Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025: THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man." For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.
- Jn 3:13, 17

FORMED— Just Press Play!

St. Alphonsus is dedicated to YOUR spiritual formation. We encourage our faithful to check out FORMED, a premier online platform filled with over 4,000 Catholic studies, movies, audio dramas, talks, e-books, and even cartoons for our children. Best of all, this material is FREE to you. You can get started by clicking on the Formed icon on the front page of our website, www.stalphonsuschicago.org

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Mass Schedule

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

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday	6:30—7:30 PM

Confessions

Wednesday	6:30—7:30 PM
Saturday	11:00—12:00 PM

**Or call one of the priests for an appointment*

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Wednesday	5:45 PM

Worship

This Week's Readings

Sunday: Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17
Monday: 1 Tm 2:1-8/Ps 28:2, 7, 8-9/Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35
Tuesday: 1 Tm 3:1-13/Ps 101:1b-2ab, 2cd-3ab, 5, 6/Lk 7:11-17
Wednesday: 1 Tm 3:14-16/Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 7:31-35
Thursday: 1 Tm 4:12-16/Ps 111:7-8, 9, 10/Lk 7:36-50
Friday: 1 Tm 6:2c-12/Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20/Lk 8:1-3
Saturday: 1 Tm 6:13-16/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 8:4-15
Next Sunday: Am 8:4-7/Ps 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8 (see 1a, 7b)/1 Tm 2:1-8/Lk 16:1-13 or 16:10-13

Please Pray for the Sick

Dorothy Bonds
Jamie Wallett
Monica Alexis Rios
Richard Wagner
Frances Buscemi
Michael and Elizabeth Velten
Fidel Mercado Chavez
David Birks
Celeste Soult
Michael Aldape
Janet Horvat
Frank G. Bauer
Al Corleone
Tracy Duda
Jacob Duda
Dorothy O'Brien
Ryan Meadow
Danny Browder
Brian Krembs
Margaret Nichols
Leslie Salimi
Jason Jamero
Carol Kania
Eileen Koutnik
Rosemarie Cordero
Michelle Moya
Ernest Nora
Albert Meier
Dan Clark
Kevin Combs
Norma Ehrenberg
Janet Dahm
Mary Ziko

Men's Vespers– WED evening
Men of the parish are invited to attend our Communio prayer group each Wednesday from 8-9 PM in the rectory chapel (come to the rectory side door) 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 and share reflections on the upcoming Sunday gospel reading, followed by a social with refreshments, fellowship, and conversation. All men of the parish are invited. Questions/info, contact James Morrow, jemseoul@hotmail.com

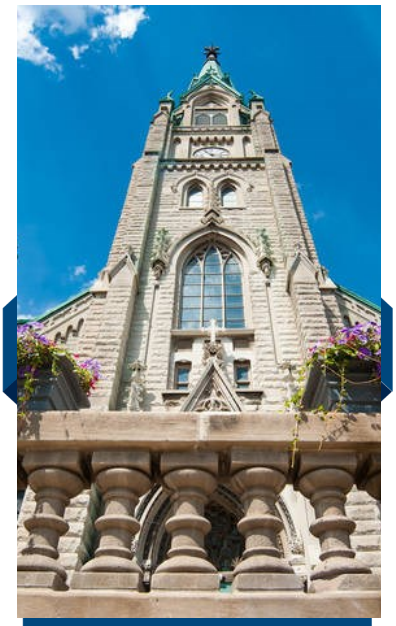
At Rest in the Peace of Christ

Charlie Kirk,
founder of *Turning Point USA*

Kevin Cox

Wedding Banns

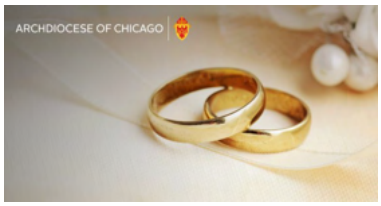
II. Amelia Small and Joseph DeRosa
II. Victoria DeLira and William Morris
II. Mariam M. Hinostroza and Jorge Santiago



WEDDINGS

Allison Michel and Cameron O'Connor

Madison Dugan and Marten de Boer



Welcome Our Recently Baptized

Noah James Casserly

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, September 14
9:00 AM +Melvin Soult
11:00 AM +Marino Susana Hermosa
12:30 PM +Manuel y Maria Naula
5:00 PM +Rosario Anzelmo

Monday, September 15
8:30 AM +Valentin Cruz

Tuesday, September 16
8:30 AM Alisha Thomas

Wednesday, September 17
6:00 PM +Valentin Cruz

Thursday, September 18
8:30 AM Brian Krembs (Health)

Friday, September 19
8:30 AM Evangelization Efforts of St. Alphonsus

Saturday, September 20
8:30 AM The People of Saint Alphonsus

Sunday, September 21
9:00 AM Andrew Morris (Birthday Blessings)
11:00 AM +Zoila Espinosa
12:30 PM +Martin Rios
+Luis Hernandez
5:00 PM Glowienke Family

News and Events

Rosary Prayer and "God and the Problem of Evil" Talk



Parishioners, school families, and friends are invited to join us on **Tuesday, September 16th at 7 PM in the church** to pray the Rosary for the peace and healing for Annunciation Parish in Minneapolis, for all those who have been impacted by the violent evil that happened there, and be extension for anyone affected by similar tragedies.

Following the Rosary, we will host a talk and discussion on the problem of evil. Join our pastoral associate, Brooks Robinson MTS, MDiv, as he discusses our faith in a God who is all-powerful and all-good, and yet there is a pervasive presence of evil in God's creation. How do we reconcile this? This discussion with our faithful will address the perennial question of how & why God allows bad things to happen to good people. At even "normal" times and circumstances, this is a difficult philosophical conversation, but throughout the history of the Catholic Church many people have grappled with the same questions. Realizing that this isn't a problem we ourselves can "solve" (like fixing a broken toaster), and understanding that it can be one of the most pernicious topics in our faith, we will look to our saints and theologians for insight and wisdom, and hopefully find a bit of consolation in these times.

"God does not want war. God wants peace!" (Pope Leo XIV) The Archdiocese of Chicago encourages the faithful to please pray a novena together for peace in our hearts, in our families and communities, for peace in the Church and among nations leading up to the Sept. 21 World Day of Peace. May all faithful and people of goodwill join by reflecting on each daily prayer and be inspired to become instruments of peace. Follow the novena that started Friday, Sept. 12 on the Archdiocese social media Facebook and Instagram pages.

Are You Ready to Become Catholic?

Registration is open for Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (O.C.I.A.) Each year we are blessed with several individuals who desire to enter and learn more about the Catholic faith. The OCIA 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

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion



To elevate our experience of beautiful liturgies here at St. Alphonsus, we are inviting more people to serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. EMHC's should be practicing Catholics in good standing who have received Confirmation. If you would like to volunteer for this important ministry at Mass, please contact us at parish@stalphonsuschicago.church

Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary is now at St. Alphonsus! Legion of Mary is a lay apostolic association of Catholics who serve the Church and their neighbor on a voluntary basis. The Legion sees as its priority the spiritual and social welfare of each individual. Members participate in the life of the parish through volunteering and evangelizing activities sponsored by the parish.

Interested in becoming a Legionary? Meetings in English take place on Fridays at 5 PM in the rectory. Meetings in Spanish are on Mondays at 6 PM. For more info, please contact Fr. Jesus Raya, jraya@stalphonsuschicago.church

Mama Meetup Ministry

Moms of the parish are invited to join for two upcoming events! Join other moms for coffee in Festival Hall after the 9 AM Mass on **Sunday, September 21!** This is a casual opportunity to meet other new moms and chat. Littles and spouses are welcome to join!

Join us for an outing to the Hamlin Park Farmer's Market on Sunday, Oct. 12 at 10 AM! Bring the babies for a stroll through the vendor tents with other moms, and enjoy the Fall morning! We will meet at the park entrance on Damen, closest to where the market is set up.

This group is geared towards new and first time moms with kids under 18 months, but any mother looking for community and a safe space to discuss the joys and difficulties of motherhood is welcome. We look forward to seeing you!



Fri., Sept 26, 5 – 10 p.m.

Sat., Sept 27, Noon – 10 p.m.

Sun., Sept 28, Noon – 7 p.m.

featuring Kinderfest, Noon - 6 pm

BANDS, MUSIC, AND ENTERTAINMENT!

Fletcher Rockwell...
Trippin' Billies...
Run Forrest Run...
The Bratwurst Brothers
I-Pop...
Hello Weekend...
Dancing Queen, A Salute to Abba...
School of Rock...
Sgt. Sauerkraut...
and more to be announced!

PLUS...

The Official Blessing of Beer and Ceremonial Keg Tapping!
Stein Hoisting Competition!
Kinderfest Opening Ceremony Sunday at Noon featuring the AACA Band!

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO CELEBRATE OUR PARISH'S GERMAN HERITAGE AT THE BEST OKTOBERFEST IN THE CITY!

LEDERHOSEN IS OPTIONAL... BUT GEMÜTLICHKEIT IS NOT!

Gemütlichkeit is a unique German word that describes the feeling you get when you gather with old friends and new in a festival atmosphere with food, drink, music, family and fun that just makes your heart feel happy. Lederhosen, dirndl dresses, Bavarian hats, and our commemorative beer steins have been proven to enhance this feeling, but are not required. Hats and steins can be pre-purchased on the Fest website under the Merchandise tab.

WILLKOMMEN!

Beer!

Sam Adams Octoberfest… this deliciously smooth seasonal beer successfully passes the Reinheitsgebot, the famous German beer purity law, and by so doing, it became the first American made beer allowed to be sold and served at the Munich Oktoberfest!



New this year: a flight of German imports will be available in Festival Hall.

Brats!

Bratwurst, of course – but not just any Brat… this is our famous St. Alphonsus special-recipe Oktoberfest Brats, uniquely made only for our Fest, and only available here!



Upgrade to VIP Status!



Impress all your friends and family by becoming a VIP, which gets you the exclusive one-liter lidded beer stein, and a whole lot of other swag. Pricing and info is available by visiting our Fest website.

And new this year…

An Indoor Beer Hall!

Festival Hall will be transformed into a Bavarian style beer hall where fest goers can sit to enjoy their brats and beer –and also enjoy a flight of several German imported beers.

Volunteer!

There are a lot of times, places, and ways you can volunteer during the Fest or help make it a success. Have a fun time while helping out the parish you love! **The volunteer link is on the Oktoberfest website, or scan the QR code.**

Visit our website for more info…

www.StAlsOktoberFest.com

AACA | ALPHONSUS ACADEMY & Center for the Arts

ADMISSIONS OPEN HOUSE

At Alphonsus, we offer our students a rigorous academics, supported by an arts-integrated curriculum, within a supportive Catholic community.

Please join us to discuss important application information, make introductions, and tour our wonderful school.



Open Houses will be hosted on:

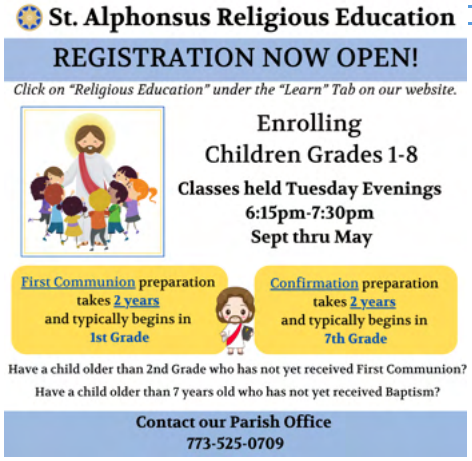
- Friday 10/3 at 9am
- Friday 11/3 at 9am
- Monday 12/1 at 9am
- Friday 1/9 at 9am
- Sunday 1/25 at 10:30am following 9am Catholic Schools Week mass



Open Houses are designed for adults and require advance registration for security purposes. We also invite families to schedule private tours to better suit their needs. We look forward to meeting you!

Reach out to our Director of Admissions for more information:

Madeleine Durkin
mdurkin@alphonsusacademy.org
or visit linktr.ee/alphonsusacademy



Faith Formation

Religious Education 2025-26 Registration

Register your child today for RE! Classes are open for enrollment for Grades 1-8. Our program is held on Tuesday Evenings (Sept. thru May) from 6:15 PM— 7:30 PM. **Our RE program starts on September 23**.

On the St. Alphonsus Website, click on the "Learn" tab, and then click "Religious Education." Scroll down to learn more about our program, register, and pay tuition.

Did you know that preparation for both First Communion and Confirmation is a 2 year process?

First Communion preparation typically begins in 1st Grade and Confirmation preparation typically begins in 7th Grade.

If you have a child that is older than 2nd Grade and has not yet received First Communion or a child that is older than 7 years old and has not yet received Baptism, contact Brooks, brobinson@stalphonsuschicago.church

Catechists for Religious Education

Our Church needs you! A catechist is someone who loves their Catholic faith, has a desire to share that faith with our youngest Church members, and who also desires to continually deepen their own faith as well! Being a catechist is a rewarding gift that you both give to our next generation and that you receive as you see little hearts open and burn with the love of God. **God created you to reveal a unique part of His heart to the world, and this is your opportunity to share that part of God's heart with others**. Classes held Tuesday Evenings 6:15 PM-7:30 PM, Sept thru May; Grades 1-8.

Are you Called to be a Catechist? Remember that God does not call the qualified, He qualifies the called!

Consistent support from the RE Coordinator is also given to each catechist to help ensure that classes go smoothly. Check out our website for more information and contact Steven Torres, storres@stalphonsuschicago.church

Men's Group



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 Men's Group at our email, divineofficers@gmail.com

"Come to me all you are labored and burdened and I will give you rest" Matthew 11:28

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.

Praise and Adoration led by Young Adult Ministry on Friday, September 19

On Friday, September 19th at 7:30 PM, spend time with our Lord in praise and adoration in the church. We'll spend the first 30 minutes in silent adoration, and then our musicians will lead worship in song. Confession will also be available! The hour will conclude with benediction, and our YAM Spiritual Team will gather a group for fellowship and drinks at a local bar after!

*Want to sing/play an instrument with us? Contact LyLena Estabine, lena.estabine@gmail.com

SAMUEL GROUP

Discernment for young adults

Samuel Group is a program sponsored by the Vocation Office that holds monthly meetings between September 2025 and April 2026. The goal of the program is to help young adults learn to listen more clearly to the voice of God in their daily lives so that they can make a good discernment. Each meeting includes talks, a time for food and fellowship, adoration, confession, and Sunday Mass. For more information, contact Katie Hazen at **khazen@archchicago.org** or 847.508.2023.

St. Alphonsus Parish (Lakeview), 1429 W. Wellington Ave., Chicago, IL 60657
2025: September 21, October 12, November 16, December 14
2026: January 11, February 15, March 22, April 26
Meetings: 1 – 5 p.m., Mass: 5 p.m.
Meetings and Mass are in English

Cost: $45 per person
Register here: vocations.archchicago.org/events/samuel-group

More Events of Interest for Young Adults

Welcome to the City: Young Adult Retreat Connect + Reset + Belong

New to Chicago? You're not alone. Moving to a new city is exciting — but may also be lonely, overwhelming, and filled with questions. This half-day retreat is designed to help you feel grounded in your faith, supported in your transition, and connected to others who are walking a similar path.

At this retreat, you'll:

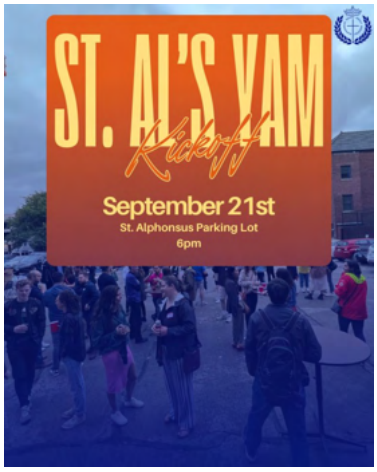
- Build meaningful connections with other young adults new to the city
- Hear faith-integrated talks on navigating change and finding community
- Have time for reflection during Eucharistic Adoration and the chance to go to Confession
- Meet Catholic organizations and ministries from across Chicago

When: **Saturday, September 20 from 9 AM – 1 PM** (optional 8:30 AM Mass beforehand)
Where: St. Alphonsus Parish Festival Hall
Who: Any young adult (ages 21–39) who has moved to Chicago in the past year or wants to find connection in the Catholic community
Cost: $15
Register by: September 15 (space is limited!) www.vitaoptimumcounseling.com/welcome-to-the-city
Questions? Contact Katie, katie.hazen@vitaoptimumcounseling.com
Hosted by Vita Optimum Counseling & Consulting
Faith-integrated therapy to help you live your best life — emotionally, spiritually, and relationally.

Catholic Sports Leagues is hosting a **Mini-Golf tournament on Wednesday, September 24** at Big Mini Lakeview, 3655 N. Halsted St. Learn more and register at www.catholicsportsleagues.com

Young Catholic Professionals– Chicago Chapter, is hosting a Happy Hour on Wednesday, October 15 at Barcocina Lakeview, 2901 N. Sheffield. It is a free event, but only members get a free drink! Learn more and register online at ycp.glueup.com/org/ycpchicago/events

Young Adult Ministry



Young Adult Ministry Kick-Off— Sunday, September 21

We're back for another year and celebrating it with our annual Kickoff! Following the 5 PM Mass on Sept. 21st, young adults (ages 21-39) are invited to attend the YAM kickoff in the church parking lot. During the event, learn more about what YAM is, meet the new board and hear about our plans for the coming year, as well as find ways to get involved in the community! Throughout the year, we host numerous events but we can't do it ourselves which is why we need YOU to help us! So come learn how to get involved in our Spiritual, Social, Service, and Intellectual pillars as well as small groups. Plus, enjoy the food available for purchase, the free beer and wine, music, and great company!

Young Adult Trivia Night— Saturday, October 11



Are you the friend whose schtick is sharing random factoids? Or, the one with the most fun party conversations? Well, calling all you trivia fans and friends, alike, to come join us, in the St. Alphonsus' Festival Hall (basement), on Saturday, October 11 from 6 PM-9:30 PM because St. Alphonsus YAM Trivia is back!

The cost of tickets is $25 per person (it is a fundraiser!). Sign up on our parish's GiveCentral, www.givecentral.org/location/39/38222

Teams of 5-6 people can register individually or together.

For anyone registering as a team, simply list the names of everyone in the "Comments" section of the GiveCentral link, during your purchase. Light refreshments, beer and wine are included in the event cost. We will have prizes for 3rd, 2nd and 1st place winning teams.

Don't know anyone or don't have 6 people on your team? Fear not! You may also register individually or in a smaller group (2-4 people). We will assign you to a team. All are welcome!

***Please note: pre-registration with payment through the GiveCentral link is required to attend. No walk-ups will be allowed since we have teams. The deadline to sign-up will be Thursday, October 9 at 11 PM.

For any questions or concerns, please reach out to the YAM social team at: stalsyamsocial@gmail.com

YAM Fall Retreat-Sent Forth from the Jubilee— Oct. 18



Join us for a day of prayer, reflection, and renewal as we conclude the Jubilee Year and prepare to carry its graces into our daily lives. We will be joined by Fr. Tim Anastos, director & chaplain of the St. John Paul II Newman Center at UIC, who will help us explore what the Jubilee has meant for us, how we can live it moving forward, and how we are called to share it with others.

The retreat will take place on Saturday, October 18 from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. The day will include talks, small group discussions, lunch, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and the opportunity for Confession.

Cost: $15 per person. You can register at www.givecentral.org/otp/41828

We ask that you sign up in advance so we can get an accurate count of attendees, but walk-ins are also welcome at the door.

ALTAR SERVERS WANTED

INVITING ALL 4TH–8TH GRADERS

Altar serving is a calling from God, have you thought about it? TRY IT!!!



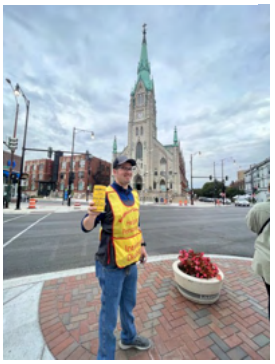
To be an altar server you must:

- be in 4th-8th grade
- have received First Holy Communion
- commit to serving at least one Sunday Mass per month

Training for new altar servers will take place on
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 AT 1:45PM OR
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 AT 6:30PM

Trainings will take place inside the church.
For questions or details contact Fr. Jesus Raya (Fr. Chuy)
jraya@stalphonsuschicago.church

Knights of Columbus



Knights of Columbus— Intellectual Disabilities Drive

On Saturday, September 20, our parish Knights of Columbus will be collecting donations for their annual Intellectual Disabilities (ID) aka "Tootsie Roll" fundraising drive around the parish campus from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Please look for them at the intersections of Southport, Lincoln, and Wellington. On Sunday, September 21, starting at 9 AM, the Knights will be outside the parish campus again collecting donations for the ID Drive. They will also be in the Narthex after the Sunday Masses (9 AM, 11 AM, and 12:30 PM) at St. Alphonsus. **They can use your help with collection volunteers**. To volunteer: contact Don Ogilvie at dono2108@gmail.com or Ray San Agustin at raysanagustin15158@gmail.com

The funds generated from this drive are used to support local programs which help people with special learning and life needs. The St. Alphonsus Knights thank you in advance for your help and generosity!

Hispanic Heritage Month



Raíces Que Inspiran – Roots That Inspire Us
St. Laura Montoya (Colombia)

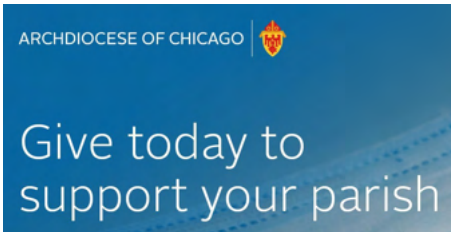


Maestra. Misionera. Pionera. Santa Laura fue la primera santa colombiana. Dedicó su vida a los niños y familias indígenas en las montañas de Colombia. Santa Laura compartió el amor de Dios con ternura y respeto. *"¡Qué sed tengo! Mi sed es saciar la tuya, Señor."*

Teacher. Missionary. Trailblazer. St. Laura Montoya was the first Colombian saint, dedicating her life to Indigenous children and families in the mountains of Colombia. St. Laura shared God's love with tenderness and respect. *"How thirsty I am! My thirst is to satisfy yours, Lord."*

Stewardship—First Fruits

Who Is A Christian Steward?



One who receives God's gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord.

This is the description offered in the Bishops' Pastoral Letter and one we feel paints a beautiful picture of a Christian steward. While every man, woman and child is born a steward, the practice of embracing this special way of life is an ongoing and ever-changing experience for each of us.

Stewardship begins with gratitude, when we recognize that everything – family and friends, home, health, community, work, neighborhood, parish – comes from God. It is then up to us to share these blessings with others. How we spend our time, to what extent we use our special abilities and the percentage of our financial gifts that we dedicate to the common good – these reflect our commitment to the Biblical call for stewardship and discipleship.

Time

We often link time with talent, and understand it merely as volunteer efforts. But time means so much more. Time for family, neighbors, rest, fitness, friends and, most especially, prayer – these are essential in the life of a disciple. How do I allocate the time in my life and what does that say about my priorities?

Treasure

For centuries people have sensed a close, personal relationship with God and have considered the practice of thoughtful and proportionate giving as a means of expressing their gratitude for all that God has given them. The Old Testament speaks of tithing and relates the tithe to a deep devotion to God.

Talent

The interests and abilities of our parishioners are extraordinary. A stewardship commitment simply asks, "How do I use my talents and giftedness in the service of others?" Our Parish community invites widespread involvement, but it is up to each individual to discover and discern how God is calling you to disburse your talents – within St. Alphonsus and in the world.

We pray that the members of St. Alphonsus Parish will recognize stewardship as an act of faith – a spiritual response to the call of discipleship. This simple practice of identifying and sharing our gifts in an intentional and committed manner invites us to look at time, talent and treasure in new ways.

We want to invite all parishioners who want to participate in online giving to do so by enrolling through GiveCentral and setting up your donation via the First Fruits campaign (weekly Mass offering).

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.

Sign up at *www.givecentral.org/location/39*

Giving Update

Weekly Budget Amount: $15,192

Sunday Offertory for 9/7: $16,157

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

Left QR code for GiveCentral; Right QR code for Venmo

Gospel Reflection

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man." For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. — Jn 3:13, 17

The Transforming Power of the Cross

If Jesus would never have given His life on a cross for the salvation of the world, then a cross would never have been seen in "exultation." A cross, in and of itself, is an instrument of death, a horrific and violent death. It's also an instrument of humiliation and torture. Yet, today, the Cross is seen as a holy and blessed object. We hang crosses in our homes, wear them around our neck, keep them in our pocket on the end of the rosary, and spend time in prayer before them. The Cross is now an exalted image by which we turn to God in prayer and surrender. But that is only the case because it was on a cross that we were saved and brought to eternal life.

If you step back and consider the amazing truth that one of the worst instruments of torture and death is now seen as one of the holiest of images on earth, it should be awe inspiring. Comprehending this fact should lead us to the realization that God can do anything and everything. God can use the worst and transform it into the best. He can use death to bring forth life.

Though our celebration today, the "Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross," is first and foremost a feast by which we give glory to the Father for what He did in the Person of His divine Son, it is also a feast by which we must humbly understand that God can "exalt" every cross we endure in life and bring forth much grace through them.

What is your heaviest cross? What is the source of your greatest suffering? Most likely, as you call this to mind, it is painful to you. Most often, our crosses and sufferings are things we seek to rid ourselves of. We easily point to crosses in life and blame them for a lack of happiness. We can easily think that if only this or that were to change or be removed, then our life would be better. So what is that cross in your life?



The truth is that whatever your heaviest cross is, there is extraordinary potential for that cross to become an actual source of grace in your life and in the world. But this is only possible if you embrace that cross in faith and hope so that our Lord can unite it to His and so that your crosses can also share in the exaltation of Christ's Cross. Though this is a profoundly deep mystery of faith, it is also a profoundly deep truth of our faith.

Reflect, today, upon your own crosses. As you do, try not to see them as a burden. Instead, realize the potential within those crosses. Prayerfully look at your crosses as invitations to share in Christ's Cross. Say "Yes" to your crosses. Choose them freely. Unite them to Christ's Cross. As you do, have hope that God's glory will come forth in your life and in the world through your free embrace of them. Know that these "burdens" will be transformed and become a source of exaltation in your life by the transforming power of God.

My exalted Lord, I turn to You in my need and with the utmost faith in Your divine power to save. Please give me the grace I need to fully embrace every cross in my life with hope and faith in You. Please transform my crosses so that You will be exalted through them and so that they will become an instrument of Your glory and grace. Jesus, I trust in You.

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 parish Office Manager, Mario Serrano at mserranostals@gmail.com

You can officially register to join the parish at www.stalphonsuschicago.org/visitors

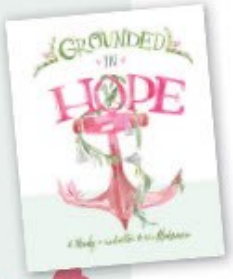
Come as you are.

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

Make authentic connections with other women
Refuel and refresh | Learn more about God

In a world where levels of despair, addiction, and suicide are rising, we need more than clichés or positive thinking. ***Grounded in Hope***, based on the book of Hebrews, will help you encounter Jesus in such a powerful, comforting, and stabilizing way that He can become your lifeline.

Hebrews contains some of the most beautiful passages you'll find in Scripture. It will comfort you and challenge you. Every word of it has a treasure to mine, and those who are willing to make the effort will be richly rewarded.



St. Alphonsus Rectory Common Room
Starting September 23
Tuesday mornings at 9:30 AM
and evenings at 6:30 PM

Questions? Contact Marianne at
mariannek36@yahoo.com

walking with purpose

www.walkingwithpurpose.com

Living Peace and Justice

Nourishing Hope Fundraiser

All are invited to honor the impact of Nourishing Hope, formerly known as Lakeview Pantry, and their partners over the past year. This year's event is at The Geraghty, 2520 S. Hoyne Ave, Chicago, 60608, on Friday, Sept. 19 at 6:30 PM. Fabulous silent auction prizes, right from your smartphone. Raise your paddle to support operating expenses and bid on exciting live auction packages. Live entertainment and dancing! Your support provides food for today and hope for tomorrow for thousands of Chicagoans in need. Go to www.nourishinghopechi.org/gala

Amate House Social

Amate House is a Chicago-based service and leadership program grounded in social justice, faith, and community. All are invited to reunite with the Amate House community this fall for a joyful evening of fellowship, service, and impact. Enjoy drinks, hors d'oeuvres, raffles, and a chance to meet their 2025-26 Fellows— the next generation of young leaders committed to putting love into action. Together, we will celebrate the heart of our mission and those who help bring it to life—***you!*** The Love in Action event takes place in the Tully Hall at St. Ignatius Prep, 1076 W. Roosevelt Rd. on Saturday, October 25 from 5—8PM. RSVP on the link on their site.

Helpful Household Hints by Harvey Levin

Garden Hose Holder

Many of us have a garden hose which is wound around a holder attached to the house or fence. The trouble is that the hose gets all twisted when you try to wind the hose around the holder and is then twisted when you take it off. The solution is to have two holders and then the hose is placed on both of them in a figure eight. Then the hose does not get twisted.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Join us for a special Mass with Fr. Steven Bauer, Serra Club and the propaedeutic year seminarians to **pray** for an increase in **vocations** – then stick around for **food, fun,** and **fellowship** at **Oktoberfest!**

Sunday, September 28 at 11 a.m.
St. Alphonsus, 1429 W. Wellington, Chicago

The Serra Club is a global organization of lay people within the Catholic Church, dedicated to fostering and supporting vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Contact

Sacramental Information

Contact our parish office at (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

Have you ever noticed 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 is $15. However, any amount that you would like to offer is 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*

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 Instagram 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 |
www.stalphonsuschicago.org
parish@stalphonsuschicago.church

Parish Office Hours:

9:00 AM– 5:00 PM Mon, Wed, Fri
9:00 AM– 7:30 PM Tues, Thur

School Office

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

School Office Hours:

8:00 AM– 3:00 PM

Staff

Parish Staff

Rev. Steven Bauer, Pastor
Rev. Jesús (Chuy) Raya, Associate Pastor
Brooks Robinson, Pastoral Associate
Brian Bloye, Director of Music and Organist
Daniel Szymanski, Director of Operations
Dr. Steven Torres, Coordinator of Religious Education
Mario Serrano, Parish Office Manager
Kathryn Kibler, Sacrament Ministry Coordinator
Margaret Piery, Parish Secretary/Sacristan

School Staff

Gerit McAllister, Principal
Angela Kladis, Assistant Principal
Madeleine Durkin, Director of Admissions
Kim Wallett, Secretary
Janin Silva, Administrative Assistant