

# aloysius alive

Vol. 37 No. 1

September 2021

## Sow seeds of service through parish ministries

By Paula Acaldo  
Stewardship of Ministry  
Co-Chair

Thank you, God, for all the blessings I have in my life! I know that many of us over the past year may feel isolated, depressed or discouraged, but I was recently reminded at a Catholic women's conference that God loves us, and we can still find His blessings in our life each day if we

just look for them. We should always remember to thank God by praising Him through our service to others.

This year, St. Aloysius Parish's Stewardship theme is "Springing Forth in Stewardship." Despite the way we feel from the fear, restrictions and isolation during the duration of the pandemic, it is important that we keep our faith and focus on God. The beginning of a new school

and stewardship year provides us with an excellent opportunity to also begin faith life anew by Springing Forth!

During this year's ministry campaign, we encourage you to join your fellow parishioners by sowing your gifts or "seeds" in one of our many parish ministries. Consider meditating with our Stewardship Prayer and

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Father Danny Roussel's portrait stationed on the sanctuary of the Church.

## Profound sorrow; unwavering faith



Bishop Michael G. Duca attends the prayer service for Father Danny Roussel on Sept. 15. Other clergy in attendance included Bishop Emeritus Robert Muench of Baton Rouge; Father Tom Ranzino, Vicar General; Father Gerald Burns, former St. Aloysius pastor; Father Mathew Dunn, Parochial Vicar of St. John the Evangelist; Deacon Chauvin Wilkinson (not pictured), and Father Randy M. Cuevas, St. Aloysius pastor (also not pictured). Photos Courtesy: Jeb Broyles

## An evening of prayer for Fr. Danny Roussel

A prayer service was held on the evening of Sept. 15 for our Parochial Vicar, Father Danny Roussel, who died Aug. 30. The service included Liturgy of the Word; music and singing; a homily; words of remembrance and comfort; and prayers of intercession.

### Remembering Father Danny, Page 4

The service took place on the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows. A Rosary was prayed by the St. Aloysius faithful as part of the service.

## St. Aloysius School shining brightly as new school year begins

This year marks the 65th anniversary of the founding of St. Aloysius School. The 2021-22 St. Aloysius School year is reflecting the theme "Be the Light." After dealing with the darkness of COVID-19, political unrest and financial stress, it is more important than ever to shine God's light in the world. The first two weeks of

August involved much training, preparation and logistics to safely bring together our faculty, parents and students.

In preparation for the school year, the teachers met for in-service days on Aug. 2-4. On Aug. 4, the faculty viewed a presentation on the history of St. Aloysius School. The focus was on the peo-

ple who used their light to guide the school in its present-day mission.

St. Louis, King of France, the patron of the Archdiocese of New Orleans; St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuit Order; St. Aloysius, our patron; and St. Maria Candida de Jesus, the founder of the Daughters of Jesus, are some

of the canonized saints who have paved the way.

Other key individuals are Archbishop Joseph Rummel, who chartered our parish while it was still part of the Archdiocese of New Orleans; Monsignor Daniel Becnel, our first pastor; and Mrs. Floy Barrett, our first principal. Of course, we cannot forget the Daughters of

Jesus, whose more than 40 years of devoted ministry formed the foundation that makes St. Aloysius the excellent school that it is today.

Thursday, Aug. 5, kicked off the official start of the school year with the arrival of fifth- through eighth-graders on campus. As they arrived, students were welcomed

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# Share your musical gifts

Our parish is blessed with many gifted musicians and singers, and we have choirs and music groups for different ages and Mass times. Although we are delaying the start of our choir season, we hope to resume regular rehearsals once the pandemic begins to decline, and the mask ordinance is ended.

We invite you to share your talents as a singer or musician in one of these groups. If you have questions or if you are not sure how to serve, please call Director of Worship Ken Thevenet at 225-343-6657, ext. 20.

- The St. Aloysius Church Children's Choir welcomes young singers, in grades 3-8, from all schools. The choir sings on the third Sunday of the month at the 11 AM Mass, as well as Masses on Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday. Weekly rehearsals will be held on Wednesdays from 2:45 PM to 4 PM in the Convent Choir Room. Contact: Danielle Laird dcjlaird@gmail.com

- The 5:30 Mass Music Ministry welcomes high school, college and young adult musicians. The group sings each Sunday at the 5:30 PM Mass, with a rehearsal in the hour before Mass in the Convent. Contact: Erik Gudiel edgudi@gmail.com

- The Festival Ringers, a hand bell choir for musicians with some music reading experience, plays for Liturgy one Sunday a month. Weekly re-

hearsals are on Mondays from 6 PM to 7 PM in the Convent. Contact: Lenny Long lenny.long@cox.net

- The St. Aloysius Parish Choir is a renewed concept for collegiate and adult singers and musicians. We are combining the gifts of musicians in both the 9 AM and 11 AM choirs to form one unified group that will provide music at both 9 AM and 11 AM Masses. The choir will sing for the 9 AM Mass on the first and third Sundays of the month and the 11 AM Mass on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. In months with a fifth Sunday, we will organize a special ensemble like a Women's Chorus, Men's Chorus, or Gregorian Schola. Weekly rehearsal will be held on Wednesdays from 7 PM to 8:30 PM in the Convent Choir Room. Contact: Ken Thevenet kthevenet@staloy-siusparish.com

- The Resurrection Choir is a funeral choir that serves as requested by those celebrating funeral liturgies at St. Aloysius. Rehearsal is held 30 minutes before the liturgy in the Convent. Contact: kthevenet@staloy-siusparish.com

Please consider signing up for any of these ministries through our church parish website at [aloy-sius.org/ministry-signup](http://aloy-sius.org/ministry-signup) or by reaching out to the contacts listed above.



## St. Aloysius parishioner off to seminary

One of our very own, Aeli Poydras (center), is one of three new seminarians for the Diocese of Baton Rouge who have started their priestly formation. Aeli has been an active volunteer in several of our church parish ministries, including the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Adult Formation, Small Groups for Bible Study, RCIA

Catechists, Knights of Columbus and Pastoral Council. We are praying for you Aeli and these seminarians as you all begin this new journey in your lives! Also pictured: Isaac Duplantis (left); Austin Duhe (right); Father Josh Johnson, Director of Vocations; and Father Andrew Merrick, Director of Seminarians. Photo Credit: Father Josh Johnson

## Stewardship, From Page 1

asking God how you can serve Him this coming year with all you have been given. We all have seeds of faith we can plant. Water your seeds by selecting a parish ministry in which you serve God and others. Fertilize your seeds of faith by signing up for your ministry commitment. Then give thanks to God for the blessings bestowed throughout our parish and community through the fruits of your labor springing forth in those to whom you minister.

Our ministry weekend is Sept. 25-26. Please prayerfully discern where to plant your seed of ministry in God's rich soil at St. Aloy-

sius Parish. You can re-commit to a ministry in which you're currently active, or you can sign up for one of our many other ministries, which can be found by visiting the parish website for descriptions and videos at [aloy-sius.org/ministry](http://aloy-sius.org/ministry). The ministry sign-up form can be completed quickly and easily online ([aloy-sius.org/ministry-signup](http://aloy-sius.org/ministry-signup)). Or, if you do not have access to a computer, you may call the Pastoral Services Center at 225-343-6657 or visit in person and church staff will be happy to assist.

Together, with God's blessings through our spiritual commitment of serving Him by serving others, we can see our faith life continue to blossom and Spring Forth in Stewardship at St. Aloysius!

*"See, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? In the wilderness I make a way, in the wasteland, rivers." — Isaiah 43:19*

### STEWARDSHIP PRAYER:

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.  
-St. Ignatius of Loyola  
The Suscipe Prayer

## Sunday Nursery returns

The nursery is available Sundays during the 9 AM and 11 AM Masses for children 3 months to 3 years old in the Tiger Room of the St. Aloysius Child Care Center.

Registration is required and will be completed when parents drop off their child. If you have any questions, please contact the church parish staff at 343-6657 during normal business hours.

# aloy-sius alive

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## Regular Mass Schedule

SATURDAY

\*Vigil 4:30 PM

SUNDAY

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

DAILY MASSES

Monday & Wednesday, 6 AM

Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday 8 AM

This \* denotes Mass is livestreamed via our website at [aloy-sius.org/livestream](http://aloy-sius.org/livestream) or on our Facebook page at [facebook.com/staloy-siusbr](https://facebook.com/staloy-siusbr)

CONFESSIONS: Monday and Wednesday after 6:00 AM Mass; Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 7:30-8 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

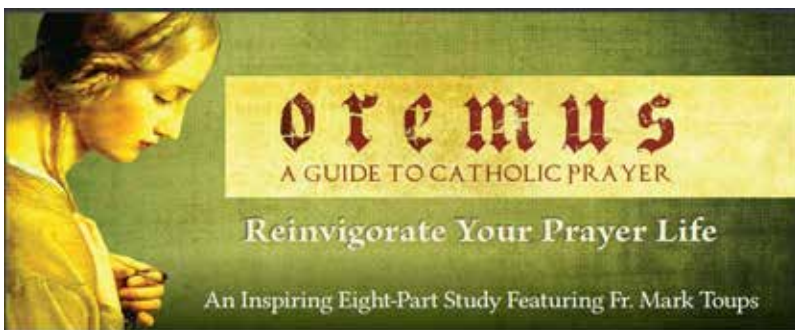
NURSERY/CHILDCARE CENTER: For information, phone 343-1338, 7 AM -5:30 PM Monday through Friday.

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.





## St. Aloysius Study Registration Form

8 Week Study which is already kicking off: Morning, Afternoon, & Evening Sessions are taking place.  
**\*\*We hope to offer both in-person and online groups\*\***

Participant Information	Registration Fees
Name _____	Workbook Fee: _____ <b>\$20.00</b>
Address _____	Additional Donation*: _____
City _____	Total: _____
State, Zip _____	We will contact you about the time and date of the group meetings based on your preferences indicated below
Phone _____	Please submit your fee with this form to the Parish Office. Books may be picked up from the Church office prior to your first session. Make checks payable to "St. Aloysius Church"
Email _____	*Additional Donations help others with the Workbook Fee

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

Day / Time / Facilitator of your previous group \_\_\_\_\_

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

Sunday:	morning ___	afternoon ___	evening ___
Monday:	morning ___	afternoon ___	evening ___
Tuesday:	morning ___	afternoon ___	evening ___
Wednesday:	morning ___	afternoon ___	evening ___
Thursday:	morning ___	afternoon ___	evening ___
Friday:	morning ___	afternoon ___	evening ___

Meeting Preference:  In-Person  Online

Submit completed forms and fee (along with any questions) to [mchristian@staloyusparish.com](mailto:mchristian@staloyusparish.com) or to the Parish Office:  
 St. Aloysius Church • Attn: Mark Christian • 2025 Stuart Ave • Baton Rouge, LA 70808  
 Assistance is available for purchasing the Workbook – contact Mark Christian for more information

## Experience God in Prayer with study course

Do you find it easy to pray? Do you hear God's voice in your daily life and know how to respond? For most of us the answer is no, and we struggle to find even a few minutes every day to pray. The good news is that we can overcome these difficulties.

Our Adult Formation theme for 2021-2022 at St. Aloysius Church is "Experiencing God in Prayer." Beginning in mid-September, small groups meeting in-person and online will explore and experience the rich tradition of Catholic prayer through the Ascension Press study, "Oremus: A Guide to Catholic Prayer," by Father Mark Toups.

Spanning eight weeks, "Oremus" (Latin for "let us pray") teaches the essentials of an effective and fruitful prayer life and guides participants through

the simple yet profound steps of Catholic prayer.

Following Church Tradition and the wisdom of the Saints, we will learn to talk to God and hear his voice in Scripture, in the heart and in ordinary moments. We will become more aware of God's presence, will learn to overcome distractions and dryness, and will recognize desolation and consolation as normal prayer experiences. And as we grow closer to God, we will also grow in our relationship with those around us. For a video introduction to the course, visit [youtu.be/rAwbyvdsYfc](https://youtu.be/rAwbyvdsYfc).

Register now for this opportunity to grow in the life of prayer! Registration forms are available in the lobby of the Pastoral Services Center and online.

## School, From Page 1

by an inflatable, waving "Big Al." The students exuded enthusiasm for the start of the year. Many practices of the past are once again allowed under our current COVID protocols, and students seemed very happy to have them back. Seventh- and eighth-grade students are allowed to gather on the sidewalk before the school day begins. Students are also allowed to change classes. Band and choir are meeting again.

Some adjustments have been made for safety this year. Students wear masks in the building and follow hand sanitizing protocols. During lunch periods, social

distancing measures are in place, having one grade eat lunch in the cafeteria while sitting in every other seat, as another grade eats in the Parish Hall with appropriate spacing between students.

On Friday, Aug. 6, first through fourth-graders spent their first day on campus. They were full of excitement and a bit of apprehension. The teachers met the students in their classrooms and walked them through their new routines. Students wore masks and observed hand-washing protocols. They also seemed happy at the end of the day and were ready for their first weekend break.

Monday, Aug. 9 was the first day that all first through eighth-graders were on campus together. At the same time, half of the kin-

dergarten and pre-kindergarten students were also present for their first day. The "big kids" reported to the Old Gym, New Gym and Middle School sidewalk. They were walked to the classroom by their parents. On Tuesday, Aug. 10, the other half of kindergarten and pre-k students arrived on campus.

Wednesday, Aug. 11, marked the first day all 1,165 students were on the school grounds. The teachers all pitched in to help students arrive at the right place, learn their routines and try to stay dry through afternoon thunderstorms.

The administration, faculty, students and parents of St. Aloysius School are all working together to "Be the Light" for each other this 2021-22 school year.

## 'Called by Name' WINE event inspires women

St. Aloysius was a vineyard on Saturday, July 24, ripened by the knowledge and wisdom of speakers from the second annual Women in the New Evangelization or "WINE" Conference.

Speakers included Kelly Wahlquist, foundress of WINE; Sonja Corbitt, a best-selling author and award-winning television and radio broadcaster; Erin Franco, guest speaker; and VaLlmar Jansen, who led praise and worship.

These women came prepared to inflame the hearts and minds of the more than 400 women who participated in the event here in the Diocese of Baton Rouge. The theme was "Called by Name," with St. Mary Magdalene as the patron saint of the event. Magdalene was called to be with Jesus during His passion, death and resurrection. In the Gospel of John, Chapter 20, it was she to whom Jesus identified Himself at the tomb.

The conference is held every two years, but because of COVID-19, official planning and preparation couldn't start until late April. WINE and the diocese collaborated on the event with St. Aloysius as the host. Parishioners stepped forward to take on the roles of the various job descriptions provided by WINE. Thanks to three months of hard work and by the grace of God, our campus was ready.

Heading committees from St. Aloysius were hospitality, Suzy Smith; decorations, Sheri Gillio; logistics, Scott Roussel and family; liturgy/confessions, Cheryl Frost and volunteers Georgette and Glynn Fontenot. Ronnie Haliburton, facility and maintenance manager, and his crew made sure the campus was prepared for participants. The ACTS men provided much assistance with any heavy lifting during the conference. There were also countless others not named here who helped with the process and event.

As Wahlquist said, "From the



viewpoint of the vendors, speakers and WINE, the short three months of planning yielded an abundance of fruit in hearts touched that day! The vendors were pleased with their interactions and sales, and the speakers were inspired and invigorated by the desire of the women to deepen their relationship with the Lord. This was evident not only in the comments heard after each talk, but in the lines for confession, the packed Adoration chapel, the number of women who went to the prayer teams, and the beautiful witness of women on their feet praising the Lord and dancing with joy—and yelling, "Here I am, Lord, pick me!"

The Marian Servants of the Eucharist volunteered to pray with participants.

"It was such a gift to serve as a prayer team minister during the conference," said Mary Tauzin, director of the Marian Servants of the Eucharist. "I was pleasantly surprised by the number of people who came for prayers and who came with such humility. I witnessed the Lord opening hearts for Him to love His children, to heal their wounds, and to give them consolation and encouragement, all according to His most perfect will."

"The Holy Spirit was alive and well at our WINE conference in the speakers, in the music, in the prayers, even in the shopping," said Lisette Borne, assistant director of the Marian Servants.





# Remembering Father Danny

Dear St. Aloysius Parishioners,  
It is with a deep sense of personal loss and grief that I confirm the unexpected and tragic death of Fr. Danny. I am sharing with you the following message from Bishop Duca:

31 August 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As your Bishop, it is with a heavy heart that I share with you news of Reverend Danny Roussel's death on August 30th. Fr. Danny was a deeply devoted priest who was beloved by his family, his parishioners, and his brother clergy. He shared a commitment to the faith that was clear and unwavering. I greatly appreciated Danny's generous and open-hearted service to our diocese.

I inform you with profound sorrow that Fr. Danny took his own life at the age of 49. We are aware that Danny recently struggled with anxiety and depression. For many people, the difficulties of the modern world can be an unbearable challenge. For some, these feelings can be overwhelming. I would ask you to pray for Father Danny, his mother, stepfather, brother, and family. Please also remember his Church families at Our Lady of Peace in Vacherie, St. Mary of False River in New Roads, St. Aloysius in Baton Rouge, and the larger diocesan Church family.

Brothers and sisters, news like this is troubling. If you are feeling overwhelmed, do not struggle alone. We must take care of one another, and we must also take care of our own mental health. If you are struggling to cope, do not hesitate to reach out to family and friends who love you, a pastor, or a licensed professional – someone to listen to you. You are not alone. Remember that our greatest source of strength and comfort is the mercy and love of God. Let us never waiver in these assurances of faith.

Anyone experiencing a mental health crisis can call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255, or locally dial 211 for assistance.

Hope in the Lord,  
Most Reverend Michael Duca  
Bishop of Baton Rouge

Fr. Danny's death fills us all with a deep sadness. The circumstances of his death also leave us with unanswerable questions that evoke all the emotions we feel with the death of a loved one. Let us keep each other in prayer and reach out to comfort each other with the assurances of our faith. We are beset with so many challenges locally at this time. Let us depend on the mercy and love of God and loving friendships in our St. Aloysius Parish family for the support we need.

With love and prayers,  
Father Randy M. Cuevas, Pastor



Father Danny celebrates his first Sunday Mass at St. Aloysius.



Father Danny Roussel  
Credit: Diocese of Baton Rouge, Office of Vocations



Father Danny greeting parishioners at a welcome reception in his honor on July 4.

## Gentle Hands Memorial Service

All faiths are welcome.

Friday, October 1, 2021

6:30 pm

St. Aloysius Catholic Church

Gentle Hands is a ministry of St. Aloysius Parish that supports families, who have suffered the death of a child through miscarriage, stillbirth, early infant loss or other tragedies.

For more information, e-mail: Gentle Hands @ [4gentlehands@gmail.com](mailto:4gentlehands@gmail.com)

## Mother asks, 'What choice do I have but to trust God?'

By a Loving Mother

In life, there are moments, events, things that leave you forever changed. Becoming pregnant was one of those events for me, as it is for many others. When you want something so badly and it happens, it feels like your whole existence is changed. Just as your existence can change with the good, the bad can also change you.

Shortly after things seemed perfect in my life, they were no longer. The words, "Your baby no longer has a heartbeat" are words that can never be erased from your mind. No matter how far along you are in a pregnancy, those words are devastating.

Never in my worst nightmares could I have imagined that I would not get to see my little girl live a full life. In the

days following our daughter's death, I wondered how I would ever go on; how God could have done this to me? And I longed to know why. What was the purpose of me getting pregnant and her dying? Why had God taken Anna from us?

Though I felt all alone, the reality is that one in four pregnancies ends in grief. Before we lost our daughter, I didn't realize that you could lose a baby after the first trimester. I had no idea that late-term losses occurred, yet here I was trying to process one.

I was changed because of it, because of her. I questioned everything, especially my faith. I realized quickly, though, that this was not God and I needed God. This horrific event was just something that happened, and that I, as a human, was not

equipped to truly understand. I felt like, what choice do I have but to trust God? I leaned on God and eventually realized that God will never leave me. He was here for me, helping me. God loves us unconditionally and will always be there for us, though sometimes it is hard for us to understand.

This time can be dark and lonely. For any other parent reading this, know that you are not alone. Though the journey is long and hard, there are many families around you who have experienced the same thing. St. Aloysius has a beautiful ministry called "Gentle Hands," for parents who have carried this cross as well. We are here to talk with you and to help. We also offer a prayer service and a retreat for families. Join us Friday, Oct. 1, for our memorial prayer service.

## Baptisms at Vigil, Sunday Masses

Starting in September, Baptisms may be scheduled during one of our Sunday Liturgy Masses.

Baptisms will be offered during the second weekend of each month during the Saturday 4:30

PM Vigil Mass and the 9 AM and 11 AM Sunday Masses. The option to baptize outside of the Mass is also still available.

For more information, please contact the Pastoral Services Center at 225 343-6657.

