

2006-2007

Stewardship *of* Prayer



ST. ALOYSIUS
CATHOLIC CHURCH

This booklet is intended as a reminder of some ways that people can pray and as a resource reference to many of the devotions, practices and activities that make up prayer for us personally in our parish. It is by no means complete.

It is a first offering of its kind; we hope to revise it periodically and would appreciate suggestions for inclusion. Members of the Stewardship of Prayer Committee suggested the books, tapes and Web sites listed in this booklet because they were helpful to them. If your favorite method of prayer, written spiritual guide or organized ministry practice is missing, please tell us about it for future use.

Practices and Devotions

Sunday Mass

4:30 p.m. Vigil; 7, 9 and 11 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Daily Mass

6 a.m., Monday and Wednesday; 8 a.m., Tuesday, Thursday, Friday (outside school year); Friday during school year, TBA.

Rosary

Public recitation every second Monday of the month, 7:30 p.m., Chapel. Private recitation can be completed at any time.

Novena

Mother of Perpetual Help, after 8 a.m. Mass on Tuesday.

Marian Devotions

First Saturday of the month after 8 a.m. Communion Service.

Passing the Chalice

Individuals and families take Fr. Brou's chalice home for a week to bring awareness to and increase prayer for an increase in religious vocations. Contact Ann Bernard, 769-3589.

Prayer Line

Prayer intentions accepted weekdays from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (excluding holidays). A team of individuals prays daily for all intentions submitted. To submit an intention, call Odette Collette, 766-5470, or Julia Bardwell, 336-9444, or e-mail staloyisusprayer@yahoo.com.

Visits to the Blessed Sacrament

Fr. Barry Coyle once said something like this: "No one can sit in front of the Blessed Sacrament and remain unchanged." The text of the quote may not be accurate but the

stated fact is. A little time in quiet solitude with Our Lord is rewarding. Contact God in the tabernacle.

Reconciliation

Private reconciliation is offered on Saturday at 3:30 p.m. or by appointment. For an appointment, call the Church office at 343-6657. Communal reconciliation is offered during Advent and Lent, as announced.

Prayer in Song and Music

Our hands and voices are instruments of prayer as we play or sing. Music ministry is a joyful way to pray. Contact Ken Thevenet, 343-6657.

Stations of the Cross

Traditionally a Lenten devotion focused on the suffering and death of Jesus. This devotion is a "mini" pilgrimage and represents critical events from scripture or tradition of Jesus' journey to Calvary. The 14 stations are recessed in the walls around the sanctuary of the Church. Communal devotion is offered on Fridays during Lent as announced.

Family Prayer

There has always been a tradition of family prayer in Catholic homes. For many generations it was popular to pray the rosary together. In recent years families have begun reading scripture and discussing its application to daily life. Many families pray at table, either in the form of a spontaneous prayer or a more formal prayer (saying grace). At bedtime many parents bless their children and pray with them.

Scheduled Prayer

Praying at certain times of the day has long been part of life for people and for Church. We say morning and/or evening prayer, the Divine Office, grace at meals and the Angelus; we enjoy meditation and contemplation at a specific time and do Scripture reading on a regular basis. Some prayers such as the rosary, novenas or the stations may be weekly, monthly or seasonal.

Small-Group Prayer

Small groups are essential in modern spiritual living. St. Aloysius has three major programs and encourages all to join a small group.

Small Christian Community: A gathering of Christians who come together regularly to seek ways to respond to God's presence in their lives and in the world. Members share their human stories and their faith with one another through the study of scripture or other spiritual writings. There are five elements of the communities: prayer, learning, service, faith sharing and support. Contact Rick Beben, 343-6657.

Come Lord Jesus: An adult and children's program for self-development through prayer, scripture, shared faith life and Christian community. Contact Patience Moreno, 769-2135 (adult); Mary Karam, 766-7940 (8th grade).

Renew: Represents an ongoing style of parish life that will help people rediscover God through a renewed commitment to the Church, to one another and to the world. Five, six-week, theme-based seasons devoted to prayer, Word, reflection and sharing. Contact Rick Beben, 343-6657, or Lori Mayhall, 819-9028.

Adult Formation

Provides a variety of opportunities for adults to grow in faith and understanding. Its work includes offering educational courses, scheduling speakers, distributing prayer guides and making faith-reading materials available. One current program is the "Catholic Perspectives" series by retired LSU professors Jim Bolner and Greg Hussey, which meets on Monday mornings.

Spiritual Direction

Spiritual direction is concerned with our relationship with God and His various ways of communicating with us. The spiritual director listens prayerfully and attentively to the directee, helping him/her process all of the workings of God in his/her life. The spiritual director does not give answers or solve problems, but helps the directee to know and respond to God's will as he/she becomes more docile to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, who is the *Primary Director*.

There are three persons who give spiritual direction on an individual basis at St. Aloysius.

Lisette Borné. The Diocesan Office of Christian Formation established a relationship with the Marian Servants of the Eucharist to provide individual spiritual direction at no cost to the people of God in the Diocese of Baton Rouge. The Marian Servants also offer the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius and are certified through Our Lady of Divine Providence School of Spirituality in Clearwater, Fla., in association with Franciscan University of Steubenville. For information and appointments, call Lisette 766-0681.

The Parish Library

Patti Clement. (To learn more about Patti Clement, see “Retreats” section.) For information and appointments, call 938-4264.

Laure Hebert. Sessions last 45 minutes. Laure is a certified director of the Spirituality Center of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. She completed the Nineteenth Annotation, an eight-month program of prayer, journaling and directed meetings, and she served a spiritual director internship for two years in the diocese. Call for an appointment, 1 (985) 369-7017.

Pamphlet Rack

Do you have a question on something spiritual? Chances are you’ll find an answer in the pamphlet rack in the back of Church. This often-overlooked resource is excellent for guidance in living a Catholic life in a changing world. The range of topics is large and updated. Take home several. They’re informative and enjoyable.

Rick’s Rack

A new display in the Parish Office atrium. It has books and pamphlets for individuals and groups. Its range is as old as Hildegard of Bingen and Julian of Norwich to as new as the current Renew booklet. Next time you’re in the office, look over it. Rick Beben can order materials on this rack for you or your group.

Housed in the Parish Office, the library features a variety of religious books and tapes, as well as an excellent reference section. Parishioners are welcome to use the library whenever meetings are not in progress. Examples of what can be found in the library are:

Cassettes

Richard Rohr, O.F.M.; George Montague, S.M.; Pope John Paul II.

Books and magazines

Anchor Bible Series. Scripture commentary. Most parts of the *Collegeville Bible Commentary*, with separate books on all of the individual books of the Bible, Old and New testaments.

Daily Bible Study Series by Dr. William Barclay. A four-book series that includes Dr. Barclay’s translation of the Gospels of John, Luke, Matthew and Mark.

The Jerome Biblical Commentary. Contemporary interpretation of the Scriptures. Plus various books on spirituality (see Thomas Merton, Church teachings, morality, sacraments and saints.

In Conversation with God by Francis Fernandez—a seven-volume series, including meditations for every day of the Church’s liturgical calendar.

Back copies of *America* magazine—*The National Catholic Weekly*.

Back copies of *U.S. Catholic* magazine.

Video

De Sales Catholic Education Program.

Suggested Reading for Children

Loyola Book of Saints by Amy Welborn.

Explains what saints are and introduces the morals and values of various saints. All ages.

Web Sites

A series about saints by Ignatius Press.

Written as stories for ages 9 and older.

David and Goliath Arch Books New Testament (Arch Books) by Martha S. Jander and illustrator Richard Wahl. Ages 4-8.

If Jesus Came to My House by Joan G.

Thomas. Teaches children how to treat others with respect, courtesy, kindness and love. Ages 3-8.

The New St. Joseph First Communion

Catechism by Rev. Kelley Bennet. Helps 1st and 2nd graders prepare for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Includes beautiful artwork.

The Crippled Lamb by Max Lucado. A very touching story about a disabled lamb that finally finds a special purpose in this world, to help keep the Baby Jesus warm. Don't let the politically incorrect title of this wonderful book deter you. Ages 4-8.

Ten years ago, few would have thought of using a computer to pray in a meaningful way. But there are some wonderful prayer sites on the Internet and many provide links to other sites.

Pray-as-you-go (<http://Pray-as-you-go.org>) Daily podcast meditations on the scripture of the day and other helps. Ipod and MP3 owners particularly take note and visit this site.

Sacred Space (<http://jesuit.ie/prayer/>) Visit this space one time and you may get hooked and make it your daily prayer.

American Catholic (<http://AmericanCatholic.org>) Saint of the day and a rich Catholic resource, including material for those who feel alienated from their Church.

Busted Halo (<http://bustedhalo.com>) Especially designed for young adults, but "older" parishioners might enjoy this as well.

Creighton (http://Creighton.edu/collaborative_ministry/online) A very rich site on prayer, scriptures and meditation.

WAW (<http://waw.org/>) Much in the way of scripture reflection.

Mary, Mother of Jesus (<http://shc.edu/theolibrary/mary/>) A beautiful Web site with info on the Blessed Mother.

St. Aloysius (<http://saintaloyusgonzaga.com>) Learn more about the patron saint of our Parish.

Spiritual Reading

As people seek a deeper relationship with God, they often turn to the writings of others. Here are a few places to get started if you are looking for readings on spirituality:

Biblical Meditations by Carroll Stuhlmueller, C.P. (Paulist Press) Six paperback volumes (Advent, Lent, Easter and three volumes on ordinary time).

Guide for the Christian Assembly: Nine Volumes on the Entire Liturgical Year.

Psalms/Now and *Jesus/Now* by Leslie F. Brandt.

Light on the Gospels and *Light on the Epistles* by John L. McKenzie.

Six Weeks with the Bible: Catholic Perspectives (Loyola Press) A practical series that offers a guided tour of the Bible for busy people in search of wisdom. Ideal for group discussions or private prayer.

The Daily Study Bible Series by William Barclay sold in sections and covers the Old and New testaments. Helps to illuminate biblical passages that may seem strange by explaining the cultural setting.

Vision, Mission, Action—Praying Scripture in a Contemporary Way by Mark Link, S.J. (Thomas More Publishing) Marvelous for a daily meditation program and based on the Common Lectionary, each daily reflection takes about 10 minutes. (Seasonal booklets have been distributed by the parish, but you can buy books that contain the entire year.)

Mary Through the Centuries by Jaroslave Pelican (Yale University Press).

Mother of Jesus by Bruce Dana (Cedar Fort Books)

Take & Receive by Sr. Marie Schwan and Jacqueline Bergan (St. Mary Press) Series deals with the topics of love, forgiveness, birth, surrender and freedom and provides guided prayer meditations based on passages from Scripture. Used the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius as a model. Suitable for use by groups or individuals.

Companions for the Journey by various authors (St. Mary Press) A paperback series of at least 20 titles by various authors. The books center on saints or holy people and use their lives and insights on their relationship with God as a focus for prayer.

Other authors who have written many books on prayer: Fr. Anthony deMello, S.J., a Jesuit priest from India; Sr. Marina Wiederkehr, O.S.B., a Benedictine nun; and Sr. Joyce Rupp, a nun in the Servants of Mary.

Retreats & Retreat Resources

Have you ever considered taking a vacation ... with Jesus? This experience of being on a “special journey” with Our Lord is how many people would describe the act of making a retreat.

If you feel a pull to grow closer to Our Lord but don't know how to respond, then perhaps you might consider making a retreat. The time away from our crowded, busy lives may be just what you need to focus on your relationship with God.

There are many resources for making a retreat in our parish, at home or in special centers. Some opportunities for retreats are listed here:

At St. Aloysius

Parish Lenten Mission, March 4-7, 2007, by Richard R. Gaillardetz, Ph.D. Dr. Gaillardetz is the Margaret and Thomas Murray and James J. Barik Endowed Chair in Catholic Studies at the University of Toledo in Toledo, Ohio. An outstanding teacher and noted author, he conducts only one parish retreat each year. A wonderful opportunity for all St. Aloysius parishioners!

The Garden of My Soul Advent Retreat, Friday, Dec. 1, 2006, 6-9 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 2, 2006, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola and conducted by Patti Clement.*

Healing the Hole in My Heart Twilight Retreat, Friday, Jan. 26, 2007, 6-9 p.m. Based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola and conducted by Patti Clement.*

Stop the Treadmill! I Want to Get Off Twilight Retreat. Friday, April 20, 2007, 6-9 p.m. Based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola and conducted by Patti Clement.*

**Discover what it means to be a “contemplative in action” as St. Aloysius’ own Patti Clement shares*

the graces she received from her Emmaus Program for Spiritual Direction at Our Lady of the Oaks Jesuit Retreat House. Patti is involved in civic, charitable and St. Aloysius ministry activities and is currently directing retreats.

Women’s Retreat, March 24, 2007, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Provides an opportunity for reflection, community, spiritual growth and support for faith journeys of the women of St. Aloysius, while embracing their diverse needs and feminine ways of expression. Contact Erin Candilora, 767-1045.

Men’s Club Retreats. The Men’s Club organizes and implements parish retreats as part of its regularly scheduled activities. Evening of Reflection. Dec. 7, 2006, 6:30-9 p.m. Contact Chase McCalip at chaselsu@yahoo.com.

Youth Retreats

Youth at St. Aloysius have many opportunities for spiritual growth. Here are some of the parish’s activities for young people:

First Eucharist Afternoon of Reflection, April 27, 2007.

Confirmation Retreat, Jan. 28, 2007.

Girls’ Night Out and Boys’ Night Out. Spirituality, prayer and activities twice a month.

Sunday Night Youth Group Meetings. Social and spiritual activities throughout the year.

Youth Leadership Team Retreat, August.

Young Adult Team Core Training Retreat, July.

Diocesan rallies and regional conference: throughout the spring

For information, contact Steven Brooksher, 343-6657, Ext. 2026

30+ Singles Group. This group works with the Catholic Diocese to promote social functions, seminars, retreats and Bible study sessions for parish singles. Contact Cindy Denham, 926-4235.

Home-based Retreats. Held in the individual's home and geared toward those who cannot leave their homes for physical reasons or because of their responsibility for someone else. Participants agree to set aside a portion of each day for prayer and reflection. Phone or in-person weekly meetings with retreat director are usually held. Can begin at a time best suited to the individual and can last up to 30 days.

For information on one type of home retreat, the Cenacle Home Retreat based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius and Scripture, contact Joan Hussey, 766-7755, or Smittie Bolner, 766-5987.

Retreat Opportunities in the Baton Rouge Area

Here are some of the places in the Baton Rouge area offering retreats and spiritual formation. This information was current as of March 2006 and is taken from a supplement to *The Catholic Commentator*. Contact the individual retreat centers for more information.

Bishop Robert E. Tracy Center, Baton Rouge.

Available for renewal, spiritual growth, professional training, adult and youth formation. Can provide space for day and overnight retreats and conferences. Welcomes

private groups, prayer groups, small Christian communities and Bible study groups. Call 242-0222.

Magnificat Center of the Holy Spirit,

Pontchatoula. Provides relaxing setting for all types of retreats. Along with booked retreats tailored especially for any Christian group, Magnificat offers days of renewal on the last Thursday of each month, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Call (800) 531-9710.

Manresa House of Retreats, Convent.

Formerly Jefferson College, it opened in 1929 as a retreat center for men. All retreats are in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. While most of its retreats are preached retreats for men, some spaces are available for individually directed retreats for men and women. Call (800) 782-9431.;

Rosaryville Spirit Life Center, Pontchatoula.

Sponsors individual and group programs for clergy, religious and laity. Hosts youth retreats and summer camps, days of prayer, healing retreats, silent retreats for women and men, people of praise, Regnum Christi, ACOA retreats and serenity weekends. Staffed by the Dominican Sisters of the Congregation of St. Mary. Call (800) 627-9183.

St. Joseph Spirituality Center, Baton Rouge.

A ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph, promoting religious education and spiritual development of adults. Since 1984, the center has offered a variety of retreat options based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Call 383-3349.

Retreat Opportunities in Other Areas

Cenacle Retreat House, Metairie. Under the

direction of the Cenacle Sisters, spiritual directors and lay ministers, the Cenacle is open to all people who are seeking God. Since 1958, a variety of renewal programs have been offered, including retreats based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, days of prayer, workshops, seminars and spiritual direction. Call (800) 699-4095.

Center of Jesus the Lord, New Orleans. A Catholic Charismatic Retreat Center and worshipping community. Several annual retreats offered throughout the year, as well as regular Life in the Holy Spirit and Growth in Spirit seminars. Call (504) 529-1636.

Christian Life Center, St. Benedict. Open to groups seeking peace and recollection in a monastic setting. St. Joseph Abbey is home to the Benedictine Monks, who conduct Retreat League Weekends about 26 times per year for men, women and married couples. Call (985) 892-3473.

Dominican Conference Center, New Orleans. Provides an uptown setting for spiritual renewal. Offers intensive journal workshops, spiritual direction and counseling. Retreat groups set their own goals and agenda. Call (504) 861-8711.

Jesuit Spirituality Center, Grand Coteau. Open to men and women of all faiths. Provides a quiet and restful environment for those seeking to listen to God and respond to God with generosity and openness through the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Year-round offerings of three-, five-, eight- and 30-day directed retreats, plus a wide variety of weekend programs and retreats are scheduled through the center. Call (337) 662-5251.

Lumen Christi Retreat Center, Schriever. Has offered spiritual renewal and such development options as women's and men's retreats, Teens Encounter Christ, Marriage Encounter weekends, First Friday Day of Prayer and Cursillos. Call (985) 868-1523.

Maryhill Renewal Center, Pineville. Open to men, women and youth of all faiths. Offers a variety of private, preached and AA retreats, as well as Charismatic Pentecost retreats. Call (318) 640-1378.

Our Lady of the Oaks Retreat House, Grand Coteau. Preached retreats for men, women and couples, which are facilitated by Jesuit priests and trained lay directors. Ample space for meditative walks among its oak trees. Call (337) 662-5410.

Sophie Barat House, New Orleans. Among its programs are group Scripture study, where participants meet monthly to explore various books of the Bible according to their literary characteristics; spiritual growth groups, which combine brief presentations on aspects of faith journey with quiet time and reflection focused on a yearly theme, which also meet monthly. Call (504) 899-6027.

St. Charles Center, Lake Charles. Opened in 1996 and operated by the Diocese of Lake Charles. Offers preached and directed retreats in addition to a variety of other programs. Staffed by spiritual directors and open to all denominations. Call (337) 855-1232.

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