

# St. Aloysius

**ADDRESS:** 12110 Larimore Road,  
Spanish Lake

**FOUNDED:** 1871

**NUMBER OF FAMILIES TODAY:** 370

**NUMBER OF FAMILIES AT PEAK:**

1,200 in the early 1990s

**FAMOUS PARISHIONER:** State Sen.  
Tim Green, D-Spanish Lake

**NICKNAME:** “St. Al’s”

**NAMESAKE:** Aloysius Gonzaga  
(1568-1591), a young Jesuit theologian in Italy who died before being ordained as a priest. Declared a saint in 1786 by Pope Benedict XIII, he was noted for his piety as well as his care of the poor and sick.

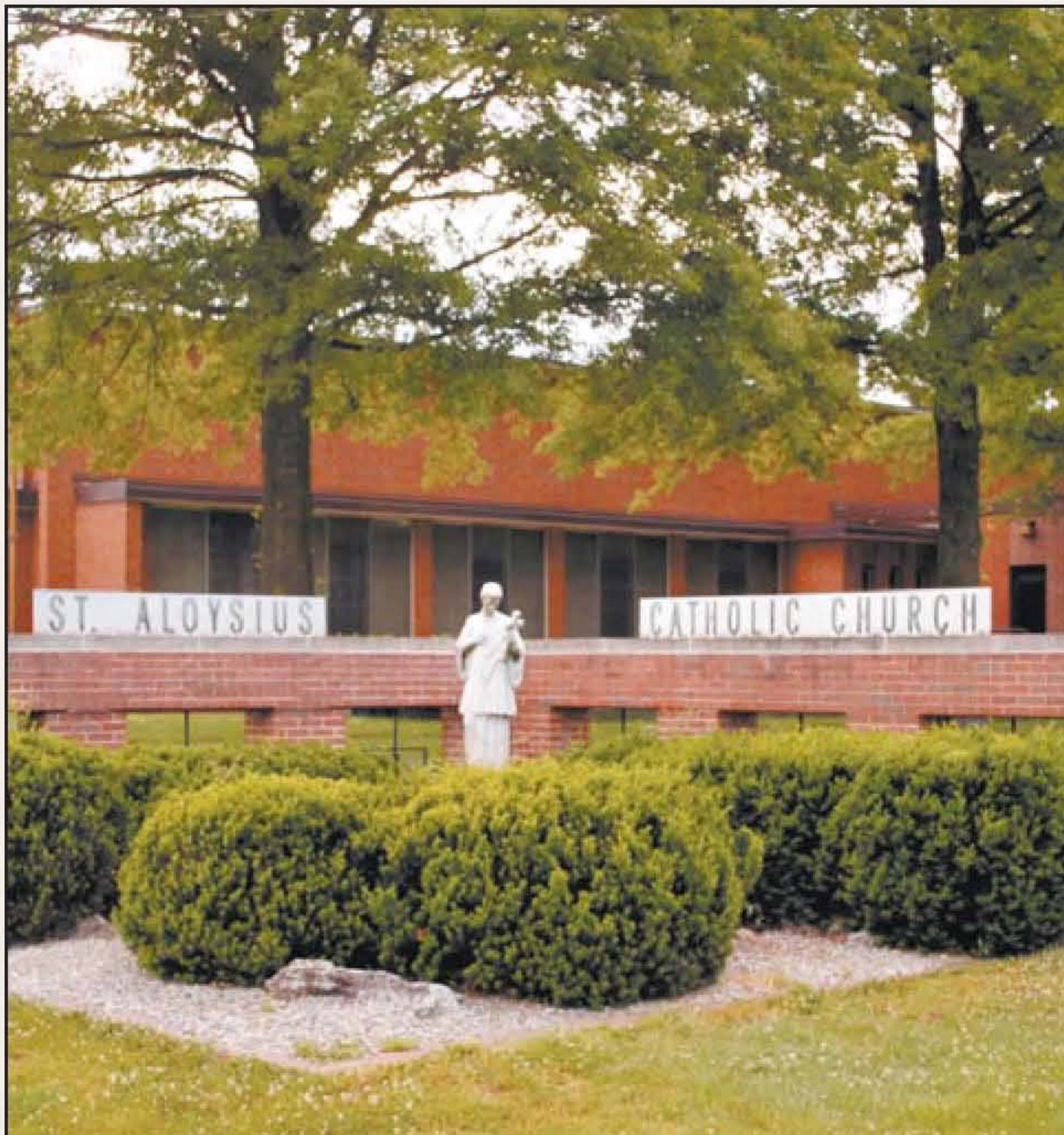
**PASTOR:** The Rev. Gerald T. Nienhaus

**OF NOTE:** The bell at the church was salvaged from the original belltower, built in the 1870s.

**KNOWN FOR:** Easter candy sales.  
For much of the 1980s, parishioners melted and molded chocolate into Easter eggs and bunnies and raised thousands of dollars a year.



Read the previous stories on Roman Catholic churches that will be closing, online at **[STLtoday.com/links](http://STLtoday.com/links)**



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**THE CONGREGATION:** The church opened in 1871 as a mission. The first chapel was built in 1875, served by priests from Our Lady of the Holy Cross parish and the former Our Lady of Mount Carmel in the Baden neighborhood of St. Louis. The parish’s first pastor, the Rev. Martin Bahr, was appointed in 1908. The rectory was built that year with \$2,000 collected by parishioners. The current church was built in 1955.

In the 1950s, the church’s elementary school had more than 500 students. In 1959, the parish’s growth led the St. Louis archbishop to form a second church, Our Lady of Loretto. For years, the church held annual Labor Day picnics, which later became annual autumn festivals that featured themed parades, carnival rides, music and fried-chicken dinners.

When the church closes, its parishioners will attend Our Lady of the Holy Rosary in the Our Lady of Loretto parish, 11725 Bellefontaine Road.

— Joel Currier