



aloysius alive

Vol. 39 No. 5

March 2024



Celebrating Catholic Schools

St. Aloysius joined schools across the country in celebrating Catholic Schools Week from Sunday, Jan. 28, to Saturday, Feb. 3, with various related activities.

On Monday, students gathered for assembly in the Old Gym, where they got their first view of the banner created by the entire school. The banner is a replica of the school logo made of paper

chains. The links in the chain were composed of student and faculty responses to prompts and based on the motto of the National Catholic Education Association, "Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community."

The prompts ask students to reflect on "Family, Faculty, Students, Vocations, Community Service and what St. Aloysius School does well."

Also that Monday, the Diocese of Baton Rouge Catholic Schools Office hosted a dinner for the distinguished graduates of each Catholic school. Joanne Martin Roberts was named the 2023-2024 Distinguished Graduate of St. Aloysius School.

Wednesday morning, faculty and staff were recognized for accomplishing milestone years of service to Catholic education:

- 10 years: Amy Johnson, Marla Lefevre, Rupi Sidhu, Gwen Viguerie,
- 15 years: Teresa Hyfield, Jennifer Viator,
- 25 years: Dawn Broussard, Glenda Jackson,
- 30 years: Mimi Caballero,
- 35 years: Al Dauenhauer
- 40 years: Sherri Dupuy.

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'Superhero' Students

St. Aloysius fourth-grade students worked with Kim Bowman of the Bella Bowman Foundation, which supports those dealing with childhood illnesses, to create cards and notes of encouragement for hospital patients. "You are a superhero any time you help someone," Bowman told the students.

See story, Page 6.

'24 Auction a Win-Win for All

St. Aloysius' annual Live & Silent Auction, held Feb. 3 on the church campus, was a night of dinner, dancing, cocktails and games. See more photos and a list of our sponsors and volunteers, Page 8.



Tina Currier celebrates 30 years at SACCC

By Kimberly Cusimano
Tina Currier first joined the St. Aloysius Child Care Center in October 1993. A lifelong parishioner, a graduate and the daughter of St. Aloysius' founding members, she has always considered the school and church as a second "home" of sorts.



Tina Currier

The SACCC's founder happened to also be Currier's sister and it was she who recruited Tina to join the center's staff 30 years ago. Currier's 30 years makes her the longest-tenured employee on staff. She joined just seven years after the center opened its doors.

Looking back, Tina reflected on the location of the original center in an actual house which, in a way, is metaphorical for the "homey" and family-oriented culture of the center she described.

"While we've grown from 100 to more than 250 children today, we've managed to maintain a small, comfortable atmosphere for our children and their families,"

Continued on page 7

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Holy Week and the Paschal Triduum Schedule 2024



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: March 23/24

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: March 25, 6 AM Mass

Tuesday of Holy Week: March 26, 8 AM Mass

Wednesday of Holy Week: March 27, 6 AM Mass

Holy Thursday: March 28 (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 Midnight.

Good Friday: March 29

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: March 30

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

9 AM Morning Prayer (Parish Hall)

The Solemn Vigil of Easter: Saturday, March 30 at *8 PM (No 4:30 PM Mass today.)

Easter Sunday: March 31

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

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

This * denotes a Mass will be livestreamed via alloysius.org/livestream and on Facebook at facebook.com/stalloysiusbr



First Eucharist Masses
scheduled for April 13-14

First Eucharist will be celebrated during the 4:30 PM Vigil Mass on April 13 and during the 7 AM, 9 AM, 11 AM and 5:30 PM Masses on April 14. Communicants and their families will be able to choose their First Eucharist Mass. For more information, contact Tricia Greely at 343-6657 or tgreely@stalloysiusparish.com.

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

CONFESSIONS: Monday and Wednesday after 6 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.

alloysius alive

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A Need for Speed!



Cub Scouts hold Pinewood Derby

By Brandon Politz

Local racing fans gathered on Saturday, Jan. 27, to watch the St. Aloysius Pack 7 Cub Scouts compete for racing glory at their annual Pinewood Derby.

Held each January in the Old Gym on campus, this popular event is considered by many as the "Super Bowl" of Cub Scouting. Weeks before the race, each Scout is given a derby car kit consisting of one pinewood block, four plastic race wheels, and four unpolished nails to serve as axles.

Using the materials provided, each Scout then designs and builds the fastest derby car possible. This process typically entails cutting (with appropriate parental guidance) and sanding each wooden block into shape, polishing the axles and wheels, painting and decorating the cars, and finally adding enough weight to help propel the car down the state-of-the-art, aluminum race-track.

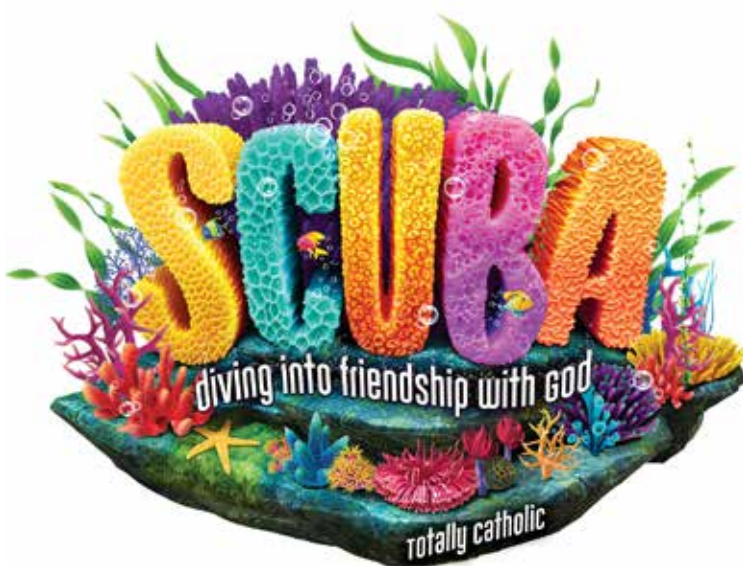
On race day, the Scouts ar-

rive to first measure and weigh in their cars, which can be no longer than 7 inches or weigh more than 5.0 ounces, per the rules. Then everyone gathers to cheer on the Scouts as they race against their classmates.

In addition to awarding trophies for first-, second- and third-place finishers at each grade level, special certificates are awarded for categories including sportiest car, most unique design, best workmanship, most patriotic car, funniest car, best paint job, and the judge's choice award.

This year's design highlights included one car in the shape of a prickly porcupine and another modeled after the Oscar Meyer Weiner Mobile!

The top-three fastest derby cars advance to the District Pinewood Derby, where they will compete for additional prizes against top finishers from other area schools. Congratulations to all of our winners!



Vacation Bible School set for June; volunteers needed

Save the Date! Vacation Bible School returns to campus this summer from June 10-14 and will be held from 8:30 AM – 11:45 AM each day. Adult volunteers (even rotational lead-

ers) and junior volunteers are needed to help the students "dive into their friendship with God." Contact Colleen Walker for the signup links: colleengreene89@gmail.com.

ST. JOSEPH'S DAY ALTAR

MARCH 18-19, 2024

ST. JOSEPH

PRAY FOR US!

MARCH 18, 6:00 PM

- BLESSING OF THE ALTAR
- TUPA TUPA SKIT
- SPAGHETTI DINNER IN THE PARISH HALL

MARCH 19, 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

- 8:00 AM MASS, SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH
- ALTAR OPENS TO THE PUBLIC FOLLOWING MASS UNTIL 1:00 PM

ALTAR WILL BE SITUATED IN THE BACK OF THE CHURCH

ST. ALOYSIUS
CATHOLIC CHURCH

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL!

Southdowns Parade



St. Aloysius Pre-K Parade





Krewe of Tots Parade Rolls





Members of the General Philemon Thomas Chapter at SAS morning assembly.



BRPD Chief T.J. Morse with a group of third graders

Student of the Year Howard Beach grateful for honor

Since 2019, St. Aloysius School has participated in the Student of the Year Program on the eighth grade level. In this program, students from public and private schools are nominated based on their demonstration of leadership, citizenship and service. Judges from the Diocese of Baton Rouge will choose one eighth grader to represent the Diocese in the state competition.

St. Aloysius School chooses its Student of the Year based on input from the students, who recommend one of their peers who exemplifies the qualities of a St. Aloysius Lion. Faculty and administration review the recommendations. This year, all agree that Howard Beach deserves this honor.

Howard is the son of St. Aloysius School alumni David Beach and Emily Hightower Beach. Howard's younger siblings are Anna and Jack. Howard said he learned of receiving the award when he was called out of class into the principal's office. His parents were on the phone when he arrived in the room. He was nervous until he heard, "You have been chosen Student of the Year."

Howard said the news made him, "Kind of excited," especially when he realized that his friends had voted for him. "I thank my friends who supported me. I think a lot of people I know could have won. I am glad to be a role model for the younger kids."

Howard is an excellent student and athlete. He also uses his time to perform services for the community. He has been an altar server at Mass and was a reader at the eighth grade Eucharistic Adoration service. Howard accompanies his grandmother to St. Agnes Parish to serve with the Missionaries of Charity, who run a soup kitchen and homeless shelter.

SAS recognized for flag protocol

Members of the General Philemon Thomas Chapter, a branch of the Louisiana Society Sons of the American Revolution, visited St. Aloysius School for morning assembly on Wednesday, Feb. 21.

The group held a small ceremony for the students with a presentation of the colors and explanations by members of the sig-



Howard Beach with SAS Principal Erin Candilora

nificance of their uniforms. Members then presented the school with a certificate in recognition of exemplary patriotism in the display of the American flag.

SAS has an Honor Guard consisting of a small group of students led by Ms. Brandi Matthis, seventh grade teacher and a veteran herself (former U.S. Army nurse). Matthis teaches the Honor Guard how to properly care for and display the American flag, which is visible in the school office parking lot almost daily.

The Knights of Columbus, who are also involved in the Louisiana Society Sons of the American Revolution, noticed the Honor Guard's care for the flag, which is how members of the GPT were invited to school.

3rd graders support community leaders

The celebration of Catholic Schools Week included students doing many types of activities and assignments. Third grade religion teacher AnaMaria Cuadra asked her students to write to our community leaders

The students wrote notes of support and encouragement. The third graders were delighted to receive replies to their notes.

East Baton Rouge Parish Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome wrote, "Your messages brightened up my day. You are definitely putting Thessalonians 5:11 into practice. I look forward to visiting your class soon."

Baton Rouge Fire Chief Michael J. Kimble said he posted all of his notes on his office door "for all to see."

Baton Rouge Police Chief T.J.



Fourth graders assist Mr. Ken Thevenet in burning palms to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday.



The seventh and eighth grade St. Aloysius Quiz Bowl team, from left, Ellie Martinez, Tate Lowe, Davis Walker, Olivia Mouch, Douglas Funderburk (team captain), Thomas Lowe, Patrick Dawes and Dr. Patti Davis, Superintendent (not shown, alternate Lily Jane Crawford)

Morse also received an envelope filled with notes. As a way of expressing his gratitude, Morse made a surprise visit to the third graders on campus to thank them in person.

St. Aloysius School observes Lent

Preparations for Lent began even before the Mardi Gras festivities ended. On Thursday, Feb. 8, the fourth graders assisted Mr. Ken Thevenet in burning palms to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday.

The students assembled at the large outdoor fountain. After sharing scripture readings and prayers, the students each placed palms into the burning pot. These palms had been blessed for Palm Sunday 2023 and donated by members of the parish to create ashes to begin the current Lenten season.

During Lent, students in all religion classes pray the Stations of the Cross weekly. In addition, all students participate in the Divine Mercy Chaplet at school assembly on Monday mornings. Volunteer

readers, accompanied by Ms. Beth Bordon's sixth grade choir, lead the prayer as students follow along on prayer sheets or on their Rosaries.

The whole school is also participating in Operation Rice Bowl. The slogan of this program is "For Lent, For Life." As the season progresses students will collect money to donate to Catholic Relief Services. They will learn about the many people who are helped by this program.

Our school encourages the cornerstones of prayer, fasting and almsgiving so that our students can have a meaningful Lenten season.

Quiz Bowl team 1st place in diocese

During the school year, students on the fifth/sixth grade and seventh/eighth grade Quiz Bowl teams used their free time to practice with their coach and school counselor, Stephanie Brignac.

Their energy went into preparation for the Diocesan Quiz Bowl held on Saturday, Jan. 20, at

St. Michael the Archangel High School in Baton Rouge. The teams in each grade division were divided into pools. The fifth and sixth graders competed hard and came in second in their pool.

The seventh and eighth graders won their pool and moved on to the semi-final round, where they faced off with St. Thomas More and emerged victorious, advancing to the final match.

The final match took place on the main stage of the St. Michael's gym. Doctor Patti Davis, diocesan superintendent of Catholic Schools, was the caller. The match was very close with many lead changes. In the end, the St. Aloysius Lions won, edging out Our Lady of Mercy by a single point.

Thanks to our team alternates, Coach Stephanie Brignac and monitor Mr. David Toews for the support that helped our seventh and eighth grade Lions become the 2024 diocesan champions.

4th Graders help Bowman Foundation

The Bella Bowman Foundation was founded by the Bowman family after losing their daughter Bella to childhood cancer. The foundation exists to support children who are dealing with childhood illnesses, as well as their families.

On Feb. 5, the fourth grade students got the opportunity to work with Mrs. Kim Bowman to create cards and notes of encouragement for patients at Our Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital.

The students gathered to hear Mrs. Kim read from her book "Bella and the Red Bird." After reading the book and discussing the story, the students went to stations to decorate cards and write notes of encouragement. The students used their markers and creativity to make inspiring works of art.

As well as the book, Mrs. Kim had another surprise for the students. Each received a goodie bag with a piggy bank and a superhero cape. The piggybank is a reminder for students to put aside some of their money for those in the world who are less fortunate. And the cape was to remind the students (in the words of Miss Kim), "You are a superhero any time you help someone."

Science class helping restore La. paddlefish

By Shannon Kippers

This school year, Ms. Brandi Matthis and her seventh grade science students at St. Aloysius have the opportunity to directly aid the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries paddlefish restoration project.

Ms. Matthis is among 20 teachers selected for the "Native Fish in the Classroom" program, designed to assist students in developing an attitude of stewardship toward Louisiana's natural resources. St. Aloysius is one of 10 Louisiana schools participating this year in the program, which provides an active learning situation in which students explore aquatic ecosystems.

Native Fish in the Classroom, run by the LDWF in partnership with the Louisiana Sea Grant program, affords students a unique opportunity to receive hands-on science knowledge of aquatic ecosystems by maintaining a classroom aquatic nursery tank in which the students grow native, Louisiana paddlefish from eggs to fingerlings.

Ultimately, the students hope to produce paddlefish that can be used by the LDWF's Booker Fowler Fish Hatchery to help manage a protected fish population in Louisiana. Through their participation in the program, students learn about fisheries management, fish biology, protected species and aquatic natural resources.

This past fall, Ms. Matthis and her students, with the assistance of the LDWF, set up an aquatic tank in their classroom. In addition to the tank, the LDWF provided the class with filtration tools and a monitoring



From left, Fisheries biologist Josh Porter of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, SAS seventh grader William Beckers and SAS seventh grade science teacher Brandi Matthis.

system of logging water quality and fish data.

Students play a key role in daily monitoring of environmental components of the tank, such as temperature, pH, ammonia, nitrate and nitrite levels. Over the past few months, the students applied important scientific principles by learning how to collect, record, and analyze their water quality data.

This month, Ms. Matthis will attend the spawning event at the hatchery and bring the paddlefish eggs back to St. Aloysius for fertilization in the classroom nursery tank. The students hope to rear the newly fertilized eggs to fingerling size for about seven weeks and observe the distinct life stages of the paddlefish species firsthand from their classroom.

At the end of the program in May, Ms. Matthis will return their four- to five-inch, classroom-grown paddlefish fingerlings to the hatchery for release back into the Mermentau River Basin.

Stay tuned for updates in Aloysius Alive!



School, From Page 1

Also that Wednesday morning, representatives of all of the diocesan schools gathered for the celebration of Mass at St. Thomas More Church. Student representatives from each school, as well as administrators and teachers receiving service awards joined Bishop Michael Duca for the celebration.

Principal Erin Candilora and Student of the Year Howard Beach carried a gift in the entrance procession. Student representatives attending the Mass were Anna Beach, Jack Beach,

Rosalie LeBlanc and Audrey LeBlanc. Teachers receiving service awards for their years in Catholic education also attended. Upon returning to campus, the representatives from St. Aloysius School shared a luncheon.

On Friday, the seventh and eighth grade band members and drama class went to the Catholic Life Center to participate in the Arts and Talents Showcase. Students from various Catholic schools gathered to demonstrate their proficiency in both the visual and performing arts.

Catholic Schools Week provided us with opportunities to work together and to appreciate our accomplishments as a Catholic school.

SACCC, From Page 1

Currier said.

One of seven children, Currier said she's always found joy in young children.

"It's rewarding to watch the children grow and reach milestones," she said. "I've also really enjoyed watching families with multiple children come through our doors—it really is a family affair."

Currier has been a constant at the center for years, having cared for hundreds of parish children

and happily wearing many hats along the way.

"Mrs. Tina puts so much love into the school by being a great teacher but also stepping up to do tasks above and beyond what's expected. She is kind, nurturing and the children she cares for leave prepared for expectations of pre-K," said Halley Hastings, mother of one of Currier's former students.

"When you think of the childcare center, you think of Mrs. Tina and all of the teachers that make it such a special home away from home for our kids," said Loren Fleshman, mother of three of Currier's former students.

"We are grateful to have had her."

In addition to winning the hearts of childcare center students and families, Tina is also beloved by her colleagues. She is a friend and cohort to veteran staff members and a mentor to new teachers as well.

"Mrs. Tina has been an inspiration and mentor to me and other staff members," said Vanessa Rayford. "She is a great person as well as a great teacher to look up to. I've watched her step up to leadership when the center needed her to. I am happy to work with her and I congratulate her for her many years of service to SACCC."



St. Aloysius Child Care Center 1994-1995. Tina Currier is pictured to the far right, holding her daughter (red polka-dot shirt).

Diaconate sessions set for March, April

Three Diaconate Discernment Sessions are planned over the next month for men who feel called to the diaconate or who might be interested in learning more about the diaconate and the formation process.

At each session, speakers will present different aspects of the diaconate. The 2024 sessions are scheduled as follows (locations have changed since previous promotion):

- March 16, 9 AM - Noon, Day of Discernment III (Human Formation) – St. Thomas More Activity Center, 11441 Goodwood Blvd.
- April 6, 9 AM - Noon, Day of Discernment IV (Pastoral Formation) – St. Thomas More Activity Center, 11441 Goodwood Blvd.
- April 20, 9 AM - Noon, Day of Discernment V (Academic

Formation) – Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University (FranU), Liberal Arts Building, Room 116

Men interested in learning more are encouraged to attend these sessions. Anyone who would like to speak to Deacon Chauvin Wilkinson or Deacon Don Allison about the diaconate can contact either of them at cwilkinson@staloyusparish.com or dallison@staloyusparish.com.

Ministry

Appreciation Dinner

April 18, 2024

5:30 - 7:00 PM

SAS Old Gym





ST. ALOYSIUS
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Scenes from the Auction





St. Aloysius AUCTION 2024

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