Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

DECEMBER 12, 2021: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



The crowds asked John the Baptist,
"What should we do?" (Lk 3:10)

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Mass Schedule

Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri	8:30 AM
Wed	6:00 PM
Sunday	9 AM, 11 AM, 12:30 (Spanish) and 5 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—7:00 PM
Saturday	11:00—11:30 AM

**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: Zep 3:14-18a/Is12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18
Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday: Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a, and 13b [2a]/Lk 7:24-30
Friday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17
Saturday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25
Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

Please Pray for the Sick

Dorothy Bonds
Joanna Ravelingeen
Jamie Wallett
Sandra Wilson
Monica Alexis Rios
Margaret Nichols
Maria Eisler
Rita Gerich
Tessa Sergent
Carolina Goldie
Diane Mareci
William Ahearn
Emilia Hurtado
Bernard Zapp
Rachel Schopp
Mike Madigan
David Birks
Lorik Oppland
Celeste Soult
Carol Reckwerdt
Doug Tally
Jeff De La Cruz
Stacy Strickland
Tim Dooling
Spencer Lyles
Magdalena Gonzalez
Christopher Bibat
Michael Aldape
Fidel Mercado Chavez
J.J Keils

Giving Update

The bulletin went to press before the December 5 collection could be counted. The December 19 bulletin will have the 12/5 and 12/12 Sunday Offertory totals.

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



WEDDING BANNS

Luciana Pavisich
and
Matthew Rinzel

Sara Mostofi
and
Ross Murray
(Vows Renewal)

Find Peace in the Middle of the Week: 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. That can be a great way to experience 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 8:30 to 9 PM in the sanctuary.

Welcome Our Recently Baptized

Maya Michele Blaszczyk
Elliot Anthony Capinegro

For more info about having your child baptized at St Alphonsus, contact Kaitlin Holyk at stalsweddings@gmail.com

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 12
9:00 AM +Denise Huguelet
11:00 AM +Teresita Narido Cordero
+Dolores Huffman
12:30 PM Miguel Antonio
5:00 PM The People of Saint Alphonsus

Monday, December 13
8:30 AM The People of Saint Alphonsus

Tuesday, December 14
8:30 AM Evelyn and Bill Kreutzer
Michael, Victor & Joseph Giustino

Wednesday, December 15
6:00 PM +Helen Kam Kin Hui

Thursday, December 16
8:30 AM The People of Saint Alphonsus

Friday, December 17
8:30 AM +Noemi Molina

Sunday, December 19
9:00 AM +Bob Lieder
11:00 AM +Jose Espina Jr.
12:30 PM The People of Saint Alphonsus
5:00 PM The People of Saint Alphonsus

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 recipients from both Catholic Charities and The Women's Center. Thank you! All tags on the tree from Catholic Charities have been taken. We have extended our Giving Tree so only The Women's Center tags are on the tree. Any much needed gifts should be returned before their Christmas party on Saturday Dec. 18.

Tuesday Small Group Bible Study

The YAM Spiritual Team's Small Group Bible Study Series continues on Tuesdays at 7 PM. Meetings last about an hour and center around Sunday's upcoming Gospel, with study aids from Bishop Barron's Word on Fire Ministries aiding the reflection and discussion.

Meet downstairs in Festival Hall. We will meet every Tuesday in December until Christmas. All are welcome!

Cleaning Angels— Christmas Edition



The return of our Cleaning Angels ministry caters to those looking for a simple fun service opportunity. Our next date is **December 18 at 9:00 AM**. Volunteers will meet on Saturday morning and help to clean and beautify our church in preparation of our Christmas services. There will be holiday treats for all participants! All cleaning products are provided. Sign up at bit.ly/christmasca

Tuesday Evening Philosophy Group



Join us on Tuesdays in the St. Alphonsus rectory for weekly philosophy discussions and digging deeper into the greatest thinkers of all time. Get in touch with our YAM Intellectual chair, Ephrem at ephrem.shaffer@gmail.com for more information.

Christmas & New Year's Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24

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

Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25

The Nativity of the Lord

9:00 AM, **11:00 AM**

Sunday, December 26

9:00 AM, **11:00 AM**, **12:30 PM** (Español) and **5:00 PM**

New Year's Eve and New Year's Day

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

Friday, December 31 at 8:30 AM and 4:00 PM

Saturday, January 1 at 10:00 AM

If you are traveling to be with family or friends over Christmas, join us on January 2, the Feast of the Epiphany. The Midnight Mass program will be repeated at the 9 and 11 AM Masses.



Faith Formation

Women's Bible Study Meetings– Tuesdays at St. Alphonsus



Are you looking for a way to refuel and be refreshed, make authentic connections with other women, and learn more about God? It's time to come back to community!

Our mission at Walking With Purpose is to help every Catholic woman and girl in America encounter Jesus Christ through our Bible studies.

Discovering Our Dignity

Women of the Old and New Testaments were as flawed and broken as we can be, yet the power of God worked in their lives. Learn from their experiences in *Discovering Our Dignity*, a 22 lesson Bible Study.

Through their stories recorded in Scripture, women of the Bible reach out to touch our "present" in a tender, honest and loving way— woman to woman— with ancient wisdom, sage advice, and insights from sorrowful failures and emotional wounds.

Walking With Purpose meet on Tuesdays at the St. Alphonsus Common Room in the rectory.
Meetings are from 9:30 AM to 11 AM or 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. For more info, contact suecombes@hotmail.com

Gospel Meditation

"From silly devotions and sour-faced saints, good Lord, deliver us!" St. Teresa of Avila

We've all heard the adage, "Laughter is the best medicine." In many ways, it really is. When was the last time you really laughed? The gift of imagination allows us to see possible things that are yet to be. Imagine a world filled with laughter. We take life too seriously sometimes. Fear, uncertainty, pressure, negativity, disappointment, and myriad other human experiences can rob us of the joy needed for laughter. God never promised us an easy road, and we do have to take the course of our lives seriously. However, there is a balance to be sought and a possible joy that can be brought even to the darkest and most challenging of encounters.

St. Therese of Lisieux reminds us that, "Joy is not found in the material objects surrounding us but in the inner recesses of the soul. One can possess joy in a prison cell as well as in a palace." Falling in love with God, who is present in all of creation, allows us to bring a depth of understanding to everything we do and experience. We can more easily see above and beyond things while pursuing the only One who can truly satisfy our hearts. When we realize that God, the king of Israel, is in our midst and with us, there is no further misfortune to fear. We can celebrate the wonder and beauty of God's gift of joy. It is no wonder that many saints radiate joy and have no reservations expressing laughter. They are happy because they have found a pearl of great price.

We celebrate with joy today with hearts filled with expectation, wonder, awe, and beauty as we ready ourselves, even more excitedly, for the coming of our Savior. Do not fear and do not be discouraged. If you haven't laughed in a while, why? Something is preventing you from expressing the magnificence of your soul and the presence of God who dwells within. God's power and presence within us assures us that we are loved and kept in that presence. What more is really needed? Rejoice and laugh in the presence of God! It really is the best medicine and a most perfect way to convince others that God is really with us. "Go ahead, laugh! Live your life with joy and serve the Lord with laughter! Joy, with peace, is the sister of charity. Serve the Lord with laughter." (St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina)

Helpful Household Hints by Harvey Levin

Wrapping Food

Sometimes you will be invited to someone's house for dinner and you will want to bring your favorite recipe to add to the meal. But the recipe goes on a dish that does not have a cover. You will want to wrap it but the wrapping will stick to the food. The solution is toothpicks. Just put toothpicks all over the food and then gently wrap the entire plate with plastic wrap. When you arrive, just take the plastic wrap off, take the toothpicks out and the plate will look terrific.

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Holy Mother Mary will be celebrated as Our Lady of Guadalupe December 12. Mass will be offered at 12:30 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 12:30 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

Stewardship—First Fruits

FIRST FRUITS
time talent treasure

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*

A key facet of stewardship has always been personal witness. Today's readings deal in large part with the witness of John the Baptist. St. John the Baptist, according to historians, was a few months older than Jesus. It is also generally accepted that he began preaching about six months before Jesus came to him to be baptized and to begin His ministry.

St. John the Baptist pointed to Jesus as the Messiah. John the Baptist, through personal witness, raised a great sense of expectancy and excitement, the kind of expectancy and excitement that we associate with this season of Advent. John tries to awaken in people a consciousness of sin, the importance of conversion and change, and the need to become more holy in God's eyes.

Those are the same goals we should have during this Advent season. **The matter of witness is a serious and important thing. It establishes truth and a solid foundation for faith.** When we personally witness, it means we make a commitment. We cannot be neutral when it comes to our faith. We are called to be disciples, witnesses of and for Christ. We best accomplish that by the ways we live our own lives and how we relate to and treat others.

Advent 2021



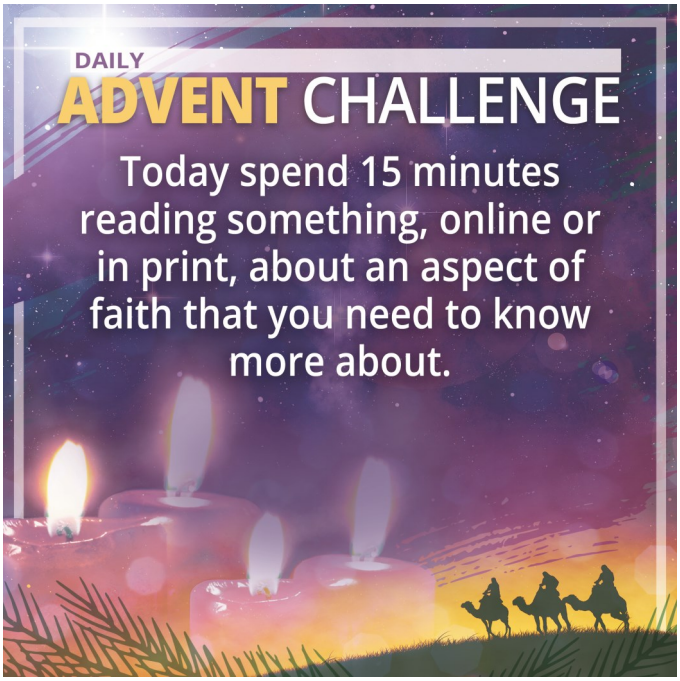
The Third Sunday of Advent helps us to remember joy and the call to rejoice in the Lord, who is coming to save us.

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!





Athenaeum Center for Thought and Culture

ACTC invites all in our faith community to what promises to be a great night on **Saturday December 18**! A night of original content put together in Music and Art to express the creative genius of each individual act. While each individual possesses within them this genius - it is the creator that they point to. The one whom has given them their creativity to express their heart and share their art. Culminating in the highest form of emotional expression is the rest of the heart of the Artist and its audience.



Young Adult Ministry (YAM)

Our Mission

As members of St. Alphonsus Young Adult Ministry, we walk alongside one another in faith. Our community is focused on:

- Meaningful worship, careful discernment, and prayerful reflection
- Curiosity and a thirst for the truth
- Service to one another, our church, and our city
- Lasting friendships and an invitation to fellowship and meaningful participation

Praise and Adoration



On Friday, Dec. 17, spend time with our Lord in praise and adoration in the main church. We'll spend the first 15 minutes in silent adoration, and then our musicians will lead worship in song. The hour will conclude with benediction. Afterward, we will meet for refreshments and fellowship downstairs in Festival Hall.

*Want to sing/play an instrument with us? Come to the church an hour early (6:30 PM) to run the songs with the music team! Contact Eric Nyberg on Facebook.

Zoolights with YAM



This Tuesday Dec. 14, St Als YAM has secured 40 tickets to the free evening of Lincoln Park Zoolights. Come join us for a fun weekday night hangout at the Lincoln Park Zoo, seeing all the animal exhibits and wonderful Christmas lights. Visit the YAM Facebook page for more info!

More Young Adult Activities

These are events not necessarily affiliated with St. Alphonsus YAM, but may be of interest to other young adults.

Catholic Sports League Bowling

Start off the new year with CSL's Bowling League! We will be bowling for 4 consecutive Mondays, beginning on January 10th. Early bird pricing is just $50 for all 4 weeks, including shoes! Register before the price increases on December 17th. Feel free to sign up individually or with a friend, and we will organize teams! https://www.catholicsportsleagues.com/

SEEK 22— Feb. 4-6

Join college students and young adults from all across the Chicagoland area for FOCUS's SEEK22 Conference! This conference will give you a chance to encounter the Source of all your heart's desires and find the true place of the Gospel in your everyday life. SEEK22 is a multi-day event centered on the heart of the Gospel and includes exciting talks from some of today's best Catholic speakers, deep discussions, prayer, fun, community fellowship, and entertainment. Register at https://bit.ly/seek22

Religious Retirement Collection

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

During the weekend of December 11-12, our parishes will hold the Retirement Fund for Religious collection, an annual appeal that benefits some 30,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests.

Pope Francis often highlights the role older adults play in conveying faith from one generation to the next. Recently, he noted that "there is no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel."1 As we approach the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection—an appeal that benefits some 26,000 elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests—I am reminded that senior religious never retire from their vows.

Instead, the prayer and ministry of older religious are an ongoing witness to the Gospel. In their younger years, they laid the foundation for Catholic schools, hospitals, and works of mercy. Today, many serve in volunteer ministry. Others are frail and need assistance. Yet all remain wholly committed to their vocations, accepting the limitations of aging and embracing the opportunity to spend more time praying for our Church and world.

Most senior religious worked for little pay, and now their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious offers support that helps religious communities provide loving care for older members while ensuring younger ones can continue the good works of their elders.

Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides vital funding for medications, nursing care, and more. If you are unable to give during Mass, please mail your offertory envelope to your parish or donate through your parish's online giving platform, if available. You can also send your contributions to:

National Religious Retirement Office
3211 Fourth Street NE
Washington DC 20017-1194

Please make your check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious.

Please join me in praying for God's continued blessing on our nation's elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Blase J. Cupich

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago

Made For More



Save the Date! April 5, 2022
An evening of live music, visual beauty, and reflection

Where do we come from and where are we going? These questions are DECISIVE for understanding what it means to be human and how to orient our lives and our actions toward authentic fulfillment. Join Christopher West and Mike Mangione as they creatively weave together dynamic presentations with live music, movie clips, YouTube videos, and sacred art for an evening of beauty and reflection on the meaning of life, love, and human destiny. You will come away with a faith-filled vision of hope that will instill in you the sheer wonder and joy of being alive... For more info, contact Dawn Fitzpatrick, dfitzpatrick@archchicago.org or (312) 534-5355 **Ticket sales are now live.**

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Fund a Child's Future



Donate now, reduce your state income tax and invest in our children's future! Take advantage of a limited time 2-for-1 matching gift.

Looking for a way to decrease your Illinois state income tax liability? What if you could decrease what you owe to the state and potentially increase your state tax refund, while also helping fund scholarships for low-income students to attend the Catholic school of their choice?

The Illinois Invest in Kids tax credit scholarship program awarded scholarships to more than 9,300 students in the first four years. This year, as a global pandemic has created so many uncertainties in our society, you can still invest in a brighter future for children from our most vulnerable communities. By contributing through the Illinois **Invest in Kids** program you can make the lifelong advantage of a Catholic school education possible.

Thanks to the generosity of several donors, between Dec. 1, 2021 and Feb. 28, 2022, you can take advantage of a 2-for-1 matching gift program that will triple the impact of your gift! Limitations apply. A donation can be made using cash, check, appreciated stock or credit card.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

The Garcia family makes $50,000/year and pays $2,475 in Illinois state income taxes.

Family Income $50,000/year	Option A	Option B	Option C
Illinois state taxes at 4.95%	$2,475	$2,475	$2,475
Invest in Kids donation	**$500**	**$1,000**	**$3,300**
Tax refund	$375	$750	$2,475
Total taxes paid to Illinois (after refund)	**$2,100**	**$1,725**	**$0**
Cost of donation to family after refund	$125	$250	$825
2-for-1 matching gift program triples impact and provides three times the scholarships	**$1,500**	**$3,000**	**$9,900**

Each option provides a refund to the family; however, **Option C** completely eliminates the family's tax burden and provides nearly $10,000 in scholarships for students to attend Catholic schools.

For more information please contact the TCS hotline at **312.534.2617** or **tcs@archchicago.org**, or visit **archchicago.org/tcs**.

Please consider donating and designating Alphonsus Academy & Center for the Arts for your funds. Last year there was funding for only 6 out of 10 qualifying students. We need your help to give everyone an opportunity!

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 Office Hours:

9:00 AM— 4:00 PM Mon, Wed, Fri
9:00 AM— 1:00 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
Matt Gunsaulus, Assistant Principal
Mary Bodlak, Director of Admissions
Caroline Jordan, Advancement Director
Kim Wallett, Secretary
Connie Del Toral, Administrative Assistant