



# aloysius alive

Vol. 37 No. 3

February 2022

## Season of Service



### SAS family sees holidays as an opportunity to give

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

In November, the faculty collected money to provide Thanksgiving baskets to the parish giving program. The third-graders joined in by creating Thanksgiving cards, which were presented in the food baskets.

The second-graders hosted a school-wide collection of toiletry items for the Volunteers of America homeless shelter. The second-graders got together to sort items by type, soap, shampoo, lotion, shaving items, etc. The boxes of items collected filled up four vehicles.

Continued on page 8



## Offerings fulfill need to give back with grace, gratitude

By Michael Acaldo

The title of this publication, Aloysius Alive, captures the true spirit of our parish. St. Aloysius is alive and vibrant. Throughout this issue, you will see great examples of everything that we do as a faith community. Our spirit as a parish family is demonstrated by the large number of parishioners involved in a wide scope of ministries. You can feel the warmth of our parish family as we work and worship together – sharing God's gifts of time, talent and treasure.

We are all on a spiritual journey, and our ultimate destination is heaven. The big question is how to get there. As we move through our personal spiritual journey and grow in our faith, it helps to look at some examples

Charts, financial summary, Page 4

that have come before us.

It all begins and ends with Jesus Christ. He was the ultimate example of how to get to heaven. By following His example, we can get there. Too often, in our daily lives, we are all wrapped up in ourselves. Jesus was concerned about others. He was concerned about you and me. He made it clear that we should do to others as He had done for us.

We have already been encouraged to reflect on our commitments to stewardship through of prayer and ministry. February begins our focus on stewardship through offering.

Stewardship through offering

Continued on page 5

## Lenten Mission 2022 to feature author, spiritual director

Midway between Ash Wednesday and Easter, St. Aloysius will welcome Becky Eldredge as our Lenten Mission speaker. The event will be at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 28, and Tuesday, March 29, in the church.

Eldredge is an Ignatian-trained spiritual director, retreat facilitator, and author of two books: *The Inner Chapel* (Loyola Press, April 2020) and *Busy Lives and Restless Souls* (Loyola Press,

March 2017). She leads a ministry that offers spiritual direction, resources and retreats (virtual and in-person) rooted in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

Passionate about Ignatian spirituality and teaching people how to pray and discern, Eldredge draws from more than 21 years of ministry experience to help others make room for God in the busyness and invite them

deeper in their walk with Christ.

Eldredge; her husband, Chris; and their children, Brady, Abby and Mary are parishioners at St. Aloysius. She writes and meets with men and women of all ages for monthly spiritual direction and leads people through the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. She leads days of reflections and retreats for dioceses, parishes, retreats houses and other ministry organizations.

A growing part of her ministry is empowering others to use their gifts and voices to share the wisdom of Ignatian spirituality. In 2020, after 11 years of writing her blog solo, she invited a team of Ignatian writers to join her. The blog is now named [Into the Deep: Exploring Ignatian Spirituality through the Voices of Women](#). Eldredge trains others to give Ignat

Continued on page 2



Becky Eldredge



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### Inside Alive

Mass schedule.....	2
Advent at St. Aloysius .....	3
Stephen Ministry .....	5
Child Care Center News.....	6-7
School news .....	8



## Mission, From Page 1

tian retreats. In August 2022, she will join the [Archdiocese of New Orleans Spiritual Direction Program](#) teaching team to train Ignatian spiritual directors.

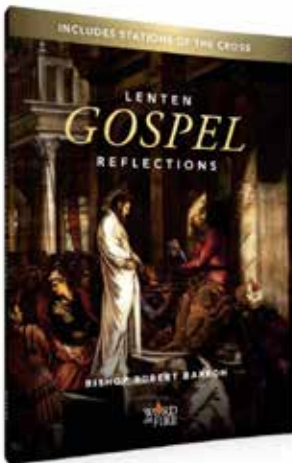
Eldredge holds a Masters in Pastoral Studies from Loyola University New Orleans with a focus on Christian Spirituality and has a Certificate of Spiritual Direction from Spring Hill University. She also earned a Masters of Education and a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Louisiana State University. In 2014, she completed the Ignatian Preached Retreat Practicum offered by Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House.

This year's mission will be the concluding highlight of our 2021-2022 Adult Formation emphasis on Experiencing God in Prayer, which has also featured the Ascension Press studies "Oremus: A Guide to Catholic Prayer" and "Walking Toward Eternity: Engaging the Struggles of Your Heart."

For more information about the Lenten Mission or any of our Adult Formation and Spiritual Growth ministries, contact Mark Christian at the parish office. To learn more about Becky Eldredge's ministry of writing, speaking and spiritual direction, visit her website at [beckyeldredge.com](#)

"I am passionate about Ignatian spirituality and teaching people how to pray; how to make room for God in the busyness. I work hard to practice what I preach — sharing the wisdom that people taught me — on how to pray and how to use the tools of Ignatian spirituality in the reality of life." — Becky Eldredge

\*Biographical information adapted from the website [beckyeldredge.com](#)



## Lenten Gospel Reflections

Lenten devotional booklets will be distributed after weekend Masses beginning Feb. 19-20. These Lenten Gospel Reflections by Bishop Robert Barron include the daily Gospel readings from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday, a short daily reflection, and an invitation to journal and reflect on the themes of each day. Also included are reflections on the Stations of the Cross.

The booklets will be available in baskets by the doors of the church. And pray for a holy Lent and glorious Easter!

## Congrats, Father Randy!

Congratulations to Father Randy Cuevas for being awarded Distinguished Clergy for the Diocese of Baton Rouge! Father Randy was honored during Catholic Schools Week (Jan. 31 – Feb. 5) and will participate in the National Catholic Educators Association's Lead Learn Proclaim Award Program.



Fr. Randy Cuevas

### Ash Wednesday, March 2

Please join us for Mass on Ash Wednesday as we begin our Lenten observance. Masses will be celebrated at **6 AM, 8 AM, noon and 6 PM**. The noon Mass will be livestreamed via our website and Facebook page:

[aloysius.org/livestream](#)  
[facebook.com/staloysiusbr](#)

### Daily Masses during Lent

All Masses held in the church:

Monday at 6 AM

Tuesday at 8 AM

Wednesday at 6 AM

Thursday at 8 AM

Friday at 8 AM

### Stations of the Cross

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

### Private Confessions

Mondays, 6:30 AM after Mass

Tuesdays, 7:30 AM before Mass

Wednesdays, 6:30 AM after Mass

Thursdays, 7:30 AM before Mass

Saturday, 3:30 PM before the Vigil Mass

## St. Aloysius reaching out through text messages

*Draw near to God and he will draw near to you.* (James 4:8)

Parishioners now have an additional way to draw near to our Lord, with timely and convenient text messages from St. Aloysius Church. Messages began the first week of Advent.

If you'd like to receive text messages and are not receiving them, please contact church staff at [frontdesk@staloysiusparish.com](#). To opt out of receiving messages, reply to a message



with the word STOP. To see how more information, visit [aloysius.org/draw-near](#). this tool will be utilized and for

## Regular Mass Schedule

SATURDAY

\*Vigil 4:30 PM

SUNDAY

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

DAILY MASSES

Monday & Wednesday, 6 AM

Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday 8 AM

This \* denotes Mass is livestreamed via our website at [aloysius.org/livestream](#) or on our Facebook page at [facebook.com/staloysiusbr](#)

CONFESSIONS: Monday and Wednesday after 6 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 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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# Rejoice in His Light!

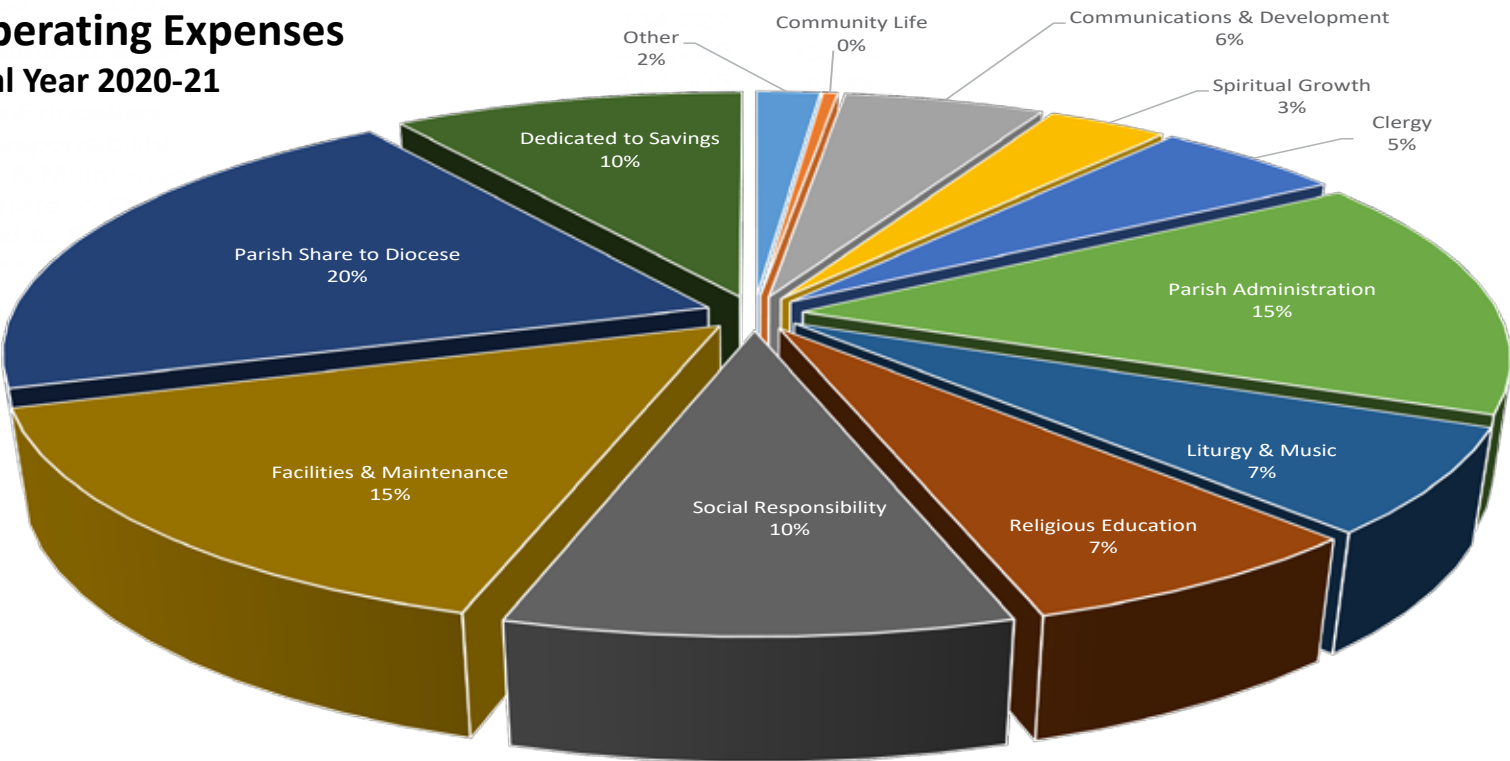
Advent at Aloysius kicked off with joy and celebration on Dec. 1 after being put on hold the previous year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The event kicked off with the blessing and illumination of Crepe Myrtle Alley, along with singing by the St. Aloysius School Choir. It also featured live music by the ACTS Brothers' Band; hot dogs and chili served by the Knights of Columbus; hot chocolate; arts and crafts for the children; and pictures with St. Nicholas.





# Church Operating Expenses

## Fiscal Year 2020-21



### CHURCH OPERATING INCOME AND EXPENSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2021

INCOME	FY 2020-21	PERCENT
Offertory Collections	\$ 2,404,272 <sup>1</sup>	93.21%
Interest Earned from Savings	69,676	2.70%
Reimbursements, Miscellaneous Income	105,550 <sup>2</sup>	4.09%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 2,579,497.40</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
EXPENSES	FY 2020-21	PERCENT
Liturgy & Music	\$ 172,305 *	6.68%
Clergy	134,227	5.20%
Spiritual Growth	84,859 *	3.29%
Social Responsibility	251,422 <sup>3</sup>	9.75%
Religious Education	179,862	6.97%
Community Life	10,384 *	0.40%
Parish Administration	394,280	15.29%
Communications & Development	141,433	5.48%
Facilities & Maintenance	390,789	15.15%
Other	44,663	1.73%
Parish Share to Diocese	527,916	20.47%
Dedicated to Savings	247,357	9.59%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 2,579,497.40</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes: ACTS Retreat registrations and donations, Special offerings and assistance, Bulletin rebate

<sup>3</sup>Parish tithe to Social Responsibility is 12.92%; Parish commits to 10% of its net operating income.

\*Spending was hindered in these areas due to COVID gathering restrictions

CLERGY	
Pastor*	37,992
Parochial Vicar*	27,864
Stipends for outside priest assistance	1,925
Employment Benefits	27,600
Continuing Education, Household expenses, etc.	38,846
<b>Total Clergy</b>	<b>134,227</b>
*Set by Diocesan Scale	

CHURCH INCOME - BUILDING FUND	FY 2020-21
Building Fund, Capital Campaign, Memorials, Fundraising*	\$ 709,084

CHURCH INCOME - FUNDRAISING EFFORTS	FY 2020-21
Parish Fair & Raffle <sup>1</sup>	-
Auction <sup>2</sup>	123,409
Golf Classic	5,066
<b>Total Fundraising Efforts*</b>	<b>128,475</b>

<sup>1</sup>Parish Fair canceled due to COVID-19.

<sup>2</sup>Auction was virtual in 2021

\*There were no building expenses in FY 2020-21. Net Income from Fundraising, as well as Building Fund, Capital Campaign and Memorial donations were transferred into Building Fund Savings and continue to be devoted to fulfilling the goals of the parish Master Plan.

CHURCH INCOME - SPECIAL COLLECTIONS	FY 2020-21
<b>Agency Collections</b>	
Latin America	1,458
Home Missions	1,657
Bishop's Annual Appeal	235
Holy Land	766
Catholic Relief Services	2,819
Catholic Communications	1,504
Peter's Pence	2,807
Central & Eastern Europe	2,421
Catholic University	5,081
Human Development	1,820
Retirement Fund for Religious	17,463
Black & Indian Missions	8,127
Special Emergency Appeals	15,092
World Mission Sunday	1,638
Diocesan Priest Retirement	7,144
<b>Total Agency Collections</b>	<b>70,032</b>

<b>Mission Collections</b>	
Special Mission Appeals	200
	200
	<b>70,232</b>

CHURCH CASH ASSETS	6/30/2021
Operating Checking	\$ 260,113
Operating Savings	703,828 <sup>1</sup>
Building Fund Checking	56,577
Building Fund Savings	4,099,263 <sup>2</sup>

CHURCH ENDOWMENT PRINCIPAL BALANCES	6/30/2021
Parish Endowment	\$ 556,294
Parish Scholarship Endowment held at SAS	60,000

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

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



## Offering, From Page 1

is neither a secular term, nor a code word for fund-raising. Stewardship is a way of life. It is the wise use of all that we are and have – knowing that what we are, and will become, comes from God. He has called us to be wise stewards of the gifts that He has given us.

Every day in our parish, you can see so many who have been

wise stewards of their time, treasure and talent. Our parish has more than 100 dynamic ministries that are testaments to our commitment to stewardship.

Stewardship through offering starts, not with the needs or challenges of the parish – no matter how important these are – but with the personal need of each one of us to return to God a truly grateful portion of our treasure in thanksgiving for all His blessings.

As you consider how you

can spring forth through stewardship, reflect on how Saint Mother Teresa exemplified stewardship – sharing herself unselfishly with others. She once said that at the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made or how many great things we have done. We will be judged by how we have shared the light of Christ with others.

In the coming days, each of us will receive an important stewardship invitation from our

faith community. During this time of reflection, we are invited to examine our financial commitment to stewardship. Am I giving proportionately? Do I reflect on what percentage of my income I plan to return to the Lord? These are some of the important questions that we should ask ourselves.

The most important aspect of stewardship through offering is that we prayerfully reflect on our financial commitment to God and His Church. A life truly lived in stewardship re-

quires much more than writing a check every week. It requires that we share our whole selves – time, talent and treasure.

When we are good stewards, we lay the groundwork and very foundation for the future of our faith community. Jesus said, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Our parish is alive because of the stewardship displayed in remarkable fashion by so many in the past. The challenge for each of us now is how to spring forth in stewardship through offering.



## Commissioning of new Stephen Ministers

On Sunday, Dec. 12, Father Randy commissioned and our parish welcomed three new Stephen Ministers. Anne Evans, Curt Reeson and Sonia Romano completed 50 hours of training in Christian caregiving and will join Bob Schoen, Dana Territo, Kathy Nikolaus, Jane Roussel, Leslie Chauvin, Keith Colvin, Ann Ourso and Todd Talbot in serving our parish. Stephen Ministers provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to people going through a difficult time. Stephen Ministers meet weekly with their care receivers to listen, encourage, pray and provide emotional and spiritual support for the person. Please pray for our new ministers and ask God to work through them to bring hope and healing to those whom they serve.

## ‘Stephen Ministers provide care, and God provides the cure’

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

A quiet but powerful ministry at St. Aloysius Church, Stephen Ministry supports our parish by deepening, expanding and extending the caring capacity of our church. A team of Stephen Ministers provides ongoing care for more individuals than the priest could provide alone. Each specially trained Stephen Minister meets privately and confidentially with his or her care receiver, walking in prayer and support together for the duration of the crisis. Potential care receivers first meet with the pastor or a Stephen Leader, who assess their needs for care and matches them with a Stephen Minister. The individuals cared for by Stephen Ministers benefit greatly, receiving support and encour-

agement in their time of need. Additionally, Stephen Ministers benefit tremendously too, as it is an amazing experience to see God work through the Stephen Minister to ease the life of another person.

St. Aloysius has 10 Stephen Ministers providing one-to-one Christian care to parishioners experiencing grief, loneliness, terminal illness and other life difficulties. They are Bob Schoen, Leslie Chauvin, Keith Colvin, Anne Evans, Kathy Nikolaus, Ann Ourso, Sonia Romano, Curt Reeson, Jane Roussel, and Dana Territo. Typically, a Stephen Minister meets with his or her care receiver once a week for about an hour. Everything discussed with the care receiver, even their identity, is confidential. This high level of trust helps healing to happen.

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, and they receive extensive

Christian care training and meet monthly for confidential supervision. Through these group meetings, Stephen Ministers offer each other support, guidance and accountability to be well-prepared to minister to their care receivers effectively and confidently. As Stephen Leaders emphasize in training sessions, “Stephen Ministers provide the care, and God provides the cure.”

*“Come, follow me, Jesus said, and I will make you fishers of men.” At once they left their nets and followed him.* (Matt. 4:19-20)

If you sense God is asking you to follow him and serve in this ministry, or if you or someone you know could benefit from this caring ministry, please contact a Stephen Leader (Kathy Nikolaus, knikolaus@cox.net, 225-603-7772; Bob Schoen, bobschoen18@gmail.com, 225-937-2984; Dana Territo, territo4@yahoo.com, 225-572-9250), or call the church office at 343-6657.

## Thank you for your support of the Giving Tree ministry

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

- Prison Fellowship (Children of Prisoners)
- Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge Holy Grill
- Joseph Home Residents
- Women in Crisis Pregnancies
- Myriam's House
- Bishop Ott Shelter
- Habitat for Humanity
- Developmental Disabilities
- St. Vincent de Paul – Sweet Dreams
- Southside Gardens Retirement Center and Assisted Living and our Seminarians



Each of these organizations has shared how much they appreciate the love and caring our parish offers during the Christmas season and throughout the year. It is estimated that more than \$20,000 in gifts, supplies and gift cards were distributed, which could not happen without the support of our volunteers and all those who chose a special ornament. We had an amazing turnout! Thank you for making this year's Giving Tree a tremendous success.

Suzy Smith



## St. Aloysius Southdowns Mardi Gras Viewing Party

Make plans to join the St. Aloysius Alive family for a Southdowns Mardi Gras viewing party starting at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 25, in the Pastoral Services Center Lot on Stuart Avenue. Enjoy jambalaya cooked by the Knights of Columbus, along with music and an excellent view of the parade. The parade rolls at 7 p.m.





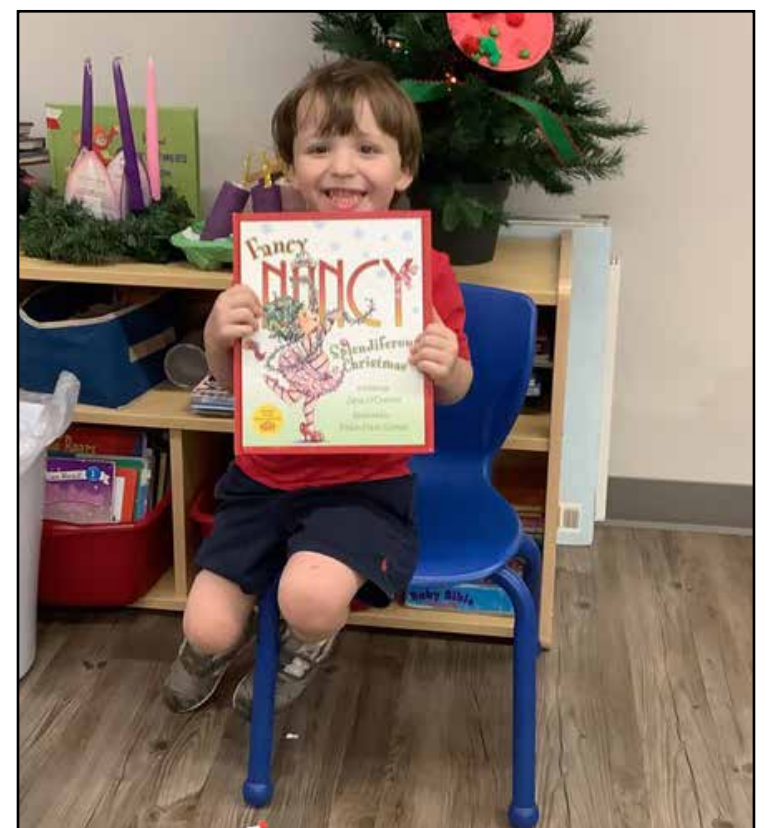
# SACCC celebrates action-packed Christmas season

Christmas Celebrations came and went during the month of December at the St. Aloysius Child Care Center. The children learned about the Nativity story, along with “Merry Christmas,” “Jesus,” and “baby” in two languages: sign language and Spanish.

Christmas cards from families past and present decorated the front hall. Mrs. Cindy Chenevert read “A Cajun Night Before Christmas,” and the children had fun in their classrooms for

class holiday parties. The children celebrated Jesus’ birth by making birthday cards.

Families also partnered with Sanctuary for Life, a ministry of Catholic Charities, to donate items for women and their newborn babies. Our newest, exciting tradition entailed a choral concert by the Turtle, Butterfly, Tiger, Bear and Lion classes in the church. And of course, Santa joined the fun by riding his red fire truck to the front entrance of the Child Care Center!





**St. Aloysius Child Care Center's**  
**26th Annual**  
**Fish Fry**

**Friday, March 25th**  
**SAS CAFETERIA 5:30 - 8:30 PM**  
*Entertainment and Raffle*

Music, Balloon Artist, Face Painting  
 50/50 Raffle Drawing  
*Tickets*

Lunch and Dinner Tickets \$10 Presale •  
 \$12 at the door

Available from an SACCC Family or online at  
[WWW.SACCCFISHFRY.ORG](http://WWW.SACCCFISHFRY.ORG)



# Santa! I know him!



**SAVE THE  
DATE!**  
FEBRUARY 19, 2022  
*Louisiana Saturday Night*  
**ST. ALOYSIUS AUCTION**  
Interested in sponsoring?  
Contact [aloysiusauction@gmail.com](mailto:aloysiusauction@gmail.com)



# Dr. Joseph 'Jeb' Broyles named SAS Distinguished Graduate

Every year, each Catholic school in the Baton Rouge Diocese recognizes an alum as its Distinguished Graduate. This program recognizes individuals who have made a significant contribution to the community by serving as a living example of Gospel values learned while a student in Catholic school.

St. Aloysius Catholic School is proud to name Dr. Joseph "Jeb" E. Broyles as our 2021-2022 Distinguished Graduate. Jeb is a 1984 SAS alum. He is an orthopedic

surgeon at the Bone and Joint Clinic of Baton Rouge. He is also a devoted husband and father of three SAS graduates. Jeb gives of his time generously in service on the Parish Council, is a Eucharistic minister, an ACTS team leader, Bible study leader, Kairos team leader for the prison ministry at Angola, volunteer photographer, Knights of Columbus member, and Come Lord Jesus member.

In addition, Jeb has donated his time and talent to those in the community who need a hip

replacement but cannot afford this service. He does so free of charge, and in return all he asks is that the recipient bake cookies and deliver them to his office. He then distributes the cookies to homeless shelters or the prisoners involved in Kairos at Angola.

As part of Catholic Schools Week, an awards dinner is held to honor all the Distinguished Graduates. We look forward to celebrating with Dr. Broyles and his family at the dinner during Catholic Schools Week.



Dr. Joseph "Jeb" E. Broyles is a 1984 alum of St. Aloysius School.

## Service, From Page 1

The fifth-, sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders are members of the Spirit of Service Club. The SOS Club participated in the "Stockings for Seniors" collection. To provide a holiday treat for Life Source Hospice, students collected Christmas stockings filled with candy, socks, lotions, and other treats for patients who are nearing the end of their lives. Students created over 120 stockings for the hospice clients.

Since 1990, St. Aloysius School has been collecting food for the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank. These collections take place once a month, in conjunction with the All School Mass. In November, we dedicated our collection to providing foods that would help families celebrate delicious Christmas meals. Our St. Aloysius School family responded by donating 1,300 pounds of food, enough to provide 1,083 meals.

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



## '21-'22 Student of the Year committed to serving others

St. Aloysius School is proud to announce that the 2021-22 Student of the Year is Sophia Montalbano. The daughter of Angela and Jay Montalbano, Sophia has attended St. Aloysius School from kindergarten through eighth grade. As the school nominee, Sophia is eligible to participate in the Student of the Year state competition.

In the preliminary round of the competition, the school nominee presents a portfolio to a diocesan committee. After viewing all portfolios, the committee will choose one student to represent the Diocese of Baton Rouge in the state competition.

Sophia was nominated by many of her eighth-grade classmates and enthusiastically endorsed by the faculty and administration of the school. Her portfolio represents her many accomplishments.

Sophia feels that community

*"What is the point of life if you spend it working for just yourself?"*

— Sophia Montalbano

service is important. As she said in her portfolio essay, "What is the point of life if you spend it working for just yourself?" Sophia has been an altar server since fifth grade and volunteers to assist with Children's Church. She has volunteered for Holy Smoke, Hurricane support for Vacherie, and the Library Lions.

Sophia participates in many different types of activities, both in school and out of school. She has been the captain of both the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade Quiz Bowl teams. Sophia is in the band and

writes for the school newspaper. She is an Honor Roll student and received the Spirit of Service silver award for service performed with the service club. She plays tennis and has trained in gymnastics and dance.

Epidemiology and vaccine research interests Sophia as a possible career. She is also interested in math and is considering becoming a CPA. In her portfolio, she explained, "I want to be successful in life and be able to provide for myself and my family. However, there are many examples of people whose ambition got the better of them... Those who strive to be good people and to help their neighbors seem to be happier than those who strive for worldly things."

Living such a life philosophy, it is easy to see why Sophia's classmates and teachers chose to nominate her as Student of the Year.