

CityScape



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A Word from Sr. Mary Jean Raymond, OSU



Tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.

~African Proverb

St. Aloysius Parish Community is what it is today because of those who have gone before us and prepared us for today. In this issue of City Scape I would like to take us on a journey back through the events of the past that have prepared us for today.

In an article from a Cleveland newspaper from March 19, 1925, we learn that from the beginning, St. Aloysius Church was unique and noteworthy.

The church structure was dedicated and consecrated at the same time. This was the first time in the diocese of Cleveland that this happened.

Because the church was free from debt, it could be dedicated and consecrated on the same day. The cost of constructing the church in 1922 was \$400,000. In today's economy, that would be equal to \$7,241,119.05.

The history of St. Aloysius Church includes its notoriety as being known as the Cathedral of Glenville when the bishop of Cleveland lived less than one mile away in the Village of Bratenahl. At that time St. Aloysius was known as the bishop's parish church. An ornately carved throne still sits in the sanctuary as a reminder of this important fact.

The names of families on the rolls at St. Aloysius may have changed and the faces in the pews and on the walls may have also changed but the same deep faith that motivated and sustained the people who pray in the pews has not changed.

Although the names and the faces and the needs of the people of Glenville have changed through the years several things have remained constant.

St. Aloysius Church continues to stand as a powerful force in the Glenville neighborhood and in the diocese of Cleveland.



Through education...

Our parish school educated 260 students last year in grades PreK-8. Years ago it was not unusual for classes to have 50+ students in them with one teacher. Today St. Aloysius School has an average of 25 students in a classroom with one teacher and one aide for each grade.

Twenty-three young men and women graduated from St. Aloysius this past May with 80% of them moving on to a Catholic high school. St. Aloysius is the only Catholic urban school to be designated as a STEM school. In 2022 our school received the Governor's Thomas Edison Award for Excellence in STEM education. This program emphasizes Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education.

The former convent which once housed 14 Sisters of St. Joseph from Rocky River is now home to 25 excited preschoolers and their teachers as well as tutoring rooms for the elementary school students. It received a new coat of paint this summer thanks to a grant from the O'Neil Foundation.



St. Aloysius Students - early 1900's



St. Aloysius Students - 2023

Social outreach programs...

The Hunger Center Director, Ms. Carol Bunn wears many hats. In response to SNAP food benefits being recently reduced for all its recipients, additional hours for food distribution have been added weekly. Ms. Bunn administers the St. Vincent de Paul program which assists individuals with rent and utility help, acts as a liason with Cleveland Clergy Alliance, and assists individuals in applying for bankruptcy.



Wish List

At the top of our wish list is support for our Hunger Center and raising money for a new cargo van. The hunger center van is used to pick up items from the Food Bank as well as deliver food to individuals and senior citizen apartments throughout the area.

Second to this is support for our music ministry at St. Aloysius. Since we have added a choir director not only has the quality of our music improved but also has our attendance and the weekly collection.

And, as always, support for our school and preschool programs. There are a variety of supplies and books that support our religious education program that cannot be purchased with government funds.

Spiritual Life...



The spiritual life of the parish is intimately connected to the Black Catholic experience and worship. A new choir director was hired this past year to help enhance and enrich our worship experience. Sr. Mary Jean and nine members of our parish will be attending the National Black Catholic Congress this summer. Our parish is very involved with Sr. Jane Nesmith, S.B.S. the new head of the office of ministry to Black Catholics in the diocese.

Our spiritual life and worship give rise to our social actions in the Glenville Community. Each Sunday we stand on the steps of the church after Mass and hold a simple but powerful anti-violence demonstration. We are working to establish a youth ministry group which will work to pull young people off of the streets and into more productive ways of life.

St. Aloysius Parish stands as a gateway which helps many suburban parishes and other institutions connect in a variety of ministries which serve the urban poor. Five parishes and the University of Dayton alumni schedule yearly days of service at St. Aloysius. High schools from outside the city give days of service also in the school and hunger center. Volunteers assist us at the weekly community meal and food distributions.

When Bishop Perez visited St. Aloysius shortly after he was assigned to Cleveland, he sat in the dining room and said to all of us, "On paper, this place shouldn't work. How do you do it?" We unanimously told the bishop that it was through the generosity of all of our supporters that we are able to continue and grow the various ministries of our parish in the Glenville community. Once again, we are reaching out to you for your support to help keep us alive and well in Glenville.

In the midst of chaos, division and violence in our world, this is a way to make a positive impact now and for the future.

Behold I make all things new. Rev. 659

Help us to continue to make all things new...

Sr. Mary Jean and the Staff of St. Aloysius Parish



Palm Sunday procession through the neighborhood



St. Aloysius Praise Dancers participate in the Lenten Renewal at Holy Spirit Church.



Members of St. Aloysius Parish participate in the diocesan initiative to prepare for the National Black Catholic Congress. They helped to "Write the Vision" for the congress agenda. Ten members from the parish will be attending the congress in July.



The Williamson family from St. Aloysius is enshrined in CYO Hall of Fame

Upcoming Activities

August 27 – Neighborhood Picnic – Glenview Park

September 16 – Prayer Breakfast for School Families

October 27 – Reverse Raffle

November 5 – Pancake Breakfast

December 14 – Live Nativity

December 16 – Toy Sale for Neighborhood Families

Many of you who are reading our newsletter today can feel great pride in being an integral part our efforts to grow as a church community, as a school community, and as a community of hope.