



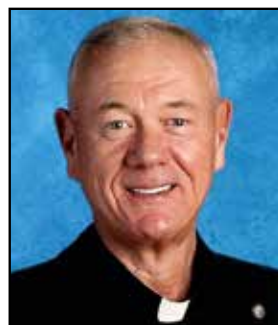
aloysius alive

Vol. 39 No. 6

June 2024

*“The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus.
When you see a priest, think of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Fr. Randy retiring after 42 years of priestly service



Father Randy Cuevas



Father Randy with a group of First Eucharist recipients. See more photos and a list of recipients on Page 7.



Father Randy is presented a Principal's Award for his nine years of service to the school during the Eighth Grade Closing Mass and Ceremony. See more photos and a list of graduates on Page 5.

By Tyler Waggenpack

St. Jean Vianney, the Cure of Ars, once said, “The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus. When you see a priest, think of our Lord Jesus Christ.” That quote exemplifies Father Randy Cuevas, who has been a humble, joyful, kind and caring servant of Christ for his 42 years of priestly service.

Father Randy will celebrate his retirement from active ministry on Sunday, June 30, at the 11 AM Mass at St. Aloysius Church, followed by a farewell luncheon reception immediately after Mass.

A native of Memphis, Tenn., with family roots in Slidell and on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, Father Randy grew up in Baton Rouge attending St. Aloysius Church and school. He graduated from

Continued on page 2

Fr. Michael Alello appointed as new St. Aloysius pastor

Father Michael Alello has been named the new pastor of St. Aloysius Church, replacing Father Randy Cuevas, who retires from active ministry on June 30. Alello, a native of Baton Rouge, attended elementary school at St. Jude the Apostle and is a 1998 graduate of Catholic High School.

After CHS, he enrolled at LSU, where he obtained a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy with a concentration in religious studies and a minor in business. Father Michael then went on to earn a master of divinity from Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans.

He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Baton Rouge in 2007, serving as parochial vicar in East St. James Parish and at St. John the Evangelist in Prairieville before his first pastorate, at St. Philomena in Labadieville. He served there for seven years before heading back to Baton Rouge to be the pastor of



Father Michael Alello

Continued on page 3



St. Joseph's Altar

On March 18-19, St. Aloysius parishioners and school parents honored St. Joseph, the head of the Holy Family, with a traditional St. Joseph's Altar. It was the first St. Joseph's Altar at St. Aloysius since 2012. Story and photos, Page 8.

St. Aloysius Church
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Church staff retirements usher in a time of change

By Shannon Kippers

“There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens.” Ecclesiastes 3:1. In life, there’s always a time for change, as change is inevitable.

Three members of our church staff — Tricia Greely, Angela Falgoust, and Sou Sanders — will be retiring soon, while another member, Mark Christian, has left for a new opportunity out of state.

Tricia Greely

Tricia Greely is retiring July 1 after 24 years of service at St. Aloysius as the Director of Children Formation.

Earlier in her career, Tricia worked as a banker in Baton Rouge. As her family grew, Tricia changed careers and began working at the St. Jean Vianney School in 1992, where she served as the religion coordinator.

One day in 2000, Tricia received a phone call from former St. Aloysius pastor, Father Gerald Burns, inviting her to interview for a position at St. Aloysius as the Director of Children Formation. Tricia recalled that she was “very honored” to receive the call from Father Burns and, since saying “yes” to that call nearly 24 years ago, she has been warmly welcomed into the parish by the St. Aloysius community.

During a recent interview, Tricia recalled how blessed she has been over the past 24 years at St. Aloysius to have worked closely with multiple pastors (Father Burns, Father Than Vu and Father Randy Cuevas), colleagues and the wonderful volunteers of the parish who played such an important role in helping Tricia execute the numerous successful ministries she oversaw.

Tricia also shared that the parts of her role as Children Formation Director that she enjoyed the most have been “her interaction with the parishioners.”



Tricia Greely



Mark Christian



Angela Falgoust



Sou Sanders

Tricia said one of her biggest joys is meeting each family where they are in life and helping them in their unique journeys of faith through the Catholic Church “so they feel the presence of Jesus in their life.”

Just this year, Tricia ministered to roughly 135 children and their families by helping the children and students of St. Aloysius prepare for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Tricia also directs and oversees baptismal preparation for infants up to sixth graders, and ministry programs such as Vacation Bible School, Music Makers, and Children’s Church.

One ministry that Tricia is especially proud of is the Parish School of Religion (PSR), for first through sixth grades. PSR is a Catholic Formation program for children in the parish who do not attend daily Catholic religion classes at their schools. Through this program, children attend religion classes on Sunday mornings on campus and work with catechists, who guide and instruct the PSR students in their religious formation.

During retirement, Tricia said she is looking forward to spending more time at home with her husband and family. Tricia and her husband, John, have two sons and two grandchildren.

Mark Christian

After six years as the Adult Formation Director, Mark Christian has left his position for a new opportunity in Alabama. Mark is looking forward to living closer to his daughter, Sarah, her husband, and his grandchildren, as well as starting his new role as Adult Education Director at Prince of Peace Catholic Church located in Hoover, Ala.

Mark saw the opportunity on the Prince of Peace parish website one day after looking up Catholic churches in the area while helping his daughter look for a house to buy. His wife encouraged him to apply.

During a recent interview, when asked how he is anticipating this new opportunity, Mark said he is “excited and hoping to find the same faithfulness and enthusiasm I experienced at St. Aloysius.”

Mark described his time at St. Aloysius as “joyful, hospitable and sometimes challenging because of interest in developing new things.” While reflecting on his time at St. Aloysius, Mark said it was a wonderful place to be, adding, “I’m hoping to find a home like Aloysius where I’m going.”

Angela Falgoust and Sou Sanders

Angela Falgoust, Director of Pastoral Services, and Sou Sanders, Executive Assistant to Father Randy, will also be retiring. Angela retires June 14 after serving in her role since May 2006, and Sou on July 1 after being here since August 2019.

While they won’t be on the parish staff anymore, they’ll still be around campus attending Mass and other functions!

We wish and pray the very best for Tricia, Angela, Sou, and Mark as they start new chapters! Together, the four of them have given 53 years of total service to St. Aloysius!

Randy, From Page 1

St. Joseph Cathedral Prep High School in 1974; University of St. Thomas in Houston with a B.A. in Political Science in 1978; Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome, Italy, with an S.T.B. degree in Theology in 1981; and from Pontifical Athenaeum Sant’ Anselmo in Rome, Italy, with an S.T.L. degree in Dogmatic-Sacramental Theology in 1983.

He was ordained a transitional deacon in April 1982 in Rome by William Cardinal Baum, and was ordained a priest on June 26, 1982, at St. Joseph Cathedral. Since his priesthood ordination, he’s radiated the love of Jesus to several flocks: Ascension of Our Lord in Donaldsonville, St. Jean Vianney in Baton Rouge, St. Mary of False River in New Roads, St. Margaret in Albany, St. Albert the Great Chapel and Catholic Student Center in Hammond, and here at St. Aloysius.

He has served as Catholic school chaplain at Ascension Catholic Schools in Donaldsonville — serving as Superintendent of the Ascension Catholic Interparochial School System from 1992 to 2004 — as well as Catholic of Pointe Coupee in New Roads and St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Hammond.

Let’s also not forget his 30 years in the U.S. Air Force Reserves as a chaplain! He retired from the U.S. Air Force Reserve Chaplaincy in 2009 with the rank of colonel. He is a decorated veteran and was embedded in combat zones for

two deployments with the U.S. Army and Marines in Afghanistan between 2004 and 2006.

He has been actively involved in the National Catholic Committee on Scouting and the Knights of Columbus for the past 40 years. A former National Chaplain of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS), he is currently the NCCS annual national convention planner and committee member of Troop 7 chartered at St. Aloysius.

He was selected as distinguished Diocesan School Pastor of the Year for 2021-2022, and within the same year was awarded the distinction of the National Catholic Education Association’s “Lead, Learn, and Proclaim Award,” which only two pastors in the United States received that year.

Even though he’ll be retiring from active parish administration, he won’t be retiring from the priesthood itself! As it says in the Bible, “You are a priest forever in the line of Melchizedek,” Hebrews 7:17.

In his last pastor article, which will appear in the June 30 bulletin, Father Randy leaves a note that is fitting to share here: “As I transition to retirement, thank you for your generous and plentiful expressions of appreciation for my 42 years of priestly service, and especially of my last nine years with you. Thank you for your continued prayers that I enjoy a healthy, active and happy retirement!”

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 aloysius.org/livestream or on our Facebook page at [facebook.com/staloysiusbr](https://www.facebook.com/staloysiusbr)

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.

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Managing Editor
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St. Aloysius Fraternus chapter marks successful inaugural year

By Steven Brooksher Jr.

For many years, I have prayed for guidance on how I could best help my children develop a relationship with Christ and a love for the Church.

It's difficult to see many young people turn away from our faith, searching for their needs to be met elsewhere. I know God leads, and His grace and love triumph over all else. But as a follower of Christ, I know my most important role on this Earth is to help build God's kingdom.

As a father, one of my primary responsibilities is to share the good news with my children and to lead them to Jesus. In my personal life, it's a daily struggle to prioritize Jesus over all the other competing interests and responsibilities. I know teaching must start with my example, however imperfect.

When I heard about Fraternus, I was excited to learn that the Church had an established program in place with great content and administration that could support my sons' faith formation. However, the idea of starting Fraternus at our parish seemed daunting.

How can we develop a structure centered around faith formation, when men today are faced with so many other competing priorities? How do we get men of all ages in the parish to join us for weekly gatherings throughout the year? How do we get enough volunteers to help lead all the programming? And how do we accomplish all of this on a Wednesday night, competing with sports, extracurricular activities, and the devices that fill every open space of our time?

Of course, the answer was a lot



simpler than we were making it out to be. If God wants it, He will provide. And, of course, He did just that and more. As I look back on our parish chapter's first year, I'm amazed at what God can do through the imperfect "yes" of His people.

We didn't just get through our first year, we had record participation from men of all ages in the parish, and we always had plenty of men who weren't afraid to step up to help lead whenever there was a need.

Even during the times when I felt too exhausted or busy to lead, God provided. I'm incredibly grateful to be a part of a parish community with so many strong faith-filled men and women.

As we closed the year in early May, we hosted a family celebration. To see the Parish Hall packed with so many families that committed to support their son's, husband's, and granddad's faith formation, I was reminded of God's incredible faithfulness in our lives. God doesn't call us to do anything we cannot accomplish.

St. Aloysius was ready for Fraternus and is ready to cultivate virtue and faith in the next generation of Catholic men. Each

one of us can glorify God in this journey by doing the daily small things in our lives with great love, as witnessed to me by the many men helping support Fraternus this year.

I want to take a minute to specifically thank our committed leaders by name:

Blake May, Dixon McMakin, Kevin Colomb, Glynn Fontenot, Jody Montelaro, Kerry Badeaux, Steve Brooksher Sr., Paul Burns, Michael Cascio, Pat Cuntz, Jack Dardis, Chris Dippel, Trey Eyre, Matt Gamble, Kevin Garrette, Hudson Gerald, Dan Holliday, Brooks Hummel, Brett Johnson, Luke Lancon, Ward Lundin, Michael Murphy, Ben Oubre, Skip Rhorer, Scott Roussel, Will Tebbe, Dave Toews, Vince Tuminello, Ernie Spreen, Walter Morales, Father Randy and Deacon Don Allison.

If you're interested in learning more about Fraternus, please visit fraternus.net. If you would like to know how to join us next year, fall registration will be coming soon! Also, if you would like to help support the development of the sister program, Fidelis please reach out by contacting Steven: stevenbrooksher@gmail.com.



Ministry Appreciation Dinner

The annual Ministry Appreciation Dinner, held this year on April 18 in the Old Gym, serves as a "thank you" to the parishioners who volunteered their time in our parish's many ministries during the 2023-24 year. The dinner included boiled shrimp, hamburgers and hotdogs. Fathers Randy and Nutan were the grill masters, and the church staff served the crowd.

Alello, From Page 1

St. Louis King of France.

Within his first year, the diocese announced the closure of SLKF parish and school. Father Michael led the merger with St. Thomas More and has ministered to the combined community since 2017.

People often ask Father Michael, "Are you really a priest?" With his crazy socks, curly hair and genuine joy, he loves life!

Never short for a joke, yet always willing to offer a listening ear, Father Michael strives to live by his personal creed: Make the person in front of you the most important person in your life. He's known for his ability to make the scripture come alive through his preaching and parish missions, helping others connect their lives to the Word of God.

Father Michael is well known in the larger Baton Rouge community. He was chosen by the Baton Rouge Business Report as a "40 Under 40" honoree in 2018. You will likely find him spending his day off in a coffee shop or enjoying a good meal at a local restaurant.

With a passion for endurance sports, Father Michael completed ten marathons and most recently his first full Ironman. Chances are you might happen upon Father Michael on his daily run or bike around Baton Rouge as part of his personal commitment to maintain a healthy balance of mind, body and spirit.

He is thrilled to see what new adventures await at St. Aloysius and looks forward to serving the community. His first day as St. Aloysius pastor will be July 1.

K.C. essay contest winners announced

The Knights of Columbus Bishop Stanley J. Ott Assembly 2441 at St. Joseph Cathedral recently announced the winners of the 2024 Patriotic Essay Contest, an annual Knights of Columbus city-wide essay competition for seventh and eighth grade students in Baton Rouge Catholic schools.

The goal of this yearly program is to promote and strengthen the patriotic spirit in our youth. The competition provides students with an opportunity to think and learn about our country's rich heritage. This year's theme was, "The First Amendment guarantees our right to free speech, but should there be any limits to free speech on social media?"

Students were invited to write a 500- to 750-word essay on the theme and upload their work to a website for grading. Students' names and schools were kept confidential.

130 students from St. Jude the Apostle, St. George and St. Aloysius Catholic Schools submitted



From left, SAS eighth grade social studies teacher Lisa Mongrue, Jon Reise of KC Assembly 2241, Claire Aucoin, Marguerite Uzee and Father Randy.

essays in January. Three rounds of rigorous grading took place in February, conducted by 20 judges. Essays were judged on grammar, style, and how clearly they presented the theme in a way that showcases creativity, imagination, and overall development of the topic.

This year's first-place essay was written by Claire Aucoin of St. Aloysius Catholic School, who received a \$300 cash award

and an engraved plaque. Second place went to Marguerite Uzee, also from St. Aloysius, who received a \$200 cash award and engraved plaque.

Both awards were presented by Jon Reise of the Knights of Columbus at the St. Aloysius all-school assembly on March 6.

The winning essays and presentation pictures can be viewed on the Knights of Columbus website at www.kca2241.org.

St. Aloysius School honors retirees at May Crowning

On Monday, May 6, the fourth graders of Mrs. Mimi Caballero's homeroom hosted a May Crowning. Religion teacher Mrs. Nicole Wintz directed the special event, and music teacher Mrs. Beth Bordelon provided music. Deacon Don Allison opened with a special reflection on the symbolism of May Crownings.

Special guests of honor were three faculty members who were retiring at the end of the 2023-24 school year. Anne Blanchard, school librarian; Sherri Dupuy, math teacher; and Jo Gomez, second-grade religion teacher, retired after providing a combined 97 years of service in Catholic education. The three honorees crowned the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary as eighth grader Ellen Craig sang "Ave Maria."

After the crowning, the fourth graders presented flowers to the Blessed Mother. This was followed by fourth graders reading passages from the Gospels that illustrate the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. As the meditations were read, students acted out each mystery. The entire congregation joined in praying the "Hail Mary" after each mystery.

The service was a beautiful way to honor Mary, our spiritual mother.



8,000 pounds donated to Food Bank

For 30 years, St. Aloysius School has closely worked with the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank. On every All School Mass day, the students and faculty donate food as they arrive for Mass by dropping donations into boxes at the doors of the church. Total donations for the 2023-24 school year reached over 8,000 pounds! That's enough food to provide 6,667 meals for families in metro Baton Rouge.

From May 2-9, the fifth graders hosted a special collection of peanut butter and jelly. This collection helps children in need in our community who rely on these items to prepare their own meals during the summer months.

On May 11, parents and students spent part of their weekend at the Food Bank to sort and package food do-

nations. They all worked hard to organize everything so it could be efficiently shared with those in need.

St. Aloysius School hosts spelling bee

Can you spell C-o-n-g-r-a-t-u-l-a-t-i-o-n-s?

In early 2024, St. Aloysius students took part in the school's first-ever spelling bee competition.

Third grade finalists were Charlie Burris, Steele Buckholtz, Carter Talbot, Jolie Chautin, Landon Maloney and Caroline Boggs. They were joined by fourth graders Alice Engquist, Emma Torrance, Charles Vuci, Alice Sanders and Sadie Zanovec; fifth graders Sarah Schneller and Ellington LeJeune; sixth grader Nadim Khuri; and seventh graders Brady Craig and Ava Singleton.

These students excelled in their classroom spelling bees and were given an additional 450 words to study for this oral competition. During Catholic Schools Week in late January/early February, all 16 competed against each other for the title of 2024 SAS Spelling Bee Champion. Excited fans consisting of faculty, friends and family showed up to root for them.

After several highly competitive rounds, Brady Craig outspelled runner-up Sadie Zanovec in Round 20! This qualified Brady to represent SAS in the Capital Regional Competition hosted by the LSU Lab School on March 2.

Jay Grimes, WAFB-TV chief meteorologist, served as emcee, calling out words until there was only one speller left. That winner earned the right to be one of 245 spelling champions who competed May 28-30 in the National Scripps Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.

Thanks to all who helped make this spelling bee a fun, positive and successful experience for our students. Special thanks to Anne Blanchard for organizing this inaugural spelling bee at SAS with fellow judge Lisa Songne' and pronouncer Edie Boudreaux.



Visit from the Mayor-President

Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome of Baton Rouge visited Ms. Crystal Harmon's third grade class on May 8 to personally express her appreciation for the cards the students wrote and sent her back in late January/early February. Broome said the cards inspired and encouraged her and that we have "wonderful young people that are going to be our future leaders."





Photos by John Ballance Photography

SAS Class of 2024: Kindness, leadership, Christian attitude

The eighth graders of St. Aloysius School celebrated their Closing Mass & Ceremony on Wednesday, May 16, excitedly assembling in the Parish Hall before the ceremony for their final photos as SAS students.

The Mass began with the procession of eighth graders into the church, with classmates Bennett Bell and Cele Kasongo leading the procession carrying white Easter banners.

Mass proceeded with Addison Pham and Ellie Lato proclaiming the readings. Eighth grade cantors Ellen Craig, Claire Aucoin and Minh-Quan Nguyen, along with the members of the Performance Choir, provided musical leadership for the ceremony.

The altar was set by Wesley Lipari, Olivia Crews and Cate Clapinski. Lilly Woodard, Mac Maranto, Virginia Jones and Emma Claire Town brought the gifts forward for consecration.

Following Holy Communion, Mrs. Erin Candilora, SAS principal, addressed the students, commenting on their outstanding traits of leadership, kindness and Christian attitude. Their academic achievements were evident by the 58 Honor Graduates who finished the school year with an "A" average. 104 students graduated and each received a certificate acknowledging their accomplishment.

Each year in the Diocese of Baton Rouge, every Catholic school is given the opportunity to nominate a Student of the Year. Based on academics, extra-curricular activities, volunteer efforts, voting by their peers and overall Christian attitude, Howard Beach was chosen as the SAS Student of the Year.

The Faculty Award is presented to the eighth grade student who, through hard work and dedication, has earned the highest grade point average for the entire eighth grade year. This year's recipient was Marguerite Uzee.

The Daughters of Jesus Excellence Award is given to honor our beloved nuns, the Daughters of Jesus, and is properly named because it is presented to a student whose dedication to excellence is shown by the hard work he or she does, not only in academics, but also in other school and non-school-related activities. The 2023-2024 Daughters of Jesus Excellence Award was presented to Logan St. Amant.

The Monsignor Daniel Becnel Award is awarded annually to the eighth grade student who, in the opinion of the faculty, best represents what an SAS student should aspire to be. This year's Monsignor Becnel Award recipient has demonstrated these qualities in a consistent manner



Howard Beach, SAS Student of the Year.



Marguerite Uzee, Faculty Award recipient



Logan St. Amant, Daughters of Jesus Excellence Award



Molly Roussel, Monsignor Daniel Becnel Award recipient

throughout the school year. The 2023-2024 Outstanding Graduate, Monsignor Becnel Award was presented to Molly Roussel.

At the end of the ceremony, Father Randy was presented a Principal's Award for his nine years of service to our school as he gets ready for retirement in July.

Other awards were presented to eighth graders at morning assembly and at their graduation breakfast.

- Leadership Award: Christopher Dippel
- Knights of Columbus Special Recognition Award: Patrick Dawes and Audrey Smith
- Scholar Athlete: Davis Walker and Molly Roussel
- Mr. John Thomas Balhoff Memorial Scholarship: Brayson Blanchard
- Mrs. Catherine Elizabeth Balhoff Memorial Scholarship: Ellen Craig
- Overall Principal's Award: Ashtyn Hiebert and Claire Aucoin
- Catholic High School Steven Wayne Deumite Memorial Scholarship: Cele Kasongo

St. Aloysius 8th Grade Class of 2024

*denotes Honor Graduate

Lucy Olivia Ainsworth
 *Sarah Elizabeth Alwood
 Scarlett Renee Anders
 *Claire Elizabeth Aucoin
 *Phoebe Rose Bailey
 *Howard Patrick Beach
 *Bennett Wesley Bell
 Evan Paul Bergeron
 Cameron James Bilbo
 Brady William Biossat
 Brayson Riggs Blanchard
 Anne Marie Bokun
 Carter Lewis Bokun
 *Jude Michael Bonaventure
 *Anna Grace Boudreaux
 *Olivia Marie Bourg
 *Marian Margaret Boyce
 *Sarah Kaye Boyce
 *Beau Harrison Burris
 Sophia Francesca Canova
 *Kathryn Louise Carby
 Addison Claire Chustz
 *Catherine Elizabeth Clapinski
 *Ellen Elizabeth Craig
 *Lily Jane Crawford
 *Olivia Kate Crews
 Reid Oakley Culpepper
 *Patrick John Dawes
 Grace Camille De Falco
 Mary Michael M Delahaye
 *John Roque Devillier
 *John Christopher Dippel
 Lily Madison Downing
 Emilie Katherine Farah
 *Anna Catherine Ferachi
 *Bailey Analyne Frazier

Preston James Fromenthal
 *Douglas Martial Funderburk
 *Mathilde De La Claire Fuselier
 *Camille Elizabeth Gardiner
 *Josephine Carlyle Gilly
 Jared Michael Gonthier
 *Ella-James Graham
 *Ava Marie Greenup
 Gavin Pierre Gresham
 *Melody Nichole Guillot
 *Abbey Kay Haefner
 Audrey Katherine Hannie
 *Caroline Scott Hensgens
 *Ashtyn Virginia Hiebert
 Michael James Hoffpaur
 *Laylah Michelle Jenkins
 Matthew Mason Jennings
 Avery Renee Johnson
 Conner Thomas Johnson
 *Virginia Eilleen Kathlyn Jones
 Augustin David Juneau
 Celestin Kabeya Kasongo
 Jude Michael Lambert
 *Luke Raymond Lamonica
 Anna Rea Lasseigne
 *Elizabeth Grace Lato
 James William Leach
 David Hewes Leak
 Wesly Lu Lipari
 Emma Kate Lofland
 Cameron James Lopez
 *Anna Claire Mancuso
 *John Malcolm Maranto
 *Sutton Pearce Miley

*Minh-Quan Duong Nguyen
 *Toby Thang Nguyen
 *Raegan Cooper O'Brien
 Anna Catherine Oubre
 *Sydney Ann Parker
 Charles Patrick Patin
 *Addison Mai Pham
 Joseph David Pitz
 *Macey Claire Powell
 *Henry DuVal Riggs
 *Molly Catherine Roussel
 Lauren Adele Roy
 *Mary Kyle Ruckert
 Bronson Dominick Russo
 Camden Pharr Sadler
 Shelby Elaine Sanders
 *Mark Ulrik Schlegel
 Sebastian Finn Simmons
 Thomas Sheridan Skinner
 *Audrey Elizabeth Smith
 Grant Coy Smith
 Katherine Marie Speyrer
 *Michael Logan St. Amant
 Barrett Michael Staggers
 Preston Benjamin Stalter
 *Caroline Camille Stuckey
 *Blake Ely Thomas
 *Emma Clare Town
 *Marguerite Ann Uzee
 Gabriel Patrick Valluzzo
 *Jolie Nicolette Vidrine
 *Jonathan Davis Walker
 *Lilly Ann Woodard
 *John Barrett Word

Five from St. Aloysius earn Eagle Scout rank

Five Boy Scouts from St. Aloysius Catholic Church Troop 7 were awarded their Eagle Scout rank at a Court of Honor held March 1 on campus. Earning their Eagle Scout rank were Matthew Hupperich, Dean Kolb, James Maher, Ethan Romero and Wilks Pittman.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest rank in Scouting. To earn this rank, a Boy Scout must complete requirements in the areas of leadership, service and outdoor skills.

They must successfully complete specific tasks as they advance through the ranks of Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle. They must also earn 21 merit

badges, where the Scout must learn and demonstrate proficiency in a variety of fields of study.

Of the 21 merit badges, 14 specific merit badges are required for the rank of Eagle Scout, including areas such as citizenship, first aid, swimming, cooking, camping, communications, emergency preparedness and environmental sustainability.

Finally, each Scout must complete an Eagle Scout project that benefits his community and demonstrates leadership abilities.

These Scouts led a total of over 330 service hours for their community during the completion of their Eagle Scout projects. The projects included:

- building and installing monofilament recycling stations for BREC parks (Matthew Hupperich),
- building and installing nesting boxes for bats at BREC's Magnolia Mound Park (Dean Kolb),
- refurbishing landscaping and soccer goals at Southdowns School (James Maher),
- building and installing a bridge for a Nature Conservancy bird watching trail in Grand Isle, La. (Ethan Romero),
- and flagpole improvements and beautification at Red Stick Academy (Wilks Pittman).



From left, Matthew Hupperich, Wilks Pittman, Dean Kolb, Ethan Romero and James Maher.



St. Aloysius Scouts excel in camporee competition

Twenty-one Scouts from St. Aloysius Catholic Church Troop 7 attended the 2024 Sewell Eagle/Nawaganti Camporee on April 26-28 at Camp Avondale in Clinton, displaying their Scouting skills in competition against 200 other Scouts in 29 patrols from 16 troops based out of surrounding cities and parishes.

Troop 7 was judged to have the second-best campsite overall. The Clownfish Patrol, led by Sanjay Reddy, took first place in the orienteering event. And the Suckers Patrol, led by Dean Kolb, took third place in the first-aid event. The team of Ernie Spreen

and Owen Songné beat all other teams to earn first-place at the adventure race. And Scoutmaster Andrew Kolb reasserted his cobbler prowess, pulling off a first-place win in the adult cobbler competition with his apple caramel cobbler.

Former Troop 7 Scout, Eagle Scout and current Troop 7 Assistant Scoutmaster Nick Kolb was the director of the highly successful multi-district event.

Troop 7 is open to all boys between the ages of 11 and 17; no former scouting experience is required. They meet at the Gonzaga Hall on Tuesdays at 6:45 p.m.



Blue & Gold Star Banquet

Pack 7 held its annual Blue & Gold Star Banquet on March 21 in the Parish Hall, where eight cub scouts crossed over into the Webelos rank. From left, Elijah Badaeux, Evan Ledet, Jibby Koban, Father Randy Cuevas, Alex Thibodeaux, Philip Ferrer, Christopher Walker, Andrew Politz and Clark McLellan.

Volunteers, sponsors make SACCC Fish Fry a success



The St. Aloysius Child Care Center's annual fish fry fundraiser, held March 8, featured not only food, but music, a balloon artist and face painting. Thanks to the countless volunteers and sponsors who made the event successful!

SACCC Fish Fry 2024 Donors:

- Capitol City Produce
- Cork's
- Couyon's
- Go Eat Concepts
- Heinz
- Hitter's House

- Lyons
- Maxwell's Market
- Mike Anderson's
- Saltgrass Steak House
- TJ Ribs
- Vacherie Fule
- Walk-On's Sports Bistreaux

SACCC Fish Fry Sponsors:

- Sherman & Balhoff Orthodontics
- Mansfield Melancon Cranmer & Dick Injury Lawyers
- Sunny Day Pediatric Dentistry

- Cadence Insurance
- Attracct.
- Industrial Parts Specialties LLC
- Magpie Café
- Jimmy John's
- Premier Equipment Corp. Inc.
- DNA Workshop
- Fred's in Tigerland
- McKenzie Rush PA-C
- Brian Wilson – East Baton Rouge Parish Assesor
- BSD Plumbing & Air
- The Allergy, Asthma, & Sinus Center



St. Aloysius First Eucharist Recipients 2024

Jane Frances Adams
Charlotte Ruth Alfonso
Lawson Stephen Bankston
Mary Michael Jane Batsche
John Moreau Beach
Mary Charles Becnel
Lillian Grace Bergeron
Clements Carmie Berry
Brooks Vinh Billings
Jax Shannon Blakeman
Noah Jude Bodin
Blair Marie Bondy
Charlotte Elizabeth Bourgeois
Olive Odette Bourgeois
Bankston James Brantley
Benton Hayes Brassett
Wells Patrick Britt
Anna Elizabeth Brooksher
Christian Cole Brousseau
Penny Jean Bullock
John Joseph Burris
James Calvin Cain
Penelope Rose Cole
Marjorie Clare Craig
Armando Jose Cruz Camacho
Gabriel Joseph Daugherty
Lucille Catherine Denton
Stella Wilson Doming
John Fletcher Doyle
Charlotte Frances Dupont
Parker James Durham
Eleanor Claire Edgens
Carl Jackson Elliott, Jr.
Mila Kay Ferguson
Loren Virginia Fleshman
Amelia Mae Frederick
Marguerite Hayward Friedrichs
John England Gamble
Mai Frances Garrett
Madeleine Ruth Gaudet
Lee James Glueck
Brent Christopher Gooze
Nancy Virginia Gooze
Druit George Gremillion, III
John Morgan Gremillion

Emma Madeline Gros
Elizabeth Robyn Grzych
Cullen David Gulotta
Lee Thomas Hannaman
Mila Sophia Hatzis
Emmett Edward Helm
Jerry Paul Himmel, Jr.
Abigail Elizabeth Hinkle
Emery Carolyn Hultberg
Charles Allan Istre
Henry James Jarreau
Allie Claire Jewell
Audrey Irene Johnson
Beauregard Andrew Jones
Audrey Rose Kelehan
Harper Lynn Kilshaw
Dylan Layne Landry
Harper Wren Landry
Louise Mae Laperouse
Julia Carol Lavergne
Logan Edward LeBlanc
Elizabeth Frances Lepine
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Riley Thomas Lively
Alexandra Grace Losavio
Lawson Paul Loupe
Matthew Bradley Lowe, Jr.
Lane Amelia Mackey
Presley Elise Madison
Isaac James Malik
Annie Kate Martin
Nicolas Alexander McCarthy
Clara Grace McGinty
Liam Daniel McLellan
Camille Grace McNemar
Katherine Elizabeth McNemar
Anna Noelle Messina
Jameson Alan Michaels
Joseph Lee Michel
Maddox Ventress Miller
Mae-Frances Caroline Mladenka
Caroline Claire Moll
Michael Manuel Moreau
Evelyn Alexandra Mullin
Allison Claire Naquin

Beau Luke Nelson
Luke Landrieu Nelson
Madeline Grace Nichols
Sadie Anna Oliver
Clifton Noel Ourso, III
Eloise Elizabeth Ourso
Anderson Towns Overall
Beau Michael Owens
Amelie Marie Palombo
John William Perry, IV
Alistair Reid Pinkston
Lillian Claire Pino
Charlotte Clare Pipes
Jacob Michael Pitre
Emily Grace Politz
Sutton Elizabeth Rader
William Thomas Rice
James Ellender Riggs
Charlie Cate Risher
Quinn Wesley Roussel
Christopher Charles Ruggiero
Julia Catherine Sabottke
Kate Anne Schilling
Jacob Aiden Smith
Ella Katherine Sutton
Luke Major Swindler
Graham Gregory Sykes
Colin Joseph Thibodeaux
Zoey Claire Thibodeaux
Louis Wade Thompson
Claire Catherine Thorning
Grace Anne Tyler
River Kleine Uzee
Robert James Varnau
Hayes Thomas Vidrine
Jean-Luc Andrew Vignes
Julianne Nicole Vuçi
Lucy Evelyn Walker
William Paul Walker
Ella Claire Weil
Parks William Welch
Matthew Trevor Wilson
Thomas Miller Wong
Wesley Neil Woodard
Henry John Zylicz



St. Aloysius team assembles traditional St. Joseph's Altar

By Teresa Day

On March 18-19, St. Aloysius parishioners and school parents honored St. Joseph, the head of the Holy Family, with a traditional St. Joseph's Altar. It was the first St. Joseph's Altar at St. Aloysius since 2012. A dedicated committee assembled this elaborate altar in our parish, bringing to life Sicilian traditions of honor to St. Joseph.

Back in the Middle Ages, a widespread drought and resulting famine devastated the Italian island of Sicily. The people of Sicily pleaded with their patron saint, St. Joseph, to intercede for them in this time of suffering. Their prayers were answered with their discovery of the fava bean, which sustained them in the dry conditions until rain returned and the island was restored.

In gratitude, Sicilians arranged a table with food they harvested, prepared and shared. In the early 1900s, immigrating Sicilian families brought the custom of honoring St. Joseph for his continued intercessions for nourishment to South Louisiana.

"So many people have a deep devotion to St. Joseph and embraced this time-honored tradition, even without a connection to the Sicilian history of St. Joseph's Altars," said Amy Cannizaro Burris, co-chair of the St. Joseph's Altar Committee.

Amy and fellow parishioner and school parent Molly Nelson led a 20-person committee to gather the items necessary to create a St. Joseph's Altar. The committee assembled the altar at the back of the church where it could be shared with all who wanted to view it.

The altar's celebration began Monday, March 18, in the evening with St. Aloysius children performing the traditional Tupa-Tupa (knock-knock) skit about the Holy Family knocking door-to-door in search of food and shelter. The St. Aloysius Men's Club provided a spaghetti dinner following the skit in the Parish Hall. The altar remained until after Mass on Tuesday, March 19, the Solemnity of St. Joseph.

"So many people shared how touched they were by the altar," said Molly. "It was very moving."

The St. Joseph's Altar Committee worked for months securing the appropriate foods and rounding up volunteers to conduct the activities that traditionally honor St. Joseph. Volunteers came from across the church parish and beyond to bring baked goods, flowers and more. Even celebrity chef John Folse prepared the traditional whole fish, an important part of the display that represents Jesus' miracle of multiplying of the loaves and fishes.

In addition to the whole fish, other important altar items included wine to represent Jesus'



first miracle at the wedding of Cana and cakes in the shape of the Pascal Lamb, crosses and the Holy Bible. Edible symbols are always present in a St. Joseph's Altar. Baked breads in the shapes of hammers and other carpentry tools are present, along with breadcrumbs to symbolize the sawdust of a carpenter's work. Of course, the altar held traditional Italian cookies. Those wishing to find a spouse or grow a family found lemons that represented one of Italy's most significant crops.

"We were blown away by everyone sharing their talents by donating special baked items for the altar," Molly said about the intricate items made and shared.

If you are wondering what happens to the altar's bounty, you'll be glad to know the committee shared it with many in need. The committee took great care to ensure there was little waste. The committee shared the food with charities in our parish area, including St. Vincent de Paul and Metanoia Manor. A donation box raised funds for the St. Aloysius St. Vincent de Paul Conference to disperse to people in need of emergency assistance with bills. Even the flowers were shared with the St. Aloysius School teachers to brighten their classrooms.

Along with the bounty of food, St. Aloysius parishioners and students shared memorial photos of loved ones to display on the altar in places of honor. Parishioners also shared treasured St. Joseph statues and holy family paintings from their homes to add to the altar. These additions made the altar a unique representation of our own parish community.

St. Aloysius School students got involved in celebrating St. Joseph and the altar preparations. Students helped the committee pack blessing bags for everyone who came to view the altar. The bags included sample cookies, special prayers to St. Joseph and, if you were lucky, a fava bean. Keepsake cards included a history of the St. Joseph Altar and explained the traditional symbols.

"Everyone had special gifts and seeing their gifts come together had a whole divine touch to it," said Amy. "There were so many 'God winks' as our committee called them."

One "God wink" came from a

parishioner who saw the call for volunteers in the bulletin and reached out to offer to bake Pascal lamb cakes — not knowing anything about St. Joseph's Altar or that it was a traditional item.

A collective 1,600 parishioners, students, family and friends watched the skit, enjoyed the spaghetti dinner and viewed the St. Joseph's Altar during the days it was displayed.

"Having the altar in the church made it extra special and unique. It just added a beautiful, emotional element to the altar and helped us keep it very reverent," said Amy. "That is something special about our altar that you don't typically find anywhere else."

It takes months to plan a St. Joseph's Altar and the committee could use your help already. If you would like to assist with next year's St. Joseph's Altar, you can head to the parish website and sign up: aloysius.org/ministry-signup.

St. Joseph's Altar 2024 Committee Members:

- Aimee Palombo
- Amanda Delancey
- Amy Cannizaro Burris
- Angelle Palombo
- Ashlee Cannatella McNeely
- Ashley Tassin
- Danielle Leblanc
- Edie Boudreaux
- Elizabeth Murphy
- Jeanne McLellan
- Joann Cardaro
- Julie Fleig
- Katy Moll
- Kayla Lato Kucharchuk
- Ken Thevenet
- Lauren Buckholtz
- Leslie Doyle
- Mark Christian
- Molly Nelson
- Natalie Matassa Maxwell
- Sarah Green Toews
- Stefanie Cascio

St. Joseph's Altar 2024 Donors:

- Maxwell's Market
- Cannata's Family Market
- St. Aloysius Men's Club
- Chef John Folse
- Ron & Catherine Lewis
- Moda Kitchen
- Danielle & Chase LeBlanc
- The Losavio Family
- The Territo Family
- The Cardaro Family
- Ken Thevenet
- Jason & Natalie Maxwell
- David LaPlante
- Edie Boudreaux

Annual Golf Classic promotes fellowship while raising funds

The St. Aloysius Golf Classic teed off for another year on March 11 at the University Club Golf Course with 72 participants competing in 18 teams of four. This annual event promotes fellowship through friendly competition and raises funds for the goals of the parish's master plan. Thank you to all sponsors, donors, participants, and volunteers who made the event possible. The event raised over \$10,000!

Thank you to our sponsors of this year's Golf Classic:

- Hancock Whitney
- Catering Cajun
- Milton J. Womack, Inc.

- Coeur Workforce Solutions
- Rozas Law Firm, LLC
- Cangelosi Ward General Contractors, LLC
- Perry, Balhoff, Mengis & Burns, LLC
- Lundin Roofing Company
- Evans Investment Advisors, LLC
- John Bugea Real Estate – Keystone Residential
- Patin Construction Group
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- State Farm – Cliff Ourso
- DelVal Flow Controls



HOLY SMOKE 2024



October 19, 2024

MARK YOUR CALENDARS ...

FIRE UP THE GRILLS...