 fiscal year -- \$76,601.17 was given by St. Aloysius parishioners!

My spirit was brought back to being at Mass nine months earlier, listening to Father Josh share all that the St. Aloysius community (church, school, child care center and nearby residents alike) gave for those in immediate need. It was a laundry list of giving that included thousands of water bottles and a parishioner-attained heli-

MORE INSIDE:

* Charts, summary of parish collections, receipts, expenditures, account balances for 2016-17 fiscal year, Page 3



Matt Zylicz

copter.

As I reflected, I recalled taking in the moment from my seat in the church pew -- the congregation listened joyfully and smiled. Our

Heavenly Father must have been doing the same (2 Corinthians 9:7).

While the Offertory could be considered the most critical church collection to enable Christ's movement among us, and the Building Fund the most needed for the growth, sustainability and functionality of the church, school and child care center by way of the master plan, the one that puts the hearts of parishioners on display most may be the special collections.

These appeals often come up outside the normal routine. Like the Good Samaritan not expecting to see his neighbor in need (Luke 10:25-37), you gave of your resources beyond what has been budgeted -- sacrificing both time and money.

Please review the tables and chart on page 3 in this edition of Aloysius Alive for details on the July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017, church operations, fundraising efforts, parish savings, building funds for master plan and all special collections.

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Baton Rouge, LA 70808

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Inside Alive

Mass schedule.....	2
Scouting news.....	2
Vacation Bible School information	3
Advent at Aloysius.....	4
Parish mission details	4



Brownies' Christmas centerpieces spread joy

Brownie Troop 10433 met in early December to make 20 Christmas centerpieces for the tables at Society of St. Vincent de Paul's dining hall. During the meeting, Father Eddie talked with the Brownies about how St. Vincent de Paul dedicated his life to helping others.

The centerpieces were made from pine cones and fresh greenery, and the staff members at St. Vincent de Paul were delighted to receive them.

The Brownies were proud of their work and were happy to be helping others during the Christmas season.

Participating in this project and earning the Brownie Scout Outdoor Arts Creator badge were Sydney Parker, Emilia Volz, Olivia Bourg, Bailey Frazier, Abbey Haefner, Lauren Roy, Ava Greenup, Emilie Farah, Kathryn Carby, Melody Guillot and Lily Jane Crawford.



Memories made at He & Me holiday dance

By Melanie Forstall Lemoine

The halls of the St. Aloysius Cafeteria were decked with Christmas cheer to host the 2017 He & Me Holiday Dance for the Girl Scout Community 118.

More than 75 He & Me pairs from St. Aloysius, University Lab, Trinity, St. James and Sacred Heart danced the night away,

made crafts, enjoyed hot cocoa and sweets, and made silly memories in the photo booth.

The dance is a fundraiser for Community 118, helping area Girl Scout troops meet their goal for Annual Family Giving.

The dance also had a philanthropic component for our local community. He & Me pairs were

asked to make Christmas cards to send to our service men and women serving during the holiday season. The cards were collected and delivered through the Red Cross.

A wonderful night was had by all, with hopes of dancing and donating again next year.

St. Aloysius Troop 10029 gives back with manna bags



By Melanie Forstall Lemoine

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, St. Aloysius Girl Scout Troop 10029 made and donated manna bags for local families in need.

In preparation for the November meeting, the fourth-graders collected dry, non-perishable food items, water, hard candies, and small toiletries. During the meeting, the girls worked hard sorting the items, and organizing an assembly line to pack more than 100 bags.



The girls also decorated each bag, many writing inspirational or encouraging words. A particularly poignant message read, "Just remember, God has a plan for you, just have faith!"

Paul office. The manna bags will be used on St. Vincent de Paul home visits and for the women and children who are living at the shelter.

Troop 10029 is led by Jill Jimenez, Melanie Lemoine and Jane Patout.

The bags were then delivered to the Sweet Dreams Shelter for Women and Children and also to our parish St. Vincent de

Mass Schedule

SATURDAY
Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m.
SUNDAY
7 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
HOLY DAYS
Schedule will be announced
DAILY MASSES
Monday & Wednesday, 6 a.m.
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8 a.m.

CONFESSIONS: Monday and Wednesday after 6:00 a.m. Mass; Tuesday and Thursday from 7:30-8:00 a.m.; Saturday 3:30-4:00 p.m. (when the adjacent Mass is celebrated).

FUNERALS: Please contact the Parish Office prior to scheduling with the funeral home. If after hours, follow directions on voicemail.

PARISH SCHOOL: For information, phone 383-3871, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

NURSERY/CHILDCARE CENTER: For information, phone 343-1338, 7:00 a.m. -5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

BAPTISM: Please contact the Parish Office during early months of pregnancy. Baptismal preparation is required.

SPONSORS: Baptism & Confirmation sponsors must be confirmed practicing Catholics in good standing in the Catholic Church, and if not St. Aloysius Parishioners, must provide a letter of good standing from the parish where they are registered.

MARRIAGE: Couples are asked to contact the priest at the beginning of the period of engagement at least six months prior to the projected date of the marriage.

CARE OF THE SICK: The Eucharist is brought to the sick weekly and hospital visits made weekly. Families of the sick are encouraged to notify the Parish Office.

aloysius alive

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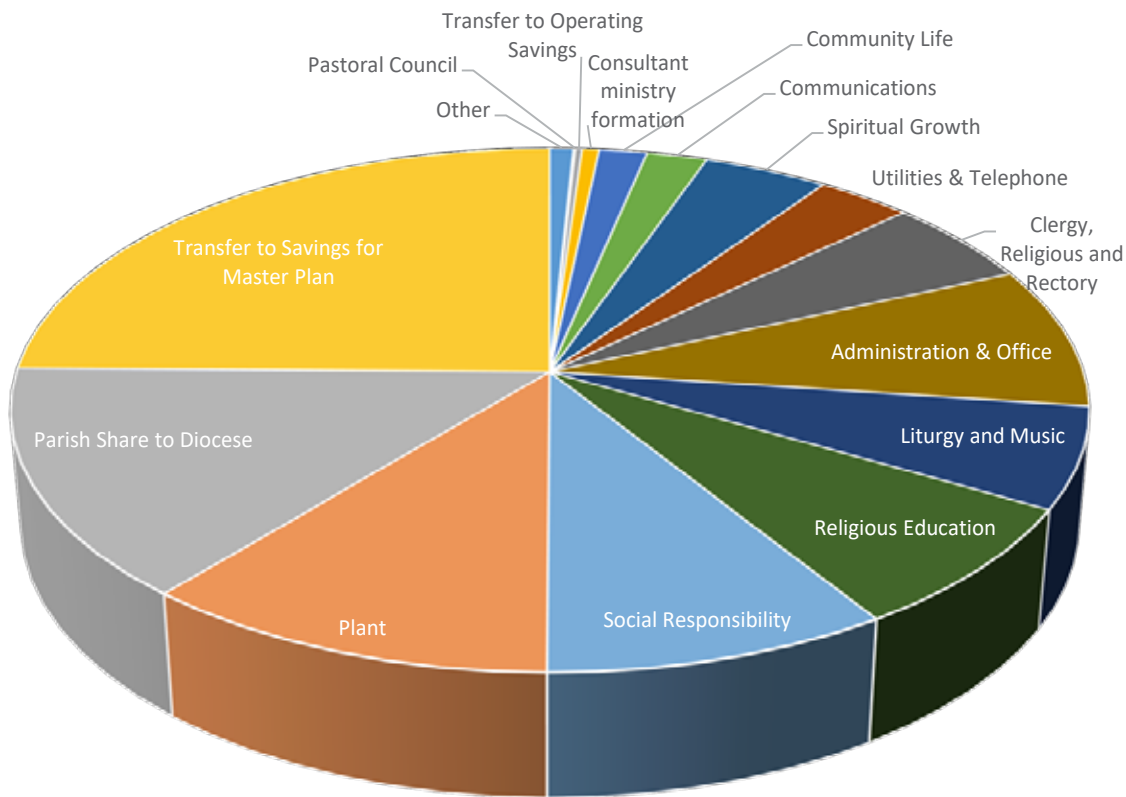
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Expenditures from Operations FYE 6/30/2017



ST. ALOYSIUS CHURCH

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES FROM OPERATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

RECEIPTS	FY 2016-17	PERCENT
Stewardship of Offering	\$ 2,746,958	88.57%
Parish Fair & Raffle, Auction, Golf To	228,000	7.35%
Miscellaneous Fees and Income	126,417	4.08%
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 3,101,376	100.00%
EXPENDITURES		
Liturgy and Music	\$ 192,453	6.21%
Clergy, Religious and Rectory	166,432	5.37%
Religious Education	238,226	7.68%
Social Responsibility	281,925	9.09%
Spiritual Growth	133,572	4.31%
Community Life	51,295	1.65%
Communications	64,443	2.08%
Consultant Ministry Formation	18,211	0.59%
Pastoral Council	2,250	0.07%
Plant	341,781	11.02%
Utilities & Telephone	101,265	3.27%
Parish Share to Diocese	438,840	14.15%
Administration & Office	270,483	8.72%
Other	25,164	0.81%
Transfer to Operating Savings	7,071	0.23%
Transfer to Savings for Master Plan	767,965	24.76%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 3,101,376	100.00%

The Building Fund and Special Collections are displayed separately.

ST. ALOYSIUS CHURCH

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

BALANCES AT 6/30/2017

Operating Savings	\$ 661,377
Building Fund Savings for Master Plan	\$ 1,122,027
Parish Endowment Fund at BR Area Foundation	\$ 723,332

BUILDING RECEIPTS, COSTS & FINANCING

Building Fund for Master Plan Contributions	\$ 1,329,370
Construction Costs for Child Care Center	\$ 1,744,173
Outstanding Loan Balance for Child Care Center	\$ 904,771
Construction Costs for Pastoral Services Center	\$ 1,719,567
No debt was incurred in the building of the Pastoral Services Center.	

ST. ALOYSIUS CHURCH

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS FOR SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FY 2016-17

Agency Collections

Latin America	\$ 2,310
Home Missions	1,928
Bishop's Annual Appeal	250
Holy Land	380
Catholic Relief Services	4,714
Catholic Communications	1,379
Peter's Pence	3,882
Central & Eastern Europe	2,644
Catholic University	3,986
Human Development	3,524
Retirement Fund for Religious	23,365
Black & Indian Missions	4,000
World Mission Sunday	2,581
Diocesan Priest Retirement	19,297
Total Agency Collections	\$ 74,240

Mission Collections

Propagation of Faith	\$ 10
Special Mission Appeals	8,130
Total Mission Collections	\$ 8,140

Disaster Recovery, Flood Relief	\$ 76,601
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SAVE THE DATE: VBS

VBS will take place

June 4-7, 2018

This year's theme:

Babylon, Daniel's Courage in Captivity

To volunteer go to

www.church.aloysius.org

click on Stewardship of Ministry

or

For more information please contact

Tricia Greely 225-343-6657

tgreely@staloysiusparish.com

Retreat, From Page 1

ed and led prayer service.

Future retreats for second-graders include a Reconciliation mini-retreat on Feb. 21 and a Eucharist mini-retreat on April 13. The first-graders will have a retreat titled "Tell Me a Story" on March 14.

The seventh-grade retreat will be led by Jason Romero on Feb. 7. The eighth-graders will participate in a retreat at Camp Istrouma on April 25. This retreat is a culmination of the "Come, Lord Jesus" Bible study program.

The school's faculty participated in a retreat on Jan. 3. The retreat on Ignatian prayer was led by Stephanie Cloutre-Davis, with the assistance of Jessica Lee. Teachers were given the opportunity to participate in community-building exercises as well as strengthening their personal prayer life.

The connection was made between the philosophy of St. Ignatius and the core of the Growth Mindset philosophy. In prayer, as well as in education, one can always strive to achieve deeper levels of understanding and personal growth.

'Advent at Aloysius' celebrates season with music, prayer, fun

Hundreds of St. Aloysius parishioners braved the frigid temperatures and freezing rain Dec. 6 to celebrate the start of the Advent season with our first annual community life fellowship event "Advent at Aloysius."

The theme of the night was Rejoicing in His Light, and the light of Christ was shared by all in a remarkably beautiful and magical way.

The night began in the dimly lit sanctuary with a beautiful prayer service led by Father Randy and Father Eddie. The opening hymn, Christ Be Our Light, set the tone for the joyous and reverent evening.

St. Aloysius School student Emmaline Ritter opened with a moving scripture reading from Isaiah -- "the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light...." Father Randy and Father Eddie then lit the first candle on the Advent wreath and blessed the newly illuminated crepe myrtle alley. The opening prayer service ended with the singing of Jolly Old St. Nicholas -- and St. Nicholas himself made a surprise appearance.

Everyone moved to the Parish Hall, where the ACTS Brothers Band was waiting to take requests and lead the Christmas caroling. Todd Poche with the Knights of Columbus worked all day on the most delicious chili, served with various toppings, Frito chips and hot dogs. Parishioners donated sugar cookies for

dessert and hot chocolate helped to keep everyone warm. Chimene St. Amant took candid photos at the event and Eye Wander Photography took posed pictures with St. Nicholas and under the crepe myrtle alley lights.

The Community Life Commission sold Advent wreaths, t-shirts and raffle tickets for a fresh Christmas tree to help cover the costs of this new event. The Spiritual Growth Commission provided candy canes and bookmarks for the children visiting St. Nicholas.

The Social Responsibility Commission led a book drive for the children at St. Vincent de Paul. The Education Commission led a shoe drive for Soles for Souls and provided Advent calendars for the children. The Administration and Worship Commissions provided invaluable planning and logistical support for the event.

The night ended with another beautiful prayer service in the sanctuary. The music and prayers of the evening Vesper service were a perfect end to a memorable night.

Advent at Aloysius was a night that brought together parishioners of all ages in a fun and faith-filled way. Mark your calendars for Advent at Aloysius 2018 -- Saturday, Dec. 1, immediately following 4:30 p.m. Mass.



Eye Wander Photography



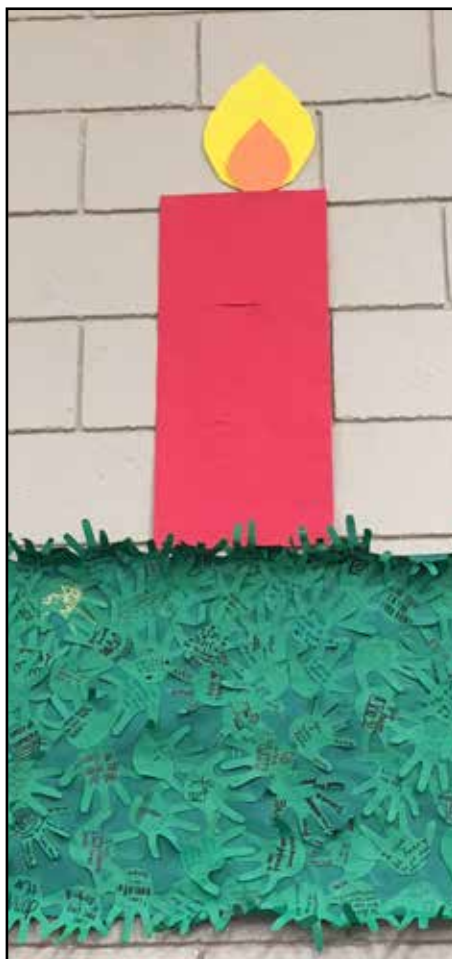
Wreath reinforces mission to make a difference

Recent visitors to the old gym at St. Aloysius School are treated to the sight of a very large wreath above the bleachers, with greenery made of hand prints.

On each hand print is a picture or message explaining how each student or faculty member plans to make the world a better place.

The wreath initially had three purple candles and one pink candle. As the weeks of Advent progressed, paper flames were added to the wreath. For the Christmas season, the candles were changed to red.

As we approach the celebration of National Catholic Schools Week, the candles will once again be changed to match the colors of the National Catholic Educational Association logo. Each candle will represent one word of this year's theme, "Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed." We will also add the word "Believe" to represent that Jesus Christ is at the center of our mission.





FEBRUARY 26-28, 2018
STARTING AT 7:00PM EACH NIGHT

**A Parish Mission for
St. Aloysius Catholic Church
PRESENTED BY FR. MICHAEL ALELLO**

DAY 1: ORIENTING YOUR LIFE TOWARDS CHRIST
DAY 2: TAKE COURAGE! IT IS I. DO NOT BE AFRAID
DAY 3: RISE, TAKE UP YOUR MAT AND WALK!

"Now is the time to say to Jesus: 'Lord, I have let myself be deceived; in a thousand ways. I have shunned your love, yet here I am once more, to renew my covenant with you. I need you. Save me once again, Lord, take me once more into your redeeming embrace.'" Pope Francis

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