



# aloysius alive

Vol. 27 No. 4

January/February 2012

## Stewardship

Time  
Talent  
Treasure



## Time to prayerfully consider 2012 offering

By Michael J. Acaldo

Although we are all called to follow in Christ's footsteps, each of us hears a different message. The message is unique to each of us, and how we respond is an expression of our faith.

God gave each of us a unique set of gifts and talents, and He calls us to use these to build His kingdom. As we begin a new year, each of us should make a resolution regarding our plan to follow the scriptural passage that says, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." This is the resolution of all resolutions; it's a call to greatness and a commitment to Christ.

In our St. Aloysius faith community, you can see the many ways that people express their faith. Whether it's through worship, ministry or prayer, our parish is coming together in a remarkable way, as each of us shares our God-given gifts. We see His hand in every good deed, every new project and initia-

tive. This is God working through us, and this is what stewardship is all about: using and sharing the gifts that God has given us. How we answer His call, how we share His blessings, the sacrifices we make for others – this is the ultimate expression of our faith.

We use three forms of stewardship to answer God's call, and over the last 12 months, our parish has made an effort to increase prayer and ministry in our faith community. Now we are beginning to focus on treasure, or offering. This is where, in addition to offering our time, prayer and ministry, we invest some of the financial resources that we have been blessed with. As each of us focuses on our personal spiritual growth, it's vitally important that we grow stronger in all phases of stewardship: prayer, ministry and offering.

I was asked by the Stewardship of Offering Committee to write

**Continued on page 3**

## Letter from the Pastor: Be Grateful for God's Blessings



It has been six months since I first arrived as pastor of St. Aloysius, and in this short time I have had the opportunity to witness God's magnificent grace that gives life to this parish. And I have also seen how you, my fellow parishioners, respond to this grace through your attentiveness to the interior life, your involvement in ministries, and your generous financial commitment to the parish. You are indeed good stewards of God's grace!

In the last few months, together we took time to review and either make or renew our commitments to prayer and ministry.

Let us now prayerfully consider the material blessings we have received from God and discern how best to express our gratitude to God for these blessings.

Stewardship of Offering is much more than meeting the needs of the parish. It is true that the parish needs money to operate our large campus; to offer opportunities for social fellowship, theological education and spiritual growth; to enable the school and the child care center to care for our children; to help those who are poor; to reach out to those who are sick and elderly; to share the Good News of God's love with those who are confused, lost or mired in despair. I can tell you that the parish needs a new administration build-

ing, a new child care center, more meeting space, etc. All of these needs are true – but that is not the focus of stewardship.

Stewardship focuses on God's gifts and blessings, a focus that leads us to acknowledge that we – you and I – have a need to give back to God a portion of what God has given us. The Mass's prayer of blessing accurately captures this: "Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received this bread [this wine] we offer you." Stewardship is offering to God what we've received from God in the first place. We embrace Stewardship of Offering not primarily because the parish needs money (although it does!), nor because we like the

pastor (although you should!), but because we have to give in order to be true to ourselves: grateful recipients of God's blessings.

It is said that a good way to assess realistically our commitment to God is to look at our calendar and our financial statement. These show, regardless of what we say or profess, what our priorities really are. They give a true picture of what we consider important enough to spend time and money on. This is the time to review our calendar, our checkbook, our credit card statement, etc. and see whether we have given back to God a portion of what he has given us, as an expression of our gratitude.

I pledge that, with the help

of the finance council, I will be a good steward of your offerings, using them wisely and responsibly to carry out the mission of St. Aloysius. I trust you are aware that as a parish, St. Aloysius also commits to tithing: 10% of our income is directed toward ministries to the poor, elderly, sick, homeless, etc. St. Aloysius is thankful and shows its thankfulness!

Stewardship, after all, whether personal or parochial, is really about gratefulness. And gratefulness is the heart of spirituality. Let us be spiritual together!

Fr. Than N. Vu

**St. Aloysius Church**  
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Baton Rouge, LA 70808

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## SJA/CHS Christmas Concert

St. Joseph's Academy and Catholic High School performed a joint holiday concert on Dec. 6 at St. Aloysius Church. The CHS/SJA Christmas Band Festival of Lessons and Carols featured the SJA/CHS symphonic and concert bands along with the St. Aloysius youth choir and school band.



## Girl Scout competes in robotics program

Lauren Stevens, a fourth-grader at St. Aloysius, participated in the 2011 LEGO League Food Factor competition, a robotics program for 9- to 16-year-olds designed to get children excited about science and technology.

Lauren and four other local Girl Scouts represented the Girl Scouts Louisiana East at the qualifying competition in November. The team qualified to move on to the state competition and received an additional award recognizing their excellent teamwork. The team was one of 60 to compete in the state competition, where the girls had a great time and learned to use various tools and resources to help solve everyday problems.

This is just one of the ways the Girl Scouts organization helps girls to become leaders in their communities.



*The 2012 Auction Committee  
Needs Committee Chairs & Volunteers*

*If you would like to participate please  
Contact: [Eva Ventress @eva@theintegralgroup.net](mailto:Eva.Ventress@eva@theintegralgroup.net)*

*Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*

**Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2012**


After your Mardi Gras celebration, please join us for Mass on Ash Wednesday as we begin our Lenten observance. Masses with the Distribution of Ashes will be celebrated at 6 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, and 6 p.m.

**Daily Liturgy Schedule during Lent:**

Monday ..... 6 a.m. Mass  
 Tuesday ..... 8 a.m. Mass  
 Wednesday ..... 6 a.m. Mass  
 Thursday ..... 8 a.m. Mass  
 Friday ..... 8:45 a.m. Mass (8 a.m. on Feb. 24)  
 Saturday ..... 8:00 a.m. Mass in Parish Admin Chapel

**Stations of the Cross:**

Each Friday of Lent: 8 a.m. (on Feb. 24 after the 8 a.m. Mass) and at 5:30 p.m.




### ST. ALOYSIUS HONDURAN MISSION HEALTH-EDUCATION-FARM

*Ever been interested in helping abroad?*

We invite you to join with us on our spiritual journey to experience the deep faith of the Honduran people. Together we walk with our brothers and sisters who live in tremendous poverty. The mission work focuses on a medical & dental clinic, a boarding school for underprivileged girls, and an organic farm that are all run by The Dominican Sisters of the Presentation in Guaimaca, Honduras.

Join us for an informational meeting on Sunday February 12th at 4pm in the The House on Mimosa Street.

If you have questions please contact Alvin Raetzsch at [raetzsch@gmail.com](mailto:raetzsch@gmail.com) or call [225-341-2265](tel:225-341-2265)



## Mass Schedule

**SATURDAY**  
 8 a.m. Mass, Vigil 4:30 p.m.  
**SUNDAY**  
 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.  
**HOLY DAYS**  
 Schedule will be announced  
**DAILY MASSES**  
 Monday & Wednesday, 6 a.m.  
 Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday, 8 a.m.  
 Fridays during school months, 8:45 a.m.

**RECONCILIATION:** Saturday at 3:30 p.m. and by appointment for private rite.

**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 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**NURSERY/CHILDCARE CENTER:**  
 For information, phone 343-1338,  
 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. 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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# We are all stewards and witnesses to God's kingdom

Dear Friends:

*Stewardship* refers to a way of life – an approach to the gifts that God has bestowed upon us. It is living out a commitment to be Christ-centered rather than self-centered. Good stewardship extends beyond making donations or caring for a physical plant and grounds. It is a genre of spirituality and a way of life. With stewardship, we recognize that all that we “possess” is truly a gift of God, and we accept these gifts with gratitude; we accept the responsibility to cultivate these gifts appropriately; we share them lovingly with others as a means of justice, recognizing that one day we will stand before the Lord in a spirit of accountability.

Such stewardship is not just some modern invention, but instead it has biblical roots. From the earliest stories of the Old Testament – such as when Adam is given dominion over all the animals of creation, through Cain's violation of stewardship, to the promise of Abraham – the story of salvation is a story of God making humanity stewards of His creation. Jesus, too, was a steward. Not only was his life a testimony of good use of God's gifts, but his teachings (and yes, especially particular parables!) show us how to make stewardship practical and possible.

Our stewardship begins with our initiation in the Church in Baptism. We become followers of Christ and recognize that good use of our gifts is possible and indeed rewarding. In Baptism we die with Christ, but this commitment is not an easy one, for it requires sacrifice and action on our part. In this sacrament of initiation, we rise again to new life with him. By following the example of Jesus, we have a model of true sacrifice for the greater good of the community.

There is no set “model” of stewardship. However, we must recognize everything as a gift from God, not only those material things that keep us secure. Faith, hope and love are all gifts from God too and should be managed by good stewardship. This rule is also true of our family and relationships, our imagination, our talents and our gifts. Such blessings give us an opportunity and a responsibility to share wisely those gifts with which God continues to sustain us. We use these gifts to evangelize the world with the Good News of the Gospel, embracing the social teaching of the Church by protecting our environment, upholding the dignity of life and preaching God's redemption to the marginalized.

Above all, stewardship begins with conversion: a change of one's mind and heart. This is never expressed in a single action but begins by altering our way of life and committing oneself to the Lord and to the Gospel.

Priests are called to be good stewards too! Every priest is entrusted with the responsibility of developing and enriching his own priestly life and ministry and for contributing to the unity and well-being of the presbyterate as a whole. A bishop is responsible for creating an environment of support at the diocesan level in which each priest may most effectively fulfill this two-fold responsibility. Priests are essential stewards, and with our local Church's growing shortage of priests, wise use of their gifts and talents is becoming more essential to maintain a viable sacramental presence for the people of southeast Louisiana. To assure that priests remain essential and valued resources for the building of the kingdom of God, creativity, flexibility and accountability become crucial. The notion of who the priest is has to be examined, and traditional models of priesthood might need to be scrutinized in order to effectively use priestly resources. A model of priesthood based on stewardship will undoubtedly enhance the contribution and frugal use of priestly resources now and in the future as we creatively collaborate to solve our vocation dilemma.

At St. Aloysius, we once again start our season of recommitment to good stewardship by first focusing on the material gifts that God has given us. Are you ready to embrace this radical call to a new way of life? Let us pray that we become healthy and effective stewards and witnesses to God's Kingdom:

*Lord God, you bestow us with many gifts throughout our life, and you call us to accept and use these gifts with gratitude. We respond by accepting your generosity and our responsibility to cultivate these gifts appropriately. You call us to share these gifts lovingly with others as a means of justice in our cooperation with your plan of salvation.*

*We, your people, gathered today are followers of your Son and his radical approach to sharing your plan for creation. We recommit ourselves to our baptismal call to sacrifice for the greater good and the glory of your name.*

*Help us to use wisely our gifts of faith and hope, joy and love, family and relationships, time, talent and treasure. May we use these gifts to evangelize the world with the Good News of the Gospel and come to a greater conversion of our own minds and hearts, a call not expressed in a single action, but in a dramatically altered way of life, committed to You and to Your Word! AMEN!*

Blessings Galore!  
Fr. Jamin

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.

(MT 16:24)

“From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.”

(Luke 12:48)

“Do good, be rich in good works, be generous, ready to share, thus accumulating as treasure a good foundation for the future, so as to win the life that is true life.”

(1 Timothy 6:18)

## Stewardship From Page 1

this article to encourage you to continue your commitment to prayer and ministry; to thank you for all that you've done in the past; and to ask you to prayerfully consider your stewardship of offering commitment for 2012. When you receive the stewardship-of-offering letter, please see it as an invitation

to prayerfully reflect on your financial commitment to the parish. Fill out the pledge card and send it in, or place it in the offertory basket during our Stewardship of Offering Weekend.

Your commitment will help us to continue to grow and prosper as a faith community, but it is also

an important part of your personal spiritual growth. The way you respond to Christ's call can strengthen your own faith and serve as an inspiration to others. Our spiritual journeys are not always easy, but the path that lies before us is clearly marked. All we have to do is follow in His footsteps.

### 2012 ST. ALOYSIUS PARISH STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARD

In prayerful reflection, I/we plan to make a financial commitment to the parish as follows:

Begin a new commitment to regular offertory in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ per  week  month  year.

Begin a new commitment to Master Plan Building Fund in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ per  month  year.

**If you would like to BEGIN A NEW DEBIT or to revise the amount of the debit to your account on a monthly basis, please complete a bank draft form and return to the parish as soon as possible.**

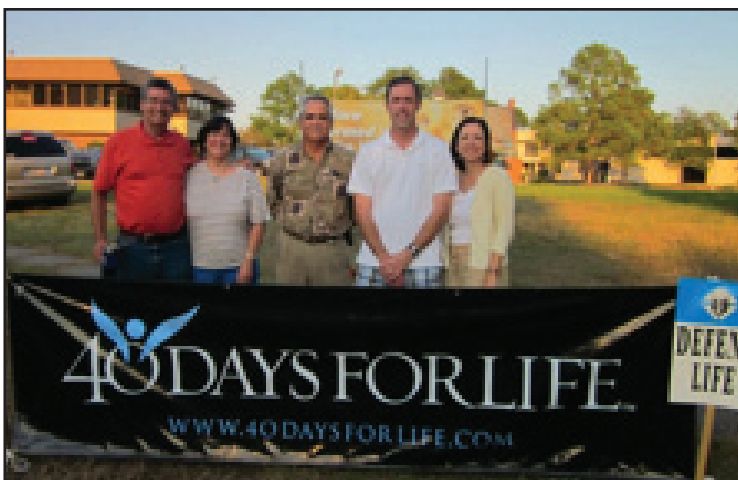
With the realization that this commitment is solely with God, I/we sign this card as an act of faith and thanksgiving, for the Lord's generous blessings.

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

*Return this copy to St. Aloysius at 2025 Stuart Ave., B.R., LA 70808 or place in the weekly offertory collection.*



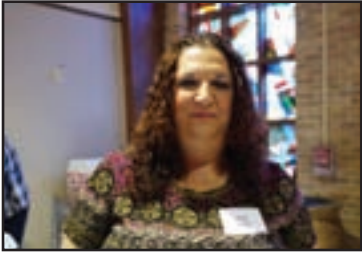
## Making a Difference

Sponsored by the Social Responsibility's Dignity of Life Committee and the Knights of Columbus, St. Aloysius took part in the 40 Days for Life Campaign in front of Delta's Clinic Oct. 25 and Nov. 4. During those 40 days, at least five women changed their minds and decided to keep their babies and not abort. One of those women changed her mind the day St. Aloysius was out there.

Prayer works! Thanks to all who participated, and know that you have made a difference.

# Fall Welcoming Luncheon

A warm welcome to St. Aloysius Parish was extended to our new parishioners. New members were treated to a lunch catered by Heads and Tails Restaurant on Nov. 13. Our parish family has grown by adding 23 new families. Please be sure to welcome our new members in church and in our ministries. A special "thank you" to the Welcoming Committee, which put together the wonderful luncheon.



Patty Kelly



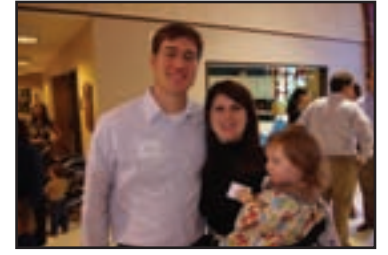
Mason and Managan Johnson with son Theodore



Jonathan and Kacie Owens



Christopher and Erin Christensen



Adrian and Lindsey Aucoin with daughter Claire



Gabe Bourgeois



Jonathan and Maria Perilloux



Gerald and Becky Calegan



Dana Broussard and son Jude



The Fahr Family



The LeBlanc Family



Michael, Rachel and Tripp Chustz



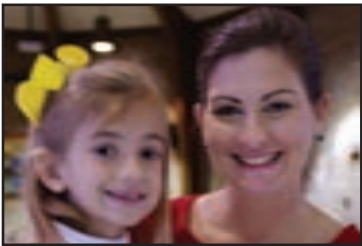
Tuan, Allison and Addison Pham



Matt Duplechain and Kathryn Coreil



Ethan and Allison Bush with Ethan Jr.



Missy and Olivia Judice



Dexter, Kiki and Jacob Fontenot



Blake and Katherine May with son Parker



Joan Bringaze



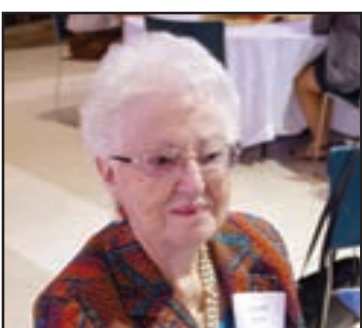
Darin, Patricia and Nicole Mann



Scott and Preston Thompson



The Fluker Family



Janith Garon

## A Feast of Meanings

**WHAT:**  
An Adult Formation Gathering Aimed At Building a Theology of the Eucharist

**WHO:**  
Anyone Interested in Learning More About Their Faith

**WHERE:**  
St. Aloysius Catholic Church Parish Hall  
2025 Stuart Ave, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

**WHEN:**  
Tuesdays or Wednesdays in January and February 2012 from 7:00PM-8:00PM  
(See Details on the Right)

**QUESTIONS?**  
Call Deacon John or Fr. Jamin at the Parish Office at 225.343.6657

**Session I: Enjoying the Biblical Spread:**  
The Scriptural Notion of Eucharist  
Presented By Fr. Jamin David, Wed., 11 January 2012

**Session II: Sumptuous, But Diverse:**  
The Historical Development of Eucharistic Theology  
Presented By Ann Schneller, Wed., 18 January 2012

**Session III: The Banquet of All Banquets:**  
A Practical Eucharistic Theology  
Presented By Sr. Cynthia Sabathier, Wed., 25 January 2012

**Session IV: Preparing and Celebrating the Feast:**  
The Eucharist in Liturgical Worship  
Presented By Ken Thevenet, Tues., 31 January 2012

**Session V: A Smorgasbord for the Soul:**  
Developing a Eucharistic Spirituality  
Presented By Fr. Than Vu, Wed., 08 February 2012

**Session VI: A Fete For All:**  
Understanding Social Justice Rooted in the Eucharist  
Presented By Deacon John Veron, Wed., 15 February 2012