

FAQ

Q. Why does St. Alphonsus have an auction?

A. Just like other private schools, the tuition for each child does not cover the true cost of education. Along with other Parents' Club fundraisers and school campaigns, the auction helps to offset the operating budget for our school and your participation is important. The auction is also our biggest party of the year, bringing together alumni, parishioners, friends and parents of children of all ages within the larger community – in support and celebration of St. Alphonsus Parish School.

Q. What happens to the proceeds from the auction?

A. All proceeds from the auction support the annual fundraising goal of the Parents' Club and go directly to the operating budget of St. Alphonsus Parish School. The school uses the funds raised for operating expenses that make many of our programs possible. By supporting the auction, you are providing technology, supporting necessary teaching and staff positions, and contributing to school activities, such as specialized subjects, our S.T.E.M. lab, field trips, art literacy, and other events.

Q. What is the difference between procuring and donating?

A. Procuring involves asking a third party to contribute an item for the auction; donating is contributing an item or cash for the auction from your own resources.

Q. I've never tried to procure an item before. Where do I start?

A. Check out our Auction Guidebook for some helpful procurement tips. You'll also find a sample donation request letter on our website that you can customize as necessary.

Q. Are there any businesses that I should not contact for a donation?

A. Yes. The auction committee has been hard at work securing sponsorships and donated items. There is a list available on our website of businesses that have agreed to sponsor our event, have generously donated an item, or have declined to participate this year. We ask that you avoid contacting these businesses, unless you have a personal relationship to someone that owns or works there and feel it would be appropriate.

Q. Where and/or How do I log the item I have procured or donated?

A. Fill out the online "Donate" form (allows for procured or donated items/cash) on the MaestroWeb website OR turn in a completed Procurement Form or Group Procurement Form to the school office. All forms (paper form or online) are due by October 12, 2018.

Q. What is MaestroWeb and how is it different from our website?

A. MaestroWeb is the online auction site & software that St. Al's has purchased. The website and accompanying software house all our auction information, from item procurement to check-out the night of the auction. Items entered as donations on MaestroWeb generate a receipt for the donor and simultaneously build out the auction catalog. Every school family can have MaestroWeb login credentials and enter their procured items or make a cash donation. Online ticket purchases are also done through MaestroWeb. Separate from MaestroWeb, our website is where you will find all auction related forms and information specific to the Auction & Gala.

Q. My friends and I are putting together a party for the auction, how do we value it?

A. It should be based on an estimate of the monetary cost to put it on (including the cost of the venue if applicable), not the price you hope it will sell for. *Please be advised, St. Alphonsus Parish School will not make any financial contributions to or otherwise subsidize any group events.* Be sure to turn in a completed Group Procurement Form.

Q. Who is invited to the auction? Can I invite people from outside the St. Alphonsus community?

A. Yes. Invitations are sent to all current parents, all parishioners, all attendees from the past two years, auction sponsors, and other St. Alphonsus friends and supporters. We encourage you to bring friends who are enthusiastic about Catholic education, or those who are interested in supporting our school or attending our school. Grandparents make great auction guests! If you would like us to mail an invitation, please let us know.

Q. What happens at the auction?

A. At 6:00pm the registration desk opens in the Family Center and guests may check in. The silent auction begins at 6:00pm. We will have two sections that will close at 6:45pm and 7:15pm. Guests will enjoy bidding and socializing while enjoying beer, wine, cider or a signature cocktail (nonalcoholic beverages are also available). Following the silent auction, the Gala continues.. A lovely dinner will be served and the auctioneer will kick off the event with our Golden Ticket drawing, followed by lively bidding on exciting trips, exclusive experiences, plus our always-charming and popular class projects, created by the students in grades Preschool through 8th. All guests will also have an opportunity to contribute to our Fund-A-Dream campaign by raising their paddles to pledge their financial support. The live auction lasts until about 9:30. Stick around for a "not to be missed" After Party!

Q. Is the auction a family event?

A. The auction is a grown-up party. No children, please. Make arrangements for a babysitter so you can enjoy a night out!

Q. What is the auction dress code?

A. This is our biggest, and fanciest, party of the year. Most guests dust off their suits, sports jackets and cocktail dresses (truthfully though many are comfortable in their jeans or other casual wear, and that's fine with us).

Q. What are class projects?

A. Each preschool through 8th grade class works together under the leadership of parent volunteers to create a one-of-a-kind project. In past years, projects have ranged from a handmade tiled outdoor bench, a painted mirror, to a full-size quilt. Students help put their own creativity and artistic abilities into these incredible, highly-sought-after class projects.

Q. I want to bid on something, but I can't attend. Is there still a way to bid?

A. Yes! Download our proxy bid sheet, fill it out, and submit it prior to the start of the auction. You may submit proxy bids for items in both the silent and live auction.

Q. Are my purchases tax-deductible?

A. Amounts paid over the listed value of a package are tax-deductible. Your auction receipt will itemize the price you paid and the value of each package you purchased. Keep this receipt for your tax records.

Q. Will there be anything at the auction that I can afford?

A. Our auction committee works hard to ensure that there are packages with a variety of values. Guests can spend anywhere from \$10 to several thousand dollars. Plus, there are always deals to be had by alert bidders in the silent auction!

Q. We really can't afford to spend anything, but it sounds really fun. Is it ok for us to attend?

A. Absolutely! We've said it before, but our auction is the biggest party of the year and we encourage all parents to attend. To make our live auction exciting, we need to fill the room with lots of energetic supporters as well as participating bidders. Don't miss this great party because you think it's too fancy – this event is fun and you'll be glad you came.

Q. How can I help? I work full-time and don't have much free time to spare.

A. There are many ways to contribute to this event. Can you stuff envelopes at home? Are you able to pick up donations from local area businesses on weekends? Can you plan a party via email? Will you offer your time and energy to help with decorations or set-up on auction day? Feel like cleaning up the day after? Or can you lend some muscle power to the heavy lifting? Send us an email and let us know how you can help or stay tuned for our sign-up genius and grab a spot. There are many volunteer opportunities available during the auction (even for those attending the event) so we're confident you'll find something that fits your schedule.

Q. How do I learn more about volunteering?

A. We will hold monthly (and then weekly) auction meetings, beginning in August. Watch the Angel's Angle for dates and times.