



aloysius alive

Vol. 40 No. 5

April 2025

Food & Faith



Habitat for Humanity, Catholic Coalition unite to build home for family

St. Aloysius Parish once again took part in the Catholic Coalition Build through Habitat for Humanity during the month of March.

The Catholic Coalition Build is a group of Catholic Church parishes in the Baton Rouge area that work together and build a home alongside Habitat for Humanity workers. The home is provided to a family who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford it except through Habitat.

The construction of the home is possible thanks to an interest-free loan from Habitat. St. Aloy-



sius has been helping Habitat since 1996 and was one of the first Catholic parishes to work with them.



St. Joseph's Altar at St. Aloysius brings parish together to honor saint

St. Aloysius Parish celebrated the Solemnity of St. Joseph on March 18-19 with a traditional St. Joseph's Altar.

The St. Joseph's Altar is an old practice long celebrated by Sicilians as a way of thanking the saint for his intercession in ending a drought that plagued the island centuries ago. Sicilians brought the altar tradition to southeast Louisiana in the late

More photos and lists of volunteers and donors, Page 7

1800s after settling here.

The afternoon of March 18, the altar opened to the public for viewing and a children's performance of the "Tupa Tupa" (Italian for "knock, knock") skit recounting the Holy Family go-

ing door to door knocking for shelter and food. Father Michael then said a prayer over the altar and blessed it with holy water. A delicious spaghetti dinner was prepared and served for everyone moments later in the Parish Hall.

On March 19, Mass was celebrated for the Solemnity of St. Joseph and afterward, viewing of the altar opened to the public.



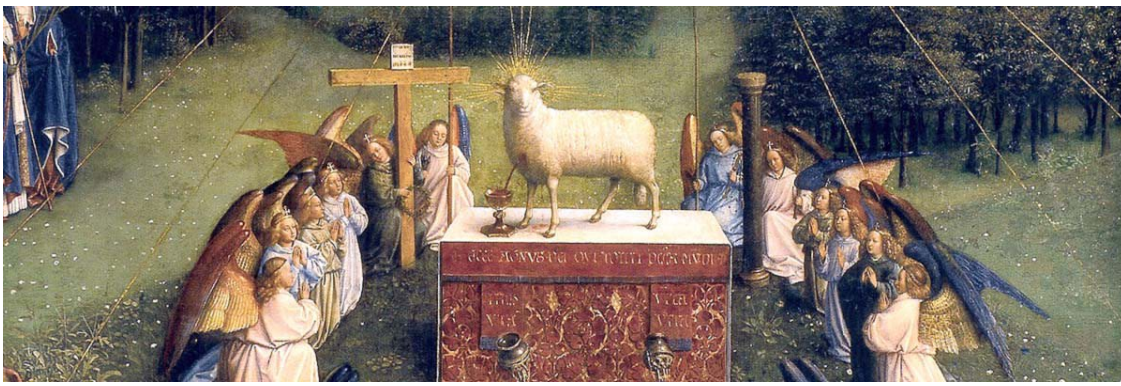
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Holy Week and the Paschal Triduum Schedule 2025



Together we set aside these most holy days of the Church Year. During Holy Week and the Paschal Triduum, the people of St. Aloysius Parish walk with Christ. We experience again His saving passion and death, and we rise again with Jesus on Easter Sunday.

Palm Sunday: April 12/13

*Our regular weekend schedule: Vigil Mass, Saturday at 4:30 PM, Sunday Masses at 7 AM, *9 AM, 11 AM, & 5:30 PM.*

Blessed Palms will be available at every Mass.

The procession from the Bell Tower will be held before the 9 AM and 11 AM Masses.

Monday of Holy Week: April 14

Junior High Living Stations of the Cross, 7 PM

Tuesday of Holy Week: April 15

7:30 AM Confessions & 8 AM Mass

10:30 AM Diocesan Chrism Mass (St. Joseph Cathedral)

Wednesday of Holy Week: April 16

6 AM Mass & 6:30 AM Confessions

Junior High Living Stations of the Cross, 8 AM

Holy Thursday: April 17 (There is only one Mass today.)

***7 PM, The Mass of the Lord's Supper**

Following Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will continue in the Parish Hall until 10:30 PM.

Good Friday: April 18 (No 8 AM Mass or Confessions)

8:30 AM, Chaplet of Divine Mercy (Parish Hall)

9 AM, Morning Prayer (Parish Hall)

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

Noon, Solemn Stations of the Cross (Church)

***3 PM, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Church)**

Holy Saturday: April 19

8:30 AM Chaplet of Divine Mercy (Parish Hall)

9 AM Morning Prayer (Parish Hall)

The Solemn Vigil of Easter: Saturday, April 19 at *8 PM

(No 3:30 PM Confessions or 4:30 PM mass today.)

Easter Sunday: April 20

8:30 AM Chaplet of Divine Mercy (in the Church)

Masses at 7 AM, *9 AM & 11 AM

* Service will be livestreamed via our website: aloysius.org/livestream, youtube.com/@staloysiusbr, or Facebook pages: facebook.com/staloysiusbr & facebook.com/padrehooch

Campus landscaping gets a beauty makeover

Landscaping and irrigation projects are underway across campus to beautify our grounds. Some trees and plants were removed, and PVC pipes are being put in place so plants can thrive year-round. The project is starting from the Stuart Avenue side of our campus and will work all the way toward the back to the school.



Regular Mass Schedule

SATURDAY

Vigil 4:30 PM

SUNDAY

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

DAILY MASSES

Wednesday, 6 AM

Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday 8 AM

This * denotes Mass is livestreamed via our website at aloysius.org/livestream, youtube.com/@staloysiusbr or on our Facebook page at facebook.com/staloysiusbr

CONFESSIONS: Wednesday at 6:30 AM; 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.

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Fill Up the Truck(s) event set for Saturday, April 12

It's BACK! Let's PACK! After a five-year hiatus since COVID, the St. Vincent de Paul Fill Up the Truck event is back.

St. Aloysius, in collaboration with St. Vincent de Paul, has planned for several large trucks to be parked in the church parking lot on Stuart Avenue near the football field on Saturday, April 12, from 8 AM to 4 PM. The goal: Fill up the trucks as much as possible and help our neighbors in need throughout the community.

You can help by prayerfully considering items to donate (new or used) and packing them up now. It's a great time for spring cleaning. We invite children, grandchildren, family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors to get involved. We extend the invitation to members of our parish ministries as well.

Items needed include furniture, women's and children's clothing, shoes and handbags, baby clothing, bicycles, toys, sheets, towels, pillows, bedspreads, small working appliances, books, lamps, pots, pans, dishes, utensils, and tools. (No mattresses, box springs, TVs, computers, gas or electric powered tools or lawn equipment. Also, due to federal regulations, SVdP is not able to accept baby cribs, car seats or highchairs.)

Newer clothing and shoes are more desirable because they can be used immediately. However,

Your merciful generosity will be put to good use in helping so many within our community who need a helping hand and heart.

even worn-out clothes and shoes are acceptable because they can be sold for rags or recycled products. All donated items should be placed in plastic bags or boxes. Hanging clothes are welcome, but please cover these items. Larger items such as furniture or equipment do not need to be placed in bags or boxes.

Donated items can be claimed for income tax deductions. Volunteers from the St. Aloysius SVdP Conference will be on hand to assist you with receipts and to load up the truck from your vehicle.

As you know, after April 12, we move into Holy Week. Each year during Lent we're invited to deepen our commitment to Christ and to His community, the Church. Through scripture reading, prayer, fasting, almsgiving and service to the poor and others in need, we deepen our discipleship, following Jesus more closely and continuing His mission to build God's kingdom, in our-

selves, our families, our church and our communities.

The St. Aloysius Parish SVdP Fill Up the Truck(s) Drive helps us to be particularly mindful and merciful in reaching out to those in need while at the same time deepening our faith...our holiness as one in Christ.

These items are then distributed to the four SVdP Thrift Stores so that those in need may obtain goods for pennies on the dollar or so that the SVdP Church Conferences, such as St. Aloysius, may provide store vouchers to obtain these goods free of charge to our neighbors in need through our home visits program.

Your merciful generosity will be put to good use in helping so many within our community who need a helping hand and heart. What a joyful gift it will be to all come together as one on one very special day. For further information, contact Ginger Dunaway at gingerddunaway@gmail.com.



First Reconciliation: A joyful step in faith

On Thursday, Jan. 16, the parish community gathered for a truly special occasion: the celebration of First Reconciliation. It was an evening filled with grace and renewal as 150 children took this important step in their faith journey.

Surrounded by family, friends, and the support of the St. Aloysius Church community, these young members experienced the beauty of God's mercy and forgiveness for the first time.

The celebration began with a prayer service led by Father Michael, who reminded everyone of the sacrament's significance as a moment to embrace God's boundless love and healing. Father Michael was supported by several other priests from the diocese as they set up stations

around the church to administer confession to each of the sacramental candidates.

The students, guided by their parents, teachers and catechists, spent months preparing for this sacrament including a "First Reconciliation Afternoon of Reflection" on Jan. 12. Their preparation paid off as they were able to approach the sacrament with open hearts, trusting in the peace and joy that reconciliation brings.

The First Reconciliation celebration is a reminder of our continual call to seek and embrace God's mercy in our lives. As we congratulate the children on this milestone, let us keep them in our prayers as they continue preparing for their First Holy Communion later this year.



Baby Bottle Campaign 2025 a Huge Success

The Dignity of Life Committee of St. Aloysius and the Knights of Columbus, Council 3743, proudly support two lifesaving centers: The Pregnancy Problem Center located on Florida Street, and the Woman's New Life Center, located on Colonial Drive.

Part of that support is the annual Baby Bottle Campaign, which was a huge success again this year. Parishioners gave generously, with a total over \$16,000, which led to gifts to over \$8,000

to each center.

Both centers have been giving women in crisis pregnancies an alternative to abortion for many years, saving many babies in the process and their mothers from such a nightmare. Both have free pregnancy tests and ultrasound machines, so mothers can see their babies in the womb.

The PPC has a "Mom and Me Shop" to clothe and feed both moms and babies and also offers an "Earn to Learn" program that

helps moms and dads become better parents with healthier babies. The Woman's New Life Center offers professional counseling, educational resources and post abortion counseling. They also teach Natural Family Planning.

The cost of running these centers is expensive, but you cannot put a price tag on the lives and souls saved. Our committee and the K.C. want to thank you for your generous support for life.

Calling All Adult Volunteers

Join the journey at True North Vacation Bible School

St. Aloysius VBS June 9 - 13, 8:30 AM - 11:45 AM



SAS retreat challenges, teaches fifth graders

St. Aloysius School fifth grade students took part in a retreat to spend time in prayer, studying how Christ calls us to welcome others and to reflect on our own perfect designs. Students experienced learning differences, physical differences and those who have different gifts and abilities than themselves. All of these characteristics are what make us unique and join us in our oneness with Christ.

The fifth graders welcomed guest speaker Ms. Dina Zucherberg with "My Face" to learn about craniofacial syndrome after reading the book "Wonder" by R.J. Palacio. Students then participated in:

- a scavenger hunt to actively engage with one another by diving deep into scripture and finding God's word to encourage and love them unconditionally;
- solving puzzles by depending on one another's skills;
- building their self-esteem by chanting and drawing God's encouraging words with chalk;
- working as a team to meet the challenge with hula hoops;
- gaining forgiveness in a scooter race to rip up negative thoughts and sins.

The students not only experienced these great activities, they also ended the day with Deacon Don Allison in prayerful Adoration.

Thank you to all our amazing parent volunteers who helped make this day possible for our students. St. Aloysius School is blessed to have so many parents who care so deeply about supporting our school's mission to educate the whole child in the Catholic tradition for a life of meaning and purpose.



Eighth Grade Attends Youth Legislature

Eighth grade students attended Youth Legislature on March 12-13 at the Old State Capitol. This program allows students to role-play in the lawmaking process. Our students and students from other schools throughout Louisiana presented bills and elected a governor, speaker of the house and president of the senate, among other positions. Brady Craig was elected speaker of the house; Davis Gilly was lieutenant governor; Lucy Pierce Ritter was secretary of health and welfare; and Benjamin Kees served as commissioner of agriculture and secretary of transportation and development. The students had fun dressing as youth professionals and meeting new friends.

SAS Pre-K Mardi Gras Parade

The St. Aloysius School's annual Pre-K Mardi Gras Parade rolled through the Old Gym the morning of Feb. 28. Eighth graders hauled the mini floats as part of the tradition.





SACCC: Parading, gardening and annual Fish Fry

It has been an exciting few months at St. Aloysius Child Care Center! One of the highlights of the season was the Krewe of Tots Mardi Gras Parade. The children had a wonderful time dressing up in colorful costumes, decorating their floats, and parading around the school. The little lions threw beads to their friends at school, bringing the festive spirit to everyone. It was a joyful time for all, and we truly felt the warmth of community and the joy that Mardi Gras brings!

The center has also been busy with our gardening project. This spring, the children took part in growing their very own cabbage in the center's garden. It was such a meaningful experience as they learned about planting, nurturing and caring for the earth. The best part? The kitchen staff harvested the cabbage and prepared it for the children's lunch. The little ones were excited to enjoy the fruits of their labor, and it was a wonderful opportunity to talk about healthy eating and the importance of growing our own food.

Also, the center's annual Fish Fry was held on March 21. This event serves as a fundraiser to support our center and its operations. Families and businesses were treated to plates of fried



fish, French fries, coleslaw and a roll either for lunch or dinner. Besides food, the event included sweets, live music by Clayton Shilling Acoustic, face painting and balloon art. Thanks to the countless volunteers and sponsors who made the event possible this year!

At the SACCC, we're blessed to witness the children's growth in faith, knowledge, and community. We are thankful for the support of our parish family and look forward to sharing many more special moments with you all.

SACCC Fish Fry 2025

Sponsors

- Mansfield Melancon | Cranmer & Dick, Injury Lawyers
- Sherman & Balhoff Orthodontics
- Sunny Day Pediatric Dentistry
- DNA Workshop: Agriculture | Interiors | Planning
- Rousseau Orthodontics
- Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers
- Jack in the Box
- Cork's
- Couyon's Barbecue | Sea-

food | Potatoes

- Parish Pediatric Dental Krewe
- Fred's in Tigerland
- The Colonel's Club
- Industrial Parts Specialites, LLC
- The Allergy, Asthma, & Sinus Center
- BSD Plumbing & Air
- Helm Paint & Decorating
- Hitter's House
- McKenzie Rush PA-C | Aesthetic Interior
- Kean | Miller
- Streamline Interiors & More

Donors

- Capitol City Produce
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- Lyons
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- Roberto's River Road Restaurant
- Saltgrass Steak House
- Southern Road Oyster House
- Sysco
- Vacherie Fuel
- Walk On's Sports Bistreaux





Adult painting retreat joins faith, fellowship, creativity

During the first Saturday of Lent, about 30 adults from St. Aloysius Parish joined a few other friends from the diocese for a painting retreat with Catholic artist Jacob Zumo at his art studio in Baton Rouge. Jacob has previously worked with other Catholic parishes in the area for “Saints by Number” painting retreats.

This four-hour Saturday experience consisted of a welcome and social time for the participants to get comfortable and grab a bite to eat and drink before hearing Father Michael Alello and Jacob Zumo speak.

Father Michael shared some thoughts on the Holy Spirit and asked participants to also share what they knew about the third person of the Trinity. Jacob specifically created a dove image of the Holy Spirit for the painting event.

After the discussion about the sacred art the group would be painting, Jacob shared part of his journey in the Catholic faith.

After the talks, Jacob led the participants in two hours of sacred painting. Parishioners of all ages enjoyed this time together to create their own sacred piece of art.

Parishioners at the retreat consisted of a few college stu-



dents, some married couples, Bible study friends and a couple of mothers and daughters. Everyone's paintings turned out

a little unique. The retreat participants felt the Holy Spirit's presence during their time together in the studio.

Men's Club: Lenten dinner, Guns N Rosaries competition

The parish Men's Club has been active this spring with two more events held in the past two months. Members participated in the annual “Guns N Rosaries” shooting competition Feb. 8 at Riverside Sporting Clays in Denham Springs. Men prayed the Rosary, followed by a safety talk, before the competition.

On March 20, the annual Lenten Dinner & Discussion oc-

curred in the Parish Hall with Deacon Josh Zelden, as the guest speaker. Zelden is a parishioner who was ordained to the diaconate this past December. He'll be ordained a diocesan priest in June at St. Joseph Cathedral. Zelden spoke to the Men's Club about his discernment journey and how God continued to call him to the priesthood throughout his life.



112 players participate in annual Golf Classic

The annual Parish Golf Classic teed off March 10 at the University Club Golf Course. 112 players participated in the event through friendly competition and good fellowship. The

gross winners were Andres Prietto, Chip Lee, Mike Maranto and Michael Thomas. Net winners were, Patrick Engemann, Ben Kees, Josh Williams and TJ Woodward.



St. Joseph's Altar & Related Events



Thank You

FOR THE GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS
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ST. ALOYSIUS MEN'S CLUB

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THE CARDARO FAMILY, THE LOSAVIO FAMILY,
THE TERRITO FAMILY & FAYE SCHILLACI PRENDERGAST,
ANDREW PECQUET, JUANITA DEBENEDETTO



Thank You

2025 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

AIMEE CANNOVA PALOMBO

JOANNE ROBERTS

AMANDA DELANCEY

JULIE FLEIG

AMY CANNIZARO BURRIS

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2025 Auction Shines Brightly

The annual St. Aloysius Parish Auction, held on Saturday, Feb. 15, was a resounding success, thanks to the generous support of our parish community.

With the theme "Dancing in the Moonlight," the evening brought together parishioners for a night filled with fun, fellowship and philanthropy.

Guests enjoyed an elegant atmosphere under the moonlit sky, bidding on exciting items while dancing the night away.

The event raised funds for the parish, helping us continue our mission and foster community. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated and made this unforgettable evening possible!



st. aloysius parish auction

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR 2025 SPONSORS

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Christopher Bankhead, MD, Ochsner Sports Med	Hummel Orthodontics	Magnolia Property Solutions	Streamline Interiors & More
Couyon's	Jeremy Burnham, MD, Ochsner Sports Med	Maggie Cafe	Stun Design
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Gastroenterology Associates	Lambert Zainey Smith & Soso	Perry, Balhoff, Mengis, & Burns, L.L.C.	Weiler Plastic Surgery Group
			ZeeZee's Kitchen & Cocktails

THANK YOU TO ALL VOLUNTEERS

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