Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

DECEMBER 29, 2024: THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

After three days they found him in the temple,
sitting in the midst of the teachers. (Lk 2:46)



Cover artwork by Thomas W., 6th grader at Alphonsus Academy

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*

Worship

This Week's Readings

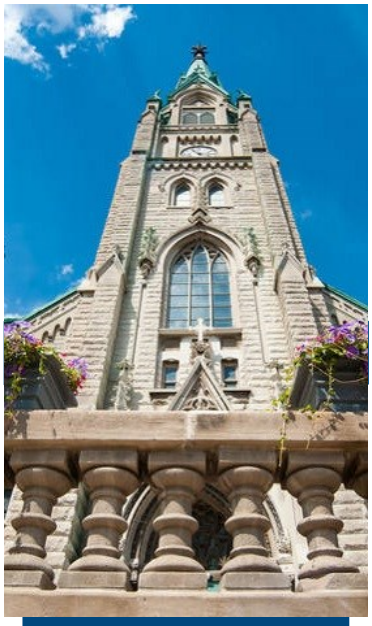
Sunday: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 (see a)/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52
Monday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18
Wednesday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3,5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
Thursday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28
Friday: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34
Saturday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42
Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Please Pray for the Sick

Dorothy Bonds
Jamie Wallett
Monica Alexis Rios
Margaret Nichols
Tessa Sergent
Diane Mareci
William Ahearn
Emilia Hurtado
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
Carol Kania
Leslie Salimi
Jason Jamero
Rosemarie Cordero
Gary Masterson
Ramona Colon

At Rest in the Peace of Christ

Michael Bachta



WEDDING

Mary Grace Noteman
and
Patrick Doerr

Wedding Banns

I. Lauren O'Connor and Nicholas Gallo

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.

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 or more info, contact James Morrow, jemseoul@hotmail.com

Welcome Our Recently Baptized

Lola Mae Herrera
Mia Elena Mui

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 29
9:00 AM +Ed & Mary Gobat
11:00 AM +Richard Meindl
12:30 PM The People of St. Alphonsus
5:00 PM +P. Andrew Fleming

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

Tuesday, December 31 (New Year's Eve)
8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus
4:00 PM The People of St. Alphonsus

Wednesday, January 1 (New Year's Day)
10:00 AM The People of St. Alphonsus

Thursday, January 2
8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus

Friday, January 3
8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus

Saturday, January 4
8:30 AM +Fransquinho & Marianne Ansao

Sunday, January 5
9:00 AM +Joanne Lawrence
11:00 AM +Eileen Kruise
12:30 PM The People of St. Alphonsus
5:00 PM The People of St. Alphonsus

Parish News & Events

Happy New Year 2025!

St. Alphonsus parish staff is praying for all community members to have a wonderful and safe new year! Now is a great time to reflect on what we can do to improve our lives spiritually, socially, and intellectually. The parish rectory office will be closed on Wednesday, January 1, 2025.

Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion



Our parish is in need of faithful Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion. EMHC's should be fully initiated and practicing Catholics having received baptism, confirmation, and first Eucharist. If you would like to volunteer for this important ministry at Mass, please contact Rev. Steven Bauer, sbauer@stalphonsuschicago.church

Baptisms at St. Alphonsus



Baptism is a fundamental sacrament for Christians. It is a sacrament of initiation that unites us to Christ's mystical body, incorporates us into the Church, and marks the beginning of the Christian journey. Without baptism we cannot participate in the full sacramental life of the Church. In the sacraments we concretely and most visibly encounter God's grace—life reunited with life.

If you are interested in having your child baptized at St. Alphonsus, please go to the Baptism page on our website, www.stalphonsuschicago.org/baptism, complete the form on there and our Sacraments Ministry coordinator will be in contact to secure a date.

For adult baptisms, contact Brooks Robinson at brobinson@stalphonsuschicago.church

Weddings at St. Alphonsus

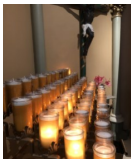


The love between two people is a gift from God. The commitment you make to be together for the rest of your lives is sealed before the community and God during the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage. If you are recently engaged and planning to get married (either at St. Alphonsus Church or out of town) please review the Marriage page on our website and reach out to weddings@stalphonsuschicago.church

Recovery Programs at St. Alphonsus

If you or loved ones you know have a problem with alcohol/substance abuse, please seek help! Our parish hosts two AA programs, Daily Reflections and Young People's Big Book AA Group. Daily Reflections meets on Monday mornings at 8:30 AM in the rectory common room. You may contact Lauren Merrill Sammis at lauren.merrill@live.com for more information. Young People's Big Book AA Group meets Sunday evenings at 7 PM in the Festival Hall. Contact coordinator Denver Baker, dtbaker97@gmail.com for more info.

Light for Healing



Light for Healing is an initiative to help those who are homebound and unable to worship in person at Mass, but would still like to offer prayers. Please visit our GiveCentral page at www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/21808 and we will light candles and offer prayers on your behalf for your intentions.

Men's Group Adoration— Jan. 3

The St. Alphonsus Men's Group is hosting a Holy Hour of silent adoration on Friday, January 3rd, from 7:30 to 8:30 PM in the church. All parishioners are invited to be in the presence of our Lord during this hour, and confessions will also be heard during this time.

Men's Pickup Basketball

Almost every Sunday at 7 PM there is a competitive men's pickup basketball game(s) for anyone who plays. Games are played in the St. Alphonsus gymnasium that is underneath the Athenaeum. Entrance to the gym is on the side of the building between the church and the Athenaeum. If you would like to be added to the weekly email list that coordinates the games or have any questions, you can reach out to Chris, cberezniak1@yahoo.com

Support St. Alphonsus with a Christmas/Year-End Gift!

It is not too late to make your Christmas contribution for the 2024 year. You can do this through GiveCentral at www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/526 or text **joyful** to (773) 570-7600.
Your gifts help our parish continue our ministries.
We are deeply grateful for every gift that is shared!

Faith Formation



Psalms Series— Monday Evenings at 7 PM

He said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled.'" (Lk 24:44)

Our Young Adult Ministry is hosting a free series on the book of Psalms for young adults in their 20s and 30s to learn:

- how to establish a deeply personal dialogue with God through the Psalms
- how to meditate on the Psalms using lectio divina
- how the Psalms foretell the life and mission of Jesus
- ...and much more!

On Mondays at 7:00 PM-8:30 PM through January, we will watch video materials from Ascension Press presented by Jeff Cavins, Tim Gray, and Sarah Christmyer, followed by a group discussion. No preparation or supplies are needed, though there is an accompanying workbook if you would like to go deeper, which can be purchased from Ascension Press. ****We are taking a couple weeks off and will meet again on 1/6/25.***

If you are interested in attending, please contact Brendan at brendanmdaley@gmail.com

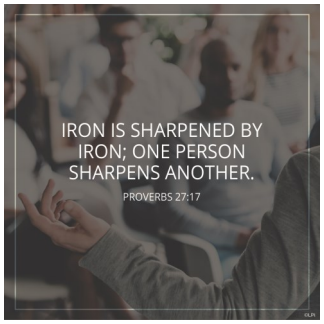
St. Alphonsus Men's Group

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

Walking With Purpose— Tuesday Women's Bible Study

God is meeting you right where you are. He is encouraging you to shift your perspective from your feelings, circumstances, and fears, and place them instead on the eternal truths He has revealed. Bring your angst, restless, and unsettled thoughts to Him. There is nothing He can't handle.

Walking With Purpose is a women's Bible Study group that meets on Tuesdays at St. Alphonsus. There is a morning session at 9:30 AM and an evening one at 6:30 PM. The group is on a short hiatus at the moment, and will meet again starting in late January 2025.





New Year's Eve and New Year's Day

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

Tuesday, December 31

8:30 AM, 4:00 PM (Vigil Mass)

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

10:00 AM (There is NO 6 PM Mass this Holiday)

If you were traveling to be with family or friends over Christmas, join us on January 5, the Feast of the Epiphany. The Midnight Mass program will be repeated at the 9 and 11 AM Masses.

More News and Events



A Christmas Gift For You!!

Grab your FREE COPY of "***33 Days to Eucharistic Glory***" and join us for a Parish-wide Eucharistic Consecration from **January 1st-February 2nd**.

This Consecration is an invitation to dedicate yourself to God. It is an act of unconditional surrender to Jesus in the Eucharist, an opportunity to set aside our distractions and selfishness, and promise to faithfully respond to God's grace in our life.

Daily Reading on your own (only 10 minutes a day!) begins on January 1st.

Meetings in English will occur weekly on Sundays at 12 PM in Festival Hall beginning on January 5th.

The Consecration will be on Sunday, February 2nd. A small reception will follow. (*It is not required to attend every meeting to join us for the Consecration*.)

Start the New Year off right and journey closer to the Lord! Register with Emily Ember or Fr. Jesus Raya in the Parish Office.

Obtén tu COPIA GRATIS de "***33 días hacia la gloria eucarística"*** y únete a nosotros para una Consagración Eucarística para toda la parroquia del **1 de Enero al 2 de Febrero.** Esta Consagración es una invitación para dedicarte a Dios de una forma intencional.

Lee el libro por tu cuenta, ¡solo 10 minutos al día! Comienza el 1 de enero. Tendremos reuniones de reflexión en español los viernes comenzando el 10 de enero 2025 a las 6:30pm en la rectoría parroquial. No es necesario asistir a todas las reuniones para la consagración. La Consagración será el domingo 2 de febrero. Más detalles por venir. ¡Comienza el Año Nuevo con el pie derecho y acércate al Señor! Inscríbase con Emily Ember o el P. Jesús Raya en la Oficina Parroquial.

Free Ice Sculpting Event— Jan. 26

Sunday, January 26 is our designated "Family Mass" where our Alphonsus Academy children will sing in the choir at the 9 AM Mass as our parish school will kick off Catholic Schools Week. In addition on this Sunday, there will be a live ice sculpting event outside the veranda to liven up the weekend! From 12 PM-2 PM, watch master ice carvers make winter magic happen as they sculpt a block of ice into a beautiful creation of the audience's choosing! More details to come!



When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. Luke 2:39–40 (Gospel Year B)

The Family as a Communion of Love

Today we honor family life in general by pausing to ponder the particular and beautiful hidden life within the home of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. In many ways, their daily life together would have been very similar to other families at that time. But in other ways, their life together is entirely unique and provides us with a perfect model for all families.

By God's providence and design, the family life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph was spoken of in the Scripture very little. We read of the birth of Jesus, the presentation in the Temple, the flight into Egypt and the finding of Jesus in the Temple at age twelve. But other than these stories of their life together, we know very little.

The line from today's Gospel quoted above does, however, give us some insight worth pondering. First, we see that this family "fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord…" Though this is in reference to Jesus being presented in the Temple, it should also be understood to apply to all aspects of their life together. Family life, just like our individual lives, must be ordered by the laws of our Lord.

The primary law of the Lord regarding family life is that it must share in the very unity and "communion of love" found in the life of the Most Holy Trinity. Each person of the Holy Trinity has perfect respect for the other, gives selflessly to each other without reserve, and receives each person in their totality. It is their love that makes them one and enables them to act together in perfect harmony as a communion of divine Persons. Though Saint Joseph was not immaculate in his nature, the perfection of love did live in his divine Son and in his immaculate wife. This overwhelming gift of their perfect love would have daily drawn him into the perfection of their lives.



Ponder your own closest relationships today. If you are blessed with a close family, ponder them. If not, ponder the persons put into your life who you are called to love with familial love. Who are you to be there for in good times and in bad? Who are you to sacrifice your life for without reserve? Who are you to offer respect, compassion, time, energy, mercy, generosity and every other virtue? And how well do you fulfill this duty of love?

Reflect, today, upon the fact that God wants you to share in a communion of life, not only with the Most Holy Trinity but also with those around you, especially your family. Try to ponder the hidden life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph and seek to make their family relationship the model for how you love others. May their perfect communion of love be a model for us all.

Lord, draw me into the life, love and communion that You lived with Your Immaculate Mother and Saint Joseph. I offer You myself, my family and all those to whom I am called to love with a special love. May I imitate Your family love and life in all my relationships. Help me to know how to change and grow so that I may more fully share in Your family life. Jesus, I trust in You.

Helpful Household Hints by Harvey Levin

Painting Tip

If you want to paint a small object and do not want to get paint on your working surface, how do you do it? Do you place it on its side, paint half of it, let it dry and then paint the other half of it the next day? No. Just support it with empty egg cartons turned upside down. You will not care about getting paint on the egg cartons and you can finish the project in a single session.

Young Adult Ministry

The Young Adult Ministry (YAM) is one of St. Alphonsus' most active parish groups! YAM is led by a volunteer board and is guided by Pastoral Associate, Brooks Robinson. Stated simply, the ministry's mission is to help one another participate in Christ's mission, that we, as young adult Catholics, may be effective disciples, evangelists, and agents of charity in all that we do. YAM provides many social, intellectual, service, and spiritual opportunities for growth. Members range in age from 21-39 years old.

Our YAM group is made up of 4 main pillars, Spiritual, Intellectual, Service, and Social.

Volunteer with UIC Newman Center in January!

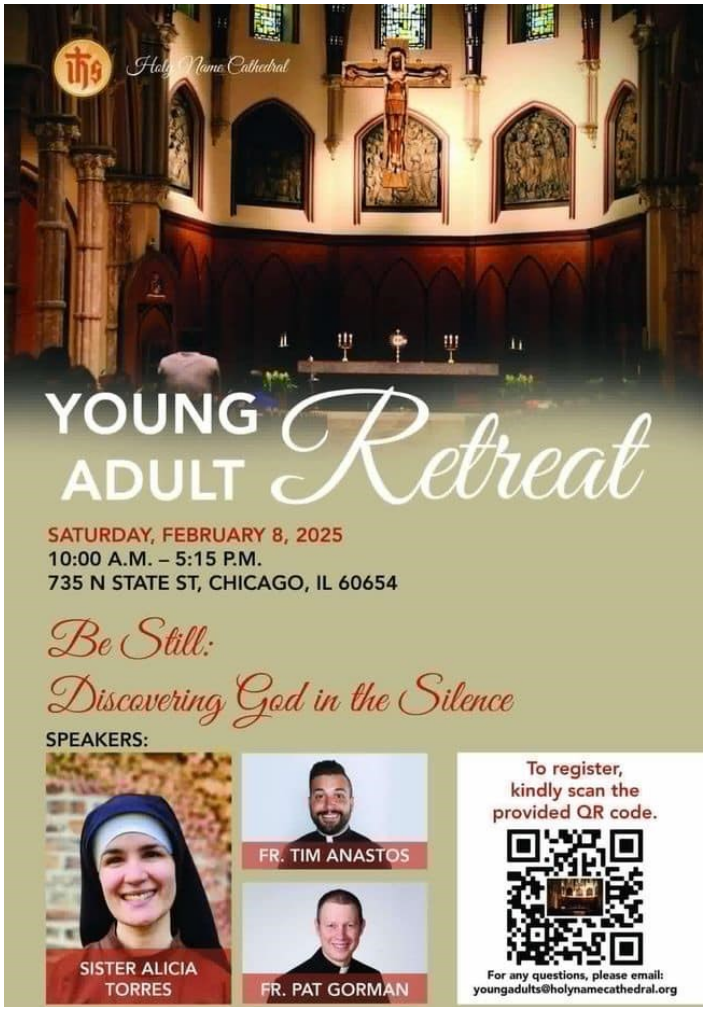
Join St. Alphonsus' Young Adult Ministry on January 11th in partnership with UIC's Newman Center! We will be helping out as part of their once a semester Deep Clean Day. Carpool will be arranged, leaving from St. Alphonsus. Event is 9 AM—Noon. A sign-up is available online at our YAM Facebook page.

Visit the St. Alphonsus YAM Facebook page, *www.facebook.com/AlphonsusYoungAdult* or contact the YAM board at *stalphonsusyam@gmail.com*

BE SOCIAL
BE SPIRITUAL
BE CHARITABLE
BE INTELLECTUAL
BE CATHOLIC

SERVICE EVENT

More Young Adult Events Around Chicago



Holy Name Retreat

All young adults in our faith community are encouraged to sign up for the retreat at Holy Name Cathedral on Saturday, February 8, 2025. There are some great speakers, (including former Associate Pastor at St. Alphonsus, Fr. Patrick Gorman) and early registration is just $25 until Jan. 5; $35 after.
Visit https://holyname.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/618/responses/new

Young Catholic Professionals

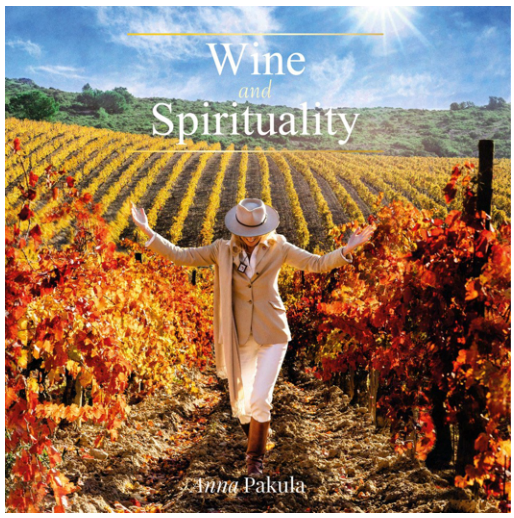
YOUNG CATHOLIC PROFESSIONALS
Working in Witness for Christ™

There is an Executive Speaker series on Tuesday, January 7 at The National Shrine of Saint Frances Cabrini, 2520 N. Lakeview Ave. The topic is ***Generosity in the Workplace: Giving From The Heart***. This session will be open to non-members. Learn more and register at ycp.glueup.com/org/ycpchicago/events/

Catholic Sport Leagues

CSL has a few awesome events coming in 2025! Join in a brand new Euchre tournament, one night only on Thursday, Jan. 23 at Holy Name Cathedral, 735 N. State St., and their annual indoor volleyball league, held here at St. Alphonsus gym on Thursday evenings from February 20 to April 10. Register NOW for Early Bird pricing before entry fee increases. Visit catholicsportsleagues.com

Wine and Spirituality



A Perfect Gift of Wisdom from Our Creator and His Creation—the Vineyards

This season, give the gift of inspiration with ***Wine and Spirituality*** (www.wineandspirituality.com), a beautifully crafted book that celebrates the harmony between the art of winemaking and wisdom from the Bible.

Written by international wine consultant **Anna Pakula**, this work combines over 25 years of experience in vineyards worldwide with profound Biblical insights. Featuring timeless quotes from Scripture in six languages and stunning photography, ***Wine and Spirituality*** takes readers on a reflective journey through the seasons of winemaking—drawing a powerful parallel with our own spiritual growth.

Why Choose ***Wine and Spirituality***?

Breathtaking Photography: A visual celebration of vineyards and the art winemaking captured by heart and soul
Spiritual Wisdom: Thoughtful Biblical quotes designed for daily inspiration, reflection, and contemplation.
A Timeless Gift: Perfect for wine lovers, spiritual seekers, and anyone cherishing meaningful moments of faith.

Whether for personal contemplation or as a thoughtful gift, ***Wine and Spirituality*** invites you to reconnect with the natural gifts of God and find peace, harmony, and inspiration in every page.
Order Your Copy Today!

Price: ~~$130~~ $100 special Christmas offer! (Includes a donation to support St. Alphonsus Church)

Available for purchase at St. Alphonsus' Rectory or online at www.givecentral.org/otp/42322

Questions? Contact Fr. Jesus Raya, jraya@stalphonsuschicago.church
More information on the author, Anna Pakula,
email: annapakula@mac.com or WhatsApp +48 513 725 233 website: www.wineandspirituality.com

The Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary is now at St. Alphonsus! The 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. The 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 will take place on Fridays, starting Jan. 10, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. in the Rectory

For more information, please contact the parish office at 773-525-0709



La Legión de María

La Legión de María ya esta en San Alfonso! La Legión de María es una asociación apostólica laica de católicos que sirven a la Iglesia y al prójimo de forma voluntaria. La Legión considera como prioridad el bienestar espiritual y social de cada individuo. Los miembros participan en la vida parroquial a través de actividades de voluntariado y evangelización patrocinadas por la parroquia.

¿INTERESADO EN SER LEGIONARIO?

Las reuniones en español se llevan a cabo los lunes a las 6:00 P.M. en la Rectoría

Para obtener más información, comuníquese a la rectoría parroquia al 773-525-0709







JOIN THE ALPHONSUS FAMILY!

APPLY FOR 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR NOW!

LEARN MORE

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 the school.

OPEN HOUSE DATES

- Monday, January 13, 2025 at 9am
- Sunday, January 26, 2025 at 10:30am (immediately following the 9am Mass led by our school choir to kick off Catholic Schools Week)

AACA | ALPHONSUS ACADEMY & Center for the Arts

Register Now!

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

Stewardship— First Fruits

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.

FIRST FRUITS
time talent treasure

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

Giving Update

Weekly Budget Amount: $15,192

Offertory for 12/15: $16,005
Offertory for 12/22: $14,896

The bulletin went to press before the Christmas collections could be counted. The Jan. 5 bulletin will have these offertory totals.

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

For Mass donations via Zelle, please submit to general parish email account, parish@stalphonsuschicago.church





January Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			**1** **Happy New Years!** **Rectory Office Closed** **Mass at 10 AM;** **NO 6 PM Mass**	**2** **6:30 PM** Women's Faith Group **7:00 PM** Men's Faith Group	**3** **7:30 PM** Men's Group Holy Hour	**4**
5 **Epiphany Sunday— Choir Reprise of Christmas Music Program** **12:00 PM** 33 Days to Eucharistic Glory— English Reflection Meetings **2:30 PM** RCIA **6:00 PM** YAM Board Meeting **7:00 PM** Big Book AA Meeting	**6** **8:30 AM** AA Daily Reflections Group **2:00 PM** Totus Tuus Missionaries Social **6:00 PM** Legión de María Reunión **7:00 PM** Knights of Columbus Meeting **7:00 PM** Psalm Series	**7** **3:00 PM** Cub Scouts **6:15 PM** Religious Education— Epiphany Service in Church; Potluck Reception after-wards in Festival Hall **6:00 PM** Boy Scouts Troop 889 Meeting **7:00 PM** Philosophy Forum	**8** **6:30 PM** Young Adult Book Club **8:00 PM** Men's Communio	**9** **6:30 PM** Women's Faith Group **7:00 PM** Men's Faith Group **7:00 PM** Marriage Information Meeting	**10** **6:00 PM** Legion of Mary Meeting- English **6:30 PM** 33 Days to Eucharistic Glory— Espanol Reflection Meetings	**11** **9:00 AM** YAM Service— Volunteer at UIC Newman Center

January Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12 **Señor de Esquipulas Mass at 12:30 PM** **12:00 PM** 33 Days to Eucharistic Glory—English Reflection Meetings **1:30 PM** Señor de Esquipulas Fiesta **2:30 PM** RCIA **7:00 PM** Big Book AA Meeting	**13** **8:30 AM** AA Daily Reflections Group **9:30 AM** AACA Admissions Open House **5:30 PM** Cub Scouts— Tiger Den **6:00 PM** Legión de María Reunión **6:00 PM** RE First Communion Seminar **7:00 PM** Baptismal Prep Class **7:00 PM** Psalm Series	**14** **3:00 PM** Cub Scouts **6:15 PM** Religious Education **6:30 PM** Boy Scouts Troop 889 Meeting **7:00 PM** Philosophy Forum	**15** **6:30 PM** Young Adult Book Club **7:30 PM** YAM Prayer Night **8:00 PM** Men's Communio	**16** **3:00 PM** Cub Scouts—2nd Gr. Wolf Den **5:15 PM** Leonine Forum Mass **6:30 PM** Women's Faith Group **7:00 PM** Men's Faith Group	**17** **3:00 PM** Boy Scouts—Webelos 3889 **6:00 PM** Legion of Mary Meeting—English **6:30 PM** 33 Days to Eucharistic Glory—Espanol Reflection Meetings	**18**
19 **12:00 PM** 33 Days to Eucharistic Glory—English Reflection Meetings **1:00 PM** Samuel Group **2:30 PM** RCIA **7:00 PM** Big Book AA Meeting	**20** **AACA No School—MLK Day** **8:30 AM** AA Daily Reflections Group **6:00 PM** Legión de María Reunión **7:00 PM** Psalm Series	**21** **9:30 AM** Walking w/ Purpose **3:00 PM** Cub Scouts **6:15 PM** Religious Education **6:30 PM** Walking w/ Purpose **6:30 PM** Boy Scouts Troop 889 Meeting **7:00 PM** Philosophy Forum	**22** **1:45 PM** Daisy Scouts— 1st **6:30 PM** Young Adult Book Club **8:00 PM** Men's Communio	**23** **6:30 PM** Women's Faith Group **7:00 PM** Men's Faith Group	**24** **6:00 PM** Legion of Mary Meeting—English **6:30 PM** 33 Days to Eucharistic Glory—Espanol Reflection Meetings **7:30 PM** Praise and Adoration	**25** **1:00 PM** First Reconciliation—Religious Education
26 **9 AM Family Mass w/ Children's Choir** **Collection for the Church in Latin America** **10:30 AM** AACA Admissions Open House **12:00 PM** 33 Days to Eucharistic Glory—English Reflection Meetings **12:00 PM** Ice Sculping Outside the Veranda **2:30 PM** RCIA **7:00 PM** Big Book AA Meeting	**27** **8:30 AM** AA Daily Reflections Group **6:00 PM** Legión de María Reunión **6:00 PM** SALT Leadership Meeting **7:00 PM** Psalm Series	**28** **9:30 AM** Walking w/ Purpose **3:00 PM** Cub Scouts **6:15 PM** Religious Education **6:30 PM** Walking w/ Purpose **6:30 PM** Boy Scouts Troop 889 Meeting **7:00 PM** Finance Council Meeting **7:00 PM** Philosophy Forum	**29** **6:30 PM** Young Adult Book Club **8:00 PM** Men's Communio	**30** **8:15 AM** Blessings in a Backpack **6:30 PM** Women's Faith Group **7:00 PM** Men's Faith Group	**31** **6:00 PM** Legion of Mary Meeting—English **6:30 PM** 33 Days to Eucharistic Glory—Espanol Reflection Meetings	

Catholic Schools Week

FIESTA EN HONOR AL SEÑOR DE ESQUIPULAS

El Cristo Negro



Desde 1595 Guatemala rinde devoción al Nuestro Señor de Esquipulas, también conocido como el Cristo Negro. La devoción se a extendido a otros países como México y Estados Unidos y llego a nuestra Parroquia de San Alfonso en los años 1980s. Desde entonces gran parte de la comunidad Guatemalteca en Chicago se reúne aquí para honrar al Cristo Negro.

Join us in celebrating Señor de Esquipulas

Since 1595, Guatemala has honor Señor de Esquipulas, also known as the Black Christ. The devotion has spread to other countries such as Mexico and the United States and arrived at our Parish of St. Alphonsus in the 1980s. Since then, a large part of the Guatemalan community in Chicago gathers here to honor the Black Christ.

MISA SOLEMNE—SOLEMN MASS

DOMINGO 12 DE ENERO

12:30PM

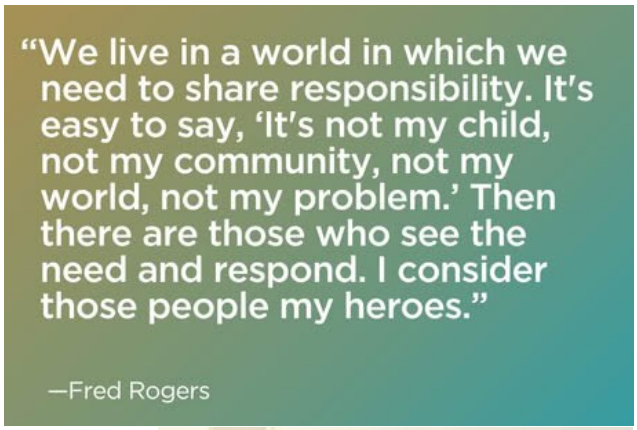
Después de la Santa Misa, esta cordialmente invitado participar en la fiesta en Salón Parroquial
You are cordially invited to the Fiesta in Festival Hall after Mass

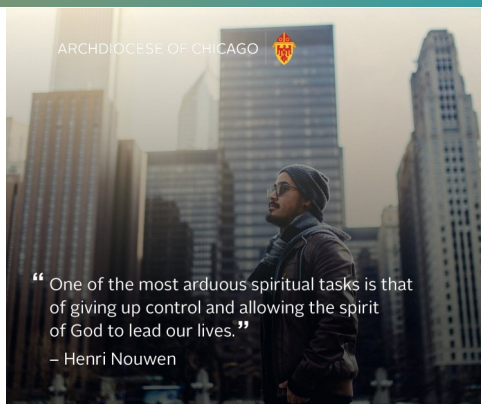
Building Community

Jesus didn't say, "Alright, now everybody listen to my words but then do your own thing and don't get in each other's way". He assembled a community, gave it a mission and leaders to guide it. A strong community has many aspects, including teaching imperfect people to resolve conflicts. A strong community:

- Prays for and With You
- Celebrates Spiritual Milestones with You
- Guides Your Conscience on Important Personal and Social Issues
- Accompanies You on Your Faith Journey
- Benefits from your Gifts and Contributions
- Gives you Opportunities to Step into Leadership Roles
- Teaches You

Wherever you are on your faith journey, God Bless You!





Parish Annual Report—Church Numbers & Data

NOTES compared to the previous fiscal year:

1) Overall Church income was down about 2% ($25k) due to a significant Fundraising decrease, even though some other income categories increased.

2) The primary Parish fundraiser Oktoberfest (in September 2023) experienced a very significant decrease compared to the previous year. One reason was that the previous Oktoberfest had a banner year. However, the primary reasons were loss of admission revenue due to city rules for festivals open to the public as well as somewhat lower attendance, which negatively impacts a number of other festival revenue areas. (Adjustments were made for Oktoberfest 2024, and these provided a very significant rebound in festival income in FY2025.)

The previous fiscal year also had a significant extra donation from one parish couple (part of Fundraising).

3) Sunday Collections increased about $36k (12%) compared to FY2023. The Sunday Collections total was the best since the year before the pandemic (FY2020 = $794,791) and $40k better than the average of the previous 8 years.

4) Interest Income increased significantly (~$19k or 128%) as market interest rate returns increased.

5) While several expense categories saw decreases compared to FY2023, overall Church Expenses increased 2.6% (~$34k) due to an 11% increase in Archdiocesan Assessments & Insurance and a 10% increase in Personnel Expenses.

6) Personnel Expenses increased 10% due to larger Archdiocese-directed Salary increases to compensate for high inflation rates as well as changing one pastoral staff position from part-time to full-time.

7) Utilities decreased 21% due to warmer Winter weather (Heating Fuel decreased 27% or ~$12k) and a new garbage removal contract.

8) Maintenance & Building Repairs Expense returned to pre-FY2023 run-rate levels and decreased $27k or 20% compared FY2023. FY2023 was significantly higher due to some catch-up work done especially with the boilers.

ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH – CHURCH SIDE FINANCES

	FY2023	FY2024
ORDINARY INCOME		
Sunday and Holy Day Collections	$757,685	$793,539 [3]
Christmas Collection	$72,385	$60,773
Easter Collection	$31,328	$31,304
Other Collections	$7,790	$12,038
Tuition (for Religious Education)	$21,332	$21,238
Fees	$4,144	$1,985
Lease & Rental Income	$142,370	$147,511
Fundraising Net Income	$143,872	$55,704 [2]
Interest & Investment Income	$15,148	$34,497 [4]
Auxiliary Groups	$0	$6,697
Miscellaneous Income	$139,430	$144,445
Total Income	**$1,335,483**	**$1,309,730** [1]
ORDINARY EXPENSES [5]		
Salaries	$525,677	$579,939 [6]
Employee Benefits	$146,769	$159,169 [6]
Books & Supplies, Non-Liturgical	$16,964	$17,634
Administrative Expenses	$61,441	$55,636
Food Service & Meals	$24,274	$19,395
Utilities	$80,587	$63,445 [7]
Maintenance & Building Repairs	$134,195	$107,106 [8]
Altar and Liturgical Supplies	$32,288	$23,652
Furniture & Equipment	$490	$1,337
Archdiocesan Assessment	$113,124	$127,152
PRMAA Assessment	$35,436	$40,020
Property & Casualty Insurance	$104,319	$113,774
Auto Ins-Priest Owned Vehicle	$2,986	$4,926
Miscellaneous	$25,017	$24,708
Total Expense	**$1,303,566**	**$1,337,893** [5]
Net Ordinary Income/(Loss)	**$31,916**	**($28,163)**

Parish Annual Report—School Numbers & Data

NOTES compared to the previous fiscal year:

1) Total Income decreased about $80,000 or 1%, as enrollment decreased from 514 to 476.

2) Tuition Income decreased, because it is directly related to enrollment. There was an unusually high surge upward in enrollment in the previous two school years (FY2022 and FY2023) due to pandemic effects of Archdiocese schools being fully open while some other schools were not. Enrollment decreased in FY2024 closer to a level more typical before these two surge years.

3) Overall Fundraising held steady as increased event revenue mostly compensated for non-renewal of a one-time FY2023 $60,000 grant.

4) School Boiler Fund Interest increased significantly as bank CD returns increased significantly.

5) Overall Expenses were relatively flat (decreased about 0.6%) as significantly reduced Maintenance expenditures offset significantly higher Personnel Expenses.

6) The 9% Personnel Expense (Salaries and Employee Benefits) increase was due to larger Archdiocese-directed Salary increases to compensate for high inflation rates as well as new headcount.

7) Instructional Materials increase of 20% was due to partial loss of FY2023 benefit from large direct-payment-to-vendors government pandemic-related subsidies.

8) Maintenance & Building Repairs expenditures normalized and decreased about 50% (about $421,000) compared to the previous year that had extraordinary improvement and deferred maintenance projects.

ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH – SCHOOL SIDE FINANCES

	FY2023	FY2024
ORDINARY INCOME		
Tuition	$4,763,872	$4,663,487 [2]
Fees	$301,775	$328,860
Outside Funding Sources	$55,625	$44,105
Fundraising Net Income	$553,990	$542,516 [3]
Interest & Investment Income	$2,644	$12,057 [4]
Auxiliary Groups	$16,445	$43,081
Miscellaneous Income	$35,904	$16,062
Total Income	**$5,730,256**	**$5,650,168** [1]
ORDINARY EXPENSES [5]		
Salaries	$3,189,857	$3,446,248 [6]
Employee Benefits	$994,366	$1,094,377 [6]
Books & Supplies	$67,510	$81,206 [7]
Administrative Expenses	$225,603	$203,411
Transportation	$0	$5,909
Food Service & Meals	$3,878	$3,015
Utilities	$102,194	$99,211
Maintenance & Building Repairs	$834,036	$413,119 [8]
Furnishings & Equipment	$1,815	$4,455
OCS Assessment	$25,268	$27,914
Property & Casualty Insurance	$109,944	$120,780
Miscellaneous	$62,576	$83,811
Total Expense	**$5,617,046**	**$5,583,456** [5]
Net Ordinary Income/(Loss)	**$113,210**	**$66,712**

Low Gluten Hosts Available



If you are allergic to wheat or have celiac disease, or for any reason can't tolerate gluten, we have hosts available for you. Low gluten hosts are available at every Mass, even daily Masses. To receive a low gluten host at Mass, all you have to do is get in the Communion line for the celebrant, and then just point to the little ciborium that the priest sets on the communion rail. These hosts have 0.01% gluten. We can provide further information about their content upon request.

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
Emily Ember, Coordinator of RE/Evangelization
Brian Bloye, Director of Music and Organist
Daniel Szymanski, Director of Operations
Mario Serrano, Parish Office Manager
Kathryn Kibler, Sacrament Ministry Coordinator/Parish Secretary

School Staff

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