

aloysius alive

Vol. 39 No. 3

December 2023

Confirmed in Christ

Congrats to our newly Confirmed in Christ! 117 high school juniors were sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit during the celebration of two Masses on Nov. 2 and Nov. 8. More photos and Confirmation list, Page 3.



Faith, Family & Fun!

The 2023 Parish Fair was another great success. See more photos and a list of sponsors and committee members who helped make the fair possible, Page 7.



10 years of Holy Smoke!

Some of the best cooks in the area once again gathered at St. Aloysius for friendly competition and a good time. See the photos from the annual event as well as a list of winners, Page 6.

Father Randy honored during Veterans Week

Father Randy was recognized at the Baton Rouge Metro Council's meeting on Nov. 8 for his service as a veteran. The presentation honored several veterans for their service as part of Veterans Week in the city-parish.

Rowdy Gaudet, District 3 councilman and St. Aloysius parishioner, introduced Father Randy to the council and presented him with a certificate of appreciation.

Father Randy served in the

U.S. Air Force Reserve Chaplaincy for 30 years, retiring with the rank of colonel in 2009. He was a member of the Reserve Chaplain Core Council, Reserve Chaplain Core Force Development Team and Reserve Chaplain Recruiting Team.

He was embedded in combat zones for two deployments in 2004 and 2006 with the U.S. Army and Marines in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom.

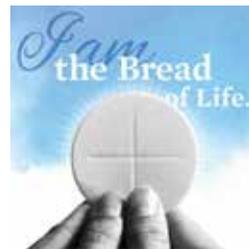


'A great act of holiness'

Remaining in Christ through prayer

When we read about the lives of saints, it can give us inspiration and guidance on how we, too, can one day become saints. One necessary component of the path to sainthood is an active prayer life.

St. Aloysius of Gonzaga, our parish's namesake, once said, "He who is not a man of prayer will never attain to a great act of holiness, nor will he ever triumph over himself." Though St. Aloysius did not live a long life (he died at the age of 23), he was known for his devotion to prayer, which he began practicing in early childhood.



Prayer took many forms for St. Aloysius. He prayed with the Psalms, attended daily Mass, received weekly communion, regularly fasted, studied theology and engaged in meditation. According to Father John A. Hardon, SJ, St. Aloysius' contemporaries attested that he would often meditate on God's goodness, wisdom and beauty, and that doing this would bring him great joy.

All of St. Aloysius' time in prayer and faith study led to great fruit through his work with The Society of Jesus (Jesuits), service to the poor and sick during a plague in Rome, and ultimately, canonization!

Our Stewardship Through Prayer Committee invites parishioners to recommit to growing closer to God through personal prayer, community worship and spiritual formation. Though we are all called to be saints, our prayer lives

Continued on page 2

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2025 Stuart Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

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Beloved antique St. Aloysius holy water reservoir restored

The holy water reservoir that served our old church (now Parish Hall) since it was built in 1956 was recovered several years ago from the church's storage loft by life-long parishioner Joanne Roberts during the course of her ministry work.

When she showed it to Father Randy, he well remembered it from his childhood days at Aloysius. It had always been situated in the vestibule of the church under the stairway to the choir loft, conveniently located so parishioners and visitors could re-fill their holy water bottles as needed.

When the new church was completed, it was no longer needed because holy water bottles could be re-filled from the holy water pool in the rear of the new church.

However, the reservoir was very sentimental to Joanne. Her dad was a faithful usher at the 9 AM Mass in the old church for years. Every Sunday he would bring Joanne and her sister Ellen to Mass, seating them in the choir loft so that he could keep his eye on them while he was ushering.

She had to pass by that reservoir both on her way up to, and on her way down from the choir loft every Sunday. It was likely with holy water from this reservoir that both Joanne and Father Randy were baptized.

Father Randy was happy to support Joanne's desire to have the reservoir restored, and she set about the effort. While doing so, it came to her attention that another long-time parishioner, Dr. George Karam, was a recognized expert in the restoration of antique copper artifacts as a hobby. When he saw it, he immediately recognized the



reservoir as an 'exquisite' antique.

It is not known yet how or from whom our founding pastor, Monsignor Daniel Becnel, acquired the antique reservoir for St. Aloysius' original church building. The newly restored reservoir is now located in the lobby of the Pastoral Services Center building, where parishioners are welcome to visit during business hours to refill their holy water bottles at times when they are otherwise unable to access the church's baptismal pool.

Prayer, From Page 1

do not need to exactly mimic the prayer life of St. Aloysius. We each must reflect on and discern how God is inviting us to spend time in relationship with Him.

In John 15:4, Jesus says, "Remain in me as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me." We can 'remain in Him' through devoting daily time to prayer and actively growing in knowledge of our faith, intentionally working to gain a greater understanding of the Holy

Scriptures and of our Catholic traditions and teachings.

We don't have to always pray and study our faith in solitude. St. Aloysius Parish offers several opportunities to deepen prayer life in community with fellow parishioners in Bible study groups, weekly and monthly Adoration, and regular program offerings and speakers. You can find a listing of many of these opportunities at: www.aloysius.org/spiritual-growth-prayer as well as in the weekly bulletins.

In short, like all relationships, our relationship with Jesus requires ongoing and consistent communication. It is only with consistent prayer that we can see what God is doing in us and

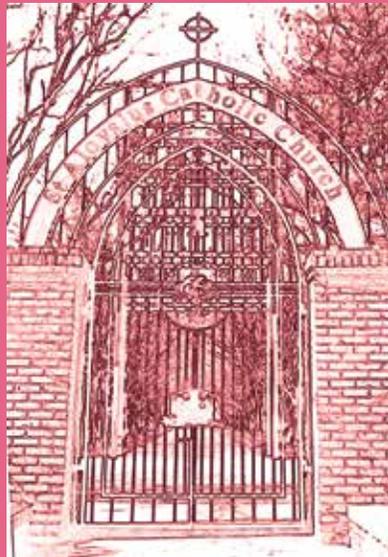
through us, and to discover how to continuously live the life He calls us towards.

Let us Remain in Him and love God by growing our faith through prayer. Let us also lean on the intercession of St. Aloysius as we work to increase our dedication to prayer in our lives. St. Aloysius, pray for us!

Sources:

- <https://hardonsj.org/life-saint-alloysius-gonzaga/>
- <https://www.jesuits.global/saint-blessed/saint-alloysius-gonzaga/>
- <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/saints/saints-stories-for-all-ages/saint-alloysius-gonzaga/>

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St. Aloysius Parish Prepares for The Coming of Christ

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary (A Holy Day of Obligation)

Friday, December 8, 2023

Masses at 6:00 AM, 8:00 AM (with School Students), *12:00 Noon, and 6:00 PM

Advent Confessions

In addition to our regularly scheduled opportunities—6 days a week—for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Frs. Randy and Nutan will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in church on these Wednesday evenings:

Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Wednesday, December 20, 2023 6:00 PM

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23, *4:30 PM Vigil Mass

Sunday, December 24, Masses at 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, and 11:00 AM.

No 5:30 PM Mass today.

The Solemnity of Christmas

(A Holy Day of Obligation)

Sunday, December 24:

*4:00 PM (2 Masses held simultaneously in both the Old Gym and the *church)

6:30 PM & 11:00 PM (in the church)

Monday, December 25:

Masses at 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

The Feast of the Holy Family

(Our regular weekend Mass schedule)

Saturday, December 30—*4:30 PM Vigil Mass

Sunday, December 31—Masses at 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM & 5:30 PM

The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

Not a Holy Day of Obligation in 2024; we will offer one Mass Monday, January 1, 2024 at 6:00 AM.

The Solemnity of the Epiphany

(Our regular weekend Mass schedule)

Saturday, January 6—*4:30 PM Vigil Mass

Sunday, January 7—Masses at 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM and 5:30 PM

This * denotes the live-streaming of a Mass on the church parish website at alloysius.org and on Facebook at facebook.com/stalloysiusbr

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 alloysius.org/livestream or on our Facebook page at facebook.com/stalloysiusbr

CONFESSIONS: 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 AM

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.

Confirmation 2023



St. Aloysius Confirmation Candidates 2023

Adelaide Jeannette
Aguillard
Jules Charlotte Alario
Sela Katherine Alwood
Kate Elizabeth Arbour
Ethan James Bailey
Bennett James Barrow
Mary Ellis Beach
Charley Sloan Bergeron
Mary Elizabeth Bernhardt
Robert Lane Bourq
Mary Elizabeth Bradford
Isabelle Marie Broome
Christian Ryan Busbice
Lauren Elizabeth Calegan
Adam Everett Carruth
Stephan Kensett Champney
Andrew Joseph Clapinski
Cooper Michael Clebert
John Heard Crawford
Grayton Bollinger Daigle
Michelle Marie Daigle
Davis Fournier Dawes
Avery Madeleine Denicola
David Gerard DeOliveira
Estella Rose DeOliveira
Ryann Olivia Dotson
Annsley Elizabeth Easton
Brady Christopher
Eldredge
Ella Katherine Falgoust
Madeleine Frye Ferachi
Katherine Grace Fluker
Layton Joseph Fontenot
Jack Anderson Foote
Porter Thomas Fournier
Jack William Fournier
Andrew Joseph Gannuch
Ben Ellis Gauthreaux

Margaret Grace Halphen
Amelia Claire Hannie
William Michael Hatzis
Andi Elizabeth Hayes
Ava Lanehart Heine
Mary Elizabeth Hill
Max Lambert Himmel
Laura Caroline Holliday
Matthew James Hotstream
Matthew Aidan Hupperich
Taylor Brynn Jennings
Finley Patrick Johnson
Margaret Ann Johnson
Finley Rhodes Jones
Zachary John Joubert
Caldwell Davidson Kerth
Brooks Matthew Kogel
Sophia Grace Lalonde
Dillon Marie Landry
Martin Metcalfe
Lanneau, Jr.
Benjamin William Larson
Sydney Elizabeth LaFour
Virginia Anne Lauwe
Cohen Reid LeBlanc
Estelle Elise LeBoeuf
Shang Hai Lee
Ayden Thomas Leonardt
Ethan Jacob Lopez
Ella Kathryn Mancuso
Sean Joseph McCay
Christopher Michael
McCullen
William Jeffery Mickal
Patrick Clifford Moe
Ainsley Michelle Moreau
William James Nikolaus
Brennan Wesley Normand
David Matthew Olinde, Jr.
Madeline Rose Oubre

Liv Katherine Palmer
Sara Jane Pasquier
Braxton Christopher Perez
Sean Michael Perret
Clare Elizabeth Poche
Samantha Grace Politz
Jack Walter Pou
Lillian Seal Prescott
Emmaline Elizabeth Ritter
John Morgan Ritter
Caroline Katherine Roberts
Caroline Cowand Roussel
Gage Emeric Rowley
John Quin Ruckert
Eliza Catherine Saunders
Holden Thomas Sawyer
Nicole Alessandra Shaw
Julianne Rae Shipp
Ava Catherine Silva
Elena Grace Singh
Bennett Thomas Smith
Owen David Songne
Lane Grace Stevens
Lily Grace Stringfellow
Annabelle Mai Sutton
Darby Marie Thompson
Jacob Rocco Tompkins, Jr.
Pierson Christopher
Valluzzo
Sean Patrick Valluzzo
Bailey Elizabeth
Van Hoogstraten
Brady Elton Waguespack
Graham Joseph Waguespack
Fanner Elizabeth Watson
Emma Catherine Webre
Lilly Anne Wilfert
Michael Joseph Wilhelm, Jr.
Cate Isabella Williamson
John Ryan Winchester
Emery Anne Zeringue





School News: SAS celebrates All Saints' Day

On Nov. 1, kindergarten through eighth-grade students joined parishioners in celebrating All Saints' Day Mass. It was a joyous celebration facilitated by the sixth-grade Liturgical Choir and cantors along with the eighth-grade and fourth-grade period religion classes.

The students and parents collaborated to create a "Book of Life" containing the names of special loved ones for whom we prayed. As with every All School Mass, food was collected for the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank. Students were asked to bring special items to help clients celebrate Thanksgiving with their families.

The celebration of All Saints continued through Nov. 3 with the first-graders dressing as saints and presenting their reports about the saints. Parents went to the classrooms to view the student presentations. The students were excited to share their newfound knowledge with classmates and parents.

Constitution Week teaches patriotism

Constitution Week is celebrated nationally each year beginning Sept. 17 by the ringing of bells throughout the country at exactly 4:30 PM. This is precisely how the original signing of the document was celebrated.

This event is also recognized at St. Aloysius School in Mrs. Lisa Mongrue's eighth-grade classes. Jonathon Perry, an SAS alum, generously donated Constitution booklets to Mongrue's students. Perry, an attorney with Perry, Atkinson, & Burns, LLC, in Baton Rouge, shared a few remarks with the students regarding his time at SAS and his journey to becoming an attorney.

Mongrue has been an incredible teacher and role model for the past 22 years at SAS. She has promoted patriotism to her students through many sources, activities and field trips, such as their participation in Youth Legislature and visiting the World War II Museum in New Orleans.

Former SAS teachers Pat Veazey and Betty Langlinais were also there for the presentation of the Constitution booklets sponsored by their Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Chapter - The Canary Islands. Veazey and Langlinais use these

opportunities to emphasize the importance of pride and patriotism to the United States.

Pre-K collects books for shelter

Imagine losing your home, your toys and your books...what a sad thought! The St. Vincent de Paul Society provides shelter for families who are in this situation.

The St. Aloysius pre-kindergarten classes helped by sponsoring a book drive to collect children's books and young adult books. The students made posters to remind everyone of the drive that took place Nov. 1- 8. Students of all grades donated books to the collection, and in the end, 11 boxes and bags of books were collected for the SVDP family shelter.

On Nov. 9, Mrs. Schilling's class loaded the boxes of books into cars for delivery. It took a lot of muscle and a lot of teamwork, but the class was able to move all of the books from the stage of the Old Gym to the cars waiting in the parking lot.

Now the books are on their way to the hands of those who will be able to enjoy the comfort that a good book can bring!

Blessing of pets celebrates St. Francis

St. Aloysius fourth-graders recently celebrated the feast of St. Francis of Assisi with a special blessing of the classroom pets.

On Oct. 4, the students of pre-kindergarten through third grade gathered in the Old Gym to attend the ceremony. Deacon Don Allison led the celebration. Parents of fourth grade students also took part.

The fourth-grade students selected boys who most represent the values of St. Francis and girls who most represent the values of St. Clare of Assisi, a student of St. Francis. Jonah Weil was chosen to be St. Francis. The Brothers of St. Francis were Colin Ferguson and William Walton. Parker Irby was chosen to be St. Clare. The Sisters of St. Clare were Livi Shrott and Merrin Overall.

The service began with readings explaining the life of St. Francis, then fourth-graders led the gathering in a rousing rendition of "All God's Critters Got



a Place in the Choir." As it was sung, "St. Francis" and "St. Clare" and their followers led a procession around the gym blessing pictures of pets on display and held by students. The procession concluded with a sprinkling of holy water on the cages of classroom pets lined up on tables.

Prior to the celebration, fourth-graders, under the direction of their religion teacher, Mrs. Nicole Wintz, prepared small bottles of holy water. The students attached a prayer of blessing to each bottle. Seventh-graders added a special St. Francis medal to each bottle. Following the blessing ceremony, each fourth-grader took their bottle of holy water home to bless their pets, or the pets of

family or neighbors.

The students enjoyed learning about St. Francis and St. Clare and sharing their knowledge with their schoolmates and families.

Kindergartners collect costumes

Kindergartners collected gently used and new Halloween costumes to help the children in the Big Buddy Program celebrate a happier Halloween. This was done in conjunction with the 10/31 Consortium of Baton Rouge, a group that hosts the Fiolet Festival and other city Halloween celebrations.

A representation of students from each class announced the

collection at assembly. The kindergarten students decorated publicity posters, which were distributed throughout the school. These posters reminded students in every grade to bring costumes for donation. The kindergartners also decorated large donation boxes. Generous students brought costumes and filled many boxes.

On the morning of Oct. 19, Mr. Lance Martin and Mrs. Kelley Stein from 10/31 Consortium came to speak to the kindergartners about the importance of their project. Martin explained the joy that the children experience when they get to choose their new costumes. The students enjoyed using their talents to collect costumes, which will bring joy to others.



Child Care Center, 7th-Graders together plant Seeds to Success

The LSU AgCenter's Seeds to Success Program, in partnership with St. Aloysius School teachers Carolyn Murphy and Lesley Beckers and seventh-grade students, held a day of service at the St. Aloysius Child Care Center garden.

The students cleaned and prepared the beds for fall plants,

then assisted the SACCC children in planting new transplants and watering the garden.

The fall garden will incorporate fragrant herbs, along with a mixture of vegetables including lettuce, carrots, and a dinosaur kale garden for the children to interact with. The garden is funded in part using the SACCC's

Fish Fry fundraiser proceeds.

The SACCC garden offers benefits that parallel the goals and priorities of the early care and education community, including emphasis on experiential learning opportunities, parent and community engagement and life-long health and wellness for children, families and caregivers.



SACCC learns about fire prevention



KC Soccer Challenge

The Diocese of Baton Rouge Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge competition took place on Oct. 22 at St. Jean Vianney Catholic Church, organized by Diocesan Administrator Kevin Heltz. Two St. Aloysius School students, Mary Elizabeth DeCuir (middle) and Mary Kyle Ruckert (right), won the competition in their age categories for the girls' competition. Both will advance to the state finals on Nov. 13 in Baton Rouge. Also pictured is Sam Mistretta, member of the St. Aloysius KC, Council 3743.

KCs announce parish essay winner

By Jon Riese

The Knights of Columbus, Council 3743 of St. Aloysius recently announced the parish winner of the Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest, an annual Knights of Columbus national contest. The goal of this yearly program is to involve young Catholics in civic discourse and instill in them religious and life-affirming values.

The contest encourages youth in the community to become citizens grounded in their faith through creative writing. Students were invited to write a 500- to 750-word essay on the theme, "How can the Church evangelize in our digital age?"

Fifty-eight eighth-graders in Lisa Mongrue's social studies classes submitted essays. Three rounds of rigorous grading took



place in October with essays judged on grammar, style and how clearly they presented the theme in a way that showcases creativity, imagination and overall development of the topic. Identities of the students were kept confidential during judging.

This year's winning essay was written by Molly Roussel, who

received a \$100 cash award and a framed certificate. Her essay now moves on to the district-level competition.

The award was presented at the all-school assembly on Nov. 6. Pictured are Molly Roussel, her mother, her sister, teacher Lisa Mongrue and Jon Riese of the Knights of Columbus.



Holy Smoke 2023: Still Cookin'

Winners

Kids' Hamburger

1. Annie Kate Gremillion, Gettin' Piggy Wit' It
2. G.P. Garon, Let There Be Smoke
3. Beau Leblanc, Immaculate Convection

Brisket

1. Notorious P.I.G.
2. Pork Authority
3. Pulled Cork

Pork Shoulder

1. Braise the Lard
2. All Bark, No Blasphemy
3. Notorious P.I.G., Pirogue Piggies, and Twisted Boot BBQ (all tied)

Ribs

1. Old Smokey & the Bandits
2. All Bark, No Blasphemy

Iron Chef

1. Don't Geaux Bacon My Heart

2. Gettin' Piggy Wit' It
3. All Bark, No Blasphemy

Cocktail

1. Matthew, Mark, Pork, & John
2. Fire & Swine
3. Taste & See

Grand Champion

1. All Bark, No Blasphemy
2. Pork Authority
3. Braise the Lard

Thans of Fun (Crowd Favorite):

1. Ritter Marinades
2. Taste & See
3. Pirogue Piggies

Best Team Name: Notorious P.I.G.

Rookie of the Year: Let There Be Smoke





Parish Fair 2023: Faith | Family | Fun

Special thanks to sponsors, committee & volunteers

Sponsors

- Bearcom
- Bonaventure Dental Care
- Boudin Shack Cajun Specialties
- Baton Rouge Orthopaedic Clinic
 - o Dr. Chip Bankston
 - o Dr. Brad Culotta
 - o Dr. Nick Hatzis
 - o Dr. Jimmy Lalonde
 - o Dr. Brian Perry
 - o Dr. Carey Winder
 - o Dr. Bobby Easton
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- Superior Grill (Highland Road)
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- The Queen Bee
- Troutman Insurance Agency
- Valluzzo Companies
- Marrucci/Victus/Lizard Skins/Baum
- Dr. Geoffrey Peters
- Martinez Strategic
- Vacherie Fuel

Food:

- Chair: Brad Hutchinson
- Fish Fry: Bill & Lauren Sanders
- Jambalaya: Mo Harmon
- Specialty Food Cook: Mo Harmon
- Grill Master: Hillar Moore
- BBQ Chicken Lunch: Michael Martin

Beverage:

- Chairs: David & Michaela Coner, Jason Wendt

Treasury:

- Chair: Bradley Lowe
- Co-Chair: Jerry Denicola
- Past Chair: Patrick Valluzzo

Raffle:

- Chair: Bailey Abendroth
- Co-Chair: Jayme Adams
- Sponsor Signage Chair: Ashley Pere

Entertainment:

- Chair: Kyle Zeringue
- Entertainment Co-Chair: Jeff Plauche

Decorations:

- Chair: Caroline Mladenka
- Co-Chairs: Ashley Chappell & Olivia Sabottke

Snowballs:

- Chairs: JR & Judy Vendetto
- Co-Chair: Chris Schneider

Game Booths:

- Chairs: Ward & Kayla Lundin
- Co-Chairs: Chase & Julia LaPlace

Order Fulfillment:

- Chairs: Hunter & Tiffany Brown

Bingo:

- Chairs: Todd & Sarah Martin

Prize Booth:

- Chair: Jeff Hastings

Sweet Shop:

- Chair: Jill Carter
- Co-Chair: Sebastian Ashton

Face Painting & Crafts:

- Chair: Leah Wintz
- Co-Chair: Elizabeth Richoux

Family Tent:

- Chair: Megan Cardaro
- Co-Chair: Lauren Hensgens

Communications:

- Chair: Bonnie Rader

Personnel/Volunteer:

- Chair: Kate Prejean

Website:

- Chair: Jesse Downs

Marketing/Graphics:

- Chair: Caitlyn Townsley

Outdoor Mass:

- Chair: Scott Roussel

Costume & Tent Décor:

- Chair: Johanna Couvillion
- Co-Chair: Kelli Caswell

Additional Support:

- Bookkeeping & Charitable Gaming: Belinda McNeely
- Parish Staff: Matt Zylicz, Business Manager; Ronnie Haliburton, Facilities Manager



Committee

- Chairs: Mark & Rebecca Herbst
- Co-Chairs: Joseph & Lauren Britt
- Past Chairs: Tuan & Allison Pham

Aguillard to retire from Catholic Charities

David C. Aguillard will step down as executive director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Baton Rouge effective June 30, 2024, Bishop Michael G. Duca announced Oct. 6. Aguillard, a St. Aloysius parishioner, has served in the role for 15 years.

“David brought energy, creativity and an unwavering commitment to our Catholic mission of service to people living in poverty throughout our diocese,” Bishop Duca said. “While he will be missed, our commitment to the traditional and newly emerging services of Catholic Charities remains steadfast.”

Aguillard said, “This work has brought me more joy than I ever thought professionally possible because of the support of the community and my colleagues at the agency. Their generosity and talents propelled us to amazing accomplishments. Their tenacious spirit carried us through the challenges of COVID, hurricanes, floods and

economic downturns. In fact, these challenges served as springboards that lifted us to higher levels of service.”

Bishop Duca noted that during Aguillard’s remaining time at the agency he will continue his efforts to build and hopefully expand the new food-distribution program to reach underserved rural areas of the diocese.

A nationwide search will be launched to identify Aguillard’s successor.

During Aguillard’s tenure, CCDBR became a national leader in long-term recovery and implemented new programs in early-childhood education. He expanded the agency’s accommodations for homeless pregnant women, the Sanctuary for Life,

from housing two women to eight women and their infants.

The agency also responded to international events, welcoming Ukrainians and Afghans most recently and asylum seekers from around the world.

“I’ve always said that if you want to know who is suffering on our planet, just walk into your local Catholic Charities office,” Aguillard said. “The world’s pain walks daily through our doors. Serving them is our Gospel privilege and a necessity for followers of Christ.”

Aguillard said he doesn’t have any specific plans yet, and is hesitant to use the word “retire,” because he enjoys community service. In the near term, he wants to spend time with his adult children, engaging in the vigorous outdoor adventures they enjoy together. “I’m never happier than when I’m with my children, backpacking into wild landscapes and scrambling up

mountain peaks. We want more time together...while I’m still – almost – capable of keeping up,” he said.

Bishop-Emeritus Robert W. Muench appointed Aguillard to his leadership post in October 2008. Before joining the agency, he served as president and CEO of Lake Physician Health Organization. Prior to that, he worked for the state of Missouri implementing parenting programs, health care and welfare reform initiatives and was detailed by the governor to serve as director of a presidential commission on urban poverty.

Earlier in his career, Aguillard was an award-winning journalist, reporting for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, the Pittsburgh Press, Ann Arbor News and the Times-Picayune.

SOURCE: Information obtained from the Diocese of Baton Rouge’s website, diobr.org



David Aguillard
Courtesy of
Diocese



Cub Scout Pack 7 recognized for service project

By April Setliff
Religious Emblems
Counselor, Pack 7

The St. Aloysius Cub Scouts Pack 7 was recently named recipient of the Catholic Committee on Scouting for the Diocese of Baton Rouge’s “Light in the Lord – Bishop J. Stanley Ott Service Recognition” Award.

Established in 1993 following the death of Bishop Ott, the award recognizes exceptional services projects that keep in mind, “Duty to God and each other” as lived and preached by Bishop Ott, especially through the works of mercy.

The Pack 7’s service project



that garnered this honor was the gift bags members created for patients at Our Lady of the Lake Hospital’s Physical Rehab Unit. This specific unit cares for those in rehab for spinal cord injuries, brain injuries, strokes, etc.

The Scouts wanted to do an act of kindness to care for

the sick, so April Setliff, the Religious Emblems Counselor for Pack 7, connected the Scouts with the rehab’s staff. The patients stay at inpatient care there since they’re not well enough to go home yet.

While the first thought was to bring a bag of snacks and treats to the patients, Setliff

and the Scouts found many patients had dietary restrictions. Pack 7 then had the idea to give the gift bags to the rehab staff – nurses, physical therapist, speech therapists who care for the patients.

The service project became “caring for those who care for the sick.” 50 bags were stuffed at St. Aloysius on Oct. 8, then delivered to Our Lady of the Lake on Oct. 13. The rehab staff was extremely touched and thankful with smiles all around.

Pack 7 will be honored for the recognition at a ceremony in August 2024 where Bishop Michael Duca will present medals to the group.

Stephen Ministry provides care in times of loss and transition

In times of great difficulties, in periods of crisis, through loss, illness, or grief, or other challenging times, a Stephen Minister provides support and encouragement with a listening ear and lends emotional and spiritual support.

Each specially trained Stephen Minister meets privately and confidentially with his/her care receiver, walking in prayer and support together for the duration of the crisis.

Stephen Ministry, a worldwide ministry established in 1975, offers a proven and effective way to organize, equip, and supervise a team of congregation members, called *Stephen Ministers*, to provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties.

St. Aloysius Church has an active Stephen Ministry whose members provide Christian care to those who are experiencing grief, loneliness, terminal illness, and other life difficulties. Everything discussed with the care

receivers, even their identity, is confidential.

Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life and share a passion for bringing Christ’s love and care to people during a time of need. They receive extensive Christian care training and meet monthly for confidential supervision. As Stephen Leaders emphasize in training sessions, “Stephen Ministers provide the care and God provides the cure.”

Apply today to get trained after the new year. The required training course begins in January and includes the following dates: Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25; Feb. 1, 8, 22, 29; March 7, 14, 21; and April 4, 11. A Commissioning Ceremony is held during Mass after the program ends.

In St. Paul’s Letter to Colossians, he emphasized service to others: “Whatever you do, do from the heart, as for the Lord and not for others.” (Colossians 3:23). The heart of Stephen Ministry is caring for another person, one-on-one.

If you have a desire to serve and are interested in apply-

ing for this ministry, or if you have any further questions, please contact us through our confidential email account, stephen.ministry.aloysiusbr@gmail.com, or by calling or texting any of the following Stephen Ministry Leaders: Kathy Nikolaus, 225-603-7772; Ann McCrory, 225-235-7850; Bob Schoen, 225-937-2984; Stephanie Anderson Songy, 225-802-2020 or Dana Territo, 225-572-9250. We especially need male Stephen Ministers who are matched with male care receivers for this program.

Additionally, if you are in need of a Stephen Minister, or know someone who would benefit, please contact Ann McCrory, Stephen Ministry Leader, at the ministry email above or text/phone her at 225-235-7850. Again, this care is entirely confidential. No one knows the identity of a care receiver except for their Stephen Minister and the referral person or leader who paired them together.