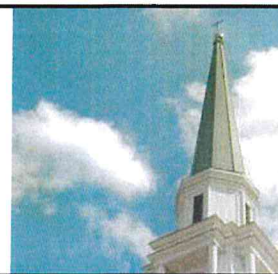


# Saint Aloysius Catholic Church

A Discipleship Parish

February 8, 2026... Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

The common theme of today's three readings is our two-fold mission to the world, to be salt and to be the light of the world.

As you know, the majority religion in America is still Christianity, and yet we are dominated today not by the values of Christianity, but by the values of humanism and secularism. Yet, in Korea, even though there are 35 million Buddhists, and only two million evangelical Christians, Christian values dominate that culture. Why is that? It is because Korean

Fr. George Nellikunnel (gnellikunnel@dio.org) Pastor  
Mrs. Denise Reavis Principal  
Mrs. Debbie Mandeville Parish Administrative Assistant  
Mrs. Gail Smith Business Manager St. Aloysius/St. Cabrini  
Mrs. Angie Daniels School Administrative Assistant  
Mr. Rich Pitchford Maintenance  
Mrs. Sarah Williams Liturgy & Music  
Mr. Dave Klestinski Homebound Ministry  
Ms. Mikki Buhl Ministry Schedule  
(mikkimoose@clients.rotundasoftware.com)

Mass Times: Saturday (vigil) 4:00pm  
Sunday 7:00am & 11:00am  
Holy Days: As announced

Daily Mass: Tues, 8:20am (School Year)  
7:00am (Summer)  
W, Th, 7:00am  
Fri, 6:00pm (Rosary 5:30pm)

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 3:30pm

Eucharistic Adoration: Friday, 7:00am - 5:00pm

Parish Office Hours: M - F: 9:00am - 4:00pm  
School Office Hours: M - F: 7:45am - 3:30pm  
2000 E. Sangamon Avenue (mailing address: 2125 N. 21st Street) Springfield, Illinois 62702

Church: (217) 544-4554 Fax: (217) 544-1680  
School: (217) 544-4553 Fax: (217) 544-1680

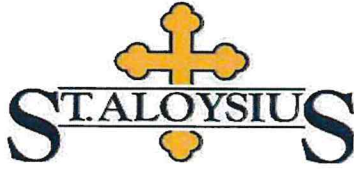
Christians understand they are to be the salt of the earth. Dr. James Stewart, a great British preacher, once said: "The greatest threat to Christianity is not Communism, atheism, materialism, or humanism. It is Christians trying to sneak into Heaven without ever sharing their Faith, without ever living out the Christian life as salt of the earth and light of the world."

In our first reading, God through the prophet Isaiah gives us examples of how we are to allow the light of God to shine through us. "Share your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own. Then light shall rise for you in the darkness, and the gloom shall become for you like midday" (58:7, 10). St. Paul, in the second reading, tells us that our proclamation of Faith will carry the Spirit and His power when we rely on the power and wisdom of God. Using two simple metaphors of salt and the light. In today's Gospel, Jesus outlines the role of Christians in this world. As a symbol of purity, salt was the common ingredient in sacrifices offered to God by Jews and pagans. In the ancient world, salt was the commonest of all preservatives, used to prevent the putrefaction of meat, fish, and fruits in pickles. Salt lends flavor to food items and was used to season and preserve food. A light is something which is meant to be seen. A lamp or light is a guide to make clear the way.

As salt is a symbol of purity, used in sacrifices, the Christian must be an example of purity in speech, in conduct, and even in thought. As salt is an antiseptic and healing agent, the Christian must have a certain antiseptic influence on life and society, defeating corruption, fighting against injustice and making it easier for others to avoid sin. As salt preserves foods, we need to preserve the religious Faith, Christian cultural values, and moral principles which Jesus has given us, and to work at reconciling quarreling factions in families and communities. As salt is a food-flavoring agent.

The second role of Christians is to receive the light of Christ and radiate it to everyone as love, kindness, mercy, forgiveness, humble service, and respect for those with different ethnic backgrounds, different lifestyles, other faiths, or with no faith at all. As guiding light in darkness, our duty is to show the correct and safe way and to illuminate it with Christ's Light, thus removing the darkness caused by hatred, prejudice, spite, and jealousy. As a warning light, it is the Christian's duty to give timely and loving warning of physical and moral danger to fellow Christians. As a warning light, our duty is to warm the cold hearts of others with warm, and affectionate words and deeds. Thank for your prayers and encouragement.

Fr. George Nellikunnel, Pastor



## Principal's Page

Mrs. Denise Reavis

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Gale Borders  
Blake Handley  
Dave Klestinski  
Mary Ann Mann  
Brad Mills (Chair)  
Joyce Zaffiri

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Paul Brown  
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Matt Noonan  
Ryan Sparie (Chair)  
Larry Tebrugge  
Earl Schroeder

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[schoolboard@santalloysius.org](mailto:schoolboard@santalloysius.org)

Joan Bestudik  
Eric Danner  
Sarah Danner  
Tom Paoni  
Rachel Towner  
Joel Washko (Chair)  
Steve Washko III

### Liturgy Committee

Sharon Jones  
Steve Kehoe  
Kim Lesko (Chair)  
Rita Lesko  
Mary Coady

**Thank you** to all who made our Catholic Schools Week a true celebration of our school! Our students came together to create chicken and dumplings dinner meal kits for the Food Bank as part of our celebration of our Catholic Identity! On Friday we concluded the week with a movie and popcorn. We rolled out the red carpet for our movie premiere of "David" and our star students! It was a wonderful time to celebrate the gift of Catholic education and the amazing community we share. Our school is so much more than a place to learn, it is where faith is grown, values are lived, and every child is known, loved, and encouraged to grow in mind, body, and spirit. Thank you for being our partners and for trusting us with your children each day. We are truly blessed by our school family.

**All-school Mass** will be Tuesday, February 10 at 8:20am. All are welcome!

Our annual **Spaghetti Dinner** will be held on Sunday, February 15th! The Spaghetti Dinner is a north-end, St. Aloysius tradition that many enjoy! We are happy to be able to continue this tradition with dining room, carry-out, and drive-through dinner! The dining room will be open! Carry out and drive-thru will also be available. Tickets are \$12.00 per person. Each year we sell 50/50 Raffle Tickets to help support our Annual Spaghetti Dinner. 50/50 Tickets. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 tickets for \$5.00.

Sign up now for **Illinois Pro-Life Mass** and attend **Illinois Pro-Life March** afterward. Thursday, March 19, you are invited to join thousands of pro-life advocates, being a joyful witness to life and raising your voice for the voiceless at the Illinois Pro-Life Mass and March. The day begins with Mass at 10:00am at the Exposition Building on the grounds of the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield, celebrated by Bishop Thomas John Paprocki and concelebrated by bishops and priests from across the state. You must register for the Mass by going to [dio.org](http://dio.org). After the Mass, there is a rally at the capitol at 1:00pm with guest speakers, and then a march around the capitol at 2:00pm. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will also be going on at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception from noon to 5:00pm. Confessions at the Cathedral will also be available from 1:30 - 5:00pm. Last year, about 2,000 people attended the Illinois Pro-Life March, the vast majority being students from Catholic grade schools, high schools, and Newman Centers. Priests, seminarians, religious, and the lay faithful from every corner of the diocese and the state also showed up in strong numbers.



**Thank you** to all the volunteers for making Bingo a great success! The program needs a few, steady workers. I know that this will ensure the continued success of this most important fundraising event. Don't forget to join us for Bingo at Caritas Hall, 909 E Converse, Saturday, February 14 at 11:45am for Early Bird, other games begin at noon. Play bingo during our times, help make this a fun and profitable activity for St. Aloysius School! Please consider volunteering. Volunteers are needed! You can text or call Rhonda (217) 670-4458. Thank you for your support. Also a very special thanks goes to Rhonda for managing this essential fundraiser every Saturday.

**Families and Children Welcome!** "Let the children come to me and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." - Luke 18:16 Families and children are always welcome at Mass at St. Aloysius. While we strive for a reverent liturgy, we appreciate children of all ages worshipping with us - they are the future of the Church. We warmly welcome large families, new families, new babies and new baptisms. Parents: If your child needs a break or if it makes you more comfortable, the cry room and vestibule are available.




*"Love is the True North  
that always leads us home."*

## — Parish Data —

PARISH CALENDAR			Weekly Offering		
February 8	7:00am	Morning Mass	<u>Week 28</u>	<u>January 18</u>	<u>Total to Date</u>
February 8	11:00am	Morning Mass			
February 10	8:20am	All School Mass	<b>Weekly Offertory</b>	<b>6,869.50</b>	<b>\$202,097.72</b>
February 10	6:45pm	Parish Mission Meeting (St. Cabrini)	<b>Shepherd one Student</b>	<b>\$450.00</b>	<b>\$11,046.00</b>
February 11	7:00am	Morning Mass			
February 11	9:00am	Legion of Mary			
February 12	7:00am	Morning Mass	<b>Building Fund</b>	<b>\$1,200.00</b>	<b>\$27,118.00</b>
February 12	1:30pm	Early School Dismissal			
February 12	6:00pm	School Board	<b>Bingo</b>	<b>\$1,510.00</b>	<b>\$31,986.00</b>
February 13	7:00am	Adoration	The budgeted amount is the minimal required to maintain services, employee benefits, utilities, and maintenance at current levels and provide for debt payment, unbudgeted repairs or improvements for the Parish. Weekly Offerings budget for the month of January is \$40,000.00. We have received 52% of needed funding to meet essentials.		
February 13	5:00pm	Benediction	<b>Parish Community Tithe</b>		
February 13	5:30pm	Rosary	As you have read in the Catholic Times, the Annual Catholic Services Appeal has been discontinued. The diocese will be assessing its parishes on a monthly basis, based on 10% of its income each month to provide the needs of our diocesan church. Please consider increasing your giving to the parish by the amount you previously gave to ACSA, so that we can handle this new monthly, pay-as-we-go obligation. December Tithe - \$5,315.00		
February 13	6:00pm	Evening Mass			
February 14	8:30am	Street Ministry (St. Cabrini)			
February 14	11:45am	Bingo			
February 14	3:30pm	Confession			
February 14	4:00pm	Evening Mass			
February 15	7:00am	Morning Mass			
February 15	11:00am	Morning Mass			
February 15	12:00-6:00pm	Spaghetti Dinner			
February 16		No School			

Weekly Attendance - January 31-February 1				Debt/Accrued Deficits	
Sat 4:00pm	Sun 7:00am	Sun 11:00am	Total	<b>Unpaid Diocesan Liabilities</b>	
95	38	59	192	<b>Paid</b>	
				<b>Amount owed (January 20, 2026)</b>	
				<b>\$209,997.03</b>	

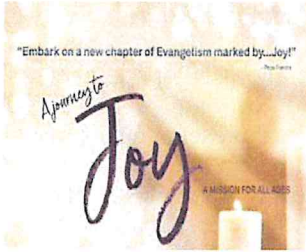
Parish Ministry Schedule - February 14-15			
	Saturday 4:00pm	Sunday 7:00am	Sunday 11:00am
Cantor			
Lector	Matt Noonan	Carl Affrunti	Pam Brown
E.M.	Richard and Serena Nurton Matt Noonan	Erin Rachford, Pam Tipps Earl Schoeder	Paul Brown, Patti Crouch Sharon Jones, John Mehlick
Servers	Rachel Schrenk	Earl Schoeder	Ryan Davidson



In charity, please remember in your prayers... 2024... Steven Young Patricia Durako, Regina Rakers, Sandra Scott, David Daniels, Halfred Hildebrand, Jr., Joseph Perkinson, Charles Bedolli, Samuel and Bonnie Falzone, James Selinger, Tom Stevens, Frank Tucker James Bartlett. 2025... Larry Forbes, Marilyn Gustafson, Kenna Diaz, Kay Morrow, Judith Guinn, William Bredemeyer, Annette Raffa, David Jones, Judith Bregowy, August Egger, Rita Smarjesse. 2026... Caroline Dietrich, and Judy Tucker.

# Parish Bulletin Board

**Parish Mission...** A Journey to Joy. Bringing scripture to Life. Frank Runyeon a national acclaimed performer will perform the Gospel of Luke, explore the Sermon on the Mount, and speak about Hollywood vs. Faith for three days, Sunday, March 1 - Tuesday, March 3, 2026. Each performance beginning at 7:00pm is an hour and will touch on one of the three topics. The three evenings will be both entertaining and eye-opening. Runyeon performs the famous parables in Luke's travel narrative, and then pauses to reflect on how we hear each story.



This weekend the Centennial Campaign committee will be conducting a **parish survey** about the upcoming Capital Campaign (2026-2028). The survey will include a list of capital projects needed. There will also be a list of changes you would like to see in our parish to encourage you to attend Mass more frequently? How can we grow and improve the long-term vitality of our Parish? If you know you will not be at Mass this weekend and would like a survey please call the office (217-544-4554).

The **Flower Calendar** is available in the vestibule of the church... You have the opportunity to honor a birthday or anniversary, or remember a loved one on their special day. Please put your remembrance on the chart, and put \$40.00 in the envelope with your name/remembrance and contact information on the index card. Your remembrance will be in the bulletin and a beautiful bouquet of flowers will be placed on the Altar for your weekend on your behalf.



Parish Flowers... This weeks **flower intention** is for the Brocarrdo family anniversaries.

A **playpen** will be placed in the vestibule of the church this weekend (February 14-15) for you to place any new or kindly used/ clean baby clothes which will be given to expectant mothers. Items needed this month are new born clothes, formula, and diapers.

**Ash Wednesday** is Wednesday, February, 18. Mass will be 8:20am at St. Aloysius and 6:00pm Mass at St. Cabrini. This is not a Holy Day of Obligation, it is an excellent way to begin your Lenten Journey!

**What is KOINONIA ?** "Koinonia" is a Greek word for community. Koinonia is an adult Catholic retreat and an invitation to encounter Jesus while continuing life's journey. Koinonia brings the Paschal Mystery to life; the dying and rising of Christ are experienced in a real and powerful way. The weekend consists of talks, discussions, reflections, prayer, and liturgical celebrations. The experience is led by a team of lay people, clergy and religious. The Koinonia Community invites you to come and experience a retreat weekend! The weekend will be held on March 13-15 at St. Aloysius. The cost for the weekend is \$40.00; which covers all retreat materials and meals. For more information contact Betsy Vogt at 217-320-1818 or ElizabethB.Vogt@gmail.com.

**Eucharistic Adoration** invites us to spend quiet, prayerful time in the presence of Jesus Christ - Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. In a world with noise and constant demands, Adoration gives us the gift of stillness, allowing our hearts to rest in the One who loves us completely. When we adore, we do not come to do something—we come simply to be with Jesus. In that sacred silence, Christ strengthens our faith, brings peace to our hearts, and gently draws us closer to Himself. Adoration deepens our love for the Eucharist and helps us recognize Christ's presence not only in the Sacrament, but also in one another. Eucharistic Adoration is held every Friday from 7:00am - 5:00pm in the side chapel.

**Parish Calendar...** Please let the parish office know of events, meetings, etc. for the church calendar to avoid scheduling conflicts. This includes the church basement.

**Thank you...** The advertisements that appear in this bulletin completely defray all publishing costs which the church would otherwise incur. Please patronize the sponsors on the back of this bulletin and thank them for their kind generosity.

**St. Aloysius Prayer Chain...** If you have a special intention or someone whom you would like prayers offered please email Mrs. Vikki Warren... whomper5@aol.com

**Stewardship** ... Gracious and loving God, we understand that you call us to be stewards of your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us to use your gifts wisely and to share them generously. May our

faithful stewardship be the hallmark of our discipleship, a visible sign of our commitment to Christ. We pray with grateful hearts, in Jesus' name. Amen.



## Mass Intentions

### February 9 Weekday

**February 10** **St. Scholastica**  
8:20am **Caroline Dietrich+**

**February 11** **Weekday**  
7:00am **Emma Brandon+**

**February 12** **Weekday**  
7:00am **All Souls+**

**February 13** **Weekday**  
6:00pm **Kenna Diaz+**

**February 14** **St. Cyril**  
**St. Methodius**

**February 15** **6th Ordinary Sunday**  
Sat 4:00pm **Marilyn Gustafson +**

Sun 7:00am **Leonard Naumovich+**

Sun 11:00am **All Parishioners +**

# Around the Church

**The Chosen Season Five...** Episodes 1-4. St. Frances Cabrini Parish will present season 5 of the series, *"The Chosen"* on Sundays at 2:00pm in the conference room of the parish hall. This season will be shown in two parts. Episodes 1-4 will be shown from February 22nd - March 15th and episodes 5-8 will be shown later this year. The theme for this season is *"The Table is Set"* and focuses on the Last Supper. For more information call or text Anne Powers at 217-381-3847.

**A Pilgrimage to Italy...** Join Fr. George on a 10 day pilgrimage to Italy from October 5-15, 2026. Highlights include visits to the birthplace of St. Aloysius, and the shrine of St. Aloysius. Also a visit to the birth place of St. Francis Cabrini. The pilgrimage features daily Mass, first-class hotels, private luxury transportation, professional guides, and all admission fees. Cost is \$4,995.00 per person (includes round-trip airfare, taxes, meals, and more). For details or to register, visit Holy Land Tours LLC @ [holylandtoursllc@gmail.com](mailto:holylandtoursllc@gmail.com) or Jiryis Alyateem @ 1-503-866-5698. Registration is due by June 30, 2026.

The Diocese of Springfield is offering many **retreats and faith events** in the upcoming months. An email with information and registration links was sent to everyone in our parish database. If you did not receive it, there's a good chance that we don't have your correct email address. You can correct that by completing the form at [www.bsps.org/update-family-information](http://www.bsps.org/update-family-information).

**Prayer Warriors** are welcome to pray in front of Springfield Planned Parenthood 601 N. Bruns Lane. For more information... [www.springfieldrtl.org](http://www.springfieldrtl.org).

**Covenant Network Catholic Radio...** Catholic Radio programs include Catholic teaching, prayers, and call-in programs. You can listen on a smart speaker, tell Alexa to play Covenant Network Catholic Radio, on our App, Covenant Network, online at [OurCatholicRadio.org](http://OurCatholicRadio.org), or on your local Catholic radio station, AM 1080 and 92.7 FM.

**Centennial Campaign Prayer...** Loving and Gracious God, we come before you, acknowledging that all our gifts are from your generous hand. WE are grateful for your countless blessings and for the opportunity to serve you this Centennial (Capital) campaign. As our parish embarks on this journey, we ask for your wisdom and guidance in discerning how best to use our resources to advance your kingdom.

May our hearts be open to your spirit, and may we be faithful stewards of the gifts entrusted to us. We pray through the intercessions of St. Aloysius that this campaign will be a testament to your grace and a source of blessing to our parish. May we work together in unity and faith, knowing that with your help, we can accomplish great things. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

**Pope Leo XIV's Monthly Prayer Intention...** February. For children with incurable diseases Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.



**Heaven Meets Earth - A Journey through the Holy Mass -** Step away from the busyness of life and enter more deeply into the mystery of the Holy Mass at the **Springfield Diocesan Council of Catholic Women's Lenten Retreat**, "Heaven Meets Earth: A Journey through the Holy Mass," held February 24-25 at Villa Maria Conference Center on Lake Springfield. Led by retreat director Sr. Margaret Schreiber, OP, PhD. This retreat offers spiritual presentations, prayer, Holy Mass, Confession, fellowship, and time for quiet reflection. All women are welcome, bring your sister, mom, or a friend. Registration forms with the cost and further information are available in your parish office or at [dio.org/events](http://dio.org/events). Deadline to register is February 14. For more information, contact Mary Ann Sullivan at 217-822-1928 or Janet Zimmerman at 217-494-4743.

**Upcoming DCCW Springfield Deanery Meeting**, February 28, 2026, 9am-12pm, Holy Trinity Catholic Hall, Stonington, IL. Stay tuned for more information and details about the event. We look forward to seeing you there

**Diocesan Gospel Mass & Soul Food Dinner.** All are warmly invited to a Diocesan Gospel Mass followed by a Soul Food Dinner at St. Joseph Church, (1345 N. Sixth Street) on Saturday, February 28. Dinner pricing is \$20 for ages 13 and up, \$10 for ages 6 -12, and free for children 5 and under. RSVP by February 20 by scanning the QR code for full event details and dinner registration. Join us in prayer, music, and fellowship as we celebrate together as a diocesan community!



[GO.DIO.ORG/J71](http://GO.DIO.ORG/J71)

**Stewardship Reflection...** Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time. *"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."* MATTHEW 5:16. The generosity of being a good steward of your gifts has a positive effects on people, and it is contagious! Good works encourages more good works. Generosity is a by-product of a grateful lifestyle. The more we recognize God's gifts, the more we want to share them. Good stewards recognize that God is working through them, and they don't put themselves above the people they have been called to help.

**February 14 is St. Valentine's Day.** Who was St. Valentine? He was a Roman priest martyred during the reign of Claudius. He was arrested and imprisoned upon being caught marrying Christian couples and otherwise aiding Christians who were at the time being persecuted for their faith by Claudius in Rome. He died around 270 AD. He has become the patron saint of lovers. Valentine's Day as a lover's festival dates back at least from the 14th century. Happy Saint Valentine's Day!



February 8, 2026

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 58:7-10 | 1 Cor 2:1-5 | Mt 5:13-16

### **GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE**

My understanding of prayer changed when I read St. Teresa of Calcutta's statement that says, "I used to believe that prayer changes things, but now I know that prayer changes us and we change things." Prayer is not an incantation that can change the will of God. It is the act of raising our hearts and minds to God, and of opening ourselves — our will, our understanding, our joys, and our sorrows — to be sanctified. The prophet Isaiah seems to be saying something similar in the first reading. He lists off the commands of the Lord to clothe the naked, feed the hungry, and shelter the homeless, and then tells the faithful that if they do these things, "then your light shall break forth like the dawn." We certainly serve those who are vulnerable because each person has immeasurable dignity and deserves to be cared for as a child of God. But the act of caring for another also changes us. We are made more fully into who we were created to be — not an individual living in isolation, but one who is deeply connected in community to the rest of humankind.

### **GO EVANGELIZE**

#### **PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

An act of service, then, is much bigger than simply donating money or giving of our time. In caring for our neighbor, we proclaim God's goodness to a world in darkness, bearing witness to the love of God which is the source of all our actions. In the Gospel, Christ calls his followers to be "the light of the world," reminding us that he wants to shine his light through us. But we are not the source of the light. Even when we are the ones serving, we still remain only the vessel the true light shines through. When we love others, we are changed because we allow ourselves to be conformed more closely to Christ, allowing others to encounter his love in our actions.

### **SERVE**

The corporal works of mercy are to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead. This is not a list meant to overwhelm, but rather to provide opportunities to care for God's children. What act of service can you and your family engage in this week to allow the light of Christ to shine through you?

ST. ALOYSIUS  
42ND ANNUAL



# Spaghetti Dinner



## Fundraiser



**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH**

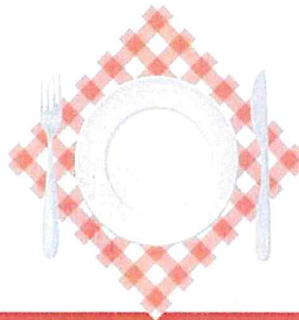
**From 12:00 to 6:00 PM**

**Dine-In and Carry-out located in the Church Basement  
Drive-Thru located off of 21st Street**

*Spaghetti, Meatballs, Salad, Breadstick, Dessert*

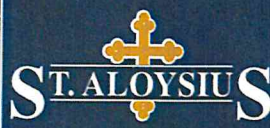
*Tickets now on sale!*

**\$12**



**Dine-In  
Drive-Thru  
Carry-Out**

**Tickets may be purchased day of  
or in advance at the Parish Office (2125 N. 21st Street)**



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