Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

NOVEMBER 3, 2024: THIRTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Photo Credit: @chicagobars on Twitter

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul,
with all your mind,
and with all your strength. (Mark 12:30)

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

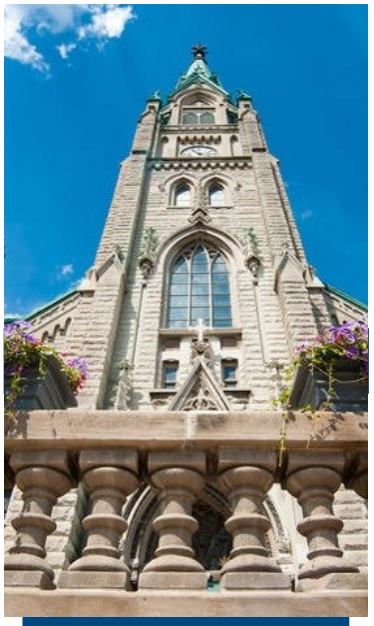
Wednesday	6:30—7:30 PM

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: Dt 6:2-6/Ps 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51 (2)/Heb 7:23-28/Mk 12:28b-34
Monday: Phil 2:1-4/Ps 131:1bcde, 2, 3/Lk 14:12-14
Tuesday: Phil 2:5-11/Ps 22:26b-27, 28-30ab, 30c, 31-32//Lk 14:15-24
Wednesday: Phil 2:12-18/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Lk 14:25-33
Thursday: Phil 3:3-8a/Ps 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Lk 15:1-10
Friday: Phil 3:17—4:1/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/Lk 16:1-8
Saturday: Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17/Jn 2:13-22
Next Sunday: 1 Kgs 17:10-16/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 (1b)/Heb 9:24-28/Mk 12:38-44 or 12:41-44

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

WEDDING

Kara Mahoney
and
Colin McKay

Welcome Our Recently Baptized

Leo James Barra
William Joseph Tedeschi
Daniel Eric Schiffhauer
Collins Mia Lorenz

Wedding Banns

II. Taylor Arnold and Justin Rutschilling
I. Kelsey Collett and David Gosz
I. Elizabeth Mauner and Nick Andersson

At Rest in the Peace of Christ

Bertha Johnson

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, November 3
9:00 AM Petryshyn Family & Friends (Health)
11:00 AM +Jorge and Elvia Bouso
12:30 PM Estrella Rodriguez Valle
5:00 PM +Kathryn Altonji

Monday, November 4
8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus

Tuesday, November 5
8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus

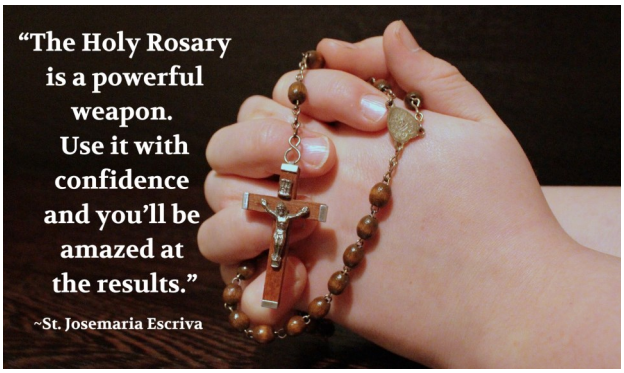
Wednesday, November 6
6:00 PM +Mary H. Macchione
Chicago Seminarians in Configuration stage

Thursday, November 7
8:30 AM +Sandra Dorsen

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

Saturday, November 9
8:30 AM +Petryshyn Family Members

Sunday, November 10
9:00 AM +Ed & Mary Gobat
11:00 AM +Kaloi Medina
Living and Deceased Veterans
12:30 PM +Rosa Suazo
Sofia and Matthew Hernandez (Birthday Blessings)
5:00 PM +Sister Mary Margaret Murphy



News and Events

Mysteries of the Rosary Series

Mondays, Nov. 4th - Dec. 16th
9:30 AM-11 AM, Rectory Common Room

Prepare your hearts for Advent and Christmas by diving into the Joyful Mysteries! Filmed on location in the Holy Land, join us for this video and discussion series as we venture through deeply reflective insights on the life of Christ, theological truths, and captivating stories together with breathtaking scenery, illuminating sacred art, and inspiring music. An authentic encounter with Christ leads to our transformation and sanctification! This is your opportunity to deepen your relationship with the Lord. Contact Emily, eember@stalphonsuschicago.church for more details.

Mass of Hope & Healing— Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 6 PM



Next week, all parishioners are invited to join us for a special Mass for anyone who has lost a child through miscarriage, still-birth, accident, illness, or for those grieving due to an abortion. There will be specific prayers for healing and comfort offered during Mass for those who have experienced loss, as well as a special blessing for grieving parents at the end of Mass. Immediately following Mass, there will also be a special time of Eucharistic Adoration in which families can light a candle, inscribe the name of a child in a book of remembrance, or offer other personal prayers.

Cub Scouts Thanksgiving Food Drive Nov 12-14



Please join the AACA Cub Scout Pack 3889 for our 5th annual Thanksgiving Food Drive! Cub Scouts will be collecting donations at morning school drop off (7:30-8 AM) in the AACA parking lot from Tuesday, November 12 through Thursday, November 14. St. Josephat School (part of Pack 3889) will also be collecting Donations. With your generosity to families in need we have collected approximately 1000 lbs. of food donations every year for the past 5 years! All Cub Scouts are encouraged to assist with food collection! All parishioner donations are welcome! Please contact Jennifer Stevens, Cub Master, pack3889@gmail.com with questions!

St. Alphonsus Giving Tree

Celebration of Giving
Unwrap the Spirit

Our parish will be taking part in the Celebration of Giving from Nov. 17 to Dec. 8. This amazing service project annually '*makes Christmas*' for hundreds of those less fortunate. The Giving Tree tags will be in support of struggling families sponsored by Catholic Charities and the Women's Center. The tags will be available in the narthex starting Wednesday Nov. 13.

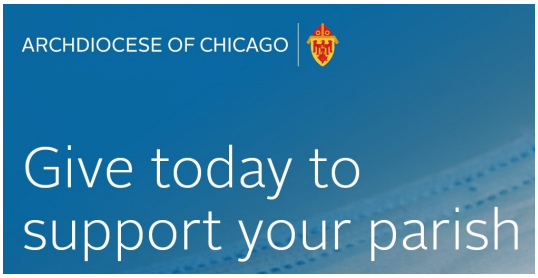
Quick Reminders

The St. Alphonsus Festival Hall will be utilized as a Polling Place on Election Day, Nov. 5 from 6 AM—7 PM.

Young Catholic Professionals— St. Joseph the Worker Retreat @ St. Alphonsus on Saturday, December 7. Learn more and register online, ycp.glueup.com/org/ycpchicago/events

Stewardship— First Fruits

Good Stewards – Sharing their Time in Prayer



Christian stewards understand the importance of talking with God on a regular basis and, in considering options for incorporating prayer into our lives, some individuals find that the "conversational" prayer approach used in many Bible Study groups works very well for family and/or personal prayer.

Thanks – Begin this prayer by reflecting on those parts of your life for which you are particularly grateful. If this is a daily practice, it may be as simple as little congestion on the expressway, coming home to a clean house or a wonderful moment spent with someone you love. If you do this weekly or less frequently, you may find yourself reflecting more on bigger experiences. It is important, however, to recognize God's role in all the benefits we enjoy – both large and small.

Help Me – Just as a father cares for and protects his children, our Heavenly Father is always here for us. He wants us to bring all things to Him and to know that every prayer and request is heard. Remember to ask for His assistance and support not only in times of difficulty but in everything that you do.

Help Others – Seek God's support not only on behalf of friends and family but also those who may not experience the comfort, stability, safety and love that we enjoy and give thanks for each day.

All of us are called to share a portion of our time, talent and treasure, and prayer is a wonderful way to share our gift of time. Talking to God brings us closer to Him and to our faith. Daily contact reminds us that we are never alone. Make your own personal commitment to spend more time with God in this very special way!

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 10/27: $16,654

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

Young Adult Ministry

Psalms Series— Starting Monday, November 4!

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)



Starting November 4, the Young Adult Ministry will be hosting a free 10-part 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 throughout November – 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.

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

Tailgate/ Chili Cook-Off



On Saturday, November 16th, our parish's Young Adult Ministry will be hosting a tailgate at St. Alphonsus! We will be celebrating the fall Saturday tradition of watching college football and rooting on everyone's favorite teams. While YAM will provide some items, like a typical tailgate, it will be potluck style with food, drinks, and fun being provided by all who show up if able.

On top of that, we will also be having our annual Chili Cookoff incorporated into the event. If you think you have what it takes, feel free to bring a crockpot and compete with the best of the best.

When: Saturday, November 16th from 10 AM-3 PM
Where: St. Alphonsus Festival Hall and surrounding outside area
Please be sure to sign-up on the Google Doc sheet in our November newsletter or Facebook page!

Volunteer at Misericordia Bakery!

MISERICORDIA
HEART OF MERCY

Misericordia, 6300 N. Ridge, – which means "heart of mercy" in Latin – is an organization focused on providing care and support for over 600 individuals with intellectual and development disabilities coming from diverse racial, religious and socio-economic backgrounds. In collaboration with St. Mary of the Lake's young adult ministry, all young adults of St. Alphonsus are highly encouraged to sign-up and volunteer on **Saturday, November 9th from 8:30-10:30AM**. We will be working at their holiday bakery, and tasks will include baking, packaging, and displaying bakery products (no bakery experience is required!) A carpool will be available, leaving from St. Alphonsus just before 8 AM. Please sign-up on the event page on our YAM Facebook or the link on our newsletter!

Praise and Adoration— Nov. 22 at 7:30 PM



On Friday, November 22nd, 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 Young Adult Ministry will gather a group for fellowship and drinks afterwards!

Faith Formation

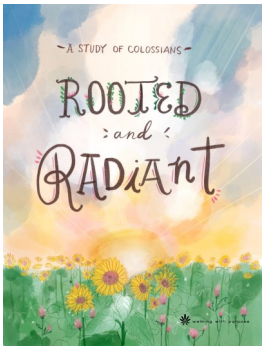
Are You Ready to Become Catholic?

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

This class is offered for adults in three situations:

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

Adult baptism (and if applicable, Confirmation and First Holy Communion) takes place at the Easter Vigil (Evening before Easter Sunday). It is one of the highest celebrations in the Catholic Church's liturgical year! If you or someone you know is interested in taking the class, please contact our pastoral associate, Brooks Robinson at brobinson@stalphonsuschicago.church



Rooted and Radiant Women's Bible Study

Walking w/ Purpose is a modern woman's guide to the Bible! Join us this fall as we help you enjoy a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, nurtured through personal Bible study and small group discussions created just for women!

In the ***Rooted and Radiant*** study, we will learn the book of Colossians and seek to understand the challenges that faced them, recognizing that they are remarkably similar to our own challenges today.

Sessions are on Tuesdays, mornings are 9:30—11 AM and the evening session is 6:30—8 PM. Questions? Please contact Susan Combes, smbcombes51@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.

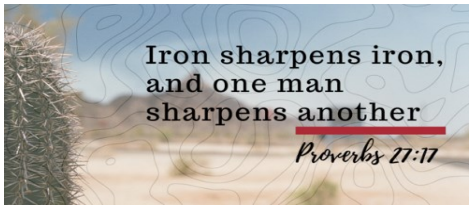
When great conversations happen, synergy that creates connections and helps values be shared develops. *Proverbs 27:17* describes this as two iron tools being sharpened and made more effective. The same applies with friends coming into contact, sharpening and encouraging each other to greater service.

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

The St. Alphonsus Men's Group is hosting a Holy Hour of silent adoration on Friday, November 8th, 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.





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How to Win an Argument Without Losing a Soul by Matt Fradd

Whether you're arguing with family members or Facebook friends, skeptical co-workers in the office or pushy proselytizers at your front door, it helps to have not only the facts but the skills for presenting your points forcefully and well. In How to Win an Argument Without Losing a Soul, Matt Fradd equips you with the powers of argumentation you need to be an effective debater and the right attitude for doing it with charity, humility, and patience.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription. Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish. Scan the QR code to download the FORMED app to your phone.

More News and Events

Update on the Church's Sound System

In the event you've heard any rumors about a UFO flying over the church during Mass, that is fake news. That false rumor was allegedly started by one of our middle school students who thought the strange tones coming from the speakers resembled that of flying saucers. We suspect the student has been watching too many old-time science fiction movies.

As has been previously reported, our sound system is at the end of it's life and will be replaced. You may have read something about this in a previous bulletin or e-newsletter. Unfortunately the indications of its decline are occurring with greater frequency. Periodically the speakers have been issuing static or feedback, audible tones which sound a bit like a UFO... which coincidentally sparked the overactive imagination of a middle-school boy, the one to whom these rumors have been traced. Anyway, we have contracted with a company which specializes in installing custom-tailored sound systems for churches, which has ordered the components and parts needed. The firm will assemble the components, paint the speakers to match the color of the church, and arrange the time for installation and fine tuning (expected to take about a week). We will keep you informed of the progress and expected installation dates.

Until that time, please accept our apologies for diminished volume in church (which decreases feedback) or any noises that sound like flying saucer overhead. But in the unforeseen circumstance that any Vulcans, ET, or Jedi actually arrive at your door, just give them some candy and they'll go away.

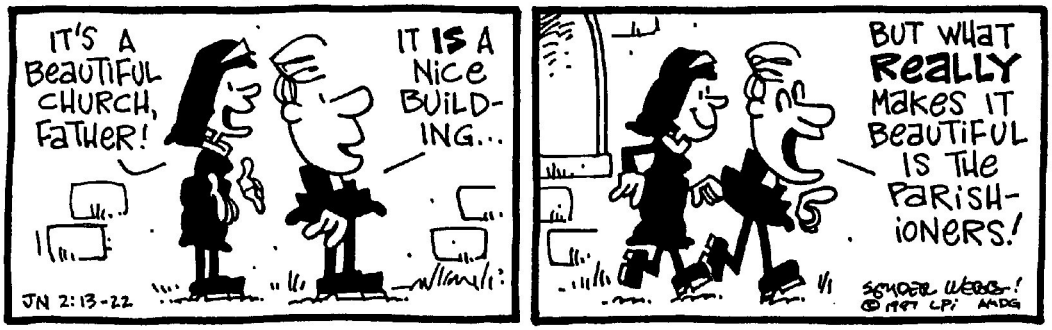
Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony



Our faith community will be kicking off the holiday season in style with the annual lighting of the Lakeview Christmas tree on **Sunday November 24 from 6-7:30 PM after the 5:00 PM Mass**!

Enjoy carols performed by our Alphonsus Academy & Center for the Arts students, FREE hot chocolate from our wonderful neighbor, S&G Restaurant and more surprises! The festivities will take place directly outside the veranda of the church on the corner of Lincoln/Wellington/Southport.

Please take note that if you are driving to Mass that evening, a small portion of Wellington will be blocked off for the safety of all attendees. This event is hosted by the Lakeview Roscoe Village Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by a SSA 27 grant. More details can be found at www.lakeviewroscoevillage.org/community-tree-lighting



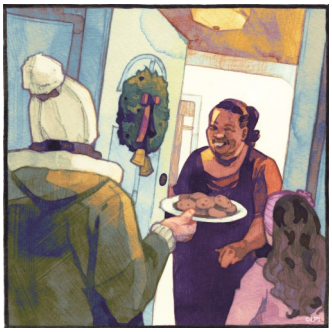
Helpful Household Hints by Harvey Levin

Opening a tight jar

If you have a jar and cannot open it, here is a good trick. Just hold the top of the jar under hot running water for a while and it will be easier to open. The reason is that the metal lid will expand more with the heat than the glass of the jar. The technical reason is that the metal has a higher thermal expansion coefficient than glass.

The scribe said to him, "Well said, teacher. You are right in saying, 'He is One and there is no other than he.' And 'to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself' is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." Mark 12:32–33

Seekers of Truth



This scribe got it. He posed a question to Jesus after Jesus was challenged by some of the Sadducees who did not accept Jesus' teachings about the resurrection of the dead. The Sadducees were trying to trip Jesus up, and this scribe listened carefully to Jesus' answer and found it to be well said. Therefore, this scribe asks Jesus his own question. He doesn't ask this question in an attempt to trap Jesus, but because he appeared to sincerely want to hear Jesus' answer. So he asked Jesus, "Which is the first of all the commandments?" To that question, Jesus gives a summary of the whole law of God saying that we must first love God with our whole heart, mind, soul and strength and then love our neighbor as ourselves.

We must all try to imitate this scribe. It was risky for him to show support of Jesus. Many of the other scribes were quite hostile toward Jesus. Therefore, by openly expressing His agreement with what Jesus taught, he was putting himself at risk of being criticized. But it appears he was not concerned about that. He was a seeker of truth, and Jesus ended up paying him a huge compliment by saying, "You are not far from the kingdom of God."

In our growingly secular world, there are many truths of God that are being openly questioned and challenged. Agreement on what are the moral truths is becoming more of the exception than the norm. As a result, we will all find ourselves experiencing hostility from the world simply by being seekers of the truth. Many people even find that a mere refusal to openly support objective immorality will make them a target of the secular world.

Are you a seeker of truth? Do you recognize the holy truths of God when you hear them? If so, do you have the courage you need to pursue those truths and articulate them in accord with the mind of God in the presence of others? Evangelization is different from proselytism. Proselytism is a hostile and forceful preaching of the truths of God. It is argumentative and lacks basic respect for the freedom and dignity of others. Evangelization, on the other hand, is an essential practice that every follower of Christ must engage in. At the heart of evangelization is an honest and humble seeking of the truth in every situation. One who evangelizes does not attack another. They do not criticize and condemn. Instead, they seek to understand the full truth themselves and then openly share that truth with those who are open to it.

In many ways, this scribe did just that. He listened, understood, inquired, and then freely shared his faith in what Jesus said. Those who listened to him, especially other scribes, might not have agreed with his conclusions. They might have even criticized him among themselves. But the witness of this scribe might have opened the minds and hearts of others who were listening. Some would have sensed his openness, his understanding, and his joyful response and allowed his conversation with Jesus to affect them for the good. Thus, by openly seeking the truth, this scribe also evangelized others and Jesus praised Him for his good work.

Reflect, today, upon the way that you share your faith with others. Are you one who tends to be argumentative and condemning? Or do you allow the joy of your own discovery of the truths of God do the evangelizing? Be a seeker of Truth. Do so openly and with joy. If you do, others will discover in you the truths of God that they need and will be invited to imitate your truth-seeking in their own lives.

Lord of all Truth, in You and You alone will we discover the truths that set us free. Give me the grace and courage I need to always seek out the truth You teach. As I discover and understand all that You teach, help me to express my discoveries with joy and enthusiasm so that others will also be drawn to You. Jesus, I trust in You.

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ELECTION 2024



Weigh Your Conscience Before Casting Your Ballot

On November 5th, 2024, all Americans eligible to vote will have the opportunity to shape our form of government for the next 2 years and beyond. In the midst of the commotion surrounding elections, especially presidential races, it is worth taking time to reflect on how fortunate we are to live in a country where we are able to choose our leaders.

Before casting our ballot, we have the obligation to reflect on the issues affecting our state and our nation. To help guide us on the particular issues of concern to the Catholic Church, we offer the following as a reminder.

Millions of dollars are spent trying to influence how you will cast your ballot, so it is up to each of us to both form and inform our conscience by recalling the heart of the Gospel and the teachings of Jesus Christ.

What do we mean when we refer to "conscience?"

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Moral conscience, present at the heart of the person, enjoins him at the appropriate moment to do good and to avoid evil. It also judges particular choices, approving those that are good and denouncing those that are evil. It bears witness to the authority of truth in reference to the supreme Good which the human person is drawn, and it welcomes the commandments. When he listens to his conscience, the prudent man can hear God speaking." (1777)

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has re-issued its document, ***Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship***, which may be found at:
https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/upload/forming-consciences-for-faithful-citizenship.pdf

This note will not tell you who to vote for, but it will help you to reflect on the issues and the person that can best promote the common good for each office. **We ask that you keep in mind the following questions that stem from the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching.**

- ✓ Does the Candidate work to protect sacred human life from conception to natural death? Does the candidate oppose abortion, physician-assisted suicide, human cloning and racism? These are all evils that must be guarded against and avoided.
- ✓ Does the candidate care for God's creation? Does the candidate support policies that protect the planet and understand the importance of our stewardship of the Earth?
- ✓ Does the candidate recognize traditional marriage and family as the central social institutions that must be supported?
- ✓ Does the candidate recognize that every person has a fundamental right to life and to those things required for human decency, including food, water, shelter, employment and healthcare?
- ✓ Does the candidate embrace all those in greatest need who deserve our preferential concerns, such as children, the disabled, the elderly, refugees, the unemployed and the poor?
- ✓ Does the candidate recognize policies that promote basic rights for workers, such as fair wages, workplace safety, collective bargaining, and the right to private property and economic initiatives?
- ✓ Does the candidate recognize that whatever our national, racial, ethnic or ideological differences, we are all our brothers' and sisters' keepers? We must all work to create unity through dialogue and a civil discourse that is respectful to others.

Catholic Conference of Illinois

DELJO HEATING & COOLING PRESENTS

ROCKET RUMBLE

Hosted by Friends of AACA and the Fathers Club

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT ALPHONSUS ACADEMY



11.9.2024 | 7 P.M.

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At the Athenaeum

Dante 360— November 8-10



Dante 360 returns to the stage for its fourth year as the launch of our 2024–2025 theatrical season, and single tickets are now on sale!

On one level, Dante 360 is an entertaining theatrical production of one of the most epic stories of Western Literature; on a deeper level, it's a meditation on our journey from this beautiful but ever-challenging world to the joy of Heaven.

The show enriches our understanding of the meaning of life as well as our experience of the journey through it in a compelling narrative of hope and beauty.

Starring the celebrated art historian Elizabeth Lev, Schola Antiqua, and a cast of some of Chicago's finest actors, Dante 360 brings Dante's story to life, pointing us to the ultimate end of our existence: the call to Paradise. Get your tickets today for the trip of a lifetime. One weekend only: November 8–10.

National Vocation Week

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Dear Friends in Christ,

The upcoming National Vocations Awareness Week (November 3-9) offers us an opportunity to reflect on how each of us has a vocation, and to instill in our young people a sense that God is calling them to join in Christ's work of salvation. It is within that general sense of vocation that we help all in the Church to grow in an appreciation that God is calling the disciples of Jesus either to married or single life, ordained ministry and consecrated life.

Please join me in praying for a culture of vocations in the Church, particularly as we ask the Lord to raise up those who will give their lives to service in the Church as priests, deacons or religious. We need these future leaders in the Church, those who will minister to generations to come.

The attached vocation prayer for the Archdiocese of Chicago has been composed for your use privately and in our liturgies as we mark Vocations Awareness Week. By praying for vocations we remind ourselves of our responsibility to promote vocations by inviting the next generation of women and men to consider consecrated life and ordained ministry, but also to impress upon them that they should consider their call to single and married life as a calling from God.

A major goal in the renewal we have begun in the archdiocese is to foster vocations of those called to serve the Church in a lifelong commitment. In fact, a sign of the vitality of a local church community is its commitment and capacity to foster and nurture vocations of those who would give their lives to serve the Church. Together, let us generously take up our responsibility for vocations and join in Christ's work of salvation.

With my gratitude for your support and prayers, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Cardinal Blase J. Cupich

DISCERNMENT PRAYER

God of boundless love and mercy,
you never cease to call women and men
to serve you and their brothers and sisters.
Raise up in your Church today:
faithful and generous men as ordained priests and deacons,
prayerful and committed women and men in consecrated life,
loving and faithful couples for the sacrament of marriage,
ready and willing individuals for the dedicated single life.
In the Body of Christ, give each of us
the willingness to invite others to hear your call
and the readiness to support and encourage those who answer that call.
We lift this prayer to you through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.

chicagopriest.com
Rev. Timothy Monahan, Vocation Director
tmonahan@archchicago.org

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

National Vocation Awareness Week

HOLY HOUR ADORATION

November 4–9, 2024

chicagopriest.com



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 7–8 P.M.
St. James Church at
St. John Bosco–St. James Parish
5730 W. Fullerton Ave.
Chicago, IL 60639

Intentions: **Cardinal, bishops, priests and retired priests**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 6–7 P.M.
Mother of the Americas Parish
2226 S. Whipple St.
Chicago, IL 60623

Intentions: **Permanent and transitional deacons**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6 (three locations)
John Paul II Newman Center, **5–6 P.M.**
700 S. Morgan St.
Chicago, IL 60607

Calvert House at Univ. of Chicago, **5–6 P.M.**
5735 S. University Ave.
Chicago, IL 60637

St. Alphonsus Parish, **6:30–7:30 P.M.**
1459 W. Wellington Ave.
Chicago, IL 60657

Intentions: **Chicago seminarians in Configuration**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7 (two locations)
St. Mary of the Angels, **10 A.M. – NOON**
1850 N. Hermitage Ave.
Chicago, IL 60622

St. Clement Parish, **6:30–7:30 P.M.**
642 W. Deming Pl.
Chicago, IL 60614

Intentions: **Chicago seminarians in Discipleship**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 9–10 A.M.
Queen of Angels Church at
Queen of Apostles Parish
2330 W. Sunnyside Ave.
Chicago, IL 60625

Intentions: **Chicago seminarians in Spirituality Year and College Seminary**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 10–11 A.M.
Holy Name Cathedral
735 N. State St.
Chicago, IL 60654

Intentions: **Discerners in InSearch, Quigley Discerners Program, Samuel Group and those discerning their vocation to the priesthood, diaconate, consecrated life or holy matrimony**



George Martell, Archdiocese of Boston

NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK

BULLETIN FOR NOVEMBER 3-9, 2024

FATHER RYAN STAWAISZ

HEROIC SERVICE IN HIS FINAL DAYS

Shortly before his ordination, Ryan Stawaisz received a devastating cancer diagnosis—his second one after successfully beating cancer as a junior in college.

Despite his diagnosis, Fr. Ryan began his priestly ministry at Prince of Peace in Houston in 2019. Just two years later, on June 21, 2021, the young priest passed away, leaving a lasting impact on his parishioners, many of whom attested to his tremendous witness.

Those who knew Fr. Ryan were deeply touched by his selfless ministry, even in his final days as a priest—so much so that he has inspired a film about his life.

His brother Ross Stawaisz says he hopes Fr. Ryan's story will show the "need to stand up for some things. You need to live your life in a way that emulates Christ."

Fr. Ryan's mother, Susan Stawaisz, said she has heard from several cancer patients on how the movie has touched them: "I feel like anybody who's gone through any kind of suffering can relate to offering up your suffering and suffering heroically."



The new film "Love God's Will" tells the heroic story of Fr. Ryan Stawaisz's selfless ministry through the eyes of his family, friends, and fellow priests.

Palomita Films, palomitafilms.com

Read the feature story about Fr. Ryan and his family at catholicnewsagency.com


Paul Haring

SERRA SPONSORS 50 ORDERS

Above, an army of young sisters from the Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary process into the National Eucharistic Congress. They are members of one of the fastest-growing religious communities in the U.S., with a large presence in Miami.

In the months leading up to the National Eucharistic Congress, Serra International raised more than $150,000 to sponsor the presence of more than 50 religious communities.

"It was amazing to walk through the convention hall and see hundreds of young sisters," said one attendee. "Just seeing their joy and vibrant smiles gave me a lot of hope for the future of the Church!"

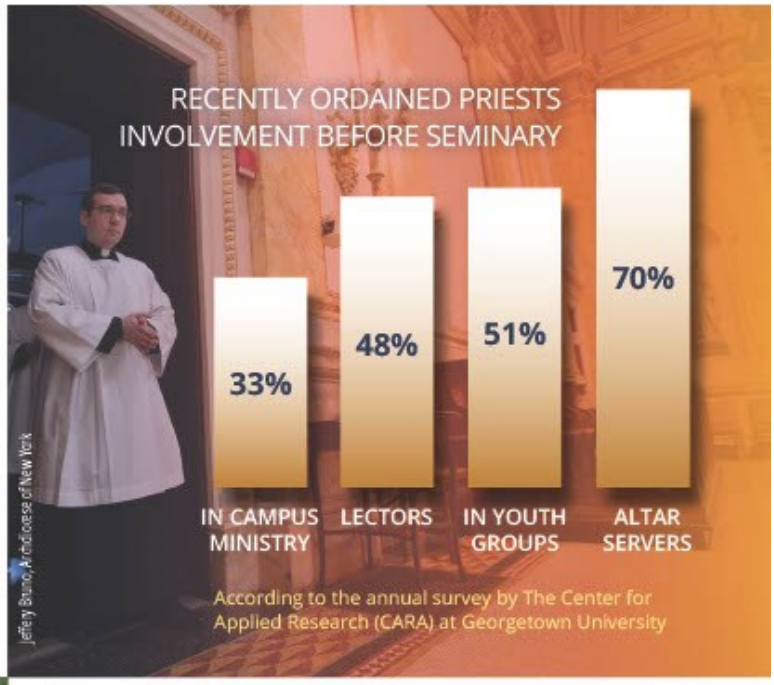
RECENTLY ORDAINED PRIESTS

ORIGINS *of* PRIESTHOOD

Pope Francis has emphasized that seminarians must be "men of communion" who arise organically from the communities they serve, then return after seminary to minister even more profoundly.

That vision is slowly becoming a reality in the U.S., with most of the priests ordained in 2024 reporting active involvement in their parishes and schools.

According to CARA's recent study of men ordained in 2024, the average age at which they first considered the priesthood was 16. Between 32% and 42% went to a Catholic elementary school, high school, or college. About 60% obtained college degrees before seminary, and 70% had full-time work experience. A full 75% reported regularly participating in Eucharistic Adoration before entering priestly formation.

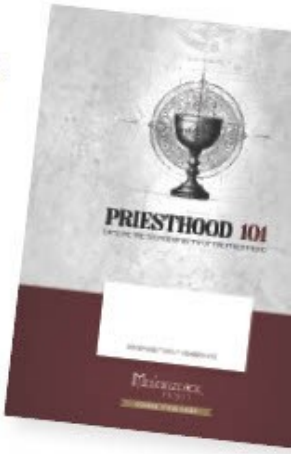




SMALL GROUPS

DEEP DISCERNMENT

The Melchizedek Project, a long-standing program that starts priesthood discernment groups for young men, was re-launched this summer with a new format. It's now easier to start and run the group, with robust leader training and excellent videos that spark discussion. Want to help your parish priest start a group? Sign up for training at melchizedekproject.com

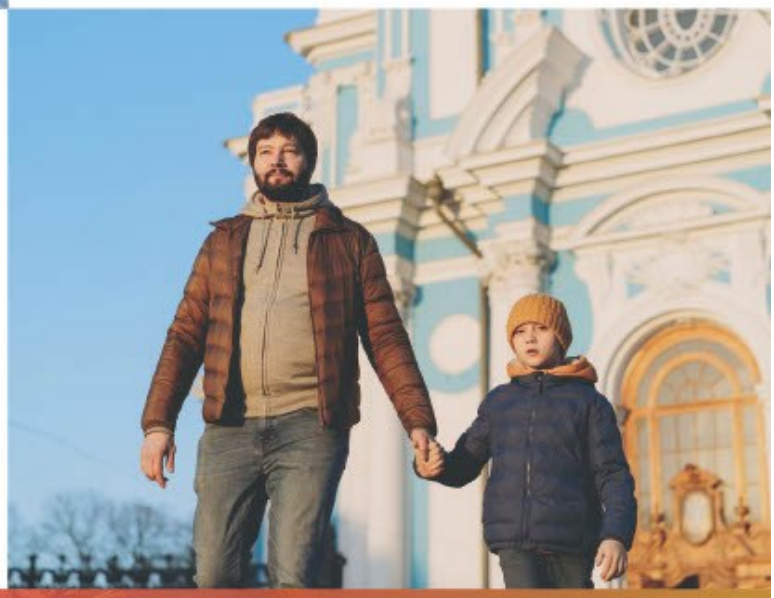


FATHER-SON SEMINARY TRIP

"I dream of a day when young men enter seminary, not *looking* for a father, but having been *brought* by their fathers," said Deacon James Keating of Omaha, who is renowned for his work in priestly formation.

About 45% of seminarians say they were discouraged by a friend or family member from considering the priesthood. And while some parents are tentatively open to the idea, many aren't thrilled about it.

But a real revival of a "vocations culture" requires that parents actively encourage their sons and daughters to seriously consider priesthood and religious life. Think about it this way: just as you would take your teen son to visit prospective colleges, why not try to arrange a visit to a seminary?



NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK • NOVEMBER 3-9, 2024

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