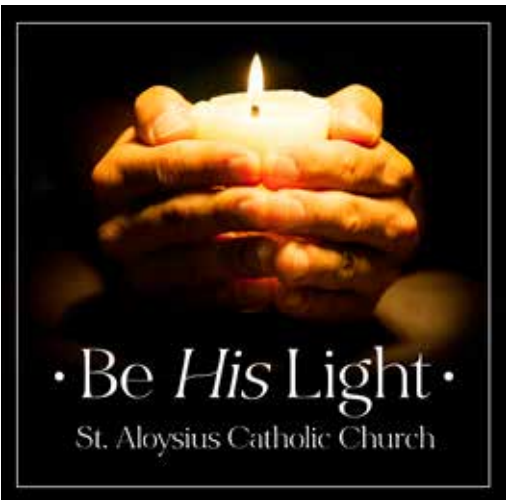




aloysius alive

Vol. 36 No. 1

September 2020



STEWARDSHIP OF MINISTRY

Sharing our gifts, abilities

By Loret Fremin

Stewardship of Ministry co-chair

Our Stewardship of Ministry campaign, Be His Light, will begin Sept. 12-13 with a special presentation before each Mass – outlining the amazing variety of opportunities St. Aloysius offers to volunteer and give back to our parish and our community – each one very worthy of our ministry focus.

We encourage you in the next few weeks to give prayerful thought as to how you might participate in our parish's Stewardship of Ministry efforts. Although this may seem a bit challenging this year – as we all strive to stay healthy mentally and physically, all while self distancing – You can Be His Light. Whether it's volunteering to call our sick and elderly parishioners to

help brighten their day, to bring them a hot meal, or to deliver the Bread of Christ, we can all Be His Light and give a lending ear or hand, all while self-distancing.

Everyone has received gifts and abilities from God, and we serve best when we minister together as a community of faith. Know that when you offer your

Continued on page 3



Dealing with Desolation

Spiritual resources can help ease burdens of pandemic

By Mark Christian

Director of Adult Formation

In these days of mask wearing, physical distancing and limited gatherings, feelings of spiritual desolation are widespread. Our familiar sources of renewal and sustenance are either unavailable or more difficult to access. We find ourselves hoping for the “next phase of reopening,” when we can once again be strengthened and comforted by Mass without masks, prayer groups, retreat teams, Bible studies, choir practice or any of the many other activities that delight us.

And yet, we seem to take “one step forward and two steps back” each time public officials issue a new advisory. Again and again, the horizon of hope recedes and our expectations are readjusted and diminished.

While feelings of spiritual dryness, emptiness and anxiety

Continued on page 5

Becoming Catholic

The suspension of public Masses in Lent due to public health precautions disrupted our familiar RCIA patterns at St. Aloysius. But where there's a will, there's a way. Read more, Page 3.

Parish fundraising efforts illustrate faith in action

By Melanie Forstall Lemoine

Each year, St. Aloysius Parish committees host events that raise funds to support the church, school and ongoing growth and expansion of the parish. Specifically, fundraising efforts are designed to support the parish master plan, which directly supports the church, school and child care

center. The master plan is directly aligned with the parish capital campaign, which includes plans to build the new chapel and parish life/activity center. Additionally, fundraising efforts support ongoing parishwide development including the creation of new spaces for all aspects of parish life.

While all of the fundraising events raise money, they each

are carefully developed to ensure fellowship and fun among those who participate. The chairs and committee members spend countless hours planning and preparing for these events as opportunities to raise money, but also for fellowship and celebration. It is important to note that none of the fundraising events could be possible without the commitment and

dedication of the volunteers. Most notably, the parish fair, auction and golf classic are examples of how St. Aloysius Parish puts faith in action.

Faith, Family and Fun

Year after year, families look forward to the weekend of the fair. True to form, the fair continues to embody the theme of “Faith, Family and Fun,” offering

something for everyone. The 2019 fair, chaired by Dom and Ashley Peré, was a standout for several reasons. The moment people walked onto the grounds, or even passed along Stuart Avenue, it was obvious this fair was different — the rides! The new rides and setup made a big impact on the fun! With the new ride company,

Continued on page 4

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Baton Rouge, LA 70808

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Inside Alive

Mass schedule.....	2
First Eucharist.....	2
Child Care Center news	6
School news	7
Eighth-grade graduation	8

First Eucharist Recipients 2020

Cooper Matthew Allen	Robert Donald Evans, IV	Matthew Reid May
Olivia Grace Allen	Owen Kenneth Ferguson	Andrew Christopher Mikal
Patrick Henry Andrews	Vivian Lucille Fernandez	Wren Louise Mott
Parker Thomas Arbour	Frank Joseph-Michael	Amelia Katherine Mouch
Katherine Anne Aucoin	Ferrara, III	John Hilton Mullins
Brooks Angelo Bailey	Brooks Elizabeth Flettrich	Taylor Katherine Nelson
Andrew John Balhoff	Bowen John Fontemot	Preston Hebert Overall
Ellis David Barnett	Camille Celeste Foreman	Joshua Reise Palmintier
Braxton William Bell	Emma Rose Goodlife	Jack Lawson Papania
Jack Oliver Benson	Natalie Adele Graff	Michael Murray Patton
Jude Michael Bergeron	Stella Christine Gresham	Camille Catherine Petree
Benjamin Michael Ray Besselman	Noelle Grace Guillot	Henry Anthony Politz, II
Paige Marie Biossat	Weston Maurice Helm	Adele Lauren
Brooks Ehren Blanchard	John Matthew Hetzler	Quistgaard-Petersen
Luke Joseph Bodin	Carter James Hill	Ethan Hamiltom Rice
Anna Kathryn Bonaventure	Luke James Hoffpauir	Mason Alexander Richert
Charles Thomas Bondy	Elle Harper Holder	Louis Christopher Riggs
Isabelle Rosalie Boneno	Jacob Michael Holinga, Jr.	Emily Fox Roussel
Brady Rice Bomilla	James Hollis Holliday	Charley Reagan Sasser
Meredith Lee Bourg	Charlotte Claire Hudson	Benjamin Daniel Schilling
Anne Catherine Bourgeois	Madeline Elizabeth Hupperich	Luke Nugent Skinner
Lillian Corinne Broome	Dylan Camille Irby	Grant Wilkerson Smith
Micah McKay Brousseau	Juliette Elizabeth James	Morgan Paige Smith
John Thomas Brown	William Aime Joffrion	Benjamin Kory Sonnier
Maggie Marie Brown	Ella Rayne Johnson	Colton Lee Stagers
Samuel Isaac Buchert	Christian Matthew Jones	Joshua Martin Stagner
Eli Thomas Butler	Jonathan James Kastanos, Jr.	Patrick Christopher Stagner
Philip Pace Carby	Nadim Bahij Khuri	Blakely Tara Stringfellow
Luke Terry Cheralla	Linus Ndathe Kihara	Harper York Stringfellow
Luca Giovanni Christina	Charles Lenton Kilgore	Catherine Rose Swindler
Vandever Eleanor Christina	Carter John Knight	Eli Edward Tanner
Michael Lytle Chustz, III	Elizabeth Frances Kolb	Harrison Paul Templet
Caroline Elizabeth Colvin	Reese Elizabeth Landers	Sam Martin Templet
Maria Cecile Couwillon	John Thorton Landry	Sofia Corinne Tessier
Chayie Mills Cresse	Andrew Farrar Lanneau	George Lamar Thompson
Harris Davidson Culpepper	Colt Thomas LaTour	Joseph Michael Thompson
Amelie Grace Dallimore	Stella Catherine Leach	Ryan Forster Uzee, Jr.
Ellie Catherine Dallimore	Drue Elizabeth LeBlanc	Mary Emery Valluzzo
Jacob Bradley Dallimore	Genevieve Chancellor LeBlanc	Jude Lyman Vignes
Madeline Camille Davis	John Michael LeBlanc	Cannon Hays Waechter
Luke Jacob Dairon	Hayes Balhoff Leitner	Emily James Walker
Anderson Oliver Dotson, IV	William Lee Lemoine	Anna Kate Walton
Isiah Oluwasean Dugas	Elijah Robert Malik	Samuel David Wendt
Ean Cane Dupre	Reese McKinley Maples	Annalise Grace Whidden
Layla Marie Duthu	Owen James Marcell	Jayden Patrick Wilkerson
Jude Claiborne Duval	Brookman William March	
Camden Lukas Easton	Ava Grace Marionneaux	
Eli Schwarz Engemann	Victoria Ann Mathews	
Caroline Elizabeth Evans	Anna Kate Maxwell	

Congratulations to all children who received their First Eucharist

Thanks to all who helped coordinate and serve at the First Eucharist Masses, including our First Eucharist committee members and the ushers, readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

We would especially like to

acknowledge Fathers Randy Cuevas and Ryan Hallford, Ken Thevenet, Patience Appleton, Jo Gomez, Edie Boudreaux, Mary Elizabeth Carruth and Erin Rice, who helped make First Eucharist a very special event for the children and their families.

Director reports on success of Baby Bottle campaign

The 2020 Baby Bottle Campaign at St. Aloysius Parish was another big success. Here are the final results from the council's Life Director Ross McCalip:

The Pregnancy Problem Center and the Woman's New Life Clinic each received a check for \$5,200. The checks were mailed to them this year instead of presenting them in person

because of social distancing requirements of COVID-19, but both centers were very grateful. Running these centers is expensive, but you cannot put a price tag on the lives and souls saved. Our support helps to offset their expenses. I want to thank my Knights of Columbus brothers for their time and generosity. Just know your donation will help save lives.

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, Thursday and Friday 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.

alloysius alive Staff



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Becoming Catholic: RCIA program meets challenges

When public Masses were suspended early in Lent due to public health precautions, our familiar RCIA patterns at St. Aloysius were among the many parish activities that experienced disruption. The comfortable routine of attending the 9 a.m. Sunday Mass, dismissing after the homily, and meeting for our sessions were all discontinued “for the foreseeable future.”

At that time, two adult catechumens were preparing for the Sacrament of Baptism at the Easter Vigil; another nine candidates were ready to be received into the Catholic Church by Profession of Faith.

We entered a weeks-long period of watching and waiting to see

when normal activities would resume. As the “foreseeable future” for returning to beloved routines became increasingly remote, we began experimenting with Sunday morning online meetings that included catechumens, candidates, sponsors and catechists and Wednesday evening online meetings for catechists and inquirers.

As summer arrived and public Masses resumed, we scheduled our Easter Vigil Baptisms to be celebrated at the 4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass for the Feast of the Holy Trinity on Saturday, June 6, nearly two months after Easter. With great joy, our elect catechumens Shelby Bryan and Tyler Spillman were baptized, confirmed, and

received the Eucharist.

At that same Mass, and at several more Masses during the next few weeks, our candidates Mary Barrow, Ron Gilchrist, Helen Harleaux, Ryan Lee, Blake May, Bailey Minsky, Ashton Oswald, David Shirley and Linda Shirley were received into Catholic Church by their Profession of Faith. Along with our elect catechumens, these candidates also received the Sacraments of Confirmation and the Eucharist.

The wearing of masks, use of

hand sanitizer, and practice of physical distancing were sometimes awkward, but the joyful enthusiasm was abundant.

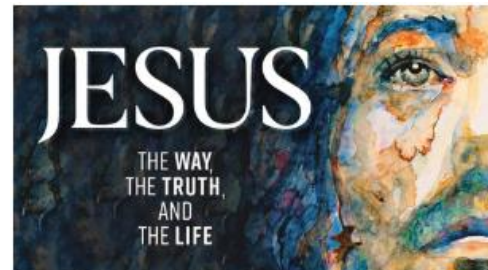
While the disruption has been unsettling and the move to online meetings continues to present certain challenges, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) continues at St. Aloysius. Frozen computer screens, unstable Wi-Fi connections and forgetting to “unmute” have all become oddly gracious occasions for learning patience

and humility.

A new group of inquirers have transitioned from Wednesdays to Sundays as their journey of faith progresses. And by God’s providence, we continue to welcome new inquirers on Wednesdays.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in exploring the possibility of becoming Catholic, contact Mark Christian at mchristian@staloyiusparish.com for more information about this ministry of hospitality and formation in faith!

**Coming to
St. Aloysius
in September
2020**



**Featuring
the work of
Marcellino
D’Ambrosio,
Edward Sri,
& Jeff Cavins**

St. Aloysius Scripture Study Registration Form

10 Week Study Beginning in September. Morning, Afternoon, & Evening Sessions are being planned.

Session meetings will be available online. In-person meetings may be available, based on public health guidelines.

Participant Information

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State, Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Registration Options

Student Workbook Fee: \$25.00
Additional Donation*: _____
Total: \$25.00

We will contact you about the time and date of the group meetings based on your preferences indicated below

Please submit your workbook fee with this form to the church office. Books may be picked up from the church office prior to your first session.

Make checks payable to “St. Aloysius Church”

* Additional Donations help others with the Workbook Fee

Volunteer Opportunities:

Small Group Facilitator ☐

Online Tech Coordinator ☐

(assist with coordination of online platform)

If you were in a previous group, would you like to continue meeting with that group? ☐ yes ☐ no

Day / Time / Place of your previous group _____

Days and Times you are available: please mark all options, numbering your preference (1,2,3)

Sunday:	morning <input type="checkbox"/>	afternoon <input type="checkbox"/>	evening <input type="checkbox"/>
Monday:	morning <input type="checkbox"/>	afternoon <input type="checkbox"/>	evening <input type="checkbox"/>
Tuesday:	morning <input type="checkbox"/>	afternoon <input type="checkbox"/>	evening <input type="checkbox"/>
Wednesday:	morning <input type="checkbox"/>	afternoon <input type="checkbox"/>	evening <input type="checkbox"/>
Thursday:	morning <input type="checkbox"/>	afternoon <input type="checkbox"/>	evening <input type="checkbox"/>
Friday:	morning <input type="checkbox"/>	afternoon <input type="checkbox"/>	evening <input type="checkbox"/>

Other Notes, Needs, Requests: _____

Submit completed forms (along with any questions) to mchristian@staloyiusparish.com or by mail to

St. Aloysius Church • Attn: Mark Christian • 2025 Stuart Ave • Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Assistance is available for purchasing the Student Workbooks – contact Mark Christian for more information



Come, Lord Jesus! group celebrates 10th anniversary

The “Growing In Grace” Come, Lord Jesus! Bible Study group celebrated its 10th anniversary at its gathering on March 7.

Growing In Grace began meeting as a Lenten Bible Study on February 25, 2010. Through the years, about 30 parishioners have reaped the benefits of the Come, Lord Jesus! study of the Sunday readings. The members’ weekly gatherings not only bring strength in their faith and a better understanding of God’s word and love, but also builds a unique community of bonded friendship, which provides support, laughter and spiritual growth to each participant.

The Come, Lord Jesus! program was established and written in 1969 by Father Conley Bertrand, a Catholic priest of the Diocese of Lafayette. Hundreds of groups are scattered

throughout most of the dioceses of Louisiana and in many other states, and even other countries.

Come, Lord Jesus! is a Bible study and so much more. The study transforms members’ lives and spirituality and creates persons of deep prayer and faith. Growing In Grace has shown to be the perfect name as with God’s help and Father Bertrand’s program, members have grown in grace and love for one another, and our Lord. One day... one week...one year at a time.

All are invited. Contact jane@geauxshermans.com for further information about Growing in Grace weekly study, or Cindy Ristroph at cindy.rostroph@outlook.com or Mary Carlin at mary_carlin_1@hotmail.com for information on other available small faith groups at St. Aloysius.

Ministry, From Page 1

good works and gifts on Christ’s behalf, you honor the call of baptism that initiated your Catholic journey. And just as others have done for us, we should all reach out and help those in need.

Our ministry webpage, which provides ministry descriptions, videos and a sign-up form, can be found at www.aloysius.org/ministry. If you prefer a printed

copy of the ministry descriptions, please stop by the Pastoral Services Center during parish office hours.

Be His Light and do God’s work through our parish, and in doing so, we affirm St. Paul’s focused call: “Whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Colossians 3:17).

Parishioners are invited to join a 10-week video study, “Jesus: The Way, The Truth and the Life,” in September.

The video series, presented by Dr. Marcellino D’Ambrosio, Jeff Cavins and Dr. Edward Sri, was filmed in the Holy Land, so Catholics can experience the extraordinary world in which Jesus lived and taught – the historical context, the politics, the clashing cultures, the history, and the ancient land – and see where the most significant events of his life took place, from his infancy to his ascension.

This study shows, in a simple way, how Jesus, the Incarnate God, is both fully divine and fully hu-

man – his intimacy with the Father, his revelation of the Father’s love, and his profound influence on his disciples, his followers, and even his enemies. Most importantly, this encounter with Christ will inspire and empower you to center your entire life in him as you come to know and love him in an ever-deeper and more intimate way.

Groups will begin weekly meetings online in September. In-person groups will be planned as circumstances allow. Registration is \$25, which includes textbook, workbook and access to online videos. For more information, contact Mark Christian at the parish office or by email: mchristian@staloyiusparish.com.

Fundraising, From Page 1

there was something exciting for all ages.

Another spotlight addition to the 2019 fair was an outdoor Mass. "The outdoor Mass was the collective idea of several parishioners and fair committee members," Ashley Peré said. "The idea was to create an intimate setting for the community to unite in Christ and celebrate the Eucharist."

The 2019 fair raised a record \$143,764, which was up from a previous high of \$141,686! Clearly the fair is a way for parishioners to feel a sense of community and share together in faith, family and fun.

While we all look forward to the fair, under the current circumstances, the fair will be postponed until fall of 2021. Multiple conversations, feedback and prayer went into this decision and it was not made lightly. With so much stress on families due to COVID-19 – including health and financial stress; the overall commitment of time to plan; and social distancing requirements – the best decision at this time is to postpone the fair until 2021. The chairs for what would have been the 2020 fair, Nick and Abbie Speyrer, have graciously offered to remain as chairs for the 2021 fair.

Louisiana Saturday Night

The beloved auction had a major change this year – the Louisiana Saturday Night was celebrated right here on campus! "We wanted to bring the auction back to where it all started – the heartbeat of our community, our sacred parish grounds," Katey Bergeron, auction chair, said. This clearly was a welcomed change for the 2020 auction, resulting in a record-breaking \$182,000 raised, exceeding the previous auction high of \$109,000!

Additionally, there was a noticeable change in the auction's atmosphere. "What better way to celebrate together and raise funds for our parish than a good ol' Louisiana Saturday Night!" Bergeron said. "We wanted people to come as they are, eat good food and celebrate the joyous community that we all share."

This year the auction provided a relaxed atmosphere, which brought

so many people together for great food, music, fun and, most importantly, fellowship.

One highlight of the auction is the highly coveted class projects. Each year, auction committee members collaborate with school administration, faculty and staff to create meaningful pieces of art, which are sold during the silent auction. The 2020 auction raised \$17,000 from class projects! For the first time this year, these funds will directly support families of SAS. Funds raised from the class art projects went to the parish scholarship endowment held at St. Aloysius School. The money these funds generate through interest will go to supporting deserving or in-need families by offsetting tuition costs on a year-to-year basis.

Golf Classic

The golf course in University Club of Baton Rouge was the site of the annual springtime Golf Classic. While the Golf Classic is designed as a fellowship opportunity, it also raises funds to support the parish master plan. The tournament is a scramble format, which includes up to 144 golfers, and has sold out each year.

Additionally, this fundraiser includes the ever-coveted Masters Raffle. According to 2020 Golf Classic chair Stuart Helo, "Much of the excitement surrounding the Golf Classic is generated by the Masters Raffle Prize Package." This exciting prize includes two tickets to The Masters Practice Round and a two-night hotel stay in Augusta, Ga. All of this is made possible through the generous donation of Pat Quigley of Green Jacket Sports, Inc. of Baton Rouge. In total, almost \$6,000 was raised.

While so much of 2020 seems to be on hold, uncertain or unknown, we know that our faith will always get us through. If our history tells us anything, St. Aloysius Parish is filled with resilient, committed, and faithful people. Let us continue to be steadfast in the Lord's promise to be with us always and until things return to normal, find new ways to put our faith in action. "Lord, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your church."



A Louisiana Saturday Night to remember

By Katey Bergeron,
Auction Chairwoman 2020

Saturday, Feb. 8, was truly a Louisiana Saturday Night to remember! The annual St. Aloysius Auction returned to our beautiful parish grounds. Our parishioners and friends danced to the sounds of Parish County Line and filled their bellies with delicious Cajun cuisine and drinks provided by Catering Cajun, Fred's and other generous supporters of the parish.

This night would not have been possible without the hard work and generosity displayed by so many. We have already begun preparations for another special night in 2021.

On behalf of the 2020 St. Aloysius Parish Auction Committee members and Father Randy Cuevas, we would like to acknowledge and thank our amazing sponsors.

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Sponsors:

- AMS Financial
- Arkel



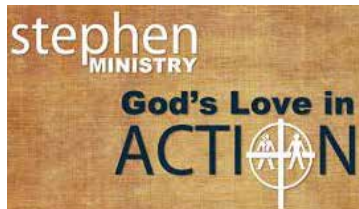
- Barber Brothers
- Bone and Joint Clinic
- Cajun Catering
- Edward Jones
- Emergent Method
- Freds Bar
- Highland Road Animal Hospital
- Himmel's
- Manchac Consulting Group
- Mercedes Benz of Baton Rouge
- Mike and Tami Moran

- Nathanson Family
- Nugent Steel
- Performance Contractors
- Redstick Refinement
- Schramm Financial
- Secure Shredding
- Sherman Balhoff
- Stonehenge Capital
- Team Group
- Troutman Insurance Agency
- Tyson Garon, MD of the Bone and Joint Clinic

Stephen Ministry continuing its mission of care

"Many say, 'May we see better times! Lord, show us the light of your face!'"

The scripture reading in Psalms, Chapter 4, Verse 7, is so apropos for our troubling times during the COVID-19 crisis. Gov. John Bel Edwards issued a stay-at-home order on March 22, directing all Louisiana residents to shelter at home and limit movements outside of their homes beyond essential needs. This order has had a tremendous impact on our community, local businesses, organizations, and our church and parish. And although moving into Phase II has eased some restrictions, the pandemic remains at large and still very worrisome.



The St. Aloysius Stephen Ministry continues to serve our caregivers in the parish in providing one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people experiencing life difficulties, losses and transitions. Because the key role of Stephen Ministers is to visit and offer one-to-one care to their care recipients, the pandemic has made it very challenging to meet in such a personal way. The Stephen Min-

istry members are working to offer meetings digitally, by phone, and/or private visits by observing social distancing visitations, accordingly to the desires of the care recipient.

The ministry will abide by the governor's orders, (which the Diocese of Baton Rouge also follows), as well as the current CDC guidelines, to ensure the safety and well-being of its members and those they are visiting. As in the psalm, the ministry members prayerfully trust that restrictions will soon be lifted so that the full benefits of Stephen Ministry can be continued and that the ministry will prosper.

The Stephen Ministry also welcomes newly trained ministers

who are completing the required 50 hours of preparations: Julia Bardwell, Anne Evans and Todd Talbot. Plans are underway for an official commissioning of these new members into the ministry and parish community. Julia, Anne and Todd join fellow members in the group: Kathy Nikolaus, Bob Schoen, Dana Territo, Lynn Carville, Leslie Chauvin, Keith Colvin, V.J. Dauterive, Ann Ourso and Jane Roussel.

The St. Aloysius Stephen Ministry is a lay ministry that supplements pastoral care. The program teaches lay persons to provide one-on-one care to individuals facing a variety of crises or life challenges, such as hospitaliza-

tion, chronic illness, job loss, grief, divorce, cancer, financial difficulties or other life struggles. If you are in need of a Stephen Minister, or know someone who would benefit, please call the church office at 343-6657, or contact Bob Schoen, Stephen Ministry Leader, at (225) 937-2984, or email at bobschoen@cox.net.

Please join the Stephen Ministry in praying not only for its ministry and its newest members, but also for all those affected during this time, especially those who have lost loved ones, those who are ill or suffering, and all workers serving on the front lines of this crisis.

Pandemic, From Page 1

ety are burdensome, they have been very much a part of the experience of some of the greatest saints of Catholic tradition. About a decade after the death of St. Teresa of Calcutta, the publication of letters she wrote to her confessors and superiors during a period of over 60 years revealed that for the last decades of her life, she was tormented by the absence of any sense of the presence of God, neither in her heart nor in the Eucharist.

Amazingly, this absence began around the time she began tending the poor and dying in Calcutta. Even as the world came to recognize her ministry and honored her with the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, St. Teresa wrote to a priest-confidant, "As for me, the silence and the emptiness is so great, that I look and do not see – Listen and do not hear – the tongue moves [in prayer] but does not speak. ... I want you to pray for me – that I let Him have [a] free hand."

Shrouded in desolation and dryness, St. Teresa gave herself away – emptied herself – for Jesus in her love and service to those whose daily experience was dryness, desolation and hunger. Even when she had no sensible experience of God's love, she relied upon the grace of God to empower her to show and share God's love in the face of devastating poverty and need.

Her experience of God's ab-

sence became a means of communion with Christ crucified and suffering, a continual sharing of her life and the love of God with those whose daily existence was suffering.

This startling experience resonates deeply with that of another great woman of faith, St. Catherine of Siena, who was born in 1347 – the same year that the plague, the Black Death, reached Italy.

St. Catherine lived only 33 years, but in that short time she became a lay Dominican, an advisor to Pope Urban VI, a writer of spiritual treatises and a mystic who experienced the stigmata of Jesus. In 1970, she was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope St. Paul VI and one of the patron saints of Europe by Pope St. John Paul II in 1999.

In one of her best-known writings, *The Dialogue*, St. Catherine receives a word from Jesus concerning a particular kind of spiritual delusion. Jesus tells her, "These people find all their pleasure in seeking their own spiritual consolation – so much so that often they see their neighbors in spiritual or temporal need and refuse to help them. Under pretense of virtue they say, 'It would make me lose my spiritual peace and quiet, and I would not be able to say my Hours at the proper time.'"

"Then if they do not enjoy consolation, they think they

have offended me. But they are deceived by their own spiritual pleasure, and they offend me more by not coming to the help of their neighbors' need than if they had abandoned all their consolations..."

"For in charity for their neighbor they find me, but in their own pleasure, where they are seeking me, they will be deprived of me. Why? Because by not helping they are by that very fact diminishing their charity for their neighbors. When their charity for their neighbors is diminished, so is my love for them... So, those who want to gain lose, and those who are willing to lose gain..."

So what spiritual wisdom do St. Teresa and St. Catherine offer us in a time of struggle and isolation due to the spread of COVID-19? First, that feelings of desolation and dryness are an ordinary part of the Catholic life, even for the holiest of Saints.

Second, we should follow their example in reaching out in charity and kindness. If we are physically isolated, it may be as simple as a phone call or email to check in on our neighbors. We may be able to leave them a loaf of bread or a basket of food on their porch or at their front door. Others may be able to connect

with the ongoing work of the Society of St. Vincent DePaul or Catholic Charities.

Third, we should remember the rich spiritual resources that our tradition offers to us. Both St. Teresa and St. Catherine were able to serve others because they were deeply rooted in the practice of prayer. The Liturgy of the Hours, or Daily Office, is a simple way to pray with the Church at various times throughout the day.

Websites such as www.universalis.com or the Laudate app provide guidance on how to start. The Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet are simple yet profound tools for prayer. Consider learning "Lectio Divina," or "Divine Reading," either through a "Come Lord Jesus" group, with your family or friends, or by yourself. Our bishops' website, www.usccb.org, has a helpful section on "Prayer and Worship" to guide you along the way.

Finally, consider taking part in an online study group. Over 100 people have registered to participate in "Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and the Life," through using materials from Ascension Press. New groups continue to form. Contact the parish office for more information!

I recall a helpful remark made by a priest at the very beginning of the pandemic that conveys the example and teaching of St. Teresa and St. Catherine. He observed, "If I can concentrate on being in control of that very small circle of reality that is entrusted to me and in some sense depends on me – how I use my time, how I take care of myself, how I care for my family and friends, how I daily and hourly turn my concerns over to God – then my anxiety diminishes." He also quoted the words of Psalm 91:

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High,

Who abides in the shadow of the Almighty,

Will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress;

My God, in whom I put my trust..."

You will not rear the terror of the night,

Nor the arrow that flies by day,

Nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness,

Nor the destruction that wastes at noonday...

For he will give his angels charge of you

To guard you in all your ways.

The Steps of Lectio Divina


- Choose a text of the Scriptures that you wish to pray.
- Place yourself in a quiet environment. Calm your anxieties and thoughts, and acknowledge God's presence.
- Offer a prayer to the Holy Spirit for inspiration and guidance: *Come, Holy Spirit, enlighten my heart and mind to listen to your Word.*

1. **Lectio:** Read the text slowly and prayerfully, constantly listening for that word that God has prepared for you. You may want to re-read the same text multiple times to help quiet yourself interiorly and focus on God's voice. Listen and receive the Word that God speaks to you.

2. **Meditatio:** When a word or phrase strikes you, stop and rest with it. Repeat the word or phrase to yourself. Allow it to speak to you in a personal way by pondering the word in your heart, reflecting on what it means to you. Memorize it and repeat it to yourself, allowing it to interact with your thoughts, hopes, memories, and desires.

3. **Oratio:** Prayer is your response to God's word. It begins your dialogue with God that comes from your heart. Formulate a prayer, as a response to God. *What do you want to say to the Lord in response to the Word spoken to you?* Enter into this loving conversation with God.

4. **Contemplatio:** Rest in God's presence and receive His transforming embrace. Sit still with God, realizing that in this deep and profound relationship, words are not necessary. Be content and at peace with a wordless, quiet rest in God, which brings joy to the heart. Remember that contemplation is not *your* action or doing, rather it is allowing God to act in you.



BLOOD DRIVE

SEPTEMBER

13TH


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St. Aloysius Church

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Catch up on St. Aloysius Parish scouting news

Scout Sunday Mass

Youths representing Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts from St. Aloysius Parish attended the Diocesan of Baton Rouge's Scout Sunday Mass on February 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.

Girl Scout Sunday

Girl Scouts from St. Aloysius Parish celebrated Mass together on Sunday, March 8, 2020 in honor of Girl Scout Sunday. Girl Scout Sunday kicks off Girl Scout Week and is a special day dedicated to thinking about our Catholic beliefs and how these beliefs are reflected in the Girl Scout Law.

Participation in Mass on this special day emphasizes the importance of the Girl Scout Promise: "On my honor, I will try to serve God" and encourages the girls to reflect upon the meaning of the words, "to serve God." The Girl Scouts served as altar servers, ushers, and greeters to arriving parishioners. They also assisted

with the presentation of the gifts. The Mass was presided over by Father Randy Cuevas. Thank you to Father Randy and Mr. Ken Thevenet for their support of this day for the Girl Scouts of St. Aloysius Parish!

Cub Scout Blue and Gold Banquet

Cub Scouts from Pack 7 of St. Aloysius Parish celebrated the birthday of Cub Scouting as well as their year of scouting by hosting a traditional Blue and Gold Banquet on March 7, 2020. Prior to the banquet, the Cub Scouts attended Mass together with their families and assisted with the Mass. Cub Scouts and

their families enjoyed a delicious meal together provided by BLDG5.

Following the meal, den leader Clint Sandefer led the Scouts in a reflection on the meaning of the Boy Scout Law and Promise. Additionally, den leaders from each level of Cub Scouts presented an overview of their den's accomplishments for the year and presented the Scouts with their advancement awards.

The Arrow of Light Cub Scouts (fifth grade) participated in the Bridging Ceremony led by the Boy Scouts of Troop 7 from St. Aloysius.

This ceremony celebrates the Arrow of Light Cub Scouts crossing over to Boy Scouts. Congratulations to the new Boy Scouts!

Child Care Center has lots to celebrate in new decade

The St. Aloysius Child Care Center kicked off the new decade earlier this year with lots of fun activities.

Classes enjoyed National Hat Day, Valentine's Day parties and a visit from the Tooth Fairy! The children exchanged Valentine's cards and treats, sang songs about loving their friends and gave their parents priceless homemade art that will be treasured for years to come. The Tooth Fairy surprised our older classes and discussed taking good care of their teeth, as well as what happens at the dentist.

We love learning our ABCs! P is for 'P'izza parties! Children created Q-tip art for Q week, and made "Triple-R snacks" to celebrate the letter R. Children created 'Silly putty and 'S'nowmen to learn about the letter 'S'. T is for TIGERS! Children enjoyed cheering on the LSU 'Tigers to victory in the National Championship with Purple/Gold Day in January. We had plenty of rainy days for 'Umbrella art in February!

Speaking of rainy days, Mother Nature canceled our Krewe of Tots Mardi Gras Parade this year. However, SACCC let the good times roll indoors with rainy-day Mardi Gras activities and individual "parades" in each classroom. The children passed out beads, toys and small treats to their classmates and chants of "Throw Me Something, Mister!" could be heard down the center hallways.



St. Aloysius school religion program going strong

The school campus looks different this year. Teachers, rather than students, are changing classrooms. Everyone is wearing a mask. Desk dividers have popped up in classrooms. Some students are learning online and others are learning in-person. Despite the differences, St. Aloysius School is holding true to its mission of educating children in the Catholic faith.

Although unable to gather in the gym for morning assembly, we join together for prayer and announcements over the intercom speaker.

Fathers Randy and Ryan join us as special leaders of prayer. Students in Grades 3-8 will receive the sacrament of Reconciliation using social distancing protocols. When school Masses are scheduled, they will occur on Wednesdays and will be live-streamed to classrooms.

The religion curriculum, using the Loyola Press textbook series "Finding God," is picking up where last year left off. Teachers between grade levels have been in communication to assure that students have had a smooth tran-

sition from last spring's online curriculum. The second grade sacramental preparation program has begun. Each student received a copy of the "Blessed" book by Dynamic Catholic. Students are enjoying discussions and videos about Reconciliation and are looking forward to receiving First Eucharist in the spring.

The teachers are still participating in the Prayer Partner program, which pairs seventh- and first-graders and eighth- and second-graders. Since students from

different grades cannot mingle during the day, students are exchanging greetings by writing notes of introduction and creating artwork to share.

Some programs are in planning stages, awaiting the day when restrictions are eased and scheduling can permit participation. The adult leaders of the eighth grade "Come, Lord Jesus" small group program are preparing themselves so that they will be ready for the day when the program can begin. The grade level retreat program

awaits the day when volunteers can come onto campus and students from a grade level will be allowed to meet as a whole group. The Service Project Program is also awaiting the lifting of restrictions so that we can plan, collect and create in order to help others.

Although COVID-19 has changed some of the protocols for the outward expressions of our faith, St. Aloysius School always looks for creative ways to pass the Catholic faith to the next generation.



St. Aloysius families step up to help in crisis

Catholic Social Teaching provides us with Seven Pillars, principles to guide us to live lives of holiness in the midst of our modern society. One pillar is "Call to Family, Community and Participation." Our families respond to this call by guiding their children to make contributions to society.

March 13, 2020, was the final day for St. Aloysius School students to attend school in their classrooms. Even though school was held virtually for the remainder of the school year, the lessons of Catholic Social Teaching continued IRL, or "In Real Life." Students were asked to continue their Lenten contributions to the Catholic Relief Service's "Operation Rice Bowl." With so much time at home, many families spent great effort in spring cleaning. Families were asked to save old shoes and towels to donate to school collections. All three of these collections were very successful.

Operation Rice Bowl

"Option for the Poor and Vulnerable"

The Church calls us to be aware of the needs of the poor and vulnerable, both locally and around the world. St. Aloysius School has participated in the Operation Rice Bowl collection for many years. Twenty-five percent of money collected stays within the geographical boundaries of the Diocese of Baton Rouge. Seventy-five percent of the collection goes to other countries to help villages get clean water, food, medical supplies, education and job training. Both local and international funds will go to assist communities with their COVID-19 response.

Rice Bowls were collected on the school supply pick-up/drop-off days on April 25 and May 16. The students of St. Aloysius School contributed a total of \$1,815.55.

Towels for Animals

"Care for God's Creation"

Pope John Paul II called on the Church to recognize the need to care for the environment, including animals. St. Aloysius families were asked to collect used towels to contribute to the Capital Animal Alliance. This new facility on the LSU campus provides a space for families to interact with ani-



mals to facilitate the choice of a new pet. The towels will be used to provide a soft bed for animals recovering from surgery.

When all of the towels were loaded, they filled the entire back of an SUV. The towels will provide comfort for many animals as they undergo procedures that will allow them to move on to live with their forever families.

Stinky Shoes Save Lives

"Solidarity"

To honor the memory of Dr. Phil Quatararo, Jr., father of sixth-grade teacher Debbie Michael, the sixth-graders asked school families to save used shoes in any condition. Dr. Quatararo was very involved in the Kiwanis Club's Soles4Souls program. This program turns old, stinky, beat-up shoes into lifesaving tetanus vaccines.

How do old shoes save lives? The Kiwanis Club program collects used shoes and passes them on to the Funds2Orgs organization. This organization pays 40 cents per pound for the shoes.

The Kiwanis Club then uses the money from the shoes to fund its Eliminate Program. This program was created to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus worldwide. By adding our collection of 925 pairs of used shoes, St. Aloysius increased the total funds collected to \$758. This provided vaccines for 421 mothers and their new babies. When you consider the fathers and siblings, the effect is multiplied. So, by our collection, St. Aloysius School helped to impact the lives of more than 1000 people.

St. Aloysius School will continue to promote the social justice teachings of the Catholic Church and will assist parents in their mission to pass the Church's teachings to their children.

School faculty 'walks the walk'

Earlier this year, the St. Aloysius School faculty participated in a book study using *Rediscover the Saints* by Matthew Kelly. In Chapter 11, Kelly introduces the reader to Frederic Ozanam, the young man who began the St. Vincent de Paul society in the streets of Paris in the 1830s. The discussion of this chapter centered around the question, "Are your friends helping you to become the best version of yourself?"

"The mission of St. Aloysius School challenges us to live a 'life of meaning and purpose.'" Principal Erin Candilora said. "As a faculty/staff, we needed to 'walk the walk' before challenging our students to do the same. By serving together, our faculty/staff has grown in our mission to be the 'hands and feet' of Jesus as well as fostering our relationships with one another in order to serve our school community more genuinely and effectively."

On Feb. 3, the faculty participated in a retreat and faculty service day. The morning retreat was titled, "Who am I? How did I get here? And where am I going?" The retreat began with faculty meeting in small groups to participate in a discussion session of *Rediscover the Saints*.

Following the small group discussion, the faculty was treated to a reflective talk by Becky Eldredge, retreat facilitator and author of *Busy Lives and Restless Souls*. She spoke of her personal call to use her gifts for service to the community, and the twists and turns in her life that have led her to become a member of the St. Aloysius community.



Following the presentations, the faculty received a blessing and was sent out to offer services to the community.

Group A went to the Knock Knock Children's Museum to clean and organize. Group member Tracey Barhorst reflected, "Baton Rouge has an amazing space for children to play and learn. And it is also super-clean thanks to the Aloysius Angels."

Groups M and P went to the headquarters of "Girls on the Run." The teachers created tutus, which the organization will sell at their annual fundraiser and 5K run. The money raised provides scholarships for more girls to join the program. Fourth-grade teacher Amanda Register learned about the purpose of the organization. "I thought this group was all about running. They actually work on creating self-esteem and confidence by offering a variety of experiences to the girls."

Groups B and O went to the Our Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital. The faculty members were given a tour of the facility. As music teacher Beth Bordelon

reported, "Our group planned Valentine's Day and Mardi Gras craft activities for the children at Our Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital. It never occurred to me that we'd need to go to some of the patients because they weren't able to leave their rooms."

Groups D, E, G, N and R went to the Diaper Bank sponsored by the Junior League to prepare diapers for distribution. SAS alum Angela Wolfe Sheets explained to the faculty members that WIC and Food Stamp programs cover food costs for struggling family, but there is no monetary subsidy for diapers. The diaper bank repacks diapers and sends them to agencies for distribution to families in need.

Groups C, F, H, I, J, K, L and Q went to the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank. The crew from SAS sorted food items and packed boxes of selected items. First-grade teacher Stacie Granier said, "I was amazed with how large the facility is. After working there, I am curious to know where all the food is going and how it is dispersed."

Congrats to our graduates!



St. Aloysius School bids farewell to Class of 2020 with special ceremony

St. Aloysius eighth-graders of the Class of 2020 waited months for their closing ceremony. The evening finally arrived on Wednesday, July 29. To ensure proper distancing, each student was allowed to invite two guests to attend Mass. As students entered the church, they found their places marked by their graduation certificates. Honor graduates, those with a final overall average of 93.5 and above, also had a special medal to wear during the ceremony.

Our pastor, Father Randy Cuevas celebrated the Mass of the Memorial of St. Martha. The music was led by eighth-graders Arlington Laplace, Annabelle Sheets and Julie Mistic, under the direction of Beth Bordon and accompanied by Ken Thevenet.

After Holy Communion, Principal Erin Candilora addressed the eighth-graders, commending their hard work and positive attitude during these difficult times. The 67 honor graduates were asked to stand to be acknowledged by their peers and their families.

Four students were acknowledged for receiving special awards at a ceremony on May 28. Adler Rice was voted by his

peers and teachers as the St. Aloysius Student of the Year. Adler participated in the Diocesan Student of the Year competition in January. Luke Dawson received the Faculty Award for having the highest grade point average in the class, 99.83. Anna Foco received the Daughters of Jesus Excellence Award in memory of our beloved sisters, who always encouraged students to achieve excellence in schoolwork and in all other pursuits. Luke Funes received the Msgr. Daniel Becnel Award. This award is given to the eighth-grade student who, in the opinion of the faculty, best represents what a St. Aloysius student should aspire to be.

As a special addition to the ceremony, as each graduate's name was called, the graduate and guests came to the steps of the sanctuary. There, the student proudly displayed his or her certificate of completion and posed for a photo, along with a guest on either side and Mrs. Candilora and Father Randy standing behind them. The photos by John Ballance will be a special memento of this evening.

We are proud of this special Class of 2020 and we wish them well as they head off to their high school careers.

St. Aloysius School 8th-Grade Graduates 2020

Amelia Cate Allemond
Dax Stevens Allen, II
James Walker Archer
Jordyn Reese Bailey
Julia Mae Bauer
Allaire Frances Benedetto
Melissa McCoy Bofinger
Bennett Taylor Bokun
Thomas Maxwell Bonnette
Devyn Elizabeth Breaux
John Patrick Cargile
Addie Elizabeth Carmouche
Kathryn Grace Casey
Salvadore Christina, III
Christian Erick Comeaux
Thomas Alexander Crawford
Kevin Wintz Crow
Macie Victoria D'Angelo
Luke Thomas Dawson
Benjamin Michael DeBosier
Javen Marquise Deloch
Charles Vincent Dirks
Abbey Ann Donohue
Andie McClennon Dotson
Alexis Michelle Edgemon
Arden Grace Ellis
William Leighton Evans
Isabella Catherine Ferrara
Nicholas Joseph Ferrell
Anna Coogan Foco
Keller Andre Fournier
Kylie Grace Fournier
Leigh Bernice Fulton
Lila Inez Fulton
Robert Adrian Fulton, II
Luke Michael Funes
Caden Patrick Garcia

Amelia Anne Gilcrease
Katherine Routh Gonsoulin
Emmet Thomas Healy, Jr.
George Edward Hebert
Andrew Michael Hodges
Benjamin Paul Jackson
Dylan Blake Johnson
Robert Mulunda Kasongo
Mayon Laurel Kelly
Elizabeth Claire Kessler
Nicholas Andrew Kolb
Harrison Paul LaBorde
Blanchard Joachim Lagarde
Davis Rexford Lamonica
Emma Grace Landry
Arlington Claire LaPlace
Kody Jon Lauff
David Edward Lemann
Claire Morgan Loffland
James Patrick Maher
Douglas Jude Mapp
Mary Preston March
Gerald Harrison Marchand
Mary Katherine Mathews
Allison Ann Matthis
Mark Stephen McCormick
Catherine Clesi McCrary
Julie Garcia Mistic
Jack Merrigan Mosely
Winston Michael Napoli
Camdyn William Newman
Grant Thomas Oubre
Ashlyn Elizabeth Palmer
Marie Elise Pecquet
George Richard Pesch
Louis Walker Phillips
Ellis Anne Pierce

Grace Kelley Pipsair
Lane Thomas Plauche
Sean Thomas Quigley
Brenna Claire Rebowe
Grace Caroline Rennhoff
Jonathan Adler Rice
Isabelle Marie Richard
Audrey Anne Rothkamm
Helen Michelle Schlieue
William August Schmidt
Lucas Callen Schramm
Marie V. Sereida
Julia Presley Serpas
Annabelle Marie Sheets
Riley Nicole St. Amant
Christian Lorio St. Martin
Kate Michael Stockstill
Anya Gail Stogner
Neila Camille Stone
Amelie Isabelle Stuckey
James Davis Stuckey
Porter Prescott Tanner
Londyn Grace Theriot
William Brennon Thompson
Christopher Brian Tucker
Caroline Pierson Tullier
Caroline Rose Uzee
Locke Patrick Valluzzo
Josephine Allain Viator
Sean Michael Vidrine
Charlotte Renee Waguespack
Jacob Henry Waguespack
James Luke Wood
Mary Elizabeth Word
Laura Ryan Zapata