



aloysius alive

Vol. 40 No. 4

February 2025

Hear the call to stewardship through offering

By Eric Guerin

As we journey through this liturgical year, we find ourselves reflecting deeply on our individual responses to stewardship. The passage from John 7:37, "Come to Me, all you who thirst," resonates profoundly with our spiritual lives and calls each of us to consider our own thirst for connection, purpose, and community.

The weekend of Feb. 15-16,

we were invited to prayerfully contemplate our commitments of stewardship through offering.

In our fast-paced lives, it's easy to overlook our thirst for a deeper relationship with God and one another. Much like the crowds that gathered around Jesus, yearning for His words and presence, we too find ourselves seeking fulfillment in various forms — be it through companionship,

service, or worship. The invitation to come to Jesus is not just a call to seek physical sustenance, but a profound urging to quench our spiritual thirst.

As parishioners of St. Aloysius, we have already engaged in the themes of stewardship through ministry and prayer. Each act of service, every prayer offered, is a response to our thirst for spiritual growth and community connec-

tion. It is within these acts that we discover the essence of stewardship — an acknowledgment that we are called not just to receive but to give back generously what God has blessed us with.

In recent homilies, Father Michael has eloquently shared stories of the restoration of Notre Dame Cathedral following the tragic fire in April 2019. This
Continued on page 7



See financial charts and summary, Page 6

Teacher, Mentor, Friend

Sr. Teresa Eceizabarrena

May 21, 1926 - Jan. 1, 2025



Last of St. Aloysius Parish's beloved Daughters of Jesus dies at age 98

By Edie Boudreaux

My first impression of Sister Teresa is that she was TALL. I was 7 years old and one of the shortest kids in her class. I didn't know then, but Sr. Teresa's stature came from her proud Basque heritage.

Even though I was a child, I knew she was a person worthy of respect, and in return, she showed that respect to every student in her class. Even though there were 34 students in the

room, discipline was not an issue. She was firm, but fair and everyone knew the expectations.

My next impression of Sr. Teresa was her intelligence. As a second grader, I was so impressed she could speak more than one language. Every morning, class began with Sr. Teresa and one student engaging a conversation in Spanish.

In later years, I discovered the Daughters of Jesus were assigned

Continued on page 4



See more photos and stories on Pages 4-5



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2025 Stuart Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

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Jennifer St. Cyr



Nancy Taylor

Parish welcomes 2 new staff members

St. Aloysius welcomes two new staff members to the parish staff. Jennifer St. Cyr is the new bookkeeper and child protection coordinator, and Nancy Taylor serves as the new full-time front desk receptionist.

St. Cyr served as the bookkeeper at Christ the King Parish on LSU's campus for the past three years and in the private sector for the prior 30 years. She has also served in numerous volunteer capacities with youth and family ministry roles throughout the Diocese of Baton Rouge since moving to the area 30 years ago.

Her spirit-led charisms of hospitality, details and service bring warmth and refreshment to those who cross her path. She and her husband, Scott, are the parents of three adult children (two of whom are married) and they have five grandchildren.

St. Cyr is thankful to be called, in this season of life, to join the St. Aloysius Parish Staff and is looking forward to serving each of you.

Taylor has 40 years of business experience, with the last 15 of those serving as an executive assistant for a private prison company. Taylor retired from that company in 2022, and after enjoying some time off, she felt called back to work with the intention of serving our parish.

Taylor enjoys creative writing and is currently working on a third publication. She loves music and art, playing the guitar and painting using multi medias. She has three children and six grandchildren. In ministry roles, Taylor served as an RCIA catechist and Eucharistic Minister at St. Jean Vianney Parish in Baton Rouge.

"But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, Jacob, and formed you, Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine."

ISAIAH 43:1

Scan the QR code to submit the name of a young man you believe might be called to discern the priesthood.

Remember, there are many good prospective priests who are simply waiting to be asked.

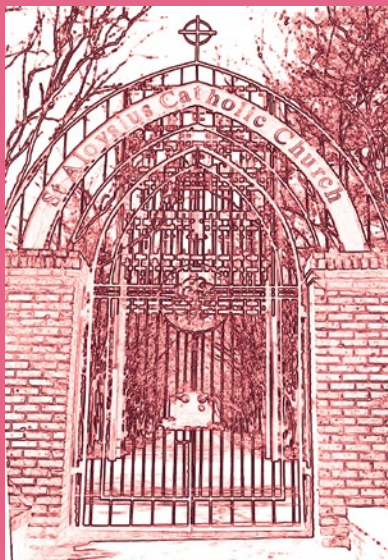
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The Roman Catholic Diocese of
BATON ROUGE

aloysius alive

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<u>Writers & Photographers</u> St. Aloysius Parish, School, and Child Care Center Staff & Parishioners	



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Regular Mass Schedule

SATURDAY

Vigil 4:30 PM

SUNDAY

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

DAILY MASSES

Wednesday, 6 AM

Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday 8 AM

This * denotes Mass is livestreamed via our website at aloysius.org/livestream, youtube.com/@staloysiusbr or on our Facebook page at facebook.com/staloysiusbr

CONFESSIONS: Wednesday at 6:30 AM; 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.



St. Aloysius parishioner a step closer to priesthood

Bishop Michael G. Duca of the Diocese of Baton Rouge ordained seminarians Huy Tran and St. Aloysius parishioner Josh Zelden to the diaconate Dec. 21 at St. Joseph Cathedral in downtown Baton Rouge.

This completed the second to last step in their formation towards the priesthood. Zelden served his first liturgy as a deacon at our 11 AM Mass the following day and even gave the homily. He's currently serving at Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Baton Rouge as a deacon assistant.

Huy Tran is currently assigned to Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish in St. Amant. Both Zelden & Tran will be ordained diocesan priests June 15, 2025, at St. Joseph Cathedral.



Advent at Aloysius

Advent at Aloysius was celebrated the evening of Dec. 5 and featured the annual blessing and illumination of Crepe Myrtle Alley. The moment is symbolic of Christ being our light, coming into the world and illuminating the darkness. The rest of the event included live music, arts & crafts for children, hotdogs & chili provided by the Knights of Columbus, hot chocolate, sweets, and pictures with St. Nicholas. If you or loved ones took pictures with St. Nicholas, look up John Ballance Photography online for the gallery!



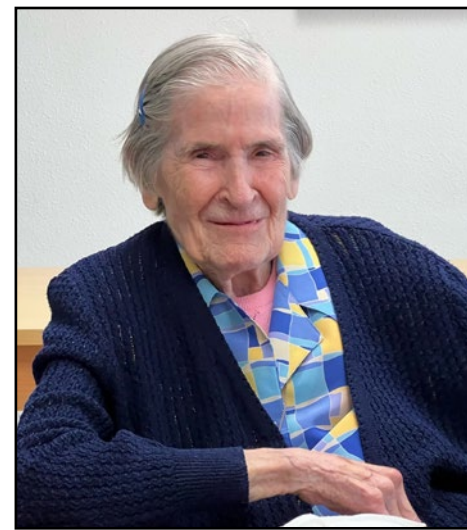
Men's Club hosts 2 events

The Men's Club enjoyed fellowship at two recent events: Advent Dinner & Discussion and a tour of Alex Box Stadium.

The Advent Dinner occurred Dec. 10 in the Parish Hall and was considered an "Italian night" with the men bringing their own wines to sample while also feasting on lasagna, green beans, salad and bread rolls. Father Michael Alello was the guest speaker and even did a Q&A with the members.

On Jan. 8, the Men's Club enjoyed happy hour at Walk On's Sports Bistreaux near LSU's campus, then a private tour of Alex Box Stadium lead by Jay Johnson, LSU's head baseball coach.

Freshman right-handed pitcher and St. Aloysius School Class of 2020 alum William Schmidt also took part in the tour.



Teresa, From Page 1

to the United States as missionaries. Before becoming classroom teachers, they first had to master English and become certified in education by the state of Louisiana. They did this at Loyola University in New Orleans. Imagine leaving your homeland for another country where you had to learn a new language and then take certification classes in that language.

Sr. Teresa inspired in me a love for reading and religion. Her classroom library had many books, both fiction and non-fiction, at many different levels. She let us choose our own reading material to consume during free time.

Religion class was my favorite time of day. In 1967, the Catholic Church was just implementing the teachings of the Second Vatican Council. That meant we did not just memorize the Baltimore Catechism. Sr. Teresa drew from scripture, tradition and her own deep faith to train us for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. It impressed me that, no matter what question we asked her, she always knew the answer.

As my career turned to teaching and, eventually, coordinator of religion at St. Aloysius School, I found myself channeling Sr. Teresa while working with students on the questions they asked. It's important for them seeking to make connections between their daily lives and the teachings of our faith, just as we did.

When I began teaching at St. Aloysius School 42 years ago, Sr. Teresa became a colleague. All the faculty respected her advice. Her smile and positive attitude inspired and reminded us what a gift our school was. When it came time to attend All School Masses, we all looked to Sr. Teresa for cues on when to stand, sit and kneel. Since she was so tall, and second grade sat in the front, she was our beacon.

When the sisters left our parish, many people commented on how they would miss her presence. (Ironically, now I am at the front of church during school Masses and have people watching me.) After more than 40 years

of classroom teaching, Sr. Teresa became an assistant in the school office. She was known for keeping the copy machines running smoothly. It was as if her prayers kept them running long past their warranty dates.

The Daughters of Jesus left Baton Rouge in the summer of 2002. They returned to Spain so they could retire at the order's nursing facility.

On their arrival, each sister was assigned to a different city in Spain and a ministry determined by their Superior General. Sr. Teresa was assigned to San Sebastian, her hometown, and at the house of the Superior General. She became a cook for the "Big Boss." The Superior General was Sr. Mary, who once served at St. Aloysius. (I guess since she was living in Louisiana all those years, it was assumed Teresa had learned how to cook.) Sr. Teresa wasn't proficient at cooking, so her friends from St. Aloysius helped her by sending recipes and cooking tips.

Since she was living in her hometown, Sr. Teresa regularly saw her two sisters and their children. This was a delight to her, since when she first left, her vow of obedience meant that she may possibly never see her family again.

Sr. Teresa was always open to learning new things and willing to change with the times. She had a brother who was a priest in Japan. Over the years, she had corresponded with him through letters. It would take six weeks for a letter to get to him and the same amount of time for a return letter.

When email was invented, she learned how to use it and correspond with him. After Sr. Teresa moved to Spain, Margy Loup, our school librarian, taught her how to use an iPad and Skype. After learning Skype, Sr. Teresa could use it with her brother in Japan, and her friends here in the United States.

I have been privileged to visit Spain several times since the sisters returned there. My traveling companions were Gay Hebert, Margy Loup and Markaye Latuso. When we arrived during our trips, we always visited Sr. Teresa and the other Daughters of Jesus who graced St. Aloysius with their presence for 45 years in our parish - Mary Carmen



Azcue, Rosary Arocena, and Josephine Caballero.

We also met with other sisters who had served here for shorter periods of time, "Mother" Mary Carmen Altoona (affectionately known as "Killer Carmen"), Sr. Aranzazu, and Therese Azcue, cousin of Sr. Mary Carmen and former Daughter of Jesus. We always had lively discussions regarding news from St. Aloysius Parish, reminiscing about old times, international events, history and religious topics.

Sr. Teresa dearly loved the United States and her time spent here. On our first visit, we were walking through downtown San Sebastian. She explained how, at the time, Spain didn't recognize dual citizenship. In order to participate in Spain's socialized healthcare system, the sisters had to renounce their American citizenship.

She pointed to the courthouse in downtown and said, "There, I had to give up my citizenship." She then pointed to her heart and said, "But in here, I will always be an American."

During our last visit, in 2023, Sr. Teresa was 97 years old. By this time, she had been transferred from the Superior General's house to the Daughters of Jesus nursing facility. Her body was getting frail and she used a wheelchair, but her mind was still sharp as we shared news from the parish and discussed her friends. We also shared pictures and stories. We attended Mass together at the convent chapel. It was difficult to leave then, know-



ing that we probably would not see her again.

Sr. Teresa passed on New Year's Day 2025. Her friend, Therese Azcue, texted us and said she visited with Teresa that morning until it was time for Mass. It seems right that, on her last day, Sr. Teresa was able to

visit with an old friend and then receive Holy Communion with her community.

Although we'll miss her, we know when she left this Earth, she was welcomed into Heaven by her loving family members and dear friends, the Daughters of Jesus.



A life of ‘meaning and purpose’ shared with the heart of a teacher

Sister Maria Teresa Eceizabarrena, F.I. was born May 21, 1926, in San Sebastain, Spain. She was the daughter of Tomas and Luisa Eceizabarrena, and sibling of two brothers and two sisters. She had two other siblings who died early in their youth.

Her father was a local contractor in town. The first four years of her life, Sr. Teresa lived in San Sebastian before moving to the town of Villabona located southwest of Barcelona where she lived with her maternal grandparents and an aunt for six years.

Asthma attacks worsened by the smell of seaweed on the coast of San Sebastian forced her move to Villabona. In 1936, her parents and siblings moved to Villabona for safety due to the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War. After the war, Sr. Teresa moved back to San Sebastian with her family.

Sr. Teresa grew up in a religious household. Her family would pray the Rosary every evening after supper, would attend Holy Week services, and her parents encouraged Sr. Teresa and her siblings to attend daily Mass.

On Holy Thursday every year, they would visit different churches and pray before the Blessed Sacrament. During the Christmas season, they would visit the different Nativity scenes at churches close to their home. Her family also had a unique bedtime ritual where they held one their father’s and mother’s hands, make the sign of the cross, and kiss it.

While living in Villabona, Sr. Teresa attended a school run by the Daughters of the Cross. After her return to San Sebastian, she went to a school run by the Daughters of Jesus. Her favorite subjects were math and social studies. She traveled by streetcar to shuttle to school.

Sr. Teresa felt her vocation call at the age of 14 after witnessing the “Life of St. Francis Xavier”

performance by students from a Jesuit-run high school. That performance moved her to become a missionary, but she also had doubts.

In 1947, her brother moved to Japan and entered the Jesuit novitiate, which caused immense suffering for her parents, so Sr. Teresa delayed her decision to enter the convent and stayed with her parents. She lived with her parents until 24 years of age, discerning that vocation the entire time, and one day, went on a retreat that deepened her discernment to religious life.

That retreat caused her to ponder the thought of becoming a sister, wanting to strive for holiness while helping others. She decided to join the Daughters of Jesus whose ministry was teaching, and Sr. Teresa always loved teaching.

Sr. Teresa came to the United States in 1954 to learn English and receive an education at Loyola University in New Orleans. In 1957, she began her first year of teaching in Rayville, La.

where she had a classroom of 15 first and second graders. Sr. Mary Carmen Azcue was also teaching in Rayville at the time. In 1958, Sr. Teresa came to St. Aloysius School where she taught third grade for a while before switching to second grade.

Sr. Teresa’s favorite ministry in our parish was preparing children to receive their First Reconciliation and First Communion because she wanted “to teach students how much Jesus loves them. I want children to be educated in the Catholic tradition so that there’s meaning and purpose to their lives.”

Sr. Teresa returned to Spain in the summer of 2002 with the other Daughters of Jesus that served our parish for 45 years: Sr. Carmen Azcue, Sr. Rosary Arcena and Sr. Josephine Caballero. They left so they could be with their religious order and retire in their later years. All of them have since passed with Sr. Teresa being the last one. May Sr. Teresa rest in peace in the heavenly abode of our Lord!

‘She carried in her heart the school, the children, the parish’



Dear Parish of St. Aloysius,

We are writing to you as superior of the Congregation of the Daughters of Jesus in Spain to inform you of the death of our sister M^a Teresa Eceizabarrena.

M^a Teresa spent many years in Baton Rouge, along with four other Daughters of Jesus, and has always carried this parish in her heart.

This sister was the last one remaining of that group of sisters. In her memory and in her heart was very much alive the presence of St. Aloysius, its customs, its celebrations. During the time she has been in Spain, there have been many communications with people from her parish, and some of them have even come to Spain to visit her.

In St. Aloysius, she lived practically all her life. She carried in her heart the school, the children, the parish. She spent the last few years in our nursing home in San Sebastian (Spain), as she was in poor health, and today, Jan. 1, she passed away.

We thank God for her long life, 98 years, and for her apostolic zeal that has led many people to know Jesus and to do good to others.

A prayer to the Lord for her.

Sincerely
M^a Rosa Espinosa
Provincial Superior
Daughters of Jesus

ARISE

DIOCESAN MIDDLE SCHOOL RALLY



SATURDAY, MARCH 29

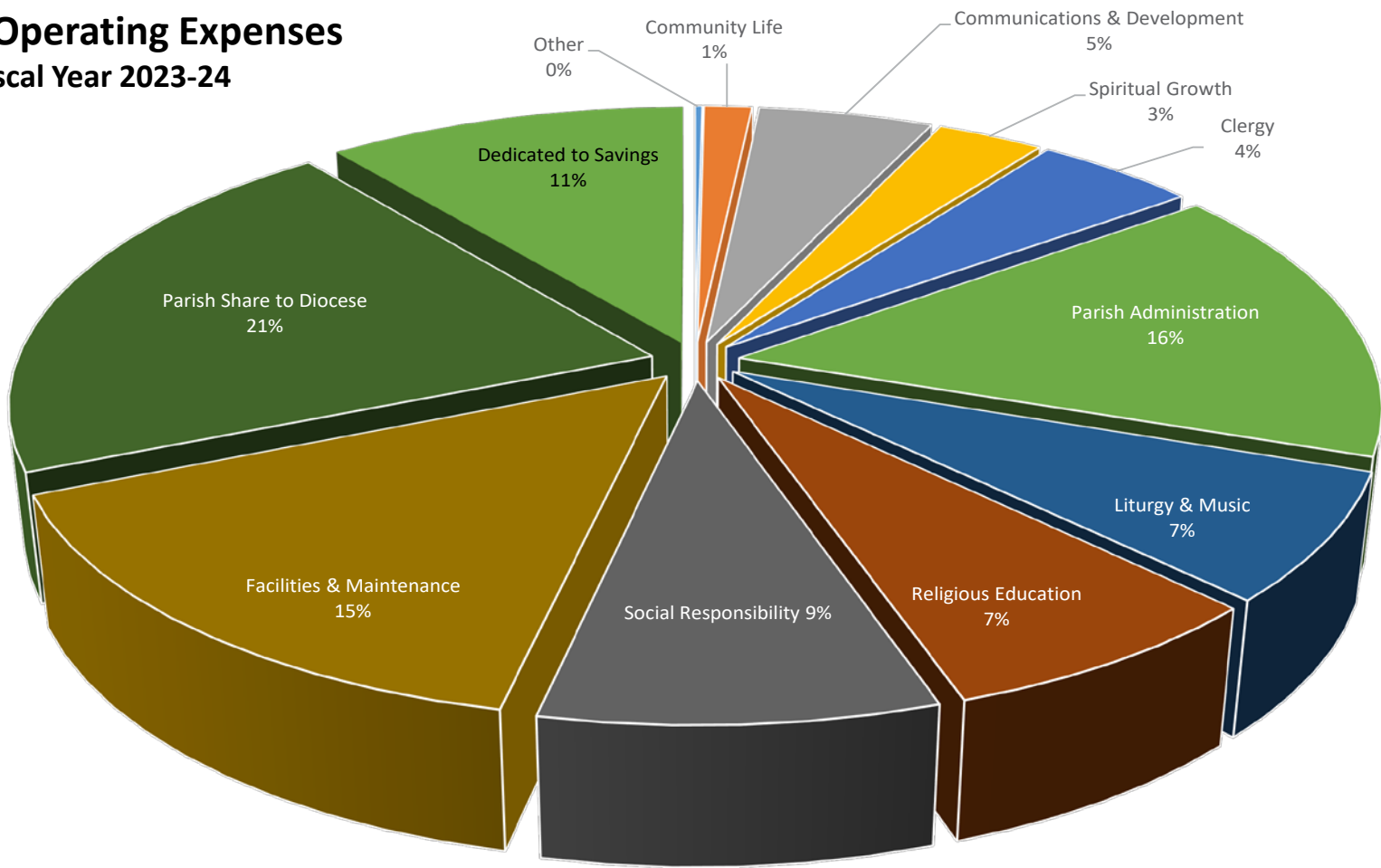
1PM - 9PM

ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH ACTIVITY CENTER

All current 6th-8th graders are invited!

Church Operating Expenses

Fiscal Year 2023-24



CHURCH OPERATING INCOME AND EXPENSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024

INCOME	FY 2023-24	PERCENT
Offertory Collections	\$ 2,713,248 ¹	91.41%
Interest and Distributions	178,949 ²	6.03%
Reimbursements, Miscellaneous Income	76,150	2.57%
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 2,968,348.34	100.00%
EXPENSES	FY 2023-24	PERCENT
Liturgy & Music	\$ 212,494	7.16%
Clergy	143,147	4.82%
Spiritual Growth	93,696	3.16%
Social Responsibility	252,044 ³	8.49%
Religious Education	216,421	7.29%
Community Life	41,673	1.40%
Parish Administration	464,947	15.66%
Communications & Development	153,627	5.18%
Facilities & Maintenance	452,693	15.25%
Other	6,181	0.21%
Parish Share to Diocese	614,687	20.71%
Dedicated to Savings	316,738	10.67%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 2,968,348.34	100.00%

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

²Interest from savings plus distributions from Endowment spenddown fund. Fund balance detailed separately.

³Parish tithe to Social Responsibility is 11.07% in fulfillment of our goal to commit at least 10% of net operating income (offertory plus interest earned less parish share) to outreach.

CHURCH CASH ASSETS	6/30/2024
Operating Checking	\$ 387,235
Operating Savings	741,773 ¹
Building Fund Checking	5,000
Building Fund Savings	7,456,060 ²

CHURCH ENDOWMENTS	6/30/2024
Parish Endowment held at BRAF	\$ 931,305
Parish's Spend-down Fund held at BRAF	296,357
Parish Scholarship Endowment I held at SAS	110,000
Parish Scholarship Endowment II held at SAS	16,000

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.

CHURCH INCOME - BUILDING FUND FY 2023-24

Building Fund, Capital Campaign, Memorials, Fundraising*	\$ 736,515
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CHURCH INCOME - FUNDRAISING EFFORTS FY 2023-24

Parish Fair	\$ 163,885
Auction	136,214
Golf Classic	10,210
Total Fundraising Efforts*	310,309

*Net Income from Fundraising, as well as Building Fund, Capital Campaign and Memorial donations are deposited into Building Fund Savings and continue to be devoted to fulfilling the goals of the parish Master Plan.

CHURCH INCOME - SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FY 2023-24

Agency Collections	
Latin America	\$ 1,520
Home Missions	2,846
Bishop's Annual Appeal	25
Holy Land	4,225
Catholic Relief Services	2,802
Catholic Communications	4,644
Peter's Pence	3,664
Central & Eastern Europe	1,550
Catholic University	2,300
Human Development	3,962
Retirement Fund for Religious	17,215
Black & Indian Missions	3,781
Special Emergency Appeals	-
World Mission Sunday	1,955
Diocesan Priest Retirement	17,218
Total	67,707

Mission Collections

Special Mission Appeals	38,875
Total	38,875

Baby Bottle Campaign

Pregnancy Problem Center	6,671
Woman's New Life Clinic	6,671
Total	13,342

119,924

Offering, From Page 1

iconic structure, dedicated to Our Lady, stands as a testament to the power of stewardship through the collective offering of many.

The restoration efforts involved not just financial contributions but also the volunteer work of artisans, craftsmen, and countless individuals who came together, inspired by their faith and love for their heritage.

Notre Dame, which translates to "Our Mother," is a symbol of nurturing and guidance. Just as the cathedral has provided a space for worship and reflection for generations, we are called to create similar spaces in our lives and communities.

The restoration serves as a poignant reminder that when we unite our resources and talents, we can achieve remarkable things. The communal effort involved in rebuilding Notre Dame reinforces our shared responsibility to give back and care for what we hold dear.

How can we respond to the call of Jesus to come to Him, especially in the context of our gifts and resources? Perhaps we take

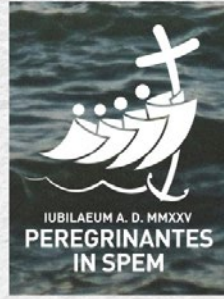
this time to evaluate the blessings in our lives.

As we thirst for a deeper relationship with God, we may consider how our financial offerings can contribute to the ongoing mission of our Parish. Like the supporters of Notre Dame, our response can help sustain and grow our community.

As we recall the weekend of Feb. 15-16, let us take to heart the message of John 7:37. Jesus invites us to come to Him, not just with our needs but also with our gifts. The restoration of Notre Dame teaches us that through our collective efforts, we can make a lasting impact.

Let us strive to quench our thirst for connection, purpose, and community by responding generously to the call of stewardship through offering.

As we consider our personal commitments, may we remember that we are not alone in this journey. Together, we can honor our faith and heritage, reflecting the love of Our Mother, Notre Dame, and contributing to the vibrant life of St. Aloysius Parish. In doing so, we can fulfill our thirst for meaning and connection, both to God and each other.



Sure & Steadfast Hope

JUBILEE 2025



"and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us." Romans 5:5



"SAINTS BY NUMBER"
Painting Retreat with
Jacob Zumo
Saturday, March 8
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
9530 Interline Ave
Second Floor
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Guest Speaker:
Fr. Michael Aletto
\$150 for adults
\$275 for married couples
\$100 for high school students
Registration: aloysius.org/spiritual-growth-retreats-and-talks
Questions? Contact Carmel Acosta:
cacosta@staloysiusparish.com
(225) 343-6657 ext. 26



ST. JOSEPH'S DAY ALTAR

AT ST. ALOYSIUS

March 18-19, 2025

March 18 - 6:00pm - Blessing of the Altar, Tupa Tupa and parishwide spaghetti dinner

March 19 - 8:00am - St. Joseph's Day Feast Mass

To participate, please email
AloysiusSJDA@gmail.com

MAKE A PIOUS PILGRIMAGE to LOCAL SACRED PLACES

In the Diocese of Baton Rouge, Catholics can gain a plenary indulgence during the Jubilee Year of Hope by making a pious pilgrimage to St. Joseph Cathedral, or one of the five other churches designated by Bishop Duca.

<p>ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL</p> <p>Baton Rouge</p>	<p>ASCENSION OF OUR LORD</p> <p>Donaldsonville</p>	<p>MATER DOLOROSA</p> <p>Independence</p>
<p>OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL</p> <p>St. Francisville</p>	<p>ST. ALOYSIUS</p> <p>Baton Rouge</p>	<p>ST. THERESA OF AVILA</p> <p>Gonzales</p>

A pious visit includes spending a "suitable" amount of time in Eucharistic adoration, either in exposition or before the tabernacle, meditation, and concluding with praying for the intentions of Pope Francis, the recitation of the Our Father, any legitimate form of the Creed, and invocations to the Blessed Virgin Mary.



Judge Chris Hester selected as SAS Distinguished Graduate

Chris Hester, a 1997 graduate of St. Aloysius School, was named this year's Distinguished Graduate.

Chris, who serves as a judge on the Louisiana First Circuit Court of Appeal, previously served as a Baton Rouge City Court Judge and assistant district attorney with the East Baton Rouge Parish District Attorney's Office, rising to the positions of Chief Homicide Prosecutor and Section Chief of the Violent Crimes Unit.



He credits much of his success in his elections to his connections and relationships made through St. Aloysius.

Starting as a senior in high school, Chris has coached at St. Aloysius continuously for 24 years and is currently serving as head coach of the eighth-grade boys basketball team.

Each season, Chris writes a handwritten personal note to every young man he coaches at the end of the season. He sees his coaching role as not only building their basketball skills but helping them to become better young men.

In the community, Chris is active in the Baton Rouge Bar Association and Louisiana Bar Association. He serves as a committee member on the Louisiana State Law Institute Code of Criminal Procedure Committee, a faculty member for the LSU Law Trial Advocacy Program, guest lecturer, and CLE speaker for LSU, LSU Law, and Catholic High School.

Chris is married to his college sweetheart, Emily, and they have three children, two who attend St. Aloysius, Hayden (second grade) and Avery (kindergarten). Congratulations to Chris and to the Hester Family!



Lucy Pierce Ritter, 2024-25 St. Aloysius School Student of the Year

the diocese, where she will compete with students from other schools. She will represent our school very well. Congratulations, Lucy Pierce!

SAS Student of the Year

Each year in the Diocese of Baton Rouge, schools are given the opportunity to nominate a student of the year from the eighth grade class.

Based on academics, extracurricular activities, volunteer efforts, voting by peers, and overall Christian attitude, the 2024-25 St. Aloysius School Student of the Year is Lucy Pierce Ritter, daughter of Scott and Melissa Ritter.

We're so proud of Lucy Pierce's numerous volunteer efforts while being an honor student, a Principal's Award recipient. She is also involved in several sports teams as well as cheerleading.

Lucy Pierce will submit a portfolio of her accomplishments to

Nativity Play

On Dec. 6-7, families and friends of the St. Aloysius School community were treated to the fifth grade's performance of the Nativity Play.

Performers and the fifth-grade team rehearsed for several weeks ahead of the play, which brings to life the Nativity story as told by children of today.

In 2023, Mrs. Brook Showalter brought back the play from her time as an SAS student. The play is a long-held tradition on campus, started by retired SAS teacher Mrs. Mary Murphy, who returns to campus each year to assist with the production.



SACCC celebrates Christmas with Santa visit, annual concert

The good boys and girls at the St. Aloysius Child Care Center received a special visit on Dec. 13 from Santa Claus himself, arrived in style riding an antique jeep! During his visit, Santa collected their wish lists and brought them back to the North

Pole! Also, the annual SACCC Christmas Concert took place on Dec. 18. Teachers and students dressed in their best Christmas attire and sang Christmas carols! Family and friends enjoyed the show from their pews.

St. Aloysius celebrates Catholic Schools Week

Catholic schools across America celebrated Catholic Schools week from Jan. 26 to Feb. 1, including St. Aloysius School, which participated in various related activities.

On Monday, students gathered for assembly in the gym, where they got their first view of the banner created by the entire school, a replica of the Catholic Schools Week logo made of dots.

The messages on the dots were composed of student and faculty responses to prompts based on the motto of the National Catholic Education Association, "Catholic School: United in Faith and Community." The prompts asked the students to reflect on "Family, Faculty, Students, Vocations, Community Service, and what St. Aloysius School does well."

That evening, the Diocese of Baton Rouge's Catholic Schools Office hosted a dinner for the Distinguished Graduates of each Catholic school. Judge Chris Hester was named this year's Distinguished Graduate of St. Aloysius School.

Wednesday morning, faculty and staff were recognized for accomplishing milestone

years of service to Catholic education. The following faculty members were recognized: Stephanie Granger and Crystal Harmon (10 years); Joanna Lemoine, Roena Vlahos, Stephanie Gonthier and Aimee LeBlanc (15 years); Sarah Teague (20 years); Jan Kleiner and Nicole Wintz (25 years); and Molly Town, Stephanie Coxe and Stacey Keaton (30 years).

Also Wednesday, representatives of all the diocesan schools met to celebrate Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral in downtown Baton Rouge. Student representatives from each school, as well as administrators and teachers receiving service awards, joined Bishop Michael Duca for the celebration.

Mrs. Erin Candilora and Student of the Year Lucy Pierce Ritter carried a gift in the entrance procession. Our student representatives attending the Mass were Logan Gonthier, Logan Mapp, William Hoffpaiur, Lulu Pipes, Alexandr Fleig, Charles Moser and Audrey Moser. Teachers receiving service awards also attended the Mass. Upon returning to campus, the representatives from SAS shared a luncheon.

Save the Date
FOR THE 2025
SACCC Annual
Fish Fry
FRIDAY
21 MARCH
2025
PRESENTED BY: MANSFIELD MELANCON CRANMER & DICK INJURY LAWYERS