



aloysius alive

Vol. 39 No. 4

February 2024



STEWARDSHIP OF OFFERING

Answering the call to share God's gifts

By Michael J. Acaldo

"Our world is hurting. We all need healing, yet many of us are separated from the very source of our strength. Jesus Christ invites us to return to the source and summit of our faith in the celebration of the Eucharist."

These powerful words from the National Eucharistic Revival inspire us as we continue our parish's focus on total stewardship. Our total stewardship theme is *I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE*, which ties directly in with the three-year National Eucharistic Revival. Jesus is present at each Holy Mass, and truly gives of himself through his body, blood, soul and divinity. As we journey through this National Eucharistic Revival, we are reminded that God is doing something new, and



into our body during the celebration of the Holy Eucharist of the Mass. In further reflecting, when we leave Mass after receiving *The Bread of Life*, John reminds us that we are carrying Jesus with us as he instructed us to *Remain in Me as I remain in you*.

Our parish has already invited us to reflect on our commitment to Stewardship through Prayer and Ministry. February begins our focus on Stewardship through Offering. During this year's effort, we encourage you to be a part of the Eucharistic Revival by joining your fellow parishioners and reflecting on your commitment to Stewardship through Offering.

All phases of stewardship – prayer, ministry and offering – give each of us an opportunity to answer His call to do something

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He is calling us to be a part of it!

Remain in Me as I remain in you (John 15:4) is this year's Bible verse selected to inspire us as we consider our personal stewardship. Reflecting upon our theme and our verse, we are encouraged to receive Jesus through His body, blood, soul and divinity,

Christmas tradition returns

St. Aloysius fifth graders revived an old St. Aloysius tradition in December by staging a Nativity play, assisted by the person who started the tradition. More photos and story, Page 3.



Learn more about the diaconate

Five Diaconate Discernment Sessions will take place on several Saturdays over the next few months for men who might 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:

- Feb. 3, 9 AM – noon: St. Jude Catholic Church, Ministry Building
- Feb. 24, 9 AM – noon: St. Jude Catholic Church, Ministry Building
- March 16, 9 AM – noon: St. Jude Catholic Church, Ministry Building



The Roman Catholic Diocese of **BATON ROUGE**

- April 6, 9 AM – noon: St. Jude Catholic Church, Ministry Building
- April 20, 9 AM – noon: FranU, Liberal Arts Building, Room 116

Anyone who would like to speak to Deacon Chauvin Wilkinson or Deacon Don Allison about the diaconate can contact either of them at cwilkinson@staloysiusparish.com or dallison@staloysiusparish.com.

Lenten Mission: Experience Eucharistic Revival

In this year of Eucharistic Revival, we are delighted to welcome Stephen Binz as our Lenten Mission speaker. Three days of events are scheduled, beginning at 7 PM each day in the church.

- Monday, Feb. 26: The Biblical Understanding of Eucharist

- Tuesday, Feb. 27: Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist
- Wednesday, Feb. 28: Becoming a Eucharistic Disciple of Jesus

Stephen is a biblical scholar and an award-winning author of over 60 books. As a popular speaker, he offers

keynotes, seminars and workshops at international, national and regional conferences as well as education for clergy and pastoral leaders. He also offers topical presentations, missions and retreats in churches internationally. In addition, he frequently leads pilgrimages to biblical sites and sa-

cred places throughout the world.

His writing focuses on biblical commentary, biblical theology and Christian spirituality. As founder and author of Threshold Bible Study, he has written and published 30 studies for personal and group Bible study.

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Stephen Binz

St. Aloysius Church
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Baton Rouge, LA 70808

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Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2024

Please join us for Mass on Ash Wednesday as we begin our Lenten observance. Masses will be celebrated at 6:00 AM, 8:00 AM, Noon, and 6:00 PM. The 8:00 AM 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 6:00 AM
 Tuesday at 8:00 AM
 Wednesday at 6:00 AM
 Thursday at 8:00 AM
 Friday at 8:00 AM

Stations of the Cross
 Each Friday of Lent: 7:15 AM (before the 8:00 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



‘Celebrating the Coming of Christ!’

Advent at Aloysius returned for another year in early December highlighting the Advent Season. The event began with prayer, Christmas hymns and a blessing by Father Randy, then the illumination of Crepe Myrtle Alley with Christmas lights. The Knights of Columbus cooked chili and hot dogs, followed by hot chocolate and sweets! Children made arts and crafts, and families took pictures with St. Nicholas.



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 aloysius.org/livestream or on our Facebook page at facebook.com/staloysiusbr

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 PM

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.

aloysius alive

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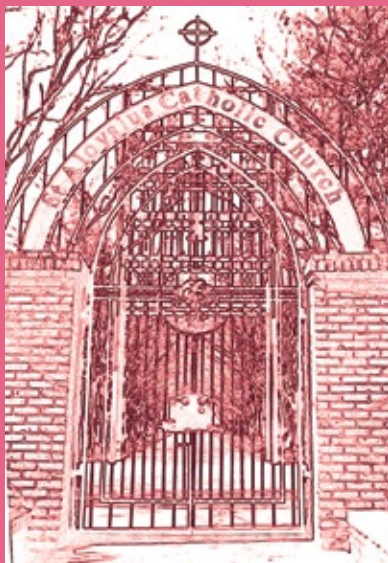
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Fifth graders revive Nativity play tradition

St. Aloysius fifth graders revived an old St. Aloysius tradition in December by staging a Nativity play, assisted by the person who started the tradition, retired teacher Mrs. Mary Murphy.

Brooke Showalter, one of Mrs. Murphy's students, remembered these performances from her fifth-grade year fondly. When she became a teacher at this grade level, she asked to have the tradition brought back.

With the support of the administration and the fifth-grade faculty, Mrs. Showalter updated the script with modern language and situations. Of course, the traditional Nativity story stayed intact. Mrs. Murphy came back to work with the students as a special consultant.

With hard work and creativity, the students told the story of the real meaning of Christmas. On Dec. 6, students were treated to a performance, and on the evening of Dec. 7, the families and friends of the students came to see and hear a beautiful presentation of the birth of Jesus.

The "modern-day kids" in the play demonstrated how living the true meaning of Christmas is something everyone can do.



Second graders prep for sacraments

St. Aloysius second graders have been busy in their religion classes preparing to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.

Students are using the "Dynamic Catholic" series to learn the basic teachings of our faith regarding these sacraments. These lessons enrich the students' knowledge when they receive the first sacraments in their church parish.

On Jan. 12, the students participated in a mini-retreat that gave them the chance to discuss what they have learned about Reconciliation through fun and interesting activities. The students got to "see" how the sacrament is celebrated by watching their religion teacher, Ms. Jo Gomez, and the school religion coordinator, Ms. Edie Boudreaux, act in a skit.

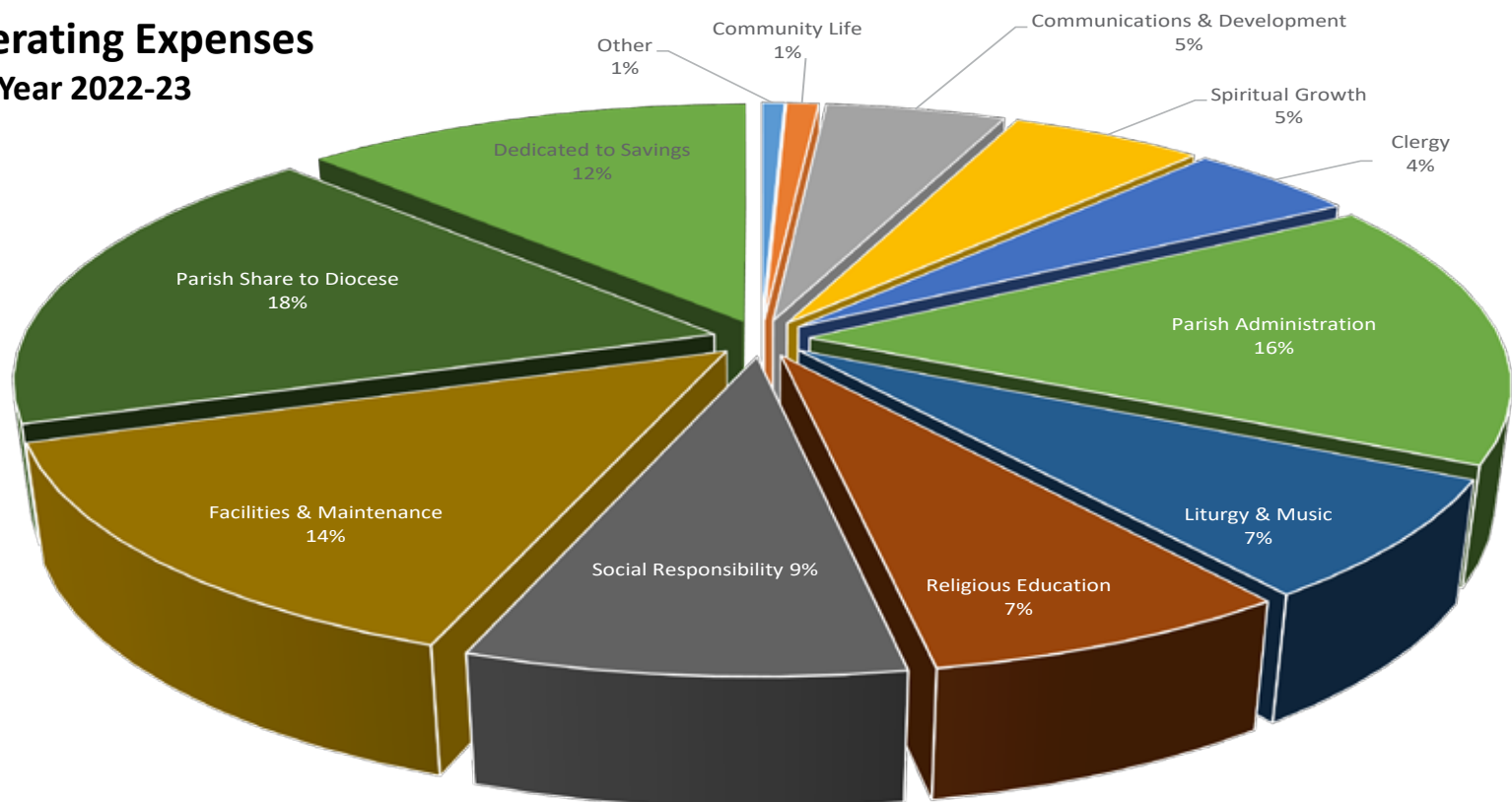
Students completed activities

in small groups with the leadership of more than 50 adult volunteers who spent the morning with them. After lunch, students participated in a prayer service that included Adoration. This gave them an opportunity to pray about the things that they had discussed during the day.

The students enjoyed their retreat and are ready to celebrate Reconciliation.

Church Operating Expenses

Fiscal Year 2022-23



CHURCH OPERATING INCOME AND EXPENSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023

INCOME	FY 2022-23	PERCENT
Offertory Collections	\$ 2,667,485 ¹	90.05%
Interest Earned from Savings	157,899	5.33%
Reimbursements, Miscellaneous Income	136,679 ²	4.61%
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 2,962,062.48	100.00%
EXPENSES	FY 2022-23	PERCENT
Liturgy & Music	\$ 215,806	7.29%
Clergy	139,124	4.70%
Spiritual Growth	156,959	5.30%
Social Responsibility	253,389 ³	8.55%
Religious Education	216,236	7.30%
Community Life	26,107	0.88%
Parish Administration	476,799	16.10%
Communications & Development	146,044	4.93%
Facilities & Maintenance	415,017	14.01%
Other	18,148	0.61%
Parish Share to Diocese	534,572	18.05%
Dedicated to Savings	363,862	12.28%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 2,962,062.48	100.00%

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

²Includes: ACTS Retreat registrations and donations, special offerings and assistance and bulletin rebate.

³Parish tithe to Social Responsibility is 11.06%; Parish commits to 10% of its net operating income (offertory plus interest earned less parish share)

CLERGY	
Pastor*	39,098
Parochial Vicar*	32,580
Stipends for outside priest assistance	7,249
Employment Benefits	27,275
Continuing Education, Household expenses, etc.	32,922
Total Clergy	139,124

*Set by Diocesan scale

CHURCH INCOME - BUILDING FUND

	FY 2022-23
Building Fund, Capital Campaign, Memorials, Fundraising*	\$ 894,816

CHURCH INCOME - FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

	FY 2022-23
Parish Fair ¹	\$ 198,339
Auction	182,666
Golf Classic	722
Total Fundraising Efforts*	381,727

¹All-time high

*There were no building expenses in FY 2022-23. 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 2022-23
Agency Collections	
Latin America	\$ 2,199
Home Missions	1,646
Bishop's Annual Appeal	240
Holy Land	5,622
Catholic Relief Services	2,973
Catholic Communications	1,176
Peter's Pence	2,066
Central & Eastern Europe	1,120
Catholic University	5,977
Human Development	5,020
Retirement Fund for Religious	14,483
Black & Indian Missions	3,959
Special Emergency Appeals	-
World Mission Sunday	2,635
Diocesan Priest Retirement	17,581
Total Agency Collections	66,696

Mission Collections

Special Mission Appeals	22,525
Total Mission Collections	22,525

Baby Bottle Campaign

Pregnancy Problem Center	7,414
Woman's New Life Clinic	7,414
Total Baby Bottle Campaign	14,829

104,050

CHURCH CASH ASSETS

	6/30/2023
Operating Checking	\$ 294,704
Operating Savings	728,880 ¹
Building Fund Checking	105,270
Building Fund Savings	6,500,788 ²

CHURCH ENDOWMENTS

	6/30/2023
Parish Endowment held at BRAF	\$ 871,100
Parish's Spend-down Fund held at BRAF	226,712
Parish Scholarship Endowment held at SAS	100,000

¹Emergency Fund set aside to cover up to three months of operating expenses

²Building 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

new in our spiritual lives. All phases are equally important. To grow spiritually, we must pray, minister, and share our financial treasure.

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 blessed us with.

Our focus on this year's Stewardship through Offering starts on the weekend of Feb. 3-4. Each of us received an invitation, and our faith community asks you to prayerfully reflect on how you can grow spiritually through Stewardship through Offering. You can make your commitment by filling out the Offering Commitment card sent in the invitation, or you can fill-out the card online at aloysius.org/offering-card. Your

response to this invitation is important to our faith community.

On behalf of Father Randy, the parish staff and our parish leaders, thank you for sharing your blessings with our faith community and our community at large. Your commitment to all phases of stewardship is essential as we grow together spiritually in doing something new for Christ.

STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

*Take, Lord, and receive
All my liberty,
My memory,
My understanding,
And my entire will,
All I have and call my own.
You have given it all to me.
To you, Lord, I return it.
Everything is yours;
Do with it what you will.
Give me only your love
And your grace;
That is enough for me.*

St. Ignatius of Loyola
The Suscipe Prayer

Mission, From Page 1

His books are published by Ave Maria Press, Franciscan Media, Twenty-Third Publications, Liturgical Press, The Word Among Us, OSV Publications, Brazos Press/Baker Publications, Little Rock Scripture Study, Loyola Press, and Marian Press.

Since 2008, his books have earned nine awards from the "Excellence in Publishing Awards" of the Association of Catholic Publishers and five book awards from the Catholic Press Association.

Following his undergraduate studies at the University of Dallas, Stephen earned graduate degrees at the Pontifical Grego-

rian University and the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome, with additional studies at Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

He is an active member of the Society of Biblical Literature and the Catholic Biblical Association. In addition to his biblical and theological work, he is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and has worked in the fields of psychotherapy and pastoral counseling. His writing and speaking reflect an emphasis on the psycho-social issues of healing, forgiveness, individual growth, and personal transformation.

Stephen currently lives in Baton Rouge with his wife, Pamela. Look over his website at www.Bridge-B.com for more information.



SAVE THE DATE

*St. Joseph's
Day Altar*

at St. Aloysius

March 18-19, 2024

If you would like to cook/bake or
volunteer, please email
AloysiusSJDA@gmail.com

ANNIVERSARY & RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

FR. RANDY CUEVAS

Fr. Randy will be celebrating his 42nd Anniversary of Ordination and Retirement from active ministry on Sunday, June 30, 2024, at our 11:00 AM Mass (his actual anniversary date is June 26).

A farewell luncheon reception immediately after the Mass is being planned. If you would like to help, contact Emily Davis:

edavis@staloysiusparish.com.

Fr. Randy will be retired effective Monday, July 1, 2024.



**SOUTHDOWNS
MARDI GRAS PARADE**

VIEWING PARTY

Friday, February 9th at 6:30 p.m.
Pastoral Services Center Lot
on Stuart Avenue

**FOOD, MUSIC, AND AN EXCELLENT
VIEW OF THE PARADE!**

laissez les bon temps rouler!



SACCC revels in spirit of gratitude, joy

As the autumn leaves fell and the cold weather settled, our Child Care Center embarked on a journey of joy and generosity for the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. The past year was filled with heartwarming moments, and this year promises to be just as festive and uplifting.

In November, our little ones delved into the spirit of thanksgiving, gratitude and family. The center's entrance featured a giant turkey, a masterpiece created by the children with feathers listing the blessings from each of our cherished families. It was a visual celebration of gratitude that welcomed everyone with warmth.

Families once again showcased their generosity by participating in the parish's Thanksgiving Baskets Ministry. Thanks to our families' kindness, we distributed an impressive 16 boxes filled with love and nourishment for those in need. The act of giving back is a cherished tradition, and our community's contribution is truly commendable.

The holiday season kicked off with fellowship with the SACCC Family Thanksgiving Feast at the Parish Hall. It was an evening filled with joy, laughter, and the spirit of togetherness. As a community, we came together to share a meal and create lasting memories that will resonate throughout the season.

In December, our Christmas



preparations took center stage. The center transformed into a festive wonderland with the arrival of our Christmas tree and a giant inflatable Nativity scene. Families were once again invited to participate in a collaborative art project, adorning the tree with homemade ornaments that radiated the love and creativity of our community.

During the Christmas season, our Christmas family ministry partnered with Sanctuary for Life, a program supporting pregnant, homeless women. The outpouring of support was overwhelming, and we collected essential supplies for mothers and babies during their stay.

Our older children added a musical touch to the season

with "Joyful Jingles," a heartwarming performance of Christmas carols in the church. Their melodies resonated with the joy and festive spirit that fills our center during this special time of year.

Finally, the holiday season included a visit from Santa Claus. With his infectious laughter and jolly demeanor, Santa

brought smiles to the faces of children and adults alike. It was a magical moment as he interacted with each class, making the season even brighter.

Reflecting on the past and embracing the present, we carry forward into the new year our spirit of love, generosity, and community that defines our St. Aloysius Child Care Center.





Magical moments



SACCC Annual
Fish Fry

8 MARCH 2024 | 5:30-8:30pm
St. Aloysius Cafeteria

MUSIC • BALLOON ARTIST • FACE PAINTING

TICKETS

Lunch and Dinner Presale: \$12 At the Door: \$14	Purchase from a SACCC Family or at www.SACCCFISHFRY.org
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Men's Club Advent Dinner: Good food and fellowship



The Men's Club held its annual Advent Dinner the evening of Dec. 12, featuring wine, Italian food, good fellowship and a talk by guest speaker Deacon Michael Parker of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish in St. Amant.



The Hospice of Baton Rouge & St. Aloysius Church Present

HOPE GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

supporting you as you navigate through your grief journey

Are you grieving the loss of someone? This monthly grief support group provides emotional and social support, as well as educational materials to assist with your grief journey. You will have the opportunity to share and listen to grief stories and connect with others going through similar experiences. This group is offered free of charge for all who attend. **Registration is required.** To register, visit the link below or scan the QR code: www.hospicebr.org/grief-support/support-groups



St. Aloysius Church
2025 Stuart Ave.
Baton Rouge, LA 70808
Room: Pastoral Service Center
Large Conference Room

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

**January 25, February 22,
March 7, April 11, May 23,
June 27**



-  Emotional & Social Support
-  Connect With Others Who Are Grieving
-  Navigate Through Your Grief Journey
-  Information and Resources

presented by  THE HOSPICE OF BATON ROUGE  ST. ALOYSIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH