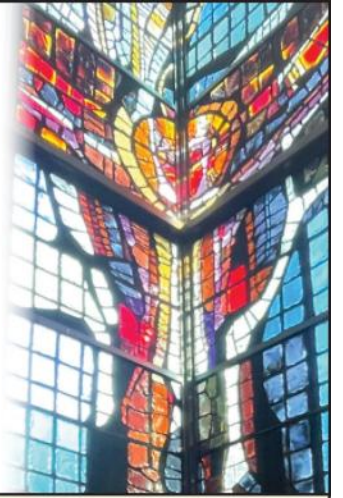




St. Alphonsus Liguori Catholic Church

One Family United in Christ



December 22, 2024

Volume 16, Issue 51

The Fourth Sunday of Advent & The Nativity of the Lord

*"O Lord of hosts, look down from heaven and see; take care of this vine,
and protect what your right hand has planted." – Psalm 80:15-16*



Merry Christmas

Christmas Eve - Tuesday, December 24, 2024

Vigil Masses in the Church at 4 PM, 6 PM and 8 PM

Christmas Day - Wednesday, December 25, 2024

Masses in the Church at 12 AM (Midnight), 8 AM & 10 AM

*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,
which means "God is with us."*

**Don't forget to sign up for a
family photography time slot
December 21-22 after Masses
in the Gather Space.**



STAFF DIRECTORY

CLERGY

Pastor	Rev. Jason Palermo jpalermo@diobr.org
Permanent Deacon	Robert Kusch rkusch@diobr.org
Permanent Deacon	Ronnie Hebert rhebert@diobr.org

CHURCH STAFF

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Maintenance	Mark Mitchell maintenance@alphonsus.org
Custodian	Michelle Morgan

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH OFFICE

13940 Greenwell Springs Rd, Greenwell Springs, LA 70739
 Office Phone – 225-261-4650 Fax – 225-261-5650
 Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 AM-4:30 PM
 Faith Formation Office Phone – 225-261-4644
 Faith Formation Office Hours: Tues.- Fri. 8:30 AM-4:30 PM
 Church Website: www.alphonsus.org
 Church Facebook: St. Alphonsus Liguori Catholic Church
 Church Twitter & Instagram: @StAlphonsus_BR

ST. ALPHONSUS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Principal	Kristy Monsour kmonsour@stalphonsusbr.org
Assistant Principal	Kristin Tate ktate@stalphonsusbr.org

13940 Greenwell Springs Rd, Greenwell Springs, LA 70739
 School Office— 225-261-5299 Cafeteria— 225-261-4157
 School Website: www.stalphonsusbr.org

Fr. Jason's Wishful Thinking: Christmas Updates & Fireworks Sale

As we get closer to Christmas, I wanted to update you on three projects that I have been working on behind the scenes.

(1) Many people have been wondering about my Christmas village display, which is a 33-year tradition in my family. This year, it has been very difficult to get it ready, as everything was moved from French Settlement to Central, and it is like putting together a three-dimensional puzzle. I have been having to hunt for pieces each time that I have a few hours in the evening to work on it before going to bed. You will only be able to see 1/3 of the village this year. We'll work on the other scenes of the Christmas village for next year when I am more settled.

(2) Right now, I am quite busy with annulment work. If you have called me for help with your annulment, please know that I have not forgotten about you... but I invest about eight hours of time into each one, and this time is spread over a few appointments with each person that I am helping. I have 13 of them on my desk right now at various stages of preparation to be sent to the Tribunal. So please be patient with me if you are wanting to work on an annulment.

(3) Finally, I want to tell you about my obsession with fireworks. Fourteen years ago, I began a fireworks sale at St. Joseph Church in French Settlement to help pay off the construction debt on their new church built in 2006. We paid it off six years early; and since then, the fireworks sale has allowed us to accomplish several other large building projects, including a whole building just for the fireworks sale (which is climate-controlled).

I see this fundraiser as a way that can benefit our church & school, too... Perhaps fireworks are part of your family traditions surrounding holidays. East Baton Rouge Parish has strict laws about the sale, delivery, and discharge of fireworks within the parish, but I can offer you the ability to purchase them through St. Joseph Church in French Settlement and also coordinate delivery of your purchase on the Livingston Parish side of Magnolia Beach bridge.

When we started this fundraiser, we decided to price our fireworks with a 114% mark-up, when the normal profit margin is 200-300%. Some stands have certain "loss leaders" advertised to get you into the store or tent (e.g. "Buy 1, Get 3 Free"). At St. Joseph, we believe in selling ALL of our fireworks with a consistent profit margin so it is all transparent, and the price includes the sales tax, merchant transaction fees (for credit/debit card purchases), and the transportation costs from our wholesalers. Therefore, I estimate that you will save between 30-40% on your fireworks if you purchase through St. Joseph Church. If you don't believe me, feel free to bring our price sheet to any fireworks vendor or online merchant and compare.

Meanwhile, 42% of your total purchase price will go to St. Alphonsus School (or the church, if you prefer). The school is not taxed the same way that the church is taxed on fundraising income. Ordering with us is simple.

(1) Mark the quantity desired on the price sheet that you will find in the Gather Space or through the school memo.

(2) Fill out the contact information on page two.
 (3) Take a clear picture of both pages and send it via text to (225) 205-4757.

(4) I will contact you with any discrepancies/shortages, arrange payment (we take cash, credit cards, Venmo, etc.) and also schedule a delivery time with you. We will meet on the Livingston Parish side of the Amite River for delivery.

Thank you for your consideration and openness to this creative way of fundraising. If you would like to help with the fireworks sale, please call me at (225) 205-4757. As this will be our first Christmas/New Year doing this as a joint venture, please be patient as we work out the inventory and supply needs. I see this as a great cooperative venture between St. Joseph & St. Alphonsus for years to come.

Sincerely,
 Fr. Jason

**PARISH WEEKLY CALENDAR:
 DECEMBER 21-29, 2024**

Saturday	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass <i>Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest - S.F. Parish Pictorial Photo Appt. Sign-up - G.S.</i>
Sunday	The Fourth Sunday of Advent 8 AM, 10 AM & 12 PM Masses	<i>Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest - S.F. Parish Pictorial Photo Appt. Sign-up - G.S.</i>
Monday	<i>Church Office Closes at 1 PM</i>	
Tuesday	Christmas Eve	<i>Church Office Closed</i> 3:00 PM Chancel Choir Concert 4:00 PM Vigil Mass 6:00 PM Women of Faith - St. Matthew 6:30 PM Men's Scripture - C.R. 6:30 PM Grief Support - S.C.
Wednesday	Christmas Day	<i>Church Office Closed</i> 12:00 AM Midnight Mass 8:00 AM Mass 10:00 AM Mass
Thursday	<i>Church Office Closed</i> 8:30 AM Mass	
Friday	<i>Church Office Closes at 1 PM</i> 8:30 AM Mass	
Saturday	9:30 AM	Corpus Christi Prayer - St. Luke
	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sunday	The Holy Family 8 AM, 10 AM & 12 PM Masses	

MISSION STATEMENT
St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish celebrates the living waters of Christ by nourishing our Catholic community spiritually and academically so that Christ may be known in our world.

MASS SCHEDULE



Weekend Masses
 Saturday Vigil 4:00 PM
 Sunday 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM & 12:00 PM

Live Stream
 Sunday 10:00 AM on Facebook & YouTube

Daily Masses
 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 8:30 AM
 Novena on Tuesday 8:30 AM
 Respect Life Rosary on Thursday after Daily Mass

Holy Day Masses
 As Announced

Children's Liturgy of the Word
 For children in kindergarten through second grade.

SACRAMENTS & RESOURCES

Baptism
 Contact Margaret Garza at the Parish Office in the early months of pregnancy for dates and preparation requirements.

Reconciliation
 Saturday 3:00 PM and by appointment

Christian Initiation of Adults
 If interested in becoming Catholic and want more information on the process, call the Formation Office at 225-261-4644.

Marriage
 Contact Sara Puissegur at the Parish Office six months to one year prior to projected wedding date for information concerning preparation programs.

Anointing of the Sick
 You can receive this sacrament during a serious illness, before a major surgery, or for spiritual and mental healing. Contact the Parish Office for more information.

Funerals
 Contact Margaret Garza at the Parish Office for arrangement information.

Formed
 Go to formed.org, find St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish, and enjoy access to this free online Catholic gateway.

Prayer Line
 Beverly Heil 225-772-4278
 Gloria Jones 225-337-8929

WORSHIP

Readings for the Week - Dec. 22-29

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4, 5, 27 and 29;
Lk 1:67-79

Wednesday: Vigil Mass: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29;
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or Mt 1:18-25
Mass during the Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13;
Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Mass during the Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6;
Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

Friday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a and 2-8

Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7-cd-8; Mt 2:13-18

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Col 3:12-21 or
3:12-17 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

Featured Saint of the Week

St. Lorenzo Ruiz (1600-1637)

Feast Day: September 28

Lorenzo was born in Manila of mixed heritage; his mother was Filipino and his father was of Chinese descent. Both of his parents were devout converts to Christianity, instilling the same devotion and values into their son.



Lorenzo worked at his local parish church, and he also had a government job. As a respected member of the community, he had a wife and three children, plus he was an active member of the Confraternity of the Holy Rosary, a lay organization.

In 1636 he was implicated in the murder of a Spaniard. The police issued a warrant for his arrest, but because of his heritage, Lorenzo was quite concerned that he would not be treated justly.

Knowing that some priests were leaving the country, Lorenzo and 3 Dominican priests boarded a ship that he thought was headed to Macau, a Portuguese colony in China. Unfortunately, the ship's actual destination was Japan. Upon their arrival, they were immediately arrested for the crime of being Christians. Christianity had recently become illegal in Japan, and the government was heavily involved in hellish persecutions.

The 4 men endured hideous tortures; then the government offered freedom if they would renounce their faith. Lorenzo's response was: "I am a Christian and this I profess until the hour of my death and for God I will give my life..."

A year later Lorenzo along with his priest friends were bound, and hanged upside down. This too had a special intentionally tortuous aspect, in that it would take at least 2 days of excruciating pain before they would succumb to death.

Lorenzo was about 37 when he died; he is the first Filipino saint and martyr. When canonized in 1987, it was the first time a canonization ceremony took place outside of the Vatican.

OUTREACH

Rest in Peace

Carl Guidry - *Father of Tommy (Margaret) Guidry.*

Serving Our Country

If you know someone serving in the military, please call the Church Office at 261-4650, and let us know their information.

ARMY: Major Chad A. Alford, Warrant Officer Jody K. Hunt, Capt. Brian C. Greco, Sergeant Charles N. Garner, Lt. Col. Keith Madere, Brian D. Duvic, Chief Warrant Officer Ryan Martin, PFC Jacob Fontenot, SPC Kory A. Nijoka, SPC Quillan McMillan, SPC Nathan Casselberry, Sgt. Natalie Arceneaux

LA NATIONAL GUARD: Captain Jacob Haynes, PVT Joshua T. Marchand, Leah Gil

AIR FORCE: Senior Airman Madison T. Polk, SSgt. Kristin A. Nijoka, Capt. Kyle Holifield, Major Vincent "Trey" Levraea, SSG Daniel Carter, TSgt. Danny Hausse

NAVY: Com. Glenn P. Lumpkin, Jr., Chad Domm, AD3 Tyler Comeaux, MMA3 Daniel Wesley, GM3 (SW/AW) Seth Minard, Seaman E4 3rd Class PE Evan Hayes, HM3 Bret Burns, HN2 Jacques Bourgeois

U.S. MARINE CORPS: Major Blaine Ballard, Tyler Datz, Eric Vlahos, Lance Corp. Mahala Hausse, Lance Corporal Kristian Morris

U.S. COAST GUARD: EM2 Dylan Lirette, EM4 Kobe Naquin

Pray for the Sick

Please note: *Names are removed after 8 weeks.*

Vickie Calamia, Tracy Yochim, Freida & Ellis Scallan, Richard White, Chris Weibelt, Jeanette Felps, Al Felps, Kevin Nicosia, David Lonibos, Joy Lonibos, Glenda Bringol, Jan Bankston, Harrison Simpson, Cathey Chustz, John Nicosia, Homer Brown, Vance & Olivia Thomas, Matthew Chambers, Ryan Babin, Andy Juneau, Jennifer McMillan, Jason Lasseigne, Feltus Templet, Mike Wilson, Lucille Dickerson, Belinda Marretta, Angela Geautreau, Karen Rabalais, Krysta Brown, Pat Matthews, Sharon Leod, Jaycee Richard, Gary Saucier, Alexander Landry, Sally Stears, Monica Kelly, Devin Mounce, Chris Bringol, Daniel Guerin, Datz Family, Schittone Family, Catherine Willis, Lynette Shaffett, Larry Bueche, Ashley Smith, Chris Dickerson, Jackie Scardina, Fisk Morris, Mollea Hood, Michael Morales, Theresa Ognibene, John Larkin, Briggs Elliser, Anita Bueche, Jamie Samson, Kathy Madere, Krystal Feltman, Melanie Way, Sandy Dares, Ashlynn Ferguson, Carolyn Rogillio, Patsy York, Angie Welsh, Lynette Lemoine, Chris Hobkirk, Patrick Bourgeois, Holly Hart, Jeff Ferguson, Patsy Sagona, Dammers Family, Debbie Mouton, Marion Robillard, Ron Dodson, Stevie Calverley, Luke Allen, Blanche Hoover, Marlene Ortego, Claudia Mouton, Jackie Pina, Ashley Nix, Donna Hebert, Bill Witt, Priscilla Perez, Charlotte St. Romain, Brenda Lovett, Karen Rabalais, Sonya Guedry, Marie Chamberlin, Ramona Hartman, Lucky Ross, Melise Efferson, Angelo Silvio, Christopher Silvio, Mona Miller, Mark Mitchell, Lori LeSage Gautreaux, Ruth Riddle, Fr. Tom Duhe, Cindy Vavasseur

Christmas Flowers Offering In Memory Of



Thank you to all who have contributed to the cost of Christmas flowers this year.
 If your envelope was received by December 8, your "In Memory Of" is listed below.
 If received after December 9, the names on your envelope will appear in a later bulletin.

Harry Accardo	Elvin & Connie Catleth	Bill Hubbs	Jimmy Rispone
Helene Accardo	Laura & Joe Cazes	Lily Mae Hubbs	Sam & Rosalie Rispone
Phillip & Mary Accardo	Mr. & Mrs. Howard Chiasson	W.S. Hubbs	Romano Family
Jamie Altazin	Cifreo & Williams Family	Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Hutchinson	Lynn & Mary Ross
Ellen T. Amy	Lee & Mary Lee Cifreo	& Family	Marilyn Roussel
Arledge Family	Lester & Smokeye Cifreo	C.J. & Nina Istre	Myra Istre Saltzman
Jean Armand	Stephen Cifreo	Elsie Rose Istre	Jim & Sheila Saucier
Mr. & Mrs. Alton Ashford	Andrew & Elodie Clouatre	Adolph & Verna Jarreau	Scardina Family
Josie & W. Augustine	Mr. & Mrs. Wilburn Coates	Dylan Kabel	Bill Sevario
Arnaud & Grace Aymond	Cowart & Malloy Family	Amelia & Louis Komendo	Ronnie Sharon
Balado Family	Charles D. Cowart	Edna & John Komendo	Ivy & Ruby Shows
Len & Betty Bales	Mr. & Mrs. Elrick Courville	Harleigh & Honey Komendo	Maude Sibley
Elizabeth M. Bankston	Deedre Crawford	T.P. Komendo I, II & III	Silvio & Dillard Family
Addie Batten	Bing Crowell	Rosemary A. LaFleur	Anna Marie Silvio
Joe & Frances Bellina	Ben & Vivian Daigle	Mr. & Mrs. Martin Laird	Stacey Silvio
Sam Bellina	Todd Daigle	Mr. & Mrs. Teleson Lambert	Kathy & Berry Smith
Sammy Bellina	Mr. & Mrs. Ruffin Debetaz	C.J. Landry	Theresa Soileau
Sue & Roland Bercegeay	Ida deLanevuville	Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Landry	Stellman Family
Joseph S. Beregi, Jr.	I.L. Demoulin & Family	Linda Landry	Josephine Stieber
Billy Bezdek	Denicola Family	P.M. & Vera Landry	Wallace Stieber
Evelyn & Frank Bond	Michael Dickens	Johnny Lato	William Stieber
Camile & Belle Bordelon	Henry Doyle	Steve Lato	Strader Family
Boudreaux & Bourgeois Family	Rose Doyle	Lemoine Family	Mr. & Mrs. Luther Sullivan
Jocelyn Bourgeois	Bryan K. Drago	Mr. & Mrs. Howard Lemoine	Pierce Summers
Raymond & Barbara Bourgeois	Deidra Duncan	Gloria & Donald LeSage	Kenneth Talbot
Theresa Bourgeois	Helen Duplessis	John & Ida LeSage	Margaret Templet
Tula Bourgeois	James R. Fabre	John & Sarah LoBue	O.J. "Tut" Templet
Mr. & Mrs. Skylar Brassette	Dale Felps	Clarence Lorio, Sr.	Frances & John Terbot
George & Aunnie Lee Braud	Rev. James J. Finnegan	Dean & Rachel Lorio	Edora Thibodeaux
Bringhurst Family Deceased	Hazel & Clement Freeman	Laurence Lorio	Elmo Thibodeaux
James Bringhurst	Bruce Gauthier	Carey Lowe	Michael W. Thibodeaux
Beverly Broussard	Mona Gauthier	Monachello Family	Thompson Family
Christopher M. Broussard	Bill & Clelia Gautreau	John Mangano	Frances & Marlin Thompson
Curtis & Geraldine Brown	Steve Gautreau	Mary & J.T. Mangano	Wilba & Gladys Thompson
Donald Brown	J.C. George	Weber Mansur	Nina Varner
Tony & Terry Brown	Nona George	Mayeaux Family	Vicknair & Lambert Family
Browning & Reames Family	Gerald Family	Everett & Lillian Mayeaux	Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Vicknair
Buckley Family	Giambrone Family	Floyd & Vera McGehee, Sr.	Marshall Vince
Gerald Bueche	Agnes Goudeau	Bobby McGuire	Mary L. Vince
Corey Buhler	Joe Goudeau	Mike McIntosh	Pete Vince
Delmar Buhler	William Goudeau	Josie Michelli	Delphia Vincent
Uncle Jr., Mark, Ricky, Tim & Ken Buhler	Diana Graham	Mitchel Family	Joseph P. Vincent, Sr.
Matt Buhler	William Graham, Jr.	Neck Family	Charles & Mildred Viccinelli
Rita Burleigh	Alice & Dennis Granier	Bob and Helen Nelson	Michael Viccinelli
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Gladys Cannella	Joseph Guerin	Alcide & Laura Oubre	Michael Watson
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Cannella	Ivan & Irma Guidry	Vince & Frances Paola	Maurice & Barbara Whitcomb
Nell Cannella	Ivan Guidry, Jr.	Phil & Stella Peck	Barbara Vincinelli Williams
Sammie Cannella	Gene Hebert	Bill Poche	Lloyd & Frances Williams
Carmena Family	Helen Hebert	Frank & Claudine Polito	Mary Williams
Pete & Nora Carmona	Mark A. Hebert	Greg & Laura Rabalais	
	Paul Hebert	Mr. & Mrs. Lemie Rabalais	

COMMUNITY LIFE

Ladies Altar Society

The ladies enjoyed their December Luncheon Meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 10 at the Parish Activity Center. *Photos submitted by Juanita Ross.*



Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest

The entire parish is invited to view all poster contest submissions and vote for your favorites on the weekend of December 21-22 in the St. Francis Room. The winners will be announced and displayed on December 28-29, 2024.



FORMATION

First Reconciliation

1st Reconciliation books are due the week of December 20, 2024. The date for the Sacrament of 1st Reconciliation is: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 St. Alphonsus Church at 7:00 PM

Adult Confirmation

Adult Confirmation preparation will begin January 7th with candidate interviews. Sessions begin Tuesday, January 14, 2025. If you or someone you know is interested in Confirming contact the Faith Formation Office for more information 261-4644.

St. Joseph's Altar Donations Needed

If you would like to help bake cookies our dates are: 1/18, 1/20, 1/25 and 2/1 (contingency date) in the school cafeteria at 9 AM. We are also in need of the following ingredients to make enough cookies for the altar. Please sign up on Flocknote. We need the ingredients here by January 9 at 1 PM.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 170 lbs. of flour | 1 cases of dried Figs |
| 50 lbs. of Sugar | 50 lbs. of Pecans |
| 352 oz. of Maraschino Cherries | 80 oz. of Dates |
| 26 dozen Eggs | 229 oz. of Raisins |
| 75 lbs. Powdered Sugar | 15 lbs. of Fresh Navel Oranges |
| 10 pints of Fig preserves | |

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

We pray our parish family has a Merry Christmas & safe New Year.

ST. ALPHONSUS T.O.T
TRIVIA NIGHT
 Test Your Catholic Knowledge & Win a Prize

Sunday, January 12
 in the Parish Activity Center.
 Doors open at 6 PM.
 Dinner included.

Nursery provided with RSVP.

For registration & further information, go to www.alphonsus.org



ADMINISTRATION

Gifts of Stewardship

For December 7-8, 2024,
your *Stewardship* resulted in:

Weekly Collection

Envelopes	\$ 15,310.11
Unidentified	\$ 1,403.00
Parish Soft	\$ 12,980.50

Building/Maintenance Fund

Envelopes	\$ 1,225.00
Parish Soft	\$ 1,945.00

New Parish Activity Center

Envelopes	\$ 990.00
Parish Soft	\$ 1,320.28

<u>Children</u>	\$ 85.00
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<u>Christmas Flowers</u>	\$ 1,182.00
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<u>Christmas Offering</u>	\$ 90.00
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<u>Immaculate Conception</u>	\$ 1,182.00
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<u>Retirement Fund for Religious</u>	\$ 295.00
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<u>Total Received</u>	\$ 38,712.00
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<u>SVDP Thanksgiving</u>	\$ 1,460.00
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<u>SVDP Building Project</u>	\$ 2,655.00
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A Note to our Generous Donors

As Christmas approaches, we want to wish all of our parishioners and visitors a joyous holiday season. This is a time when many people come to church and are extra generous, and we are so appreciative of every contribution made to our parish.

As we have multiple "building" collections at this time, our staff wanted to make sure everyone is carefully labeling their donations to ensure they go into the fund you want, especially if you are not utilizing the monthly envelope packet.

If you want to donate to the Building & Maintenance Fund, please make sure you note **Maintenance Fund** on the check's memo line or the front of the envelope.

If your donation is for your pledge for the Parish Activity Center's Generation to Generation Campaign, please make sure you write **PAC** on the check's memo line or the envelope, not just building.

We are also collecting donations for a new St. Vincent de Paul Building. There is no envelope for this currently. If you would like your donation to go toward this project, please make sure your check or envelope has **SVDP Building** on it.

If you are not receiving a monthly church envelope packet and would like to begin receiving envelopes, please contact Krystal at the Church Office at 225-261-4650. Using your church envelopes helps to ensure your donations go into the correct funds. If you turn in your donations in a plain envelope, please make sure your first and last name and address are written on the front. This will ensure that your donation will be recorded to the correct account and included in your tax donation letter.



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