

# aloysius alive

Vol. 38 No. 4

February 2023

## STEWARSHIP OF OFFERING

# Answering Christ's call with love, faith

By Michael J. Acaldo

Jesus said, "This is my commandment: love one another as I love you." Just as He was speaking to His apostles, He was speaking across the ages to you and me. His call for all of us is to become disciples and spread the good news of the Gospel. Today, we should respond to these words with the same enthusiasm that His apostles did.

But how do we answer this call in our busy, everyday lives and become true disciples of Christ?

Our parish has already invited us to reflect on our commitment to Stewardship through Prayer and Ministry. February begins our focus on Stewardship through Offering.

All phases of stewardship – prayer, ministry and offering –

### Charts, financial summary, Page 4

give each of us an awesome opportunity to answer His call and become disciples in today's world. Stewardship is really a package deal. All phases are equally important. To grow spiritually, we must pray, minister and share our financial treasure.

Within the St. Aloysius faith

community, there are so many fine examples of people living a disciple's life through stewardship. Faith is not about evidence. However, you can see faith in action. You can see prayers being answered. Look around at all the wonderful active parish ministries that are making the Gospel come to life in our community. And the next time you're on the St. Aloysius campus, look at all the facilities made possible by parishioners who are good stewards of their personal treasure by giving financially through stewardship.

Stewardship through Offering is much more than giving money. It is just like the other two phases of stewardship. It gives us an opportunity to strengthen our relationship with Christ, and in doing so, we grow spiritually.

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## Lenten Mission: Redemptive Suffering

In Cooperation with Stephen Ministry, St. Aloysius Adult Formation welcomes Dr. Durwin Walker to present our 2023 Lenten Mission, "Redemptive Suffering," from 6 PM to 7:30 PM on March 13 and 15 in the Parish Hall.

What possible purpose could be served by human suffering? Why would a loving God allow innocent people to suffer? If you have ever

found yourself wondering about such questions, join us as we open Sacred Scripture to look at the history of God's response to human suffering.

With a lot of help from St. John Paul II, we will discover new ways to understand suffering from a unique Christian perspective. We will learn some practical ways to apply his teaching to our own suf-

fering, as well as how to help others better understand the suffering that comes into their lives.

Durwin Walker is a member of Immaculate Conception Parish in Denham Springs. He grew up Protestant, converting to Catholicism in 2007 at the age of 52. Since then, he has been involved in leading apologetics classes, giving talks and lead-

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# Annual Giving Tree campaign provides support to area charities

By Suzy Smith

Each year we come together as a parish to offer support to several charities in the Baton Rouge Metropolitan area. The Giving Tree started many years ago, and each year I've been involved, I'm amazed at the generosity of St. Aloysius. The organizations we supported this year were:

- Prison Fellowship (Children of Prisoners)
- Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge Holy Grill
- Joseph Home Residents
- Women in Crisis Pregnancies
- Myriam's House
- Bishop Ott Shelter
- Habitat for Humanity
- Developmental Disabilities
- St. Vincent de Paul – Sweet Dreams
- Capital Oaks Nursing Home
- Seminarians
- CASA

Each of these organizations shared their appreciation for the love and care our parish offers during the Christmas season and throughout the year. Here's how your donations impacted the lives of others:

"We were overjoyed by the generosity of the parishioners

*"We were overjoyed by the generosity."*

this year for our Capitol Oaks Nursing Home ministry. Each resident (110 residents total) received a pair of wrapped socks and in addition, the nursing home received puzzles, games, cards, coloring books and toiletry items to be used throughout the year. It was our third year to sponsor this ministry and it just keeps getting better each year! The administrator and his assistant love our parishioners & look forward to these gifts every year! Thank you, St. Aloysius!"

Participant Donald Gauci: "I was happy to receive hygiene products, towels and kitchen supplies. I could not afford to buy those items on my own."

Participant Gerald Perry: "He had the biggest smile when he saw the donations. His aunts who care for him were so grateful for these products.

Support Coordinator Mel-

anie Leblanc: "I am always excited every year to see what St. Aloysius donates for our participants. Each year, I grab a couple of items and determine who among my participants needs the items available. This year, I was able to stock up a family with some household items. My participant's family was very thankful for these donations as they had just lost all their belongings in a house fire in early 2022."

For this year's Giving Tree, we had special helpers from the first grade at St. Aloysius School. The kids were excited to be part of this wonderful ministry. They dazzled Christmas Trees, made shrinky dinks of their hands, decorated bells, threaded hearts, and provided well-beaded wreaths and candy canes. Having the children as part of our ministry embodies the true spirit of giving from our parish.

It's estimated over \$20,000 in gifts, supplies and gift cards were distributed. This could not happen without the support of our volunteers and those who chose a special ornament. Thank you for making this year's Giving Tree a tremendous success!



## Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Please join us for Mass on Ash Wednesday as we begin our Lenten observance. Masses will be celebrated at **6:00 AM, 8:00 AM, 12:00 Noon, and 6:00 PM**

The 8:00 AM Mass will be livestreamed via our website and Facebook page:  
[aloyius.org/livestream](http://aloyius.org/livestream)  
[facebook.com/staloyiusbr](http://facebook.com/staloyiusbr)

### Daily Masses during Lent

All Masses held in the church:

Monday at 6:00 AM  
Tuesday at 8:00 AM  
Wednesday at 6:00 AM  
Thursday at 8:00 AM  
Friday at 8:00 AM

### Stations of the Cross

Each Friday of Lent: 7:15 AM (before the 8:00 Mass) and at 5:30 pm.

### Private Confessions

Mondays, 6:30 AM after Mass  
Tuesdays, 7:30 AM before Mass  
Wednesdays, 6:30 AM after Mass  
Thursdays, 7:30 AM before Mass  
Fridays, 7:30 AM before Mass  
Saturday, 3:30 PM before the Vigil Mass  
Wednesday, March 15 & Wednesday, March 22  
6:00 PM until the last penitent is heard

## Devotional book available in February

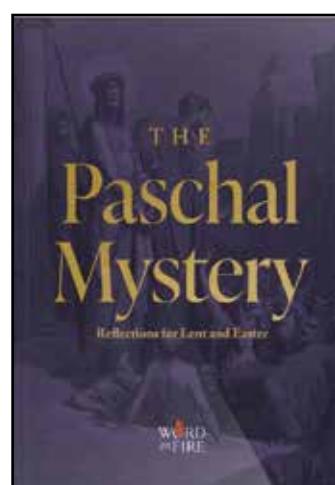
"Our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed." These words of St. Paul in his Letter to the Corinthians express the highest mystery of the Catholic faith, which Christians around the world contemplate and celebrate every year during the Lent and Easter seasons: the suffering, dying, and rising of Jesus.

In this year's devotional book, The Paschal Mystery: Reflections for Lent and Easter, readers are offered a week-by-week guide through these sacred seasons with a series of reflections on Lenten themes like death, temptation, repentance, prayer, fasting and

alms-giving; the events of the Paschal Mystery of Christ recalled during Holy Week; and the joy of the Gospel reflected in the Easter season.

Featuring key passages from Scripture, hymns, poetry, prayers, and additional reflections from across 2,000 years of Catholic tradition, The Paschal Mystery is a perfect companion guide for parishes, families and individuals longing for a deeper encounter with Christ during Lent and Easter.

The books will be available in baskets by the doors of the church beginning mid-February.



# aloyius alive



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## Regular Mass Schedule

### SATURDAY

\*Vigil 4:30 PM

### SUNDAY

7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM & 5:30 PM

### DAILY MASSES

Monday & Wednesday, 6:00 AM

Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday 8:00 AM

This \* denotes Mass is livestreamed via our website at [aloyius.org/livestream](http://aloyius.org/livestream) or on our Facebook page at [facebook.com/staloyiusbr](http://facebook.com/staloyiusbr)

CONFESIONS: Monday and Wednesday after 6:00 AM Mass; Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 7:30-8:00 AM; Saturday 3:30-4:30 PM (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 AM- 3:30 PM

NURSERY/CHILDCARE CENTER: For information, phone 343-1338, 7:00 AM -5:30 PM 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.



## Child Care Center celebrates a joyful, giving holiday season

The holiday season was a busy time at the Child Care Center, with several celebrations and lots of learning.

Curriculum in November focused on gratitude and family. The children were invited to reflect on their blessings at home through parent-guided conversation and through collaborative art by contributing to the "Welcome Turkey" that was displayed at the center's entrance.

Families also generously participated in the first of several social responsibility projects for the holidays. The center supplied 16 meals for the Thanksgiving Baskets Ministry.

December arrived before we knew it, with the sudden appearance of the center's Christmas tree and the children's favorite: a giant inflatable nativity scene. Families

were invited to participate in an art project by supplying homemade ornaments for the tree.

The social responsibility project for December supported Sanctuary for Life, a maternity home program for pregnant, homeless women. The collection of items was a huge success, warranting a visit from the one-and-only big guy in red to gather the boxes of nearly 300 individual donations.

In a fun tradition, Santa was welcomed outside with much fanfare. The children assisted with loading their donations for Sanctuary for Life. Afterwards, Santa was able to work in some time for special visits with each of the classes.

Once again, it was a joyful, blessed holiday season for our smallest members of the parish community.



## Mission, From Page 1

ing retreats at Immaculate Conception and other local churches, both Protestant and Catholic.

He is a regular catechist in the RCIA program at Immaculate Conception. His presentations have included a wide variety of topics including Theology of the Body and the History of the Church, Understanding the Truth about Mary, and Redemptive Suffering.

He has led retreats starting in 2001 and is currently attending an internship at Franciscan University here in Baton Rouge to become a certified spiritual director in the Diocese of Baton Rouge.

## ST. ALOYSIUS PARISH GOLF CLASSIC

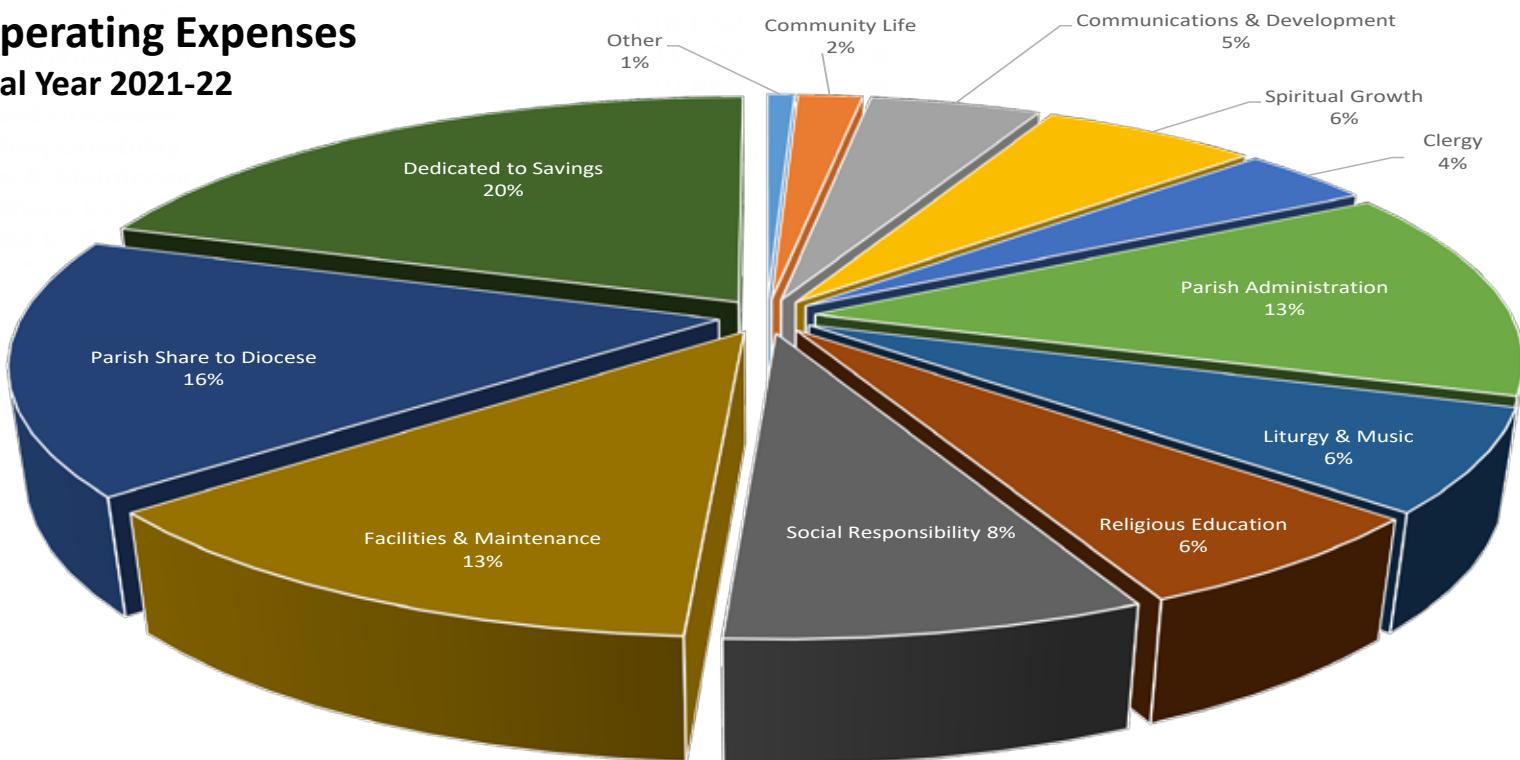


**The University Club**  
Monday, March 13, 2023

10:45am-11:45am Registration and Lunch  
12:00pm Shotgun Start

# Church Operating Expenses

## Fiscal Year 2021-22



### CHURCH OPERATING INCOME AND EXPENSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2022

| INCOME                               | FY 2021-22                | PERCENT        |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Offertory Collections                | \$ 2,740,669 <sup>1</sup> | 84.78%         |
| Interest Earned from Savings         | 138,922                   | 4.30%          |
| Reimbursements, Miscellaneous Income | 353,097 <sup>2</sup>      | 10.92%         |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                  | <b>\$ 3,232,687.70</b>    | <b>100.00%</b> |
| EXPENSES                             | FY 2021-22                | PERCENT        |
| Liturgy & Music                      | \$ 210,886                | 6.52%          |
| Clergy                               | 118,032                   | 3.65%          |
| Spiritual Growth                     | 191,393                   | 5.92%          |
| Social Responsibility                | 262,019 <sup>3</sup>      | 8.11%          |
| Religious Education                  | 204,443                   | 6.32%          |
| Community Life                       | 57,248                    | 1.77%          |
| Parish Administration                | 431,422                   | 13.35%         |
| Communications & Development         | 151,099                   | 4.67%          |
| Facilities & Maintenance             | 417,637                   | 12.92%         |
| Other                                | 23,471                    | 0.73%          |
| Parish Share to Diocese              | 525,951                   | 16.27%         |
| Dedicated to Savings                 | 639,087                   | 19.77%         |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                | <b>\$ 3,232,687.70</b>    | <b>100.00%</b> |

<sup>1</sup>Solely church support contributions. Building fund, capital campaign, memorials, fundraising and special collection income are detailed separately.

<sup>2</sup>Includes: ACTS Retreat registrations and donations, special offerings and assistance, bulletin rebate and PPP loan forgiveness

<sup>3</sup>Parish tithe to Social Responsibility is 11.13%; Parish commits to 10% of its net operating income.

| CLERGY   |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Pastor*  | 39,060              |
| Parochial Vicar*                               | 4,564 <sup>†</sup>  |
| Stipends for outside priest assistance         | 27,762 <sup>†</sup> |
| Employment Benefits                            | 18,375              |
| Continuing Education, Household expenses, etc. | 28,271              |
| <b>Total Clergy</b>                            | <b>118,032</b>      |

\*Set by Diocesan Scale

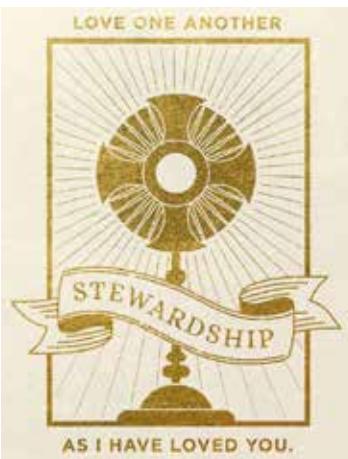
<sup>†</sup>Our parish operated most of the year with just a pastor

| CHURCH INCOME - BUILDING FUND                            | FY 2021-22     |
|--|----------------|
| Building Fund, Capital Campaign, Memorials, Fundraising* | \$ 831,693     |
| <b>CHURCH INCOME - FUNDRAISING EFFORTS</b>               |                |
| Parish Fair & Raffle <sup>1</sup>                        | 181,631        |
| Auction <sup>1</sup>                                     | 186,668        |
| Golf Classic   | 4,735          |
| <b>Total Fundraising Efforts*</b>                        | <b>373,034</b> |
| <b>CHURCH INCOME - SPECIAL COLLECTIONS</b>               |                |
| <b>Agency Collections</b>                                |                |
| Latin America  | 1,433          |
| Home Missions  | 2,126          |
| Bishop's Annual Appeal                                   | 49,225         |
| Holy Land  | 1,513          |
| Catholic Relief Services                                 | 4,477          |
| Catholic Communications                                  | 1,359          |
| Peter's Pence  | 3,501          |
| Central & Eastern Europe                                 | 1,930          |
| Catholic University                                      | 1,224          |
| Human Development  | 2,231          |
| Retirement Fund for Religious                            | 11,417         |
| Black & Indian Missions                                  | 3,436          |
| Special Emergency Appeals                                | -              |
| World Mission Sunday                                     | 2,325          |
| Diocesan Priest Retirement                               | 18,384         |
|  | <b>104,582</b> |
| <b>Mission Collections</b>                               |                |
| Special Mission Appeals                                  | 14,892         |
|  | <b>14,892</b>  |
| <b>Baby Bottle Campaign</b>                              |                |
| Pregnancy Problem Center                                 | 5,309          |
| Woman's New Life Clinic                                  | 4,769          |
|  | <b>10,077</b>  |
|  | <b>129,551</b> |

| CHURCH CASH ASSETS                       | 6/30/2022              |
|--|------------------------|
| Operating Checking                       | \$ 231,443             |
| Operating Savings                        | 716,244 <sup>1</sup>   |
| Building Fund Checking                   | 5,010                  |
| Building Fund Savings                    | 5,455,770 <sup>2</sup> |
| CHURCH ENDOWMENT PRINCIPAL BALANCES      | 6/30/2022              |
| Parish Endowment                         | \$ 556,294             |
| Parish Scholarship Endowment held at SAS | 95,000                 |

<sup>1</sup>Emergency Fund set aside to cover up to three months of operating expenses

<sup>2</sup>Building Fund Savings includes the parish's deductible for a named-storm should the parish suffer severe damage due to a hurricane or tropical storm. Remainder to fulfill goals of the master plan.



## Answering, From Page 1

Stewardship is a way of life. It is the wise use of all that we are and have – knowing that what we are, and will become, comes from God. He has called us to be wise stewards of the gifts that He has given us.

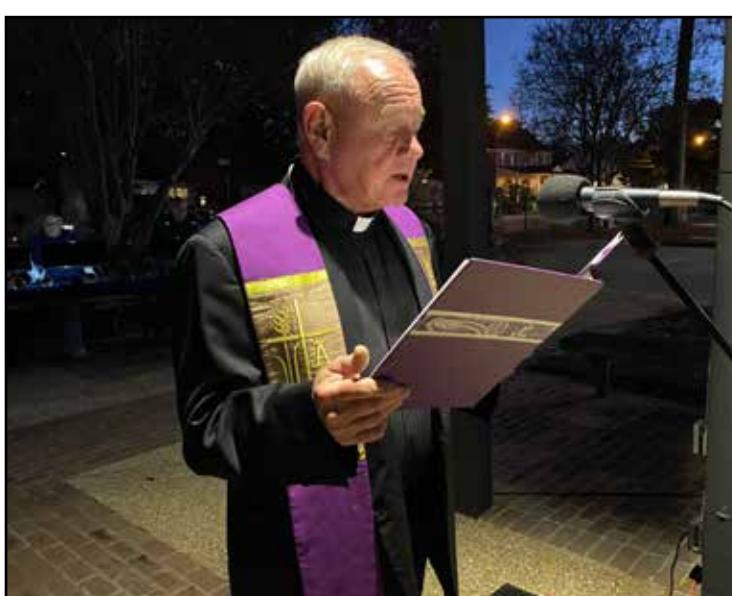
As disciples of Christ, the question we should constantly ask ourselves is, “Are we praying, ministering and giving enough?” That’s where spiritual growth comes in. Jesus does not ask any of us to be perfect, but He does ask us to do our best and to always try to do better. That’s what growth is about. It’s like a marriage. When a couple has been married for a long period of time, they may not look like they did when they were 20 years old. But if the relationship has grown over the years, they will love one another more in their 80s than they did in their 20s. Our relationship with Christ should grow in the same way, becoming stronger with each passing year.

Our focus on this year's Stewardship through Offering started on the weekend of Feb. 4-5. Each of us received an invitation, and our faith community asks you to prayerfully reflect on how you can live a disciple's life through Stewardship through Offering. You can make your commitment by filling out the Offering Commitment card sent in the invitation, or you can fill-out the card online at [aloysius.org/offering-card](http://aloysius.org/offering-card). Your response to this invitation is important to our faith community.

On behalf of Father Randy, the parish staff and our parish leaders, thank you for sharing your blessings with our faith community and our community at large. Your commitment to all phases of stewardship is a remarkable testament of your faith.

*Take, Lord, and receive  
All my liberty,  
My memory,  
My understanding,  
And my entire will,  
All I have and call my own.  
You have given it all to me.  
To you, Lord, I return it.  
Everything is yours;  
Do with it what you will.  
Give me only your love  
And your grace;  
That is enough for me.*

The Suscipe Prayer  
-St. Ignatius of Loyola



# Rejoice in His Light!

Our annual Advent at Aloysius event in December highlighted the Advent Season in our parish. The event featured a performance by the Bell Choir; singing by members of the SAS Choir; a prayer and blessing by Father Randy with the illumination of Crepe Myrtle Alley with Christmas lights; hot dogs and chili with the Knights of Columbus; hot chocolate and sweets; live music by the ACTS Brothers' Band; arts and crafts; the sale of Advent wreaths; and family pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus.



# 8th-grader Clayton Fontenot named Student of the Year

St. Aloysius School is proud to announce that the 2022-23 Student of the Year is Clayton Fontenot. The son of Renessa and Gregory Fontenot, Clayton has attended St. Aloysius School from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade.

Clayton was nominated by many of his eighth-grade classmates and enthusiastically endorsed by the faculty and administration of the school. He has many accomplishments: He has been on honor roll during his sixth-, seventh, and eighth-grade years; was elected to the Student Advisory Board for two years in a row; was a member of the school's basketball team from third through seventh grades; and has made seven all-tournament teams for baseball, his favorite sport.

But it's Clayton's leadership ability that draws the respect of his peers and teachers. Following

*Clayton was enthusiastically endorsed by the faculty and administration at St. Aloysius.*

I wanted to serve in the community."

He's interested in a career that will put his leadership skills to work, perhaps an army officer, athletic trainer or coach. "I like to help younger people improve themselves."

His favorite quote is from Psalms 3: "I lie down and I fall asleep, [and] I will wake up, for the LORD sustains me. I do not fear, then, thousands of people arrayed against me on every side," (Psalm 3, 6-7). He explains that God and family are his priorities in life. "Lots of people like to hate and try to bring you down and away from family and God. Do not fear the people who are trying to bring you down. Stand up to them."

Clayton truly lives his philosophy. That is why his teachers and peers nominated him as St. Aloysius Student of the Year.



## Holidays provide service opportunities

The Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday seasons can be busy times for families. At St. Aloysius School, students and faculty saw these seasons as an opportunity for providing service to the community.

In November, the first-graders created the ornaments used for the parish Giving Tree program. Students discussed the types of items that would be collected. They were extra-careful about doing a good job to make the ornaments beautiful on the trees in the church.

The third-graders created holiday cards to share with the residents of Ollie Steele Burden Manor. The fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-graders made cards and placemats for the residents of Holly Court Assisted Living Facility. An additional project was the creation of Christmas cards for the Seaman's Church, which supports maritime workers who cannot be home for the holidays.

Since 1990, St. Aloysius School has been collecting food for the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank. These collections take place once

a month, in conjunction with our All School Mass. In November and December, our regular food bank collections totaled 1,550 pounds. The school cheerleaders sponsored a special pep rally collection which added another 1,750 pounds of food, which is enough to provide 1,459 meals. Students made special Thanksgiving cards to accompany this donation.

We continue to practice our faith and strive for excellence in our school. Our dedication to service is a natural extension of these goals.

## SAS Principal Candilora honored by BR Diocese

Each year, the Diocese of Baton Rouge Catholic Schools Office honors a school administrator with the Distinguished Administrator Award. This annual award is presented to the school administrator who has demonstrated outstanding leadership, been instrumental in continuous school improvement and shown witness in support of Catholic education.

SAS Principal Erin Candilora was chosen as the recipient for the 2022-23 Distinguished Administrator of the Year Award. Mrs. Candilora was recognized for this honor during the Catholic Schools Week Mass on Feb. 1 at St. Aloysius.



SAS Principal  
Erin Candilora



SAVE THE DATE FOR  
2023 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

We are excited to announce that St. Jude will partner with St. Aloysius for a joint Vacation Bible School program this summer June 12-16, 2023 on St. Jude's campus. Please save the date to join us for a "Stellar" adventure experiencing God's word in sacred scripture and sacred tradition.



## Counting the days

The St. Aloysius kindergarteners celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school by dressing up like their 100-year-old selves. Their outfits included glasses, walkers, gray wigs, and canes. Meanwhile, the first graders celebrated the 101<sup>st</sup> day of school by dressing like characters from "101 Dalmatians." The outfits included t-shirts with spots and collars with their "pet" names.



## Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest winners

Before the Christmas break, the Knights of Columbus sponsored a poster contest titled Keep Christ in Christmas. Students of all ages submitted posters that illustrated the true meaning of Christmas – the celebration of Jesus Christ's birth.

During assembly on Jan. 18, students were recognized as the winners in their categories in the St. Aloysius Parish competition. Their poster entries have gone to the diocesan level of competition. The students each

received a \$25 prize check.

The winner of the 11-14 age group was Mason Richert, a fifth grader in Mrs. Register's homeroom. The 8-10 age group winner was Charley Sasser, a fifth grader in Mrs. Messina's homeroom. The 5-7 age group winner was Addie Granier, a second grader in Mrs. Thompson's homeroom.

Congratulations to our contest winners and thanks to all who participated in this contest.

# Welcome Brunch



## A knack for knitting? Join the Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry is looking for additional volunteers. We make items for people needing comfort and reassurance that God is with them during both rough or happy times.

We knit or crochet prayer cloths, hats, shawls, and blankets which are available at the parish office free of charge. All items are blessed after being made. Knitters with any level experience, from beginners to expert are welcome. Supplies are available if needed.

Prayer Shawl members meet informally and enjoy each other's company. We would love to have you come check us out. Join us at the Gonzaga Hall Library from 9 AM to 11 AM on the first and third Thursday of each month. Contact the parish office for more information at 343-6657.

