

June 23, 2024

Volume 16, Issue 25

The Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Whoever is in Christ is a new creation."

- 2 Corinthians 5:17



53 Years of Dedication and Service

Many of us are familiar with the history of Fr. Mike's coming to the United States, settling in Louisiana, serving several parishes, and making countless connections and friends during his 53-year tenure as a priest. What some do not know is how and why this came to be.

Having parents that were strong mentors and influences in his life, he witnessed firsthand their constant works of mercy. He also worked for Patsy Doyle, an Irish native, who was an Assistant Superintendent in the construction field with a desire to help and serve others. Noting the extreme dedication these folks had to helping others, it is no wonder that the seed was planted for him to do the same. He began his training for the priesthood at age 21. Bishop Tracey, Bishop Border, Vocations Director, and then Fr. Stanley Ott had Irish connections, and upon visiting with Fr. Mike, they convinced him Louisiana was where he was needed to serve.

One thing that stands out in Fr. Mike's mind about his introduction to Louisiana was the hospitality given to him upon his arrival. He immediately knew he had landed amid a special community. He vowed to learn how to pronounce local family names and was determined to get to know his church family. In doing so, he became one of us! He enjoys the lifestyle that is similar to what he remembers from growing up in Ireland. The relaxed attitude of Louisiana life, story-telling, and the folklore of people sharing life events is unique.

The sentiment of being so "welcomed" into Louisiana has become something ingrained in Fr. Mike's everyday life. His mantra "All Are Welcome" is a direct result of how he felt when he came to St. Alphonsus. With open arms and hearts, he says he was wholeheartedly accepted and welcomed by all of us when he joined our parish 17 years ago.

When asked what his greatest rewards in serving parishioners were, he immediately knew it was being a part of their lives—being there for them in whatever capacity necessary. When presiding over funerals, though emotional and sad, he had the opportunity to offer solace, comfort, and support to those family members he had grown to know and love. Baptisms, weddings, and joyous celebrations were also the times that he fondly remembers.

To those young men who are now seminarians, Fr. Mike has these words of wisdom to offer: With the world ever changing, and changing so quickly, you should focus on the life of service ahead of you. Life changes daily. We all face challenging moments constantly. Be open to change and ready to adjust and adapt to each situation. Learn from the challenges. Be a good listener!

Always promoting vocations, Fr. Mike still has regular breakfast meetings with the youth in our middle school to encourage them to continue serving the Lord through vocations.

Like many of us who pray to the saints, Fr. Mike has two patron saints he has called upon to guide him throughout this journey, St. Patrick and St. Joseph. St. Patrick brought Christianity to the island of Ireland and used the shamrock to illustrate the Christian teaching of three persons in one God. St. Joseph is known as the patron saint of fathers, families, virgins, workers, especially carpenters, expectant mothers, and unborn children. Mimicking St. Joseph the worker, Fr. Mike was always eager to be part of the work efforts at our annual auction and festivals. (Continued inside bulletin on page 4)

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ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH OFFICE

14040 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 Dr. Cynthia Ryals cryals@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

School Facebook: St. Alphonsus Catholic School

PARISH WEEKLY CALENDAR: JUNE 22 - JUNE 30, 2024

Saturday	9:30 AM 4:00 PM	Corpus Christi Prayer - S.J. Vigil Mass		
	5:00 PM	Trivia Night Fundraiser - PAC		
Sunday	The 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time 8 AM, 10 AM & 12 PM Masses Coffee & Donuts after the 8 & 10 AM Masses			
Monday	8:30 AM	Daily Mass		
112011441	6:30 PM	Scouts & Parents - PAC		
Tuesday	8:30 AM	Daily Mass & Novena		
·	6:30 PM	Women of Faith - St. Matthew		
	6:30 PM	Grief Support - S.C.		
	6:30 PM	Men's Scripture - C.R.		
Wednesday	8:30 AM 5:30 PM	Communion Service Choir Practice - C.R., Church		
	6:30 PM	King's Men - S.F. C		
Thursday	8:30 AM 6:30 PM	Daily Mass & Rosary Men's Club - S.F.		
Friday	8:30 AM	Daily Mass		
•	Church Office	Church Offices Closes at 1 PM		
Saturday	4:00 PM	Fr. Mike's last Mass as Pastor of St. Alphonsus		
	5:00 PM	Fr. Mike Retirement Reception - PAC		
Sunday	day The 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time			
8 AM, 10 AM & 12 PM Masses				

WORSHIP

Readings for the Week - June 23 - 30

Sunday: Jb 38:1, 8-11; Ps 107:23-24, 25-26, 28-29, 30-31; 2 Cor 5:14-17; Mk 4:35-41

Monday: Is 49:1-6; Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15; Acts 13:22-26;

Lk 1:57-66, 80

Tuesday: 2 Kgs 19:9b-11, 14-21, 31-35a, 36; Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4,

10-11; Mt 7:6, 12-14

Wednesday: 2 Kgs 22:8-13; 23:1-3; Ps 119:33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 40;

Mt 7:15-20

Thursday: 2 Kgs 24:8-17; Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9; Mt 7:21:29 **Friday**: 2 Kgs 25:1-12; Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6; Mt 8:1-4

Saturday: Acts 12:1-11, Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18;

Mt 16:13-19

Sunday: Wis 1:13-15; 2:23-24; Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11, 12, 13; 2 Cor 8:7, 9, 13-15; Mk 5:21-43 or 5:21-24, 35b-43

Flowers for the Church

Want to place flowers in the church in memory/honor of a loved one? Contact Margaret at 225-261-4650 to schedule a weekend.

Welcome! Are You New to our Parish?

We are delighted to have you join us for worship at St. Alphonsus, and we hope you will join us again. If you have moved into the area, we invite you to become a parishioner by going to our website www.alphonsus.org. Under the "Forms" tab, you can find the printable form and the link to register online through ParishSoft.

Respect Life Rosary

Join us every Thursday after the 8:30 AM Mass to pray the rosary for all mothers, especially those in need.

Featured Saint of the Week

St. Anselm of Canterbury (1033–1109)

Feast Day: April 21

Little is known about Anselm's early years. He entered the monastery of Bec in Normandy at age 22, fulfilling his desire to become a monk. In three years he was elected prior; subsequently he was unanimously elected abbot.



During this time Anselm began publishing his theological works, which are said to be comparable to the works of St. Augustine.

Anselm was appointed archbishop of Canterbury, although King William Rufus did not want him appointed. The king and Anselm disagreed about the king's authority. The king felt he had more authority than the Pope and should be able to both appoint and assign bishops. Although Anselm eventually and reluctantly took the job, the gap between the two widened. Anselm voluntarily went into exile.

After King William Rufus died, Anselm returned to continue his work. The king, however, was succeeded by his brother, Henry I. Like his brother, Henry wanted control over the bishops, so, Anselm chose to go back into exile. During this time, he continued writing profound theology and defended the nature of the Trinity at a Church Council. He also served as counselor to the Pope.

As one of the leading philosophical and theological scholars of the Middle Ages, he was named a doctor of the Church. Anselm's philosophical premise was that God is "that which nothing greater can be conceived."

He was called the father of scholasticism for his attempts to analyze and shed light on the truths of faith with the aid of reason. One of his deepest convictions was that when faith in God comes first, understanding follows.

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

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:30 AM Novena on Tuesday 8:30 AM Communion Service on Wednesdays at 8:30 AM

Holy Day Masses As Announced

<u>Children's Liturgy of the Word</u> For children 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

53 Years of Dedication and Service (continued from cover)

Young people have a special place in Fr. Mike's heart. He always viewed working with them a bright spot in his ministry, and he always looked for their potential and gifts. Stressing a positive self-image and insisting that they believe in themselves is his way of encouraging them to be successful.

Reconnecting with former parishioners who share the positive impact he had on their lives is another one of Fr. Mike's greatest joys. He finds it extremely rewarding to know he has had a hand in molding the future of others. The generosity of people willing to share their time and talents with their faith community is a great blessing he has received over the years. Because of the selflessness of folks willing to help, we all receive blessings through the service of others. He appreciates the gifts a church family shares to solidify the continued work of God.

Having served as a priest for the last 53 years, it is almost impossible to imagine the extent and scope of the responsibilities and tasks that Fr. Mike has done during his priesthood. To give you an idea of what his life has entailed, here are a few facts and figures that may interest you. Keep in mind, these are averages.

If Fr. Mike ...

- **only held one Mass per day, he would have said over 19,000 Masses.
- ** only baptized three persons per month, he would have baptized over 1,900 people.
- **only heard six confessions per week, he would have heard over 16,000 confessions.
- **only performed one wedding per month, he would have married 636 couples.
- **only anointed one person per month, he would have anointed 636 people.
- **presided over one funeral per month, he would have buried 636 people.
- **attended two 3-day retreats per year, he would have gone to 106 conferences and spent 318 days, almost one full year in retreat.
- **served on four committees/boards per year and met once a month for each one, he would have spent at least 2,544 hours in these meetings.

It might be hard to imagine one person doing all of these things, but when called to a life of priesthood and service, everything is "all in a day's work." Fr. Mike prides himself on doing what he was called to do.

Looking to the future, Fr. Mike is no different from those of us who have had the privilege of retiring. He is looking forward to setting his own time schedule for the things he plans to enjoy. His hobbies and interests include biking and racquetball. Kicking back to watch a football game with a nice glass of white wine is definitely in the near future. He is a fan of the New Orleans Saints, LSU sports, and the Notre Dame Fighting Irish.

Having been in Louisiana for as long as he has, Fr. Mike has become quite a fan of Cajun delicacies, enjoying catfish and placing crawfish at the top of this list. He recalls his first exposure to a crawfish boil—when the mudbugs were dumped on the table, he asked his hosts what he should do with them. In a display of true Southern hospitality, his new family demonstrated the proper way to peel them and did so for him!

One of Fr. Mike's favorite types of music is Irish ballads. His favorite movies are The Sting and Blazing Saddles. He is a fan of old TV shows such as Columbo, Sanford and Son, and Hawaii 50. He occasionally enjoys a slice of rum cake, and he fondly remembers enjoying a savory bowl of Irish Stew his mother used to prepare for him.

Uniquely himself, Fr. Mike is a dedicated shepherd looking after his flock, namely all of us and all others he has served. In 2013, Fr. Mike was honored to be named Pastor of the Year and recognized as such by the National Catholic Education Association. He is the only pastor from our Diocese to receive this award.

The thing Fr. Mike will miss most upon retirement is the kind, loving, welcoming parishioners he has had the privilege to serve over the last 53 years. We love you. We will miss you. We will remember you. We look forward to seeing you as a parishioner of St. Alphonsus. We wish you all the best! Written by Vicki Whittington.

We Wish You Enough

We wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright. We wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun more. We wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive. We wish you enough pain so that the smallest joys in life appear much bigger. We wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting. We wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess. We wish you enough hellos to get you through the final goodbye!

OUTREACH

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

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

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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

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

Pray for the Sick

Please note: Names are removed after eight weeks.

Lisa Jones, Betty Bordelon, Freida Scallan, Joyce Lambert, Penny Lambert, Robert Lippert, Jeanette Felps, Al Felps, Amanda Puissegur, Kevin Nicosia, David Lonibos, Joy Lonibos, Glenda Bringol, Jill Bueche, Jan Bankston, Harrison Simpson, Cathey Chustz, John Nicosia, Stella Lacoste, Homer Brown, Vance & Olivia Thomas, Matthew Chambers, Ryan Babin, Andy Juneau, Joey Breen, Jessica Smith, Cindy Morvant, Judy McManus, Pat Matthews, Sharon Leod, Jaycee Richard, Gary Saucier, Alexander Landry, Sally Stears, Monica Kelly, Devin Mounce, Chris Bringol, Daniel Guerin, Janice Jeansonne, 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, Kenny Miller, Lynette Lemoine, Chris Hobkirk, Patrick Bourgeois, Holly Hart, Jeff Ferguson, Nicholas LaCroix, Patsy Sagona, Dammers Family, Debbie Mouton, Marion Robillard, Ron Dodson, Stevie Calverley, Luke Allen, Blanche Hoover, Marlene Ortego, Gwen Moore, Claudia Mouton, Jackie Pina, Ashley Nix, Kelli Campo LaCroix, Donna Hebert, Bill Witt, Priscilla Perez, Charlotte St. Romain, Brenda Lovett, Nettie Scardina, Jim & Tracey Anderson, Ruth Riddle, James Argrave, Lyndsey Quirk Neyland, Lucky Ross, Melise Efferson, Angelo Silvio, Christopher Silvio, Marilyn Oufnac, Jennifer McMillan, Jason Lasseigne, Glenn Tate

Rest in Peace

J.D. Berthelot - Father of Joe (Eunice) Berthelot.

Marcella Corrick - Mother of Cherryl (Jimmy) Alford,
Scott Corrick, Mark (Beverly) Corrick,
and Lisa (David) Jones.

Homebound? Need Holy Communion?

Do you know someone who is unable to attend Mass due to illness, frailty or other problems and wants to receive Holy Communion at home? St. Alphonsus has Eucharistic ministers who bring the comfort of Christ in the form of the Eucharist to those who cannot physically come to Mass. In this way, the sick and homebound are united to the Body of Christ present in our community. We continue the healing and compassionate ministry of Jesus, as members of His Body. It is always in Jesus' Name that we visit. Our call as Ministers to the Sick is to be present to those attempting to find God in their life situation by praying with and listening to them. Contact Donna Lambert at the Church Office at 225-261-4650 to arrange these visits.

FORMATION

PSR Early Bird Registration Open

Public and private school students in K–11th grade are required to register for PSR each year. If your child is in public, private or a Catholic high school in 10th or 11th grade, they will need to register for Confirmation classes. Registration for the 2024-2025 school year will begin June 1, 2024. Online registration will be available on our website, and printed forms are available in the Gather Space and in the Faith Formation Office.

Volunteers Needed

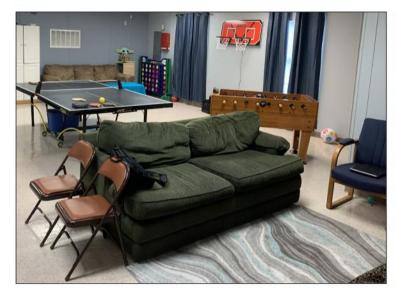
Volunteers are needed... When was the last time you were personally asked to help? Christ asks us to share our faith and build His kingdom. Faith Formation spreads the Gospel message to the children and teens of our parish. Come share your time, talents and faith with the young people of our parish and grow your spirituality. Call the Faith Formation Office for more information at 261-4644.

Confirmation

Don't forget our Year 2 Confirmation Candidates help the homeless by collecting the items from the list below as well as gently used backpacks. As you travel this summer please begin to collect these items: Combs, Band aids, Shampoo Trial Size, Soap, Chap Stick, Lotion Trial Size, Wipes Trial Size, Rain ponchos, T-Shirts, Socks, used Duffle Bags, used back packs, and Bug Spray. Items may be brought to the Faith Formation Office. Thanks for your generosity.

Interested or know someone interested in learning more about the Catholic faith?

Inquiry begins in August. Meetings are held on Thursday evenings August thru November in the St. Clare Room at 6:30 PM. The classes will transition to RCIA sessions in December. Candidates will be received into the Church at Easter. For more information, contact the Faith Formation Office 261-4644.





Lighthouse Gets Fresh Look

Since Blaine Baker joined our staff as the Youth Minister a few months ago, he has worked diligently to bring back Youth Nights and improve the Lighthouse building for our youth. The game room has been repainted, and many of the games have been updated to reflect what the youth like today. A major part of youth group is enjoying each other's company. The kids love Youth Nights—the games, the food, and the ability to be part of the young faith community. The typical Youth Night on Sunday evenings includes prayer, catching up over a good meal, and a big group game.



One meeting room has been turned into what we call "the Union," where the youth eat together and talk as a "youth group family." The hallway now features a chalkboard wall where our youth can leave suggestions for youth activities for Blaine to take into account. The old kitchen has been transformed into a podcast room, where Blaine and Colby talk and connect their conversations to scripture. It's a great way for the youth to stay connected between Youth Nights. They are also

working on converting the old nursery into a small chapel for the youth to enjoy.

When the Youth Minister position opened, it was a no brainer for Blaine. He said nothing can match the feeling he gets when he sees a young person open their heart, mind, and life to the Lord. "The youth ARE the Church; they always have been, and being able to work with them to take on their role of being a part of Christ's Church is guaranteeing that we are putting our faith in good hands," said Blaine.

He added that he wishes more people could experience the faith through our young people belting out worship songs, laughing, and inviting others to be a part of different church ministries.

The kids are also enjoying Blaine's new mentor system where the middle and high schoolers work with college-aged young adults. Over the summer, Blaine is continuing Youth Nights almost every Sunday evening. On July 12-13, they are planning to host a lock-in for the middle and high school youth. Registration for that will open soon.

In the fall, they will continue to have Youth Nights almost every week, in addition to some new opportunities to get involved. They hope to hold a few fundraisers this year so they can bring back youth summer fun trips, attend the March for Life, and attend Steubenville in the future. If you have any questions about Youth Night or upcoming activities, please email bbaker@alphonsus.org.





COMMUNITY LIFE



Together let's honor and celebrate the retirement of our beloved pastor Fr. Mike Moroney

> Join him for a concelebrated Mass on Saturday, June 29, 2024 at 4 PM

at St. Alphonsus Liguori Catholic Church 14040 Greenwell Springs Rd., Greenwell Springs, LA. Reception immediately following in the Parish Activity Center

off Frenchtown Road.



ADMINISTRATION

Gifts of Stewardship

For June 8-9, 2024,

your Stewardship resulted in:

Weekly Collection

Envelopes	\$	13,481.00
Unidentified	\$	1,887.00
Parish Soft	\$	12,601.50
Building/Maintenance Fund		
Envelopes	\$	800.00
Parish Soft	\$	2,180.00
New Parish Activity Center Fu	ınd	
Envelopes	\$	645.00
Parish Soft	\$	1,345.29
<u>Children</u>	\$	110.00
Peter's Pence	\$	81.00
Faith Formation	\$	780.00
Total Received	\$	33,910.79

Special Collections - Parish Soft Giving

Fr. Mike's Retirement Giving Open until June 20, 2024 Holy Father/Peter's Pence Open June 16-30, 2024



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