



aloysius alive

Vol. 34 No. 5

March 2019



Puttin' on the Ritz



Contributors, sponsors, volunteers make auction a major success

By Jeanne McLellan and
Trent Ciaccio
2019 Auction Chair and
Co-Chair

Well folks! It was a swell evening seeing all the dapper guys and flapper dolls donning your best dressed rags, and jazzing it up to the Speak Easy tunes of John Gray and his 6 Piece Jazz Band!

Our St. Aloysius Parish Auction took place on the first of February at the L'Auberge Casino Event Center at seven on the dime. What a fine time

to be had, bidding on live-auction and silent-auction items, class art and teacher activities. Everyone who donated and contributed to this extravagant event deserves a star above their name, because it was the Cat's Meow and we couldn't have done it without you. Thank you a thousand times!

On behalf of the 2019 St. Aloysius Parish Auction committee members and Father Randy Cuevas, we would like to acknowledge and give a huge heartfelt thank you to our Starlight Sponsors:



vas, we would like to acknowledge and give a huge heartfelt thank you to our Starlight Sponsors:

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- Team Automotive Group
- School Time
- Smilebooth
- BR Printing
- Animated Art LLC
- Gerald Kleinpeter

We also want to spotlight next year's up-and-coming co-chair, Katey Ponder Bergeron. Thank you for stepping up to the plate; we know you will do a fabulous job. We look forward to seeing what's in store next year.

Renewal of marriage vows? Stay tuned

By Father Randy Cuevas

The average Catholic may not know that at the annual Chrism Mass at the Cathedral during Holy Week, we priests gather with our bishop to renew to him the promises of obedience and celibacy we made on the day each of us was ordained. I have done so every year (except a few times when I missed it due to illness or a parish emergency) for the past 36 years. I have needed to be reminded annually of the virtues I pledged to live by reception of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. It's helped me through rough patches. It's not a guarantee of a priest being and remaining virtuous, or not leaving the active ministry, but I think it helps.



Cuevas

I've often wondered why couples with the Sacrament of Marriage don't have a formal opportunity annually to renew their vows? I know there are pros and cons of doing so. I'm not sure it's the thing to do if a marriage is "broken." But I think it can be "preventive medicine" to keep the essential elements in good working order (if they're not yet out-of-order) especially reminding couples that, sacramentally, their marriage is the two-fold visible microcosm of both the permanent and unending communion of Jesus with his Church and a husband and wife mirroring the unconditional, sacrificial – always life-giving – love of Jesus who entered with them into a covenantal bond – or 3-way equal partnership.

So I'm considering offering the opportunity, for married couples to renew their vows annually, on a monthly basis after a select Sunday Mass. They might choose to do so during the month of their respective anniversaries. So stay tuned!

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Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum Schedule 2019



Together we set aside these most holy days of the Church Year.

During Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum, the people of St. Aloysius Parish walk with Christ. We experience again His saving passion and death, and we rise again with Jesus on Easter Sunday.

Palm Sunday: April 13/14

Our regular Sunday schedule, with the Procession from the Bell Tower at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Masses.

Monday of Holy Week: April 15, 6 a.m. Mass

Tuesday of Holy Week: April 16, 8 a.m. Mass

Wednesday of Holy Week: April 17, 6 a.m. Mass

Holy Thursday: April, 18 (There is only one mass today.)

7 p.m., The Mass of the Lord's Supper

Following Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place in the Parish Hall until 12:00 Midnight.

Good Friday: April 19

8:30 a.m., Chaplet of Divine Mercy (Parish Hall)

9 a.m., Morning Prayer (Parish Hall)

Silent Prayer Observing the Three Hours of Christ's Passion will be observed from Noon until 3 p.m.

Noon, Solemn Stations of the Cross

3 p.m., Celebration of the Lord's Passion/Veneration of the Cross

Holy Saturday: April 20

8:30 a.m. Chaplet of Divine Mercy (Parish Hall)

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer (Parish Hall)

The Solemn Vigil of Easter: Saturday, April 20 at 8 p.m. (No 4:30 Mass today.)

Easter Sunday: April 21

8:30 AM Chaplet of Divine Mercy (Church)

Masses at 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Holy Week, Triduum represent high point of our Church year

Holy Week and the "Sacred Triduum," the three days from Holy Thursday night through Easter Sunday, are the high point of the entire Church year. At St. Aloysius, these are the days for our most moving and beautiful rituals, the best music and the finest decorations.

If you are unable to be with us for some of the Holy Week liturgies, make an extra special effort to somehow set these holy days aside with time for personal and family prayer.

Palm Sunday, April 14

On Palm Sunday we enter Holy Week, the time when we remember Christ's passage from death to life with a commemoration of the Lord's triumphal entrance into Jerusalem. At 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Masses, the liturgy begins outside along the crepe myrtle alley with the blessing of palms and the procession. Carrying palm branches and singing "hosannas," we acclaim Jesus Christ as our king.

Once everyone has gathered inside the church, the tone of the liturgy suddenly changes as we remember that our Lord suffered and died to save us. The high

point of the Palm Sunday liturgy is the proclamation of the Passion of St. Mark. On Palm Sunday, we will celebrate our regular Sunday Mass schedule.

Holy Thursday, April 18

Lent comes to an end at sundown on Holy Thursday (April 18). Tonight, we begin the three-day celebration that is the center and summit of our liturgical year. Everything that takes place from sundown on Holy Thursday to sundown on Easter Sunday is part of one great liturgical celebration played out in three movements.

In this annual three-day festival, we commemorate Christ's passage from death to life. The Catechumen, candidates for full communion and all the baptized keep these three days in a spirit of prayer and with fasting as we remember our passage from death to eternal life.

The Mass on Holy Thursday evening begins with the ringing of bells and the singing of the Gloria – a sign that Lent has concluded and the Triduum (the three-day festival) has begun. After listening to the sacred scriptures, we

Continued on page 3

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.

Baptism committee looking for volunteers

The Infant Baptism Preparation committee is looking for members. This is a joyous ministry and only a small commitment of time.

Committee members greet families on the day of their

child's baptism and help guide them through the service. Baptisms are held once a month at St. Aloysius, and committee members are asked to sign up at their convenience for three to four baptisms a year.

Members are also asked to help lead baptismal seminars once or twice a year on Sunday afternoons for 45-60 minutes. For more information, contact Susan Andries at susanandries@bellsouth.net or at 225 772-2156.

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Holy Week, From Page 2

do something unusual -- we wash feet. Jesus washed his disciples' feet at the Last Supper. Tonight, the clergy wash others' feet to remind us of our willingness to serve our neighbors with humility.

The high point of Thursday's liturgy is the celebration of the Eucharist. With the breaking of unleavened bread and the sharing of a common chalice, we remember the death of the Lord as he taught us. After Holy Communion, the Body of Christ reserved for the Good Friday Liturgy is carried from the church to a place of reservation in the Parish Hall (our original church building). Singing an ancient Latin hymn, "Pange Lingua Gloriosi," you are invited to join the procession into the Parish Hall.

For the next three days, the Blessed Sacrament is not present in the main church to remind us of Jesus' three days in the tomb. The liturgy of Holy Thursday has no end. As Christ prayed in the garden of Gethsemane, we continue to watch and pray in silence. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament continues in the Parish Hall ending at midnight.

Good Friday, April 19

On Good Friday, the People of God continue to keep watch in prayer and fasting. We fast and abstain from eating meat today (if possible we continue the fast throughout Holy Saturday) in anticipation of the Eucharistic feast that we will share on Easter.

Beginning with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Morning Prayer (Parish Hall) and continuing through the hours of the Lord's Passion (noon to 3 p.m.), the

*Join us for worship
at St. Aloysius during
the Easter season
as we proclaim the
Good News that
Christ has truly risen
from the dead!*

church will remain open for silent prayer. At noon we will walk in the footsteps of Christ, as we pray the Solemn Stations of the Cross.

The Main Good Friday Liturgy, which includes the Veneration of the Cross, begins at 3 p.m. We will gather quietly to listen to the proclamation of the Lord's Passion as told to us by St. John. After sharing the Word of God, the community prays at length for the needs of the world. Triumphant, the Holy Cross is raised up for all to see. One by one we come forward to touch, embrace, or kiss the Holy Cross.

Holy Saturday, April 20

On Holy Saturday the community continues to quietly keep vigil in fasting and prayer. God rested on the seventh day at the end of creation. On the seventh day Christ rested in the tomb. Today we also rest, preparing for the evening celebration of the Easter Vigil.

The day begins with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Morning Prayer at 9 a.m. in the Parish Hall. On Holy Saturday we will not have Confessions or a 4:30 p.m. Mass. Please also note that the Vigil is held later, at 8 p.m. This is in keeping with the Church's tradition of beginning the Vigil in darkness.

Easter, April 20/21

The Solemn Easter Vigil (April 20, 8 p.m.) begins outside with

the lighting of the new fire. We carry the new paschal candle into a darkened church and proclaim once again that Christ is the Light of the World. The Vigil continues with the proclamation of many of the most powerful scriptures in the Bible.

The Service of the Word concludes with the singing of the Easter Alleluias and the proclamation of the Gospel account of Jesus' Resurrection. After invoking the intercession of the Saints, we process to the font and bless water for the Baptism of new members.

After remembering our own Baptism, the sacrament of Confirmation will take place. Then the whole assembly, united in our common faith, will gather around the altar to celebrate the Easter Eucharist. In this Vigil we remember Christ's victory over death. In a powerful way we also celebrate our new creation, our passage from slavery to freedom, as well as our victory over sin and death.

On Easter Sunday (April 21) we begin the Fifty Days of rejoicing that lead to the Feast of Pentecost. Flowers now fill the church, and our jubilant song, the Alleluia, is once again sung. On Easter Sunday through the Feast of Divine Mercy (April 28), the Chaplet of Divine Mercy will be recited each day in the church at 8:30 a.m.

For the 50 days of the Easter season, we will celebrate many important events in the life of our parish: the baptism of infants, the first communion of our children, and the marriage of several couples. Join us for worship at St. Aloysius during the Easter season as we proclaim the Good News that Christ has truly risen from the dead!



Weekday Masses

All Masses held in the Church:

Monday at 6 a.m.
Tuesday at 8 a.m.
Wednesday at 6 a.m.
Thursday at 8 a.m.
Friday at 8 a.m.

Stations of the Cross

Each Friday of Lent: 7:15 a.m. and at 5:30 p.m.

JHYG Living Stations of the Cross

Monday April 15, 1 p.m.
Tuesday April 16, 7 p.m.

Reconciliation

"When the adjacent Mass is celebrated"

Mondays 6:30 a.m. after Mass
Tuesdays 7:30 a.m. before Mass
Wednesdays, 6:30 a.m. after Mass
Thursdays 7:30 a.m. before Mass
"Except on Holy Thursday"
Saturday, 3:30 p.m. before the Vigil Mass

"Except on Holy Saturday when the only Vigil Mass will be at 8 p.m."

The "Light is on for You,"

Private Confessions with several priests
Wednesdays, April 3, 10 and 17- 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Parishioners invited to celebrate Divine Mercy devotion

The image is by now familiar, but many adults may wonder: "What's all this about 'Divine Mercy'?" It wasn't part of my faith formation during my youth." They're right -- it wasn't -- unless they were born near the turn of the 21st Century. St. Pope John Paul II established the Second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday in 2001 to encourage awareness and emphasis of the message of Divine Mercy throughout the world.

Quoting the website <https://www.ewtn.com/devotionals/mercy/>:

"From the diary of a young Polish nun, a special devotion began spreading throughout the world in the 1930s. The message is nothing new, but is a reminder of what the Church has always taught through scripture and tradition: that God is merciful and forgiving and that we, too, must show mercy and forgiveness. But in the Divine Mercy devotion, the message takes on a powerful new focus, calling people to a deeper understanding that God's love is



unlimited and available to everyone -- especially the greatest sinners.

"The message and devotion to Jesus as **The Divine Mercy** is based on the writings of **Saint Faustina Kowalska**, an uneducated Polish nun who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary of about 600 pages recording the revelations she received about God's mercy. Even before her death in 1938, the devotion to The Divine Mercy had begun to spread.

"The earliest element of the

Devotion to the Divine Mercy revealed to St. Faustina was the Image."

According to the website <https://www.thedivinemercy.org/>:

"The message of The Divine Mercy is simple. It is that God loves us -- all of us. And, he wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy."

In 1935, during her visions, Sister Faustina received interiorly the words to the prayers that we know today as the Divine Mercy Chaplet, which is prayed using ordinary rosary beads. From St. Faustina's diary:

"Jesus said later to Sister Faustina: 'Say unceasingly this chaplet that I have taught you. Anyone who says it will receive great Mercy at the hour of death. Priests will recommend it to sinners as the last hope. Even the most hardened sinner, if he re-

cites this Chaplet even once, will receive grace from My Infinite Mercy. I want the whole world to know My Infinite Mercy. I want to give unimaginable graces to those who trust in My Mercy ...

"... When they say this Chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person not as the just judge but as the Merciful Savior."

Further, Sister Faustina received instructions for a nine-day novena to be prayed in preparation for the celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday. The novena begins on Good Friday and continues daily through the Saturday before Divine Mercy Sunday.

In St. Aloysius Parish, all parishioners are invited to participate in praying the Divine Mercy novena as a faith community. The Divine Mercy image will be displayed in the Parish Hall on Good Friday and Holy Saturday, with the novena being prayed there at 8:30 a.m. each day. On Easter Sunday, the image will be moved into church, with the novena con-

tinuing at 8:30 a.m. daily. Our parish celebration of the Divine Mercy devotion concludes on the Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday) with community prayer of the Divine Mercy Chaplet in church at 8:30 a.m., prior to 9 a.m. Mass.

SCHEDULE

- Friday, April 19 (Good Friday) - 8:30 a.m. - Parish Hall
- Saturday, April 20 - 8:30 a.m. - Parish Hall
- Sunday, April 21 (Easter Sunday) - 8:30 a.m. - Church
- Monday, April 22 - 8:30 a.m. - Church
- Tuesday, April 23 - 8:30 a.m. - Church
- Wednesday, April 24 - 8:30 a.m. - Church
- Thursday, April 25 - 8:30 a.m. - Church
- Friday, April 26 - 8:30 a.m. - Church
- Saturday, April 27 - 8:30 a.m. - Church
- Sunday, April 28 (**Divine Mercy Sunday**) - 8:30 a.m. - Church

St. Aloysius School Service Day inspires faculty to help others

"We are the eyes, hands and feet for Jesus on earth." This is how Pre-K teacher Karen Edwards summarized our Christian call to service. The St. Aloysius School faculty and staff had the opportunity to put this call into practice during St. Aloysius School Faculty Service Day. On Feb. 4, the faculty participated in a retreat and faculty service day. Becky Eldredge, retreat facilitator and author of "Busy Lives and Restless Souls," assisted in creating the retreat, which was a reflection on our Christian call to use our gifts for service to the community. The faculty was inspired by guest speaker Michael Acaldo, president and CEO of St. Vincent de Paul Society of Baton Rouge. He spoke of his call to service and gave insight into balancing service to family with service to the community. He also articulated the mission of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and some of the organization's history. Following Acaldo's talk, Deacon Chauvin Wilkerson reminded the faculty that the opportunity for Christian service is always available, from the moment we wake to the moment we go to sleep. All of our choices and interactions with people throughout the day are ways to serve others. After his talk, Deacon Chauvin called the members of the faculty to the Baptismal font, the source of our Christian call to service. The faculty was then blessed and sent out to offer services to the community. The faculty was divided into groups which provided a variety of services to a variety of organizations. After completing their service, faculty members wrote reflections about their experiences. Group 1 helped at the Burden Museum, cleaning the historical displays. "The curator told

us there is not a separate cleaning staff and with an upcoming public event, our service was very much appreciated," group member Susan Davidson said. Group 2 stayed on campus, providing help to the St. Aloysius community. Members took on the tasks of organizing materials in the school gym and cleaning the shelving and books of the parish library in Gonzaga Hall. Groups 3, 4 and 5 went to St. Vincent de Paul, where they served meals in the dining room, set up stations to provide clothing, handed out "Bags of Hope" containing toiletries and helped serve lunch in the Sweet Dreams Shelter. The experience opened the eyes and hearts of the faculty. Beth Bordon wrote, "I was familiar with the organization but astounded by how many people and the ways they serve the population." Patrice LeJeune said, "The number of people who needed help was unbelievable – 450 people a day, 365 days a year." "Seeing the small children really tugged at my heartstrings. We take so much for granted," Nancy Dawson said. Group 6 inscribed inspirational sayings on bandanas and created tutus for "Girls on the Run." The bandanas will be given to girls participating in a special group event. Tracey Barhorst remarked, "I loved working for others. I was pleasantly surprised to put my gifts to use in this way." Group 7 went to the McMains Children's Developmental Center. The flower beds and planting areas were in need of refurbishing, and there was a mound of dirt and a mound of mulch in the parking lot that needed to be moved. At the end of the day, two large beds and multiple planting areas had been refurbished.



Group 8 assisted at the Food Bank warehouse, boxing and sorting food items. "I did not know the backpack program existed," Michelle Dozier wrote. "I am so glad I was able to be a small part of helping area children in need." Comments from members of the faculty interpret their experiences of service to the community. "I need to do more good for the world." "I feel I should move outside my comfort zone." "I was reminded that our eyes and hearts are not for judging, but for understanding." "It was a very emotional, even humbling day, seeing the elderly, children and the working poor – all of them with the face of God. It was a day of grace."



St. Aloysius celebrates Catholic Schools Week 2019

St. Aloysius School participated in a number of activities as Catholic Schools across America celebrated Catholic Schools week from Jan. 27 through Feb. 2.

On Monday, students gathered for assembly in the gym, where they got their first view of the banner created by the entire school. The 8-foot-by-8-foot banner is titled "A Dozen Reasons to Choose Catholic School." The colored panels on the banner are filled with student and faculty responses to the statements.

Topics include, "We offer an education that combines the Catholic Faith with Academic excellence" and "We provide a safe and welcoming environment for all." The one blank section of the banner is entitled, "We have a 99% graduation rate. 85% of our students go to college." Visiting parents contrib-



uted by inscribing their names and the names of the Catholic schools they attended.

When assembly began, teachers were called up to receive recognition for their years of service to Catholic schools. The following teachers were recognized: Debra Bennett, Teresa Hyfield and Cheryl Welborn (10 years); Mimi Caballero and Erin Candilora (25 years); Alvin Dau-



hauer (30 years); and Sherri Dupuy (35 years).

On Monday evening, the diocese hosted a dinner for Distinguished Graduates of each Catholic school. Jane Bayhi Wood was the Distinguished Graduate of St. Aloysius School.

On Wednesday, representatives of all of the diocesan schools met to celebrate Mass at Our Lady of Mercy Church. Ten stu-

dent representatives from each school, as well as administrators and teachers receiving service awards, joined Bishop Duca for the celebration. Principal Erin Candilora and Student of the Year Izzy Gruner carried a gift in the entrance procession. Our student representatives attending the Mass were eighth-grade Advisory Board members Brady Moffitt, Hudson Brown, Cooper

Mockler, Avery Oubre, Charlotte Fuselier, Ryan Perret and Izzy Gruner. Also attending were Lucca Hyfield and Violetta Hyfield. Teachers receiving service awards also attended the Mass. Upon returning to campus, the representatives from St. Aloysius School shared a luncheon.

Thursday was Spirit Shirt Day. The students proudly wore the special color of each grade level. On Friday, the first-graders celebrated a grade-level Mass together. On Saturday, the final day of Catholic Schools Week, the second-graders gathered with the PSR students from the parish to celebrate First Reconciliation.

Catholic Schools Week provided us with a great way to work together and to appreciate our accomplishments as a Catholic school.

Krewe of Tots always a St. Aloysius favorite

After a celebratory end to 2018, the St. Aloysius Child Care Center started off 2019 with lots of fun activities the first few months of the new year.

Classes enjoyed pajama and movie days; Valentine's Day parties; National Hat Day, when everyone wore hats to school; and National Dental Month, with visits from the Tooth Fairy!

Children created slime, silly putty and snow (and igloos) to learn about the letter "S"; learned about the Creation story; and had pizza parties. Don't forget the train that visited the center as the kids learned about

the letter "T."

In February, SACCC let the good times roll with the Krewe of Tots parade. The children rode on floats they built with their parents and threw goodies as the parade processed throughout St. Aloysius School. This annual tradition is special for the children as they have a chance to interact with the students at the "big school." Parents, teachers and friends look forward to this event all year.

The center looks forward to many spring events, including the annual Fish Fry, St. Patty's Day and Easter celebrations.



Students get glimpse of good done through Operation Rice Bowl

Each year, St. Aloysius School participates in Operation Rice Bowl. Donations made during the program allow Catholic Relief Services to help people in our own community and around the world.

On Feb. 26, students of St. Aloysius School were treated with a special guest visitor. Daniel Mumuni flew 24 hours

from Sierra Leone to talk about Operation Rice Bowl. He is the manager of the McGovern-Dole Food for Education program, which helps feed children at school. For some of these children it is the only meal of the day and possibly the reason they go to school.

Daniel showed photos of children who

are receiving water, food and an education due to Operation Rice Bowl. He explained to the students how Catholic Relief Services impacted his life in the country of Ghana by allowing him to receive an education.

To give a glimpse of what life is like for children in Sierra Leone, Daniel had

volunteers walk with buckets of water on their heads. Children as young as 3 and 4 years old carry water for their families. Daniel said the goal of his talk was to raise awareness of the plight of children in other countries, but also to allow our students to reflect on how fortunate they are.

Are you called to serve on SVdP Conference?

The St. Vincent de Paul Conference at St. Aloysius was established nearly 20 years ago with a goal to provide assistance, financially and spiritually, to those in need within the geographical boundaries of our church parish.

It is sometimes easy to lose ourselves in the comfortable lifestyles we parishioners live here at St. Aloysius Church. Our area is filled with neighbors who desperately need our help. The profile of our neighbors varies – young/old, black/white, employed/unemployed, young people raising children/elderly people raising grandchildren,

educated/uneducated, healthy/sick – all facing life struggles.

We are blessed beyond measure as parishioners of St. Aloysius and, as such, we are called to be grateful by being generous and evangelical stewards of God's grace. Pope Francis consistently urges us to have the heart of Jesus and carry the burdens of the weakest and poorest amongst us.

Ten teams of SVdP volunteers go out two by two on home visits to meet, pray and assist our neighbors in need with rent, utilities, food, medicines, and, most of all, love and hope for the future.

In their visits, they encounter many blessings, and the face of Jesus comes to life and to light in these neighbors and to the SVdP volunteers in this ministry.

We believe the need for these visits will never go away. In Jesus' words, "The poor you will always have with you, and whatever you wish you can do good to them, but you will not always have me." The SVdP Conference of St. Aloysius greatly appreciates the parish's generosity, which allows us to meet the poor face to face and convey the love of Christ through monetary assistance.

We understand that we represent the entire parish of St. Aloysius on these visits and we ask for your continued support in time, talent and treasure for this wonderful ministry and the SVdP neighbors whom we are so privileged to serve.

Our conference is in need of new members. All are welcome, but the group can be well-suited for married couples to share a ministry as members go out two by two. If you are interested in learning more about how to serve in the SVdP Conference, contact Kim Bueche Hardman at kbueche@ptpnla.com or 225-939-6962.



Drop by anytime!

Former pastor Father Marcel enjoys visitors, reminiscing

Did you know that a former pastor of St. Aloysius is "royalty?"

Father Robert Marcel, the second pastor of St. Aloysius, reigned as the "King of Hearts" at the Southside Garden Valentine's Day party on Feb. 12. He enjoyed his reign, presiding over a wonderful dinner and dancing with several of the residents and visitors at the event.

Father Bob has lived in the assisted living center at Southside Gardens for nearly four years. He has always had a special place for St. Aloysius in his heart and has lived near the parish since his retirement.

Though no longer active in ministry due to health issues, Father Bob welcomes visitors and loves to reminisce with friends. Visitors are encouraged and appreciated, especially since Father Bob has no family in Baton Rouge and now that it is physically difficult for him to attend Mass at St. Aloysius.

A great time to visit is in the afternoon, around 1:30 or 2, when social activities take place. BINGO is a favorite at Southside. This time frame also features fresh coffee and cookies or snacks for residents and their guests – and Father Bob does not miss the opportunity for those snacks!

If you have a small dog that is good around people, please consider taking your pet to visit. (Pet visitors must be kept on a leash; check with the facility first.) Many will remember Father Bob's love for his pets; Coco and Clouseau were often mentioned in his homilies and in conversation. A dog will always bring a smile to his face, as well as to other residents in the common areas of the facility.

While memory issues can make conversation about current events difficult for Father Bob, as long as he is around a dog or discussing the past, he is very content and happy. If the weather is nice, you can take him outside in his wheelchair to enjoy the flowers that bloom in spring. Visits need not be long; 20-30 minutes is perfect.

The assisted living facility is the long building that runs parallel to Lee Drive, with a covered entrance at the front. Make Father Bob's day – and that of the other residents – by dropping in on the reigning 'King of Hearts' at Southside Gardens, at the corner of Perkins and Lee Drive.

After his years as pastor ministering to many at St. Aloysius, this is our parishioners' time to minister to Father Bob Marcel.

'Fill Up the Truck(s)!' Drive set for April 13

St. Aloysius Parish, in collaboration with St. Vincent de Paul, will have several large trucks in the church parking lot on Stuart Avenue from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Palm Saturday, April 13, to collect donations for those in need.

Start prayerfully thinking of items to donate (new or used) and packing them up now. Get your children, family and friends involved. Spread the news.

The church's regular St. Vincent de Paul collection bin, in the church parking lot near Stuart, is available year-round. However, the special event on April 13 will make donating even more convenient. Play to drop off furniture (No mattresses, box springs or TVs, please.); clothing items; baby clothes and items; shoes; coats; sheets; towels; bedspreads; small working appliances; lamps; pots/pans/dishes; and tools.

Newer clothing and shoes are more desirable because they can be used immediately. However, even worn-out clothes and shoes are acceptable because they can be sold for rags or recycled products. All donated items must be placed in plastic bags or boxes. Hanging clothes are acceptable but please cover them.

Donated items can be claimed as income tax deductions. Volunteers from our SVdP Conference and Social Responsibility Commission will provide receipts and assist with loading the trucks.



After Palm Saturday, we move into Holy Week. Each year during Lent, we are invited to deepen our commitment to Christ and to his community, the Church. Through scripture reading, prayer, fasting, alms-giving and service to the poor and others in need, we deepen our discipleship – following Jesus more closely and continuing his mission to build God's kingdom in ourselves, our families and our communities.

This SVdP "Fill Up the Truck(s)!" Drive helps us to be particularly mindful and merciful in reaching out to those in need while

at the same time deepening our faith. Your merciful generosity will be put to good use in helping many within our community who need a helping hand and heart.

St. Aloysius parishioners, in fellowship and faith in action, let's fill up those trucks on Saturday, April 13! PRAY, PLAN and start thinking and packing up items to donate NOW. What JOY it will be to all come together as one on this one very special day!

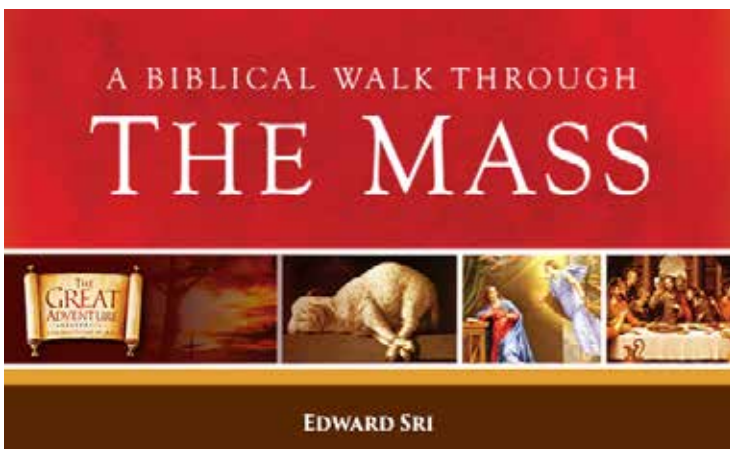
Questions can be directed to Kim Hardman at kbueche@ptpnla.com or 939-6962.

Great Adventure Bible Study taking root, growing

Beginning in September 2018, St. Aloysius launched a multi-year Adult Formation plan to offer opportunities for growth and study, following an outline set forth in the US Conference of Bishops' document, "Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us."

The first year has focused on Knowledge of Faith, with a specific emphasis on Encountering God in Scripture. Two Great Adventure Bible Study programs from Ascension Press have been enthusiastically embraced by over 200 participants.

In September, Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible introduced a broad overview of the Scriptural story of salva-



tion. The video presenter, Jeff Cavins, provided a clear and understandable approach to the narrative-timeline from Creation to the coming of Jesus.

In January, Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John offered a close reading of the fourth Gospel and featured video presentations by Edward Sri emphasizing the call to

discipleship and divine friendship.

Twelve study groups met at various times throughout the week, both on campus and in parishioners' homes. The 90-minute sessions included time for fellowship, a 30-minute video presentation and discussion guided by facilitators and a student workbook.

Our second year begins in September 2019, focusing on Encountering God in Liturgical Life. The next Great Adventure Bible Study, scheduled to begin in late September, will be the five-week series, A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, with Edward Sri as the video presenter.



K of C sponsors youth programs

Knights of Columbus members at St. Aloysius conduct a number of youth programs throughout the year.

In September, the council held the KC Soccer Challenge designed for players to demonstrate the most basic of soccer skills — the penalty kick. A total of 92 students participated in the council-level competition, with St. Aloysius students advancing to the District and Diocesan competitions.

In October, the council held a Catholic Citizenship Essay contest, and 8th-grader Adam Tessmer took first place.

In December, the council worked closely with St. Aloysius School to organize the Advent Posada program for the entire 5th-grade class that included prayer, a play and a celebration to help foster the true meaning of Christmas. Also in December, the council held a Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest, and



Anna Kate Walton's poster was a diocesan winner.

In January, the council held a Basketball Free-Throw Contest, with 147 competing. Also in January, the council held a Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest. The council also participated in the 2018-2019 Catholic Youth Leadership Award program. This year, both of our council winners won the

diocesan competition and move on to state to compete for a \$4,000 scholarship. Congratulations to James Allen Lalonde III and Selia Jindal.

The council is looking for new members to help with these events. If you would like to join the Knights of Columbus, please contact Membership Director Mike Giorlando at giorlando@gmail.com or 504-258-6794.



Bishop urges Scouts to live their 'Duty to God'

Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts from St. Aloysius Parish attended the Diocese of Baton Rouge's Scout Sunday Mass on Feb. 3 at St. Joseph Cathedral.

The Mass was presided over by Bishop Michael Duca and hosted by the Baton Rouge Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting, whose mission is to promote the personal, social and spiritual needs of Catholic youth participating in scouting programs.

Bishop Duca spoke about how the Scouts' Catholic faith integrates into their everyday Scouting activities. He encouraged the Scouts to live their "Duty to God" by being reverent and morally straight.

If your child is interested in joining one of the many Scouting programs sponsored by St. Aloysius, please contact Hailey DeLaune at the parish office at 225-343-6657 ext. 26 or hdelaine@staloyusparish.com.

LENTEN REFLECTION SEDER MEAL WITH 4TH CUP PRESENTATION BY MIKE FULMER

Sponsored by St. Aloysius Catholic Church Senior Ministry

All are welcome!

2 April 2019

11 AM- 1:30PM

St. Aloysius Parish Hall

Registration is \$12 per person and is due by 22 March 2019

Checks can be mailed or dropped off to the parish office

Please contact Hailey DeLaune with any questions

hdelaine@staloyusparish.com

225-343-6657 ex. 26

ST. ALOYSIUS SENIOR MINISTRY

SPRING LUNCHEON

Presentation by Olivia Gulino

MAY 9th
11:30AM- 1PM

Save the Date!

More information on how to register coming
SOON...

Olivia Gulino, MATS is the Associate Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry in the Diocese of Baton Rouge; Panelist on The Catholic Underground Podcast; and Baker and Blogger at Batch + Loaf



Scenes from the Parish Auction

