Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

MARCH 12, 2023: THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (Jn 4:13-14)

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—7:30 PM
Saturday	11:00—11:30 AM

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

Worship

This Week's Readings

Sunday: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42
Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4/Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/Mt 5:17-19
Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 11:14-23
Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17/Mk 12:28-34
Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab/Lk 18:9-14
Next Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (1)/Eph 5:8-14/ Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

Please Pray for the Sick

Dorothy Bonds
Jamie Wallett
Sandra Wilson
Monica Alexis Rios
Margaret Nichols
Maria Eisler
Tessa Sergent
Diane Mareci
Fidel Mercado Chavez
Emilia Hurtado
Bernard Zapp
David Birks
Celeste Soult
Carol Reckwerdt
Magdalena Gonzalez
Michael Aldape
Jane Christensen
William Ahearn
Janet Horvat
Frank G. Bauer
Al Corleone
Mary Perisin
Cheryl Nester-Detweiler
Marla Alicea
Leon Wink
Judy Fredrickson
Tracy Duda
Jacob Duda
Dorothy O'Brien
Ryan Meadow
Danny Browder
Carol Kania
Juanita Ramirez
Ray Betlinski

Giving Update

Weekly Budget Amount: $15,218

Offertory for 3/5: $20,519

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

At Rest in the Peace of Christ

Aimee Camp

Welcome to the Parish!

Kalyn Hayes and Jacob Ryan
Sarah Yantek
Rebecca Siar
Macie Armstrong
Jack Clifford
Jonathan Wolowicz
Stephanie Schwind
Erin Gettings
Samantha Zorbas

Welcome Our Recently Baptized

Madison Brielle Jeffrey
Peter Joseph Curtis
Luis Augustin Palacios

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

Wednesday Evening Men's Vespers
Men of the parish are invited to attend our Communio prayer group each Wednesday at 8:15-9 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, 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, March 12
9:00 AM +Edward Marsalek
11:00 AM +Richard Meindl
12:30 PM For the People of St. Alphonsus
5:00 PM For the People of St. Alphonsus

Monday, March 13
8:30 AM +Aleta Nawrot

Tuesday, March 14
8:30 AM For the People of St. Alphonsus

Wednesday, March 15
6:00 PM +Rev. Charles Watkins

Thursday, March 16
8:30 AM For the People of St. Alphonsus

Friday, March 17
8:30 AM For the People of St. Alphonsus

Sunday, March 19
9:00 AM +Veronika Stankeviciene
11:00 AM Sandra Felipe and Family
12:30 PM For the People of St. Alphonsus
5:00 PM +Charles and Shirley Feeney

A Message From Our Pastor

A New Act of Contrition

The practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during the season of Lent affords us all the opportunity to look into a spiritual mirror and take stock of our thoughts, words, and deeds, and also look more reflectively at our relationship with God, with others, and with the poor. And for most all of us, this helps us recognize the need and importance of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. During Lent, through the daily readings or devotional prayers, we often hear a call to repentance, conversion of heart, forgiveness, and mercy – all so that we can dwell in right relationship with God and experience the fullness of life that comes through Christ's Passion, death, and Resurrection.

This Lenten season, the Catholic Church in the United States is receiving a slightly revised translation of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Fortunately, it will be easier to adapt to than the new translation of the Mass that was promulgated in 2011. Some people are still getting used to saying "and with your spirit." (I sometimes still inter-mixup-switch the old and new texts of the Nicene Creed, so I make sure to have the text in front of me on Sundays, otherwise the congregation grinds to a halt if I say the wrong words into the microphone!)

But just in case you were wondering why we have a new one: the Second Vatican Council was held from 1962-1965 in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome where all the bishops of the world gathered to compose a more modern way of presenting and teaching the Catholic faith. There weren't any new doctrines, just ways of teaching about articles of faith that did a better job explaining why we believe what we do. As part of that Council, they discerned it appropriate to change the language of the Mass from the normative Latin texts to the vernacular; that is, to the local language. By 1973, all the texts of the Sacraments had been translated into English... except that the committee in charge of the process may have been hasty, or employed a little too much poetic license, reinterpreting some texts (like "and also with you"). So a few decades later, the US Bishops formed a new committee to do a more accurate job of translating from Latin to English. In 2011 a new translation of the Mass in English was promulgated. And then one by one they went on to translate the ritual texts for each of the other sacraments... and now it's Reconciliation's turn.

The overall rite for an individual person going to Confession is still the same, but the Prayer of Absolution the priest prays have been revised slightly. And there is also a new version of the Act of Contrition that people can use. (See insert).



Because many of us are creatures of habit, it is perfectly acceptable to use the version you already have memorized. In fact, depending on when you memorized the Act of Contrition, you may have be using one of a few different options. And they are all perfectly appropriate. The official ritual book for the Rite of Penance & Reconciliation teaches that "among the actions of the penitent, the most important is contrition, which is 'heartfelt sorrow and detestation for the sin committed, with the resolve not to sin again'." The Act of Contrition, therefore, is not about praying the words exactly correct, it is a person's prayerful expression of metanoia, that is, a sincere conversion of heart.

So the good news for people going to Confession is that the most important elements are expressing sorrow for their sins and an intention to avoid sin. The church has always thought it prudent to provide an Act of Contrition that people can memorize so they don't have to feel pressured to make up a prayer on the spot. However, it is acceptable for a penitent to use their own words, as long as they express contrition and the intention to avoid sin. Furthermore, the rite also affirms that the only way we can approach the Kingdom of Christ is by metanoia, by a sincere change of heart.

Which is precisely the goal of Lent — that through these observances of the Lent, we may enter into the Paschal Mysteries of Christ's Passion, death, and Resurrection with minds and hearts made pure, and thus receive the fullness of the heavenly treasures which pour forth from the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The New Act of Contrition

O my God,
I am sorry and repent with all my heart
for all the wrong I have done
and the good I have failed to do,
because by sinning I have offended You,
Who are all good
    and worthy to be loved above all things.
I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace,
to do penance,
to sin no more,
and to avoid the occasions of sin.
Through the merits of the Passion of our Savior Jesus Christ,
    Lord, have mercy.

Holy Week & Easter Schedule



Palm Sunday, April 2
Mass times: Sunday 9:00, 11:00 AM, 12:30 PM (Spanish) and 5:00 PM

Holy Thursday, April 6

8:30 AM	Liturgy of the Hours
7:00 PM	Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday, April 7

8:30 AM	Liturgy of the Hours
3:00 PM	Stations of the Cross
7:00 PM	Good Friday Liturgy

Holy Saturday, April 8

12:00 PM	Blessing of Easter Baskets
8:00 PM	Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY, April 9
9:00 AM
11:00 AM
12:30 PM

Divine Mercy Sunday, April 16

3:00 PM	Holy Hour & Confessions

Faith Formation

Walking With Purpose Women's Group
Tuesday mornings/evenings



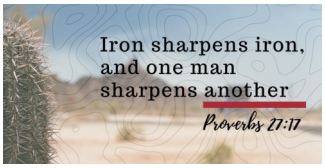
Come as you are. You are welcome here. Make authentic connections with other women! Refuel and Refresh! Learn more about God!

We live in a self-centered culture that all too often leaves us feeling empty and dissatisfied. A fuller view of God and His glory is the perfect antidote— find this during our journey through the Beholding Your King Bible study.

We'll study King David, select psalms, the temple, and many Old Testament prophets and see the ways in which they all point to the coming King of Kings, Jesus Christ. This Nine-Lesson Bible study is the second part of a two-part series and is ideally completed after Beholding His Glory.

Our new Beholding Your King bible study group meets ***Tuesdays from 9:30—11 AM and 6:30—8 PM***. Questions? Contact Susan Combes at suecombes@hotmail.com

St. Alphonsus Men's Group
Thursday Evenings



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

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

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



All parishioners are asked to fill out the **Disciple Maker Index (DMI) Survey,** a great way to reflect on your own spiritual growth while helping our parish plan for the future. Complete the short 10 min anonymous survey at portal.catholicleaders.org/dmi/survey/gg6g64 or use the QR code here. Available now to March 31.

News and Events

Friends Through Faith— Volunteers Needed!

The newly formed Friends Through Faith Adult Social Group hopes to foster essential faith-filled connections and build our St. Alphonsus community through fellowship and fun.

In order to maintain this group, we need volunteers. We will have a zoom committee meeting to discuss specifics. If you are interested, please email Amy Keefner, amykeefner@gmail.com.

We gather for breakfast, cocktails, coffee, and tea the last Sunday of every month following the 11 AM Mass. Connecting with other parishioners can lead to lasting friendships, fruitful ministries, or even just a friendly wave and smile the next time you attend Mass. We hope to create small service groups, outings and friendships out of this community. To register for the March 26th gathering, please email Amy.

The Stations Art Exhibition at ACTC

Now Through April 16



Athenaeum Center for Thought & Culture is pleased to present Lucas Reiner's *The Stations*. Following a traditional medieval devotional narrative that recounts Christ's ultimate passage through death to redemption, The Stations paintings transcend religious affiliation to embrace an expanded vision of empathy in peaceful accord with nature, engaging the profound capacity of art to embody a universal human longing to comprehend suffering, loss, and the passage of time. Learn more and get tickets, (suggested free-will donation) at athenaeumcenter.org/events/2023/the-stations/

Praying For St. Alphonsus Parish!

On Wednesday, March 15th, the Mundelein seminarians will pray for our Parish during their Mass celebration. Our parish staff will be attending a retreat this morning/afternoon at the beautiful campus of University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary. Please note the rectory office will be closed this day.

Special thank you to all who work with seminarians and for your life example to our future priests!

South Lakeview Neighbors Meeting

Tuesday, March 14
Athenaeum Theatre- 2936 N. Southport
Doors open 6:30, meeting starts 7:00 PM.
All are invited!
Agenda: 1) Congressman Mike Quigley- member of House Committee on Intelligence.
2) Mayoral Candidates- Paul Vallas and Brandon Johnson have been contacted and invited to attend this meeting. The candidates are checking their schedules. Both attended the SLN January Mayoral Meeting.

Service Opportunity- Cleaning Angels Ministry

In anticipation of our Holy Week liturgies, our St. Alphonsus Cleaning Angels ministry will be volunteering to help clean and beautify our Church! This service project will take place this morning **Saturday, April 1** from 9 AM to 10:30 AM. Come and help out your church! This will involve basic cleaning such as wiping the pews, vacuuming and more. We all know St. Alphonsus is a spacious church and caring hearts and hands are needed. There will be no online sign-up; simply come to the church to help!

Donate Blood at St. Alphonsus!

Our parish will be hosting an American Red Cross blood drive on Sunday March 26 in the Festival Hall. You can register for an appointment by going online to www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive and scrolling through the dates until you see St. Alphonsus on the 26th.

Alphonsus Academy News

Our AACA 7th and 8th grade art students recently designed and painted a mural for the first floor across from the school main office!



Lent 2023

Lenten Fish Fry— Friday March 31 at 6 PM!

Truly a highlight and staple of Lent, St. Alphonsus will be hosting one grand Lenten Fish Fry this year. This event is sponsored by our Knights of Columbus council to benefit charitable projects of the parish.

Date: Friday, March 31st
Where: Festival Hall, beneath the church
Time: 6-9 PM
Cost: $15 for adults. $7 for kids 5-12. Free for 4 and under.
Adults can purchase tickets online at www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/36528

Menu: Fried Beer Battered Cod, Coleslaw, Peas, Carrots, Chips, Hawaiian Bread, mini-cupcakes
BYOB Alcohol only. Non-alcoholic drinks and desserts will be for sale
Entertainment: Cornhole/Bags for Adults, Two performances by Trinity Irish Dancer Troupe
Multiple kids games and prizes
Parking/Directions: Limited free parking in the church lots off of Oakdale and Southport

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!! Sign-up to volunteer at bit.ly/stalsffvolunteer

Contact Carlos Medina, cmedina15158@gmail.com for more information.

Coming to Confession During Lent



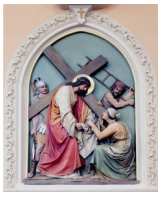
Lent is a traditional time to 'take stock' and discover the ways in which we can turn more fully toward the Lord and away from the sin that weighs us down. It is a great season in which to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

The sacrament is Reconciliation is regularly offered twice each week: Wednesday from 6:30 to 7:30 PM; Saturday from 11:00 to 11:30 AM. You may also contact the rectory office and schedule an appointment with a priest.

Divine Mercy Chaplet

The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed at 6:40 PM on Fridays before Stations. If you need a refresher on how to pray the chaplet, you can go to www.catholic-link.org/how-to-pray-the-divine-mercy-chaplet-your-step-by-step-visual-guide/

Stations of the Cross



Each Friday during Lent, the Stations of the Cross are prayed at 7 PM. This prayer allows us to meditate on Christ's Passion and death while walking the "Way of the Cross." It is a wonderful way to grow in one's knowledge of being a disciple of the Lord.



During the 11 AM Mass on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sunday's of Lent we will be celebrating the Scrutinies. These rites mark the final preparations for the Easter Vigil, where our elect and candidates receive their Sacraments of Initiation. The rites celebrate petition for a spirit of repentance, an understanding of sin, and are meant to uncover and heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; concurrently strengthening what is upright, strong, and good in their hearts. Finally, these rites complete the conversion of the elect while strengthening their resolve to hold fast to Christ and their love for God above all else.

Please continue to join us in praying for the elect and candidates as they prepare to receive their Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil!

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

VOCATIONS ACTIVITIES

How can you support Fr. Tim Monahan, Director of Vocations?

Saint Junipero Serra is the patron saint of vocations and the **Serra Club of Chicago** is the lay organization that supports vocations.

Join our March 15 Serra Club meeting at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Email **Chicagoserra@gmail.com** for the link or to learn more.

Young Adult Ministry

Young Adult Speed Dating!



Young adult (21-39 yrs old) speed dating will take place on **Saturday, April 29** with registration check-ins beginning at 6:00 PM.

Cost per individual ticket is $50. You must pre-register for the event. Final day to register is Wednesday, April 26. At the door sign ups are not allowed, to ensure everyone is able to meet their matches for each round.

Women's Sign-up: www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/36787
Men's Sign-Up: www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/36788
Participants will be asked to please create a profile. More info on the GiveCentral registration page.

Join us for a tremendously fun evening of quality conversations with great dates, food and drinks included! Don't wait to register! Seats go super fast. All ticket sales are final, limited number of tickets available so buy yours now before they sell out.

Follow-up questions can be sent to stalsyamsocial@gmail.com

Wonder Series Discussion Group

Starting Tuesday March 14, 7:30— 8:30 PM



Word on Fire has produced an excellent five-part video series called Wonder which explores the beautiful complementarity of faith and science and inspires awe at the mysterious beauty of God's creation. Please join YAM for a discussion series every other Tuesday starting March 14, from 7:30-8:30 PM in the St. Alphonsus Rectory conference room (enter through the rectory front door and signs/people will guide you). We will watch the video (10-15 minutes each) as a group then open it up for discussion. Contact Intellectual chair Jacob, kelleyjacobm98@gmail.com for info/questions.

YAM Dip N' Dunk
March Madness Watch Party



Come to St. Al's Festival Hall on Saturday, March 18th starting at 4 PM to watch March Madness College Basketball Games while sampling various dips!

Everybody loves March Madness, but we're pairing ours with an array of fantastic dips made by members of the St. Al's YAM community! Think you have the best dip recipe? Sign up at the Google Form link below to let us know if you are going to bring a dip to share.
If you plan on attending and don't bring dip or chips, we ask you to bring $5 to enjoy what's been made. We'll be voting on the best dip at the end of the event! Other snacks, beer and soda will be provided as well.
bit.ly/YAMDipnDunk

And don't worry, we'll have multiple screens going so you can watch your favorite basketball team playing the early games.

3v3 Basketball Tournament

Saturday April 1 at 10 AM



3-on-3 Basketball is back!! Come join St. Alphonsus' Young Adult Ministry (YAM) for its annual 3-on-3 basketball tournament. Grab some friends and join us for one of our most exciting events of the year! The tournament will be a round-robin group play followed by a single elimination tournament for the top 6 teams. Each team is guaranteed 3 games in the group play. There is not a separate tournament for men and women so teams can be co-ed. There will be a limit of 16 teams, so sign up before all of the spots are full. Teams are limited to 5 players. If you do not have a team and want to sign up individually without a team, we will place you with other individual sign ups to create a team. Please specify "Individual" in the team category at the registration link. Sign up here: www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/33435

As part of the event, we will provide snacks and drinks. All are welcome to come and watch the event for free if not part of a team. For those watching the event who are not part of a team but would still like to partake in the food and drink we ask that you make a $5 donation. After the event we will be heading to a bar (TBD) to socialize and watch the Final Four for March Madness

Time: Starts at 10:00 AM, Cost: $15 per person; each player must sign-up individually.

Around the Archdiocese

Eucharistic Revival Prayer Events

Various times and locations
Vicariate II-specific event: March 22nd, 7:00 PM at Holy Child Jesus Parish, 2324 W. Chase Ave. Chicago, 60645. Join us around the Archdiocese to unite in prayer for renewal and revival as we deepen the union with Christ and each other which we experience at Mass, by coming together for celebrations of exposition and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament led by our auxiliary bishops in each Vicariate.

Evenings with Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton



A series featuring Bishop Joseph N. Perry
4 – 6 PM
Tolton Heritage Center
44 E. 41st Street,
Chicago, 60653

Join Bishop Perry at the Tolton Heritage Center to learn about Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton, the first recognized African American Roman Catholic priest. He is on the road to canonization. These events will include a short video, a presentation by Bishop Perry and plenty of time for conversation. Events are free. The next event is on March 29, on ***Tolton Spirituality***. Fr. Augustus Tolton led an extraordinary and exemplary life. What tenets guided this former slave turned engaging Catholic priest? Is it possible to lead a holy life as Tolton did? Please visit tinyurl.com/477k4yps to register.

Lenten Triduum of Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction for Healing, Repentance, and Peace

March 27, 28, 29th, 7:00 - 8:00 PM
Mary, Mother of God Parish at St. Gregory the Great Church, 5545 N. Paulina St.
Join Bishop Mark Bartosic and prayerfully journey 1, 2, or 3 evenings, uniting the faithful regarding the clergy sexual abuse crisis. Organized by the Archdiocese of Chicago Vicariate II Committee for Healing and Atonement. For more info, vii.taskforce@gmail.com

Young Adult Echo Retreat

June 23-25 at Casa Iskali, Our Lady of Guatemala campus, 9430 W. Golf Rd. Des Plaines, 60016.
Echo is a dynamic and immersive Catholic retreat experience of St. John Paul II's landmark teaching of ***Theology of the Body***. Focused on identity, prayer, vocation, relationships and the Catholic Church's teachings on human sexuality, participants are welcomed to be the gift that God has called them to be! For more info and to register, visit respectlifechicago.org and tap on the events tab.



We are celebrating to mark the wonderful growth of our ministry for victims of domestic violence, their children and even perpetrators. The Archdiocese of Chicago has taken the lead among dioceses in the United States in our faith-based response to this epidemic of abuse that afflicts families in every community. Join us to enjoy friendship, great food, informative presentation, cash raffle and birthday singalong. Net proceeds will support awareness raising, education & training and prevention initiatives.

Mail a request to reserve your seat

with your name & phone/email, parish name, # of tickets, and check to:
ACDVO, c/o Fr. Charles Dahm, O.P. 1914 S. Ashland Avenue, Chicago, IL 60608

For more information, contact: Jan Burdulis
jmburdulis@gmail.com

Pope Francis March Intention

For Victims of Abuse

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.



THE MASS

Liturgy of the Eucharist

As any parent knows, love for our children makes us capable of acts of sacrifice that we never imagined possible. The new parent gives up sleep without a thought, feeding and caring for a newborn through the night. The parent of a teenager will drive hundreds of miles to take his or her child to a sporting event, longing to see the child flourishing in every way possible. Even the long hours that many parents work are acts of sacrificial love. We want our children to have it better than we did, so we work multiple jobs, saving money so that they can attend a school where they can cultivate their gifts.

Now, many parents would never describe these acts of love as sacrifices. Part of this is because we don't always operate with a proper understanding of sacrifice. We tend to think about sacrifice only as an act of pain, something that leads to diminishment rather than true happiness. At Lent, we sacrifice chocolate or television, undertaking a painful process so that we can dedicate ourselves to worshiping God.

But this is a faulty account of sacrifice. Sacrifice is not just about pain. True sacrifice is really about gratitude, responding with the fullness of ourselves to a gift we have already received.

THE DISPOSITION OF SACRIFICE

Israel performed many sacrifices for God. One of these sacrifices concerned first fruits. Israel would take the first fruits of a harvest and bring it before the priest. The priest would recall the wondrous works God has done in giving to Israel the land.

Or, at least, Israel was supposed to give it away. The problem with sacrifice in a fallen world, one dominated by sin, is that gratitude is often difficult to practice. Israel grew afraid that there weren't going to be other fruits, that the next harvest was never going to come. So, Israel held onto to these fruits, not offering the proper sacrifice to God. The flip side of love in a fallen world is stinginess, the desire to control or seize, rather than give.

When Jesus Christ speaks about his life and death as a sacrifice, he's not just talking about his eventual crucifixion, the suffering that he'll endure on Calvary. Rather, Jesus is speaking about his whole life as a gift of love offered back to the Father. When he was born in Bethlehem, feasted at the wedding of Cana, healed the sick, fed the hungry with bread from heaven, washed the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper, he was returning his entire life as a gift back to God. But human beings did not respond well to this gift of love. They crucified the Son of God because they could not believe this kind of love was possible. They rejected the sacrifice.

This is the wonder of the Cross. Jesus is fully human and divine, as the Church professes. When he is whipped, crowned with thrones, and crucified, it is the God-man who undergoes the worst that humanity can throw at him. But he responds with total, absolute love. And when he is resurrected from the dead, through the power of the Father and the Holy Spirit, we see that absolute love and gratitude defeats even death. Jesus ascends into heaven, marked with these glorified wounds of love. He sits at the right hand of the Father, and now his very body offers this eternal sacrifice of love.

This is what the Church means when she says that the Mass is a participation in Christ's sacrifice. He is now our high priest, interceding before the Father for all humanity. When the Church celebrates the Eucharist, it is not just a local community gathering to remember God. Rather, we experience at Mass an entrance into the sacrificial logic of the cross and resurrection. Love, not power and prestige, not stinginess and scarcity, is the meaning of life.

Thus, before we celebrate each



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THE MASS BULLETIN SERIES

- Week 1 - Origin of the Mass
- Week 2 - Disposed for Confession
- Week 3 - Liturgy of the Word
- ➤ **Week 4 - Liturgy of the Eucharist**
- Week 5 - Communion of People

Mass, we must ask ourselves whether we live according to this logic of sacrifice? Do we instead participate in the reign of sin and death, a stinginess that seeks power above love? How often do we reflect on the life of Christ, seeing the love that the God-man offers to each and every one of us?

GOD'S SACRIFICE IN THE LITURGY

The word "Eucharist" means thanksgiving. In this sense, the Liturgy of the Eucharist is all that the Church does to prepare us to receive the sacrificial love of Christ in the Eucharist.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist begins with the offering of the gifts. We present bread and wine, the first fruits of the earth, back to God. Bread and wine were used by Jesus at the Last Supper. But bread and wine also represent the wholeness of human life offered back by human beings to God. It is God who created the world for such fertility. And yet men and women have the power to receive this creation, to offer it back to God.

After the offering, the Church begins the great prayer of the Mass, the Eucharistic prayer. While the priest prays this prayer vocally, the entire Church is meant to offer this prayer together.

The Eucharistic prayer begins with a thanksgiving, or preface. Here, we once more recall the wondrous deeds that God has accomplished through Jesus Christ. We focus on a dimension of salvation throughout the year, often praising God for his glorious second coming (as in Advent) or for an opportunity to fast, pray, and give alms (as in Lent).

The prayer continues with the acclamation, the Holy, Holy, Holy, an early Christian hymn that entered the Mass before the second millennium. It involves texts taken from Isaiah, as well as the words used by the crowds in greeting Jesus during his entrance into Jerusalem. In singing this hymn, we recognize that the Eucharist is not just a meal that we celebrate together. Instead, the whole Church enters the heavenly sacrifice of Christ. We're not alone, as the entire communion of angels and saints offer this sacrifice together.

The prayer continues with the epiclesis, or the "calling down" of the Holy Spirit. When we celebrate the Mass, it's not our work that is being accomplished, our sacrifice that is the focus. Rather, God is providing us with the very possibility to offer this sacrifice of praise. The bread and wine will be transformed, becoming Christ's Body and Blood through the power of the Holy Spirit. For this reason, we ask that this Spirit might be present, that God will once more work among us.

"Jesus has made himself the Bread of Life to give us life."
— Saint Teresa of Calcutta

The Church then moves into the institution narrative, or consecration. The Sacrament of the Eucharist is based in Jesus' original sacrifice, the new covenant that he brought about through his death and resurrection. When we remember the Last Supper, we're not just focusing on this single moment in the life of Christ. Rather, we're remembering that Jesus instituted this sacramental sacrifice so that we would always have access to the fruits of his love. This is also the moment in which Christ becomes fully present to us. There is no longer bread and wine on the altar, but only Christ's Body and Blood, given to us under the appearance of bread and wine. The same Body that fed the disciples now feeds us!

After a short acclamation of praise, the Eucharistic prayer moves into the anamnesis and oblation. Anamnesis is a Greek word meaning memory. Having remembered the wondrous sacrifice of the God-man Jesus Christ, now present among us, the Church remembers all of Christ's life once more, even his second coming. This is followed immediately by the oblation, or offering. We have received the presence of infinite love in our midst, the sacrifice of Christ. And now we offer this sacrifice back to the Father. This return-gift is not just for the savoring of the individual. Each of us is to receive the fruits of this communion, such that the Church is brought together in a deeper union of love. Christ's sacrifice, his whole life, should bring us back to live within the communion of the Church.

The Eucharistic prayer reflects this by now moving into a series of intercessions. We pray for deeper union with the pope, the local bishop, the entire Communion of Saints, as well as the living and the dead. Christ's sacrifice has global consequences. We are not meant to live only for one another, but to live in the communion of the Church, a communion that is to transform the whole human family.

The great prayer of the Eucharist concludes with a doxology. Now we once more invoke the Trinity. We began the prayer by entering the sacrificial liturgy of heaven, and we conclude with reference to this eternal sacrifice of love of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

SACRIFICE OF LOVE

Over the course of a Catholic's lifetime, they will hear the Eucharistic prayer thousands and thousands of times. But this is not a prayer that we master or grow tired of, because it is through this prayer that we encounter Christ's sacrifice of love, in which we can gradually undertake a restoration of our identity as a creature made for gratitude, for love unto the end, rather than one oriented toward the kind of stinginess that marks so much of contemporary life. We can never tire of the Eucharistic Liturgy, because who tires of love unto the end?



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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 |
www.stalphonsuschicago.org
parish@stalphonsuschicago.church

Parish Office Hours:

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

School Office

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

School Office Hours:

8:00 AM– 3:00 PM

Staff

Parish Staff

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

School Staff

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