Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

DECEMBER 11, 2022: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ,
he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question,
"Are you the one who is to come,
or should we look for another?" (Mt 11:2-3)

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Mass Schedule

Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri 8:30 AM
Wed 6:00 PM
Sun 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 12:30 PM (Spanish) and 5:00 PM

Alphonsus Academy & Center For the Arts

Friday 8:30 AM or as announced

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday 6:30– 7:30 PM

Confessions

Wednesday 6:30—7:30 PM
Saturday 11:00 AM—12:00 PM
**Or call one of the priests for an appointment*

Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help

Wednesday 5:50 PM

Worship

This Week's Readings

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11
Monday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/
Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday: Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Lk 7:24-30
Friday: Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8/Jn 5:33-36
Saturday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17
Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

Please Pray for the Sick

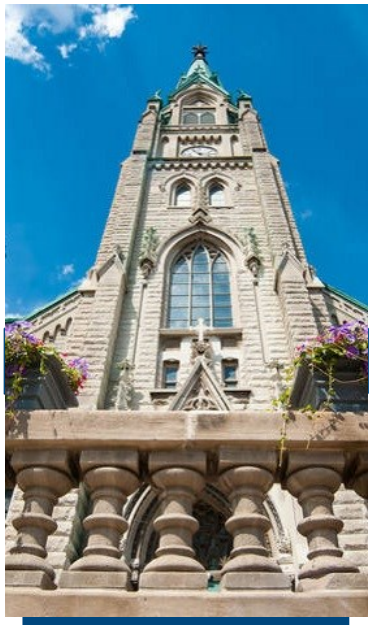
Dorothy Bonds
Jamie Wallett
Sandra Wilson
Monica Alexis Rios
Margaret Nichols
Maria Eisler
Tessa Sergent
Carolina Goldie
Diane Mareci
William Ahearn
Emilia Hurtado
Bernard Zapp
Rachel Schopp
Mike Madigan
David Birks
Celeste Soult
Carol Reckwerdt
Magdalena Gonzalez
Michael Aldape
Jane Christensen
Richard Meindl
Fidel Mercado Chavez
Janet Horvat
Frank G. Bauer
Al Corleone
Mary Perisin
Rita Longnecker
Cheryl Nester-Detweiler
Marla Alicea
Leon Wink
Judy Fredrickson

Giving Update

Weekly Budget Amount: $15,218

Offertory for 12/4: $15,988

Please remember to help the poor. Donations to the poor box in the narthex go to our St. Vincent DePaul Society.



WEDDING BANNS

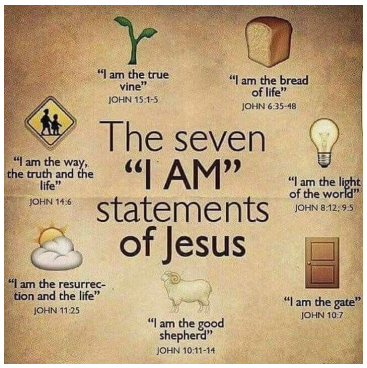
Marisa Castaneda

and

Antonio Manzella

Time, Talent, Treasure

To carry out our mission that God has graciously invited us to participate in, we must be stewards of the temporal goods. By giving up our time, talent, and treasure, we are able to respond to the call of our why in our "whats" and "hows." This means, we baptize, we see others face-to-face, we draw in, we invite in, we create spaces of deep hospitality that we are able to accompany others as they seek to discover how God has been already present to them. In other words, as Henri J.M. Nouwen reminds us in, *A Spirituality of Fundraising*, stewardship, fundraising, and generosity are all concrete ways we help the Kingdom of God come about. We invite you to join us in responding to the vocational call of our shared baptism. Please go to https://tinyurl.com/stalphonsusttt and consider the ways in which you may be generous with your time, talent, and treasure for the sake of the Kingdom of God and the mission with St. Alphonsus.



MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 11
9:00 AM Thaddeus Pellino
11:00 AM Elizabeth Velten (90th Birthday Blessing)
12:30 PM The People of St. Alphonsus
5:00 PM The People of St. Alphonsus

Monday, December 12
8:30 AM +Jose Romeo Gonzalez

Tuesday, December 13
8:30 AM +Ruth Rhode

Wednesday, December 14
6:00 PM The People of St. Alphonsus

Thursday, December 15
8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus

Friday, December 16
8:30 AM Kaitlin Holyk and Nicholas Knoth

Sunday, December 18
9:00 AM Justin Pellino
11:00 AM +Dolores Huffman
12:30 PM +Manuel and Maria Naula
5:00 PM +Ed Marsalek Sr.

News and Events

Giving Tree Thank You!

St. Alphonsus is blessed with amazing community members who gave generously to the Giving Tree in support of Catholic Charities and The Women's Center. Thank you! The Giving Tree will be taken down this Sunday. Please be sure to get all late gifts to the rectory office by this Wednesday, December 14 so we can get it to the recipient in time for Christmas!

Knights of Columbus News

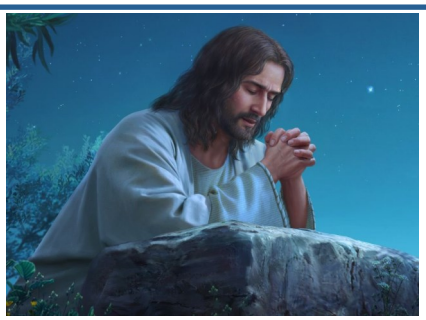
JAN 8, 2023, St. Alphonsus Parish BLOOD DRIVE -Reserve your donation time, bit.ly/JAN8StAlphonsus Spread the word. Donations are needed. We're trying to exceed 35-donations!

FEB 24-25, 2023 - St. Alphonsus Parish Men's OVERNIGHT RETREAT led by Fr. Patrick Gorman at Joseph & Mary RetreatHouse, University St. Mary of the Lake Seminary, Mundelein, IL; retreat will begin about 8PM FRI evening and finish mid-afternoon on SAT, permitting return back home by SAT evening; will include Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Confession, talk(s), rest, leisure time to walk around the lake. Fee of $128 includes dinner (available for late arrivals), one night's stay in individual room, breakfast & lunch. Please sign up at tinyurl.com/FEB-24-MENS-RETREAT
Open to Men's Club, Parishioners, YAM, AACA Dads & Friends-all men are welcome! Sponsored by Parish Knights

Eucharistic Adoration: A Source for Peace: Sometimes our weeks can be quite hectic, making it hard to find quiet time to pray. If this sounds familiar, join us for Mass on Wednesdays at 6 PM., followed by Eucharistic Adoration from 6:30-7:30. This can be a great way to re-center yourself in God and experience the peace that only Christ can give.

Wednesday Evening Men's Vespers
All men in the parish are invited to pray with us every Wednesday evening from 8:00-9 PM in the sanctuary.

Joining St. Alphonsus Parish: St. Alphonsus welcomes all community members on their faith journey! Just moved in the area? Coming back to practicing our Catholic faith? You will want to learn about all the events going on at our parish. If you are not receiving our weekly parish newsletter in your email, contact Mario Serrano at mserranostals@gmail.com



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24

4:00 PM, **6:00 PM**, and **11:00 PM**

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25

The Nativity of the Lord

9:00 AM, **11:00 AM**, **12:30 PM (Spanish)**

New Year's Eve and New Year's Day

Masses to celebrate the **Feast of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

Saturday, December 31— No Vigil Mass

Sunday, January 1— Normal Mass Schedule

If you are traveling to be with family or friends over Christmas, join us on January 8, the Feast of the Epiphany. The Midnight Mass program will be repeated at the 9 and 11 AM Masses.



Faith Formation

Exploring the Diaconate



The Institute for Diaconal Studies (IDS) invites all men who feel the gentle nudge of the Holy Spirit to attend an Exploring the Diaconate session. It is a time to pray, discuss, and learn more about the discernment process and the formation program that aspirants and candidates pursue. Please join us with your wives, if married, as we explore the potential of a vocation, engage in dialogue and pray in search of the next step. All are welcome to attend any of the sessions.

RSVP REQUIRED Contact Sr. Caroline Onuoha, DMMM at 847.837.4563 or conuoha@usml.edu

Exploring the Diaconate Sessions 7:30–8:30 PM

- Thursday, January 5, 2023 - Zoom
- Monday, February 6 - Zoom
- Tuesday, March 7 - Zoom
- Monday, April 24 - Our Lady of Ransom, Niles
- Tuesday, May 9 - Our Lady of Ransom, Niles

For more information contact Deacon Bob Puhala, bpuhala@usml.edu or (847) 837-4564 or visit usml.edu/ids. Application deadline for the 2023–2024 Aspirancy Path is July 15, 2023.

Are You Ready to Become Catholic?

Registration is open for The Rite of Catholic Initiation for Adults (R.C.I.A.) Each year we are blessed with several individuals who desire to enter and learn more about the Catholic faith. The RCIA program is the study of the Catholic Faith and the process of introduction into the faith community.

This class is offered for adults in three situations:
1. Un-baptized adults who desire to be baptized in the Catholic Church.
2. Baptized non-Catholic Christians who desire to be formally admitted into communion with the Catholic Church.
3. Baptized Catholics who have not yet been confirmed and desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Adult baptism (and if applicable, Confirmation and First Holy Communion) takes place at the Easter Vigil (Evening before Easter Sunday). It is one of the highest celebrations in the Catholic Church's liturgical year!

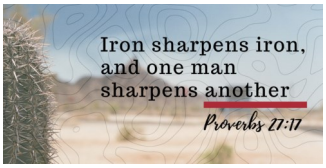
If you or someone you know is interested in taking the class, please contact our pastoral associate, Brooks Robinson at brobinson@stalphonsuschicago.church

Communio: A Men's Prayer Group

Men of the parish are invited to attend the Communio prayer group each Wednesday at 8 PM in the rectory chapel (come to the rectory side door at the southwest corner of the building at 7:55). It's a great way to take your spiritual life a step further as we enrich our knowledge of the faith, encourage each other in life's challenges, and grow in fortitude together. We chant the Liturgy of the Hours, share reflections on the upcoming Sunday gospel reading, followed by a social with refreshments, fellowship, and conversation.
All men of the parish are invited. For questions or more info, contact James Morrow, jemseoul@hotmail.com

St. Alphonsus Men's Group

Thursday Evenings



St. Alphonsus Men's group meets Thursday nights to pray the liturgy of the hours, have fellowship, and to propose challenging topics to discuss.

When great conversations happen, synergy that creates connections and helps values be shared develops. *Proverbs 27:17* describes this as two iron tools being sharpened and made more effective. The same applies with friends coming into contact, sharpening and encouraging each other to greater service.

We meet every Thursday night at 7 PM in the rectory. Food and drinks provided. All men are welcome, with most men being in their 20s and 30s. Access can be gained at the west facing rectory door in the parking lot. For questions or more information, contact Matt Duff at mduff527@gmail.com.



Our Lady of Guadalupe

Holy Mother Mary will be celebrated as Our Lady of Guadalupe December 12. Mass will be offered at 7:00 PM in Spanish. **A Fiesta will follow the Mass in the Festival Hall. All parishioners are invited.**

The venerated image of Our Mother Mary is enshrined within the Minor Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. The basilica is the most visited Catholic pilgrimage site in the world, and the world's third most-visited sacred site. The shrine was built near the hill of Tepeyac where Our Lady of Guadalupe is believed to have appeared to Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin. Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared four times to St. Juan Diego and the last one is where the Miracle of the Roses happened, and the image was printed in St. Juan Diego's Tilma (type of cape.) The full story of the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe can be found in the writings in Náuhatl "*Nican Mopohua*."

El día 12 de Diciembre celebraremos a nuestra Madre María bajo la advocación de Santa María de Guadalupe. La celebración de la misa será a las 7:00 PM en Español. Una Fiesta seguirá a la Misa en el Salón de Fiestas. Todos los feligreses son invitado.

La venerada imagen de nuestra Madre María se encuentra en la Basílica menor de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en la ciudad de México. La Basílica de Guadalupe es el lugar Católico mas visitado por peregrinos en el mundo y el tercer lugar sagrado mas visitado del mundo. La Basílica fue construida en el cerro del Tepeyac donde la tradición señala que Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe se apareció a San Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin. Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe se apareció cuatro veces a San Juan diego y la cuarta y ultima es donde sucede el milagro de las Rosas en la Tilma de San Juan Diego. La historia completa de las apariciones de Guadalupe se encuentra en el escrito Náhuatl "*Nican Mopohua*."



Flowers for Our Lady of Guadalupe

As we celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe, we invite you to help fund the roses used to decorate the Mary altar in church. Special envelopes will be found in the narthex, or donate online at www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/32188

Walking With Purpose

Women's Group at St. Alphonsus— Tuesday mornings and evenings 9:30-11 AM or 6:30-8 PM



Come as you are. You are welcome here. Make authentic connections with other women! Refuel and Refresh! Learn more about God!

As we look at Old Testament people and events, we'll encounter problems that only Christ will solve, needs that only He will satisfy, and promises that only He can deliver.

Beholding His Glory, a nine-lesson Bible study, reminds us how all Scripture points us to our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. We will learn to recognize and appreciate God's plan for our own lives, His awe-inspiring majesty, and His desire for personal intimacy with each one of us.

** **Walking With Purpose will be taking a break for winter. The last Beholding His Glory session will be Tuesday December 13. The new Beholding Your King bible studies will start up again on Tuesday February 7.** **
Questions? Contact Susan Combes at suecombes@hotmail.com

Religious Retirement Collection

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Dear Friends in Christ,

On the Third Sunday of Advent, our parishes will be conducting the Retirement Fund for Religious collection, an annual appeal that benefits nearly 25,000 elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Our senior religious are a treasure—both for their service to our Church and for the ways their prayer and witness enrich our faith. *"Planted in the house of the Lord, they shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall bear fruit even in old age" (Ps 92:14-15)*. As I reflect on the ministry of women and men religious—past and present—I am grateful for the ways they have shaped my own faith. I also value the tremendous service they have offered our Archdiocese. Perhaps you, too, recall an older religious who made a positive difference in your life.

Most senior religious worked many years for little pay, leaving their religious communities with a shortage of retirement savings. Rising health-care costs and decreased income compound the challenge to meet day-to-day needs for medications, nursing assistance, and other necessities. Donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious provide financial support that helps religious communities care for aging members while ensuring younger ones can continue the good works of their elders.

I understand you are asked to support many worthy causes. I invite you to contribute what you can at masses the weekend of December 10-11. Most importantly, please pray for God's continued blessing on all our women and men religious. Rest assured that they are praying for you.

Wishing you every blessing during this Holy Season of Advent. With kind regards I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Blase J. Cupich

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago

Helpful Household Hints by Harvey Levin

In these times of inflation do not waste anything. Here is what to do with over-ripe bananas.
Banana Chocolate Loaf
1¼ cups all-purpose flour
¼ cup Dutch-processed cocoa powder
1 ¼ teaspoons baking soda
¾ teaspoon salt
2 cups mashed very ripe bananas (about 4 bananas)
1 cup packed dark brown sugar
10 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted and cooled slightly
2 large eggs
4 oz. bittersweet chocolate, chopped
2 tablespoons granulated sugar
Move oven rack to middle of oven. Heat to 350°
Wisk flour, cocoa, baking soda, and salt in one bowl.
In second bowl mash bananas with a potato masher and add brown sugar, melted butter and eggs and combine. Add flour mixture and combine. (Batter will be lumpy.) Fold in chocolate.
Pour into 8 ½ x 4 ½ loaf pan coated with vegetable oil.
Place in oven over a rimmed baking sheet (to catch any spill) & bake 70 min. Test doneness with a toothpick.

Stewardship Reflection

"You too must be patient.Make you hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand." James 5:8

Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule; we like things to be convenient. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer God reveals to us what He wants us to do with the gifts He has given us. We are able to better align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.

Support St. Alphonsus This Christmas!

This Christmas season, we express our gratitude for the generous gifts received this time of year. We are continuously overjoyed at how our parish and school families come together to help each other. While you are planning your seasonal giving, show your gratitude for God's blessings in your life by making a special donation to our annual Christmas Collection. Your spirit of giving demonstrates a deep understanding of our mission, as we witness together, the miracle of incarnation.

A huge thank you to those that are already giving online. Please consider making St. Alphonsus an extension of your home and family when contributing.

www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/526

You can also text Joyful to (773) 570-7600

Gospel Meditation



Life can leave us feeling dark and desolate. Sandy was just twenty-eight when her husband, Rob, died, leaving her to raise their two young children. She was without paid employment. Rob went to work one morning and never returned home. Sandy, though, had faith and trusted that somehow God would help her through, even though most days brought deafening, piercing loneliness. She persevered, and the darkness gave way to light. Remarking one day to a friend hesitant to commit to a relationship, Sandy shared her wisdom. Even if she knew the outcome would be the same, she would marry Rob again. She assured her friend that she would even do this if eight years could only be eight minutes. We are being led by God and God transforms the darkness into light.

"Be strong, fear not!" Those are easy words to say. Putting them into practice is the challenge. When our paths are dark and life's roads become treacherous, we can easily complain about life's unfinished nature. When will the pain go away? Will the loneliness ever cease? Will I experience happiness again? As the farmer needs to exercise patience with the soil, we need to do the same with our lives. We have to wait for the early and late rains to come, properly tend to our gardens, and ensure that the rich nutrients of God's merciful and tender presence continue to enrich us. God is not done. God has only just begun his work in us.

We cannot allow life to hold us captive. The systems, agendas, protocols, regulations, expectations, and unfinished business can distract us from what it means to be God's child. Life can leave us feeling cheated, negative, and parched. All times and seasons of our spiritual and liturgical lives lead us to three virtues: faith, hope and love. Stop complaining about what is wrong and look to what God can make right! Joy that flows from the Baptist's message: in Jesus, the one mightier than he, are found healing, reconciliation, and freedom. Christ will save us from life's distortions, illusions, and disappointments. Do you believe this?

Safe Families for Children

"Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause." ~ Isaiah 1:17 ESV

Safe Families for Children is a national, Christian nonprofit which connects local families in crisis with "safe families" who volunteer to watch their children while parent(s) get back on their feet. This is a great opportunity to show Christ's love and compassion for local families, often young single moms with no support system, in a tangible and meaningful way.

Interested in learning more? Reach out to safefamiliesstals@gmail.com



Advent 2022



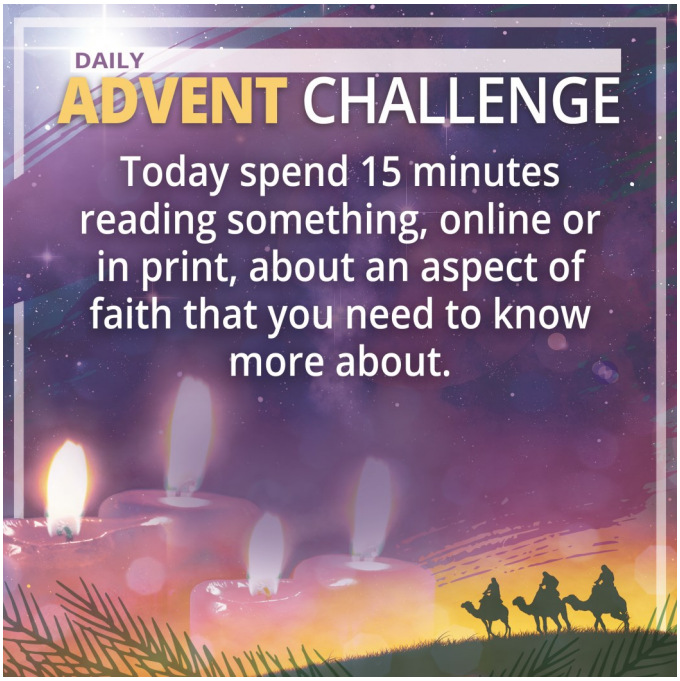
The Third Sunday of Advent helps us to remember joy and the call to rejoice in the Lord, who is coming to save us.

Light Advent Candles

Light two violet and one rose candle each evening for the third week of Advent.

Pray Lord Jesus Christ,
you are the joy of every human heart.
Give us the knowledge of your presence
and the strength that comes from you alone.
Keep us in your embrace
and bring us to you at the last.

Also check out https://pvm.archchicago.org/evangelization/advent-resources There are some great resources on the Archdiocese page for adults and kids!



Young Adult Ministry

January Winter Retreat



On Saturday, January 21, our St. Alphonsus YAM will be hosting Julia Hogan for a January day retreat. Julia is a licensed therapist, author, and speaker (www.juliamariehogan.com). She will be discussing mental health, our faith lives, and living a healthy and balanced life.

Julia has spoken at the SEEK retreat, Notre Dame, Deloitte, and many other places and we are excited to have her! The day will be filled with talks, small group discussions, adoration, music, and more!
Sign up online at www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/36002
The earlybird price will be $50 until Jan 4th and $60 after. Walk ins are welcome!

Christkindlmarket and Ice Skating



Come join St. Al's YAM on Tuesday, December 20th as we explore the Christkindlmarket at Gallagher Way by Wrigley Field. This is an elftastic chance to buy any last minute Christmas gifts for your family and friends while taking in a great market. There is also ice skating on Wrigley Field, which is $5 per person.
www.gallagherway.com/events/christkindlmarket-wrigleyville-2022/2022-12-20
www.christkindlmarket.com/wrigleyville-vendors/
Tickets are required- ONLY FOR ICE SKATING
$5 for admission

Service Opportunities in December

There are a few wonderful volunteer opportunities this month. Learn more on our Dec. YAM Newsletter or contact stalsyamservice@gmail.com



Amate House is Accepting Applications

Amate House is looking for passionate, service minded young adults (ages 21-29) for their 2023-2024 Fellow Cohort. Young adults looking to live in intentional community, put their faith into practice, and develop as leaders as they serve the communities of Chicago with one of their thirty non-profit site partners. If you're discerning a year of service and leadership development, grounded in social justice, faith, and community, Amate House may be your next step! Please contact Amate here: volunteer@amatehouse.org

THE EUCHARIST

Biblical Basis for the Eucharist

The Church calls the Eucharist "the source and summit of the Christian life," made clear at the Second Vatican Council and reiterated in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (see 1324). In the Eucharist we receive our savior Jesus Christ and participate in his paschal mystery: his passion, death, resurrection, and ascension. "Each member of the faithful can … take part in [the Eucharist] and inexhaustibly gain its fruits," Saint John Paul II wrote in his encyclical *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* (11).

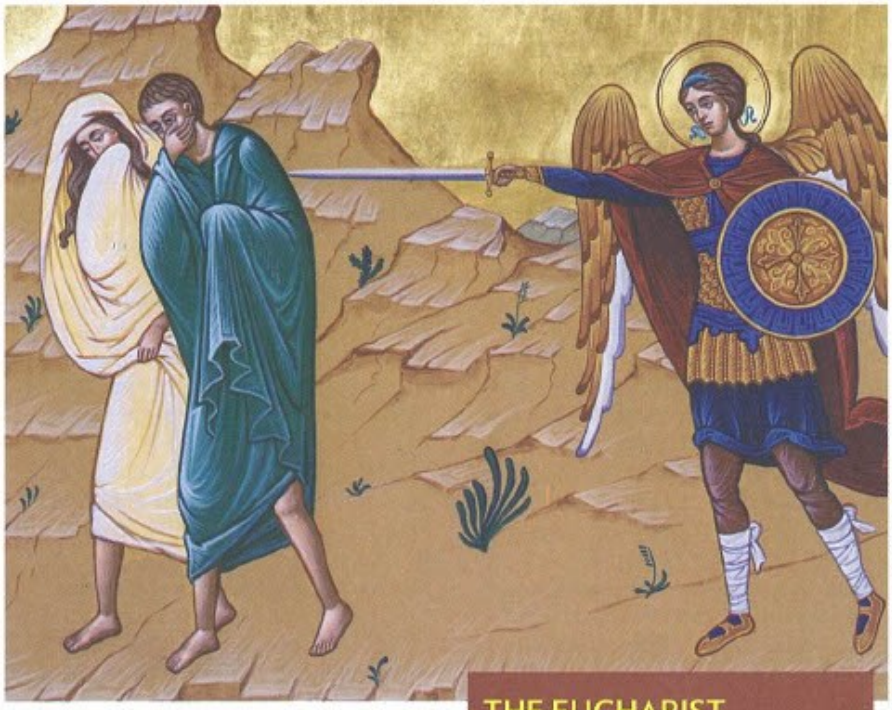
Since the Eucharist is so closely connected with Jesus, we may forget that this "central event of salvation" (*EE*, 11) crowns many millennia of preparation. Long before Jesus instituted the Eucharist at the Last Supper, God began the saving plan that would lead to people partaking in the Body and Blood of Jesus. Throughout salvation history, as reported in the Old Testament, we can recognize the foreshadowing of the Eucharist, particularly in the details of the Passover meal. The New Testament shows how Jesus established the groundwork for the continual celebration of the Eucharist.

At the dawn of creation, after God formed man and woman, human beings sinned by wanting to define good and evil themselves instead of yielding to God's word. The consequences of their sin are detailed in the first chapters of Genesis, but the main result is the loss of original harmony with God and with each other. God's response demonstrates his perfect justice and mercy. He allows the consequences to follow, but he does something more — he initiates his plan to save the people through his son.

FORESHADOWING IN GENESIS

The first foreshadowing of God's plan is found at Genesis 3:15, where God addresses the serpent who tempted the first human beings to sin:

> "I will put enmity between you and the woman, / and between your offspring and hers; / They will strike at your head, / while you strike at their heel."



ADAM JAN FIDEL / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

Reading this verse in the light of Christ, the Church calls it the "protoevangelium," or the first Gospel. The woman foreshadows Mary and the child foreshadows Jesus, who by offering himself for the forgiveness of sin will defeat the serpent (the devil) and restore the original harmony between God and humanity (see CCC 410–12).

God continues his saving plan by forming covenants with humanity, and his people respond by offering sacrifices — for example, Noah in Genesis 8:20 and 9:9–13, and Abraham in Genesis, chapters 15–22. A covenant is more than a contract. The latter is a quid pro quo. A covenant is a strong bond sealed by the word of the two parties. In his covenants God promised to be with his people, and the people pledged loyalty to God. Whereas humanity has continually broken its covenants with God, God has remained faithful.

THE EUCHARIST BULLETIN SERIES

- Week 1 – What the Church Teaches
- Week 2 – Invitation of the Eucharist
- ➤ Week 3 – Biblical Basis
- Week 4 – Adoration

The people's sacrifices to God manifested their gratitude for his care and their desire for his forgiveness. The sacrifice was usually an animal. A notable exception is the sacrifice of bread and wine offered by Melchizedek in thanksgiving to God for granting Abraham victory over his enemies (see Gn 14:18–20). The Church recognizes Melchizedek's sacrifice as a foreshadowing of the Eucharist.

The primary event in the Old Testament that foreshadows the Eucharist is the Passover, which contains

"They devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved." — Acts 2:46–47

a covenant, a sacrifice, and a meal (see especially Ex 12). God delivers the Israelites from the Egyptians, and to mark this event the Israelites are to sacrifice an unblemished lamb, spread the blood over the door, and eat the lamb with unleavened bread, which without yeast can be cooked quickly. The angel of the Lord would pass over the homes of the Israelites, saving them from death and allowing them to flee. They are to commemorate this event forever.

As the Israelites leave Egypt, they journey in the presence of God, who continues to care for them. God opens the Red Sea so the Israelites can escape the pursuing Egyptians. He feeds them in the desert with manna, bread from heaven. Through Moses' intercession, the people enter a covenant with God, agreeing to obey his commandments and offering a sacrifice. Moses sprinkles the blood of the sacrifice on the people, marking their assent.

THE PASSOVER MEAL

The Jewish people down to the present time have celebrated the Passover meal. By partaking of the sacrificial lamb, unleavened bread, and wine, they believe that God's saving deeds are made present in their lives. Passover reminds them that they must live by the Word of God, who has remained faithful to his promises (see CCC 1334).

The Eucharist shares many of the aspects of a Passover meal. Jesus, in fact, instituted the Eucharist during a Passover meal that he celebrated with his apostles on the night before he died (see Lk 22:7–20; Mt 26:17–29; Mk 14:12–25). Even before this meal, Jesus had already referred to himself as "the bread of life" (Jn 6:35), surpassing the manna God gave to the Israelites. During the meal Jesus says that the bread that is broken is his body and the wine that is poured out is his blood. He offers himself as the lamb of sacrifice and establishes a new covenant.

"By celebrating the Last Supper with his apostles in the course of the Passover meal, Jesus gave the Jewish Passover its definitive meaning. Jesus' passing over to his father by his death and Resurrection, the new Passover, is anticipated in the Supper and celebrated in the Eucharist, which fulfills the Jewish Passover and anticipates the final Passover of the Church in the glory of the kingdom" (CCC 1340).

The Resurrection demonstrates the faithfulness of God to his word: Through Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit, death has been defeated and eternal life won. After the Resurrection, Jesus shares a meal with his disciples, reinforcing the enduring character of his sacrifice. Whenever the Church gathers together at the Eucharist, Jesus and his gifts of salvation are made present.

When reflecting on the Eucharist in the context of salvation history and in light of the biblical text, we can see how God prepared the world to receive Jesus as the one, true sacrifice and mediator of the divine covenant. Since Jesus is God, he "brings to perfection all human attempts to offer sacrifices" (CCC 1350). Unlike previous covenants, Jesus keeps his word to the Father and to us.

The Eucharist is not only the source and summit of the Christian life; it is the new and everlasting covenant that reconciles perfectly God and humanity. When we come before God now, we do not have to offer a scapegoat. United to Jesus in the Eucharist, we offer to the Father his one and only Son, the perfect lamb of sacrifice.

The Church has never ceased to celebrate the Eucharist, handing on what it received from the Lord: "[Every day] they devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers" (Acts 2:42).



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For more info on any of our parish or school programs visit us at **www.stalphonsuschicago.org** or call the rectory at **773-525-0709**. To stay connected with us during the Advent season, **like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/stalphonsuschgo/**

like us on facebook

Contact

Sacramental Information

Contact our parish office (773) 525-0709 for information regarding celebrating sacraments including Baptisms (infant and adult), Reconciliation (confession), Eucharist (Communion), Confirmation, Marriage, Anointing of the Sick. For information regarding Funerals, please first contact the funeral director of your choice to begin making arrangements.

How to Offer a Mass Intention

Did you ever notice that every Mass said here at St. Alphonsus is offered for a special intention? The entire congregation prays for that intention during the petitions (Prayers of the Faithful) when we say, "For those who have died, and for the intention of this Mass: (named intention)"

You can make a Mass Intention request here. Masses are often offered for family, friends and relatives that have died. Praying for the dead is a Spiritual Work of Mercy. Offering a Mass for someone that has died is an especially comforting gesture to the family. Mass can also be offered to commemorate joyful occasions and to give thanks to God for blessings received.

The customary offering for a Mass here is $15. However, any amount that you would like to offer is completely acceptable. You can request Masses by visiting the Parish Office during office hours or calling the Parish Office at (773) 525-0709.

You can ***register in the parish*** by coming to the rectory office or going online at *www.stalphonsuschicago.org*. The advantage to registering is that we know who you are and can better plan our programs by knowing whom we serve.

Want *to find out what is happening in the young adult community?* Join the St. Al's Young Adult Listserv. We send out monthly emails to let people know about our upcoming events. To register for the listserv, contact *stalphonsusyam@gmail.com*

The ***Knights of Columbus*** are the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization. For more information, visit *www.stalphonsusknights.com*

Our parish has received permission to once again host important sacraments. Please be patient as the pandemic created a scheduling backlog regarding Baptisms and Weddings. You can find more info at:

www.stalphonsuschicago.org/baptism

www.stalphonsuschicago.org/marriage

St. Alphonsus Social Media

Choose to participate in meaningful engagement! Having an attitude of engagement challenges us to love our digital neighbor as ourselves. You can find St. Alphonsus' Facebook and Twitter by going to the parish website and clicking the icons at the footer of the page.

Directory

Parish Office

1429 W Wellington Ave, Chicago, IL 60657-4121
(P): 773-525-0709 | (F): 773-525-3238
www.stalphonsuschicago.org
parish@stalphonsuschicago.church

Parish Office Hours:

9:00 AM— 5:00 PM Mon, Wed, Fri
9:00 AM— 7:30 PM Tue, Thurs

School Office

1439 W Wellington Ave, Chicago, IL 60657-4121
(P): 773-892-1397 | (F): 773-348-4829
www.alphonsusacademy.org

School Office Hours:

8:00 AM– 3:00 PM

Staff

Parish Staff

Rev. Steven Bauer, Pastor
Rev. Patrick Gorman, Associate Pastor
Brooks Robinson, Pastoral Associate
Brian Bloye, Director of Music and Organist
Erica Cook, Coordinator of Religious Education
Daniel Szymanski, Director of Operations
Mario Serrano, Parish Office Manager
Kaitlin Holyk, Sacrament Ministry Coordinator

School Staff

Gerit McAllister, Principal
Angela Kladis, Assistant Principal
Mary Bodlak, Director of Admissions
Caroline Jordan, Advancement Director
Kim Wallett, Secretary
Connie Del Toral, Administrative Assistant