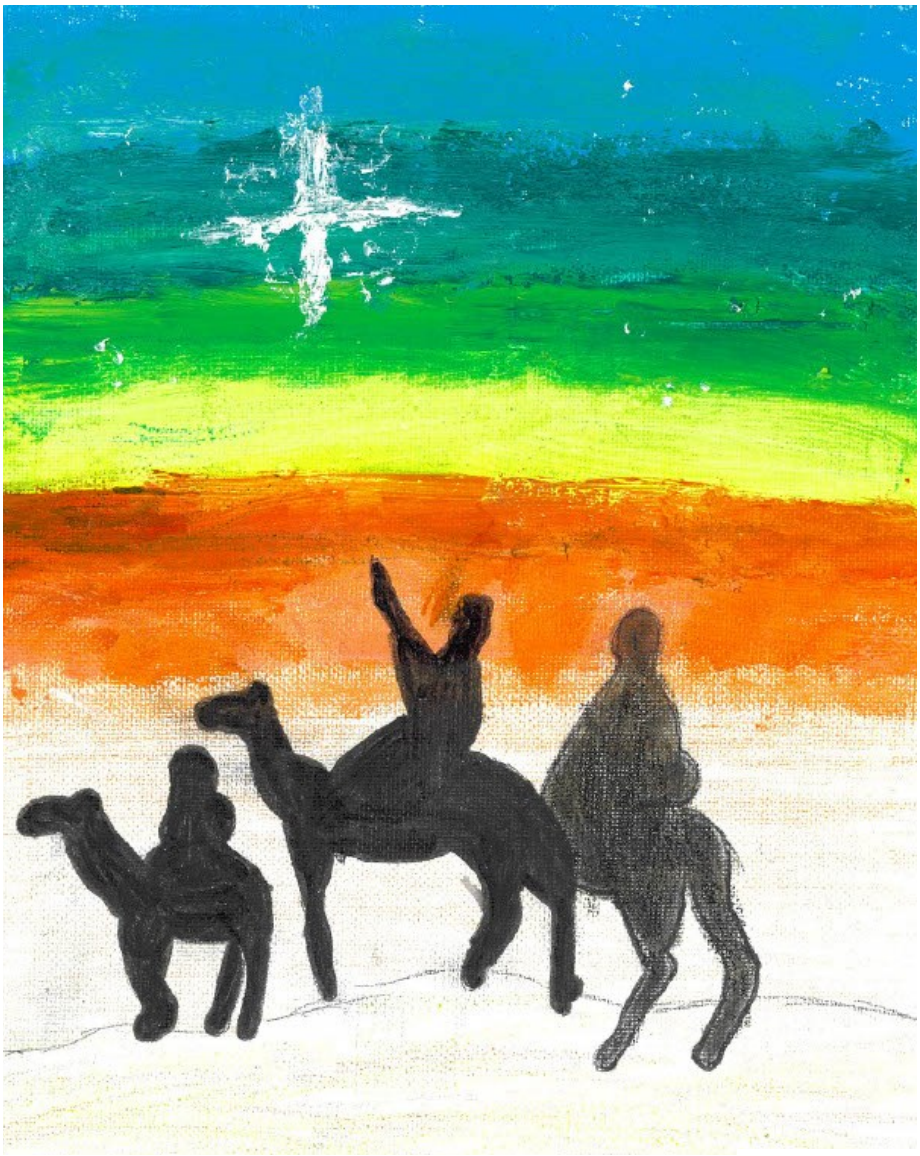
Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

JANUARY 5, 2025: THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



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*

"Where is the newborn king of the Jews?
We saw his star at its rising
and have come to do him homage." (Mt 2:2)

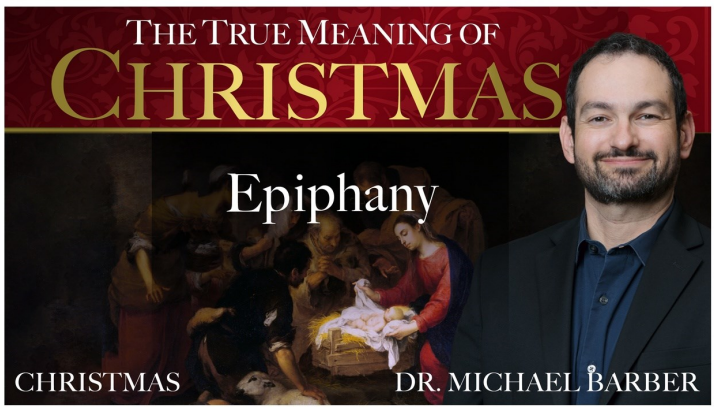
Cover artwork by Ruby C., 4th grader in Religious Education program

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Epiphany | The True Meaning of Christmas

What is Epiphany? Join Dr. Michael Barber to find out.

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.



Worship

This Week's Readings

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
Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52
Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30
Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 (1)/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

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

Matthew Drew-Caffin

Welcome to the Parish!

Lydia Gier
Chiara Creason
Kevin McConville
Roxana Corral
Rachel and Robert Lott
Rory
Shane Merklin
Katie & Cormack Mulcahy
Melissa & Seth Binder
Donna & Adrian Echevarria
Mateo
Milo
Evan Klepitsch
Peter Shares
David Pechi
Victoria Kulhanek

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

Wedding Banns

II. Lauren O'Connor and Nicholas Gallo

Welcome Our Recently Baptized

Luna Amalia Prado
Siena Josephine Goetsch
David Andre Cintron
Sophie Lucille Cipolla

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, January 6
8:30 AM Feeney and Schulze Families (Health)

Tuesday, January 7
8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus

Wednesday, January 8
6:00 PM The People of St. Alphonsus

Thursday, January 9
8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus

Friday, January 10
8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus

Saturday, January 11
8:30 AM Jude and Diana Fernandes (Health)

Sunday, January 12
9:00 AM +Sean Gibbons
11:00 AM +Gert Kosik
+Douglas Ogilvie
12:30 PM +Eduardo Navar, Sr., +Adela Navar, +Clemente Navar
5:00 PM The People of St. Alphonsus

Parish News & Events

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.

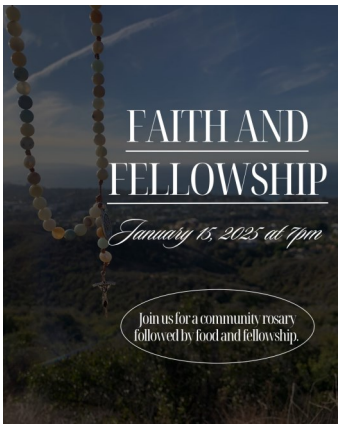
For adult baptisms, contact Brooks Robinson at brobinson@stalphonsuschicago.church

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

Young Adult Ministry— Faith and Fellowship Prayer Series



Join us on **Wednesday, January 15th** in our parish rectory's 2nd floor Common room as we gather for prayer and fellowship!
This is a new series we'll be doing, delving into a type of prayer together each month, focusing on the rosary for January. If you've never prayed a rosary before or it's been a while, we'll start with a brief introduction to the prayer along with cards for how to pray a rosary. After prayer, stick around for some homemade goodies and we encourage you to bring some snacks to share.

Doors open at 7 PM and we will start at 7:30 PM. Hope to see you here!

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.

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. **The January 6 topic is: Psalms of Pilgrimage and Ascents**

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

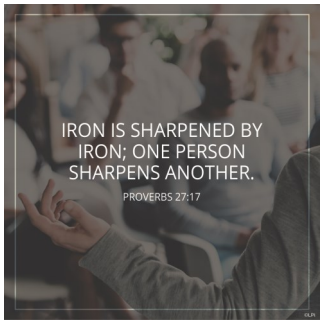
St. Alphonsus Men's Group

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 break at the moment, and will meet again starting January 21.

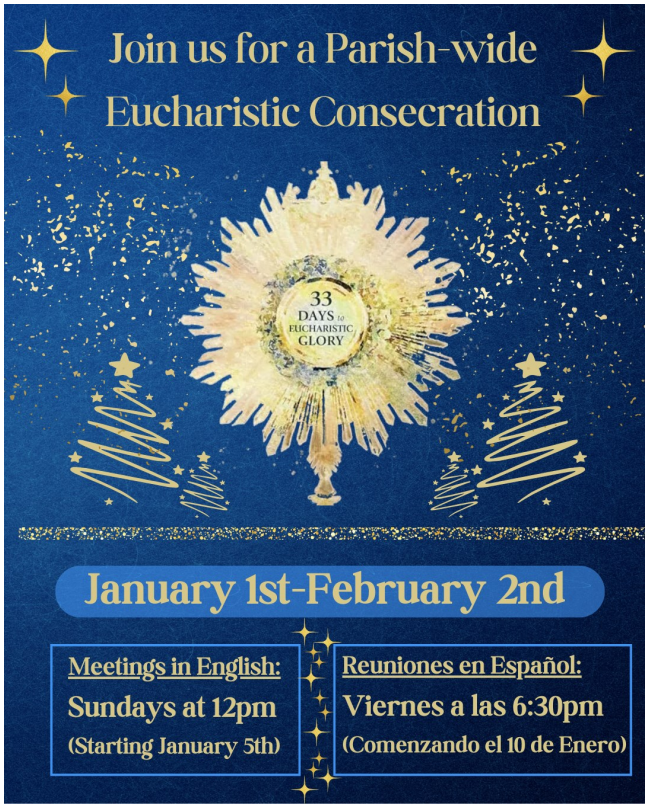


Pope Francis' January 2025 Intention

For the Right to an Education

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

More News and Events



Join Us For a Parish Wide Eucharistic Consecration Jan. 1st - Feb. 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. Each day we will read ***33 Days to Eucharistic Glory*** on our own and then gather weekly as we journey together. The Consecration will be on February 2nd; a light reception will follow. Meetings in English are on Sundays at 12 PM in Festival Hall. Meetings in Spanish are on Fridays at 6:30 PM in the Rectory. These meetings are helpful but not required to participate in the Consecration.
The enemy of your soul will tell you that you don't have the time, that since you already missed a day you shouldn't even bother. But the Lord is holding His arms out to you, inviting you to draw closer to His Eucharistic Heart. Start today. Draw nearer to the Lord this New Year! Register with Emily Ember or Fr. Jesus Raya in the Parish Office.

Únase a Nosotros Para Una Consagracion Eucaristica Para Toda La Parroquia Del 1 De Enero Al 2 De Febrero

Esta Consagración es una invitación a dedicarse a Dios. Es un acto de entrega incondicional a Jesús en la Eucaristía, una oportunidad para dejar de lado nuestras distracciones y egoísmos, y prometer responder fielmente a la gracia de Dios en nuestra vida. Cada día leeremos 33 días hacia la gloria eucarística por nuestra cuenta y luego nos reuniremos semanalmente mientras caminamos juntos. La Consagración será el 2 de febrero; seguirá una recepción ligera. Las reuniones en inglés son los domingos a las 12 PM. en el Festival Hall. Las reuniones en español son los viernes a las 6:30 PM. en la Rectoría. Estas reuniones son útiles pero no obligatorias para participar en la Consagración.

El enemigo de tu alma te dirá que no tienes tiempo, que como ya te perdiste un día, ni siquiera deberías molestarte. Pero el Señor te tiende los brazos y te invita a acercarte a su Corazón Eucarístico. Comienza hoy. ¡Acércate más al Señor este Año Nuevo! Inscríbete con Emily Ember o con el padre 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 Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." Matthew 2:1–2

A Manifestation to the World

The Magi were most likely from Persia, modern-day Iran. They were men who regularly engaged in a study of the stars. They were not Jewish but were most likely aware of the popular belief of the Jewish people that a king would be born who would save them.

These Magi were called by God to encounter the Savior of the World. Interestingly, God used something very familiar to them as an instrument of their calling: the stars. It was among their belief that when someone of great importance was born, this birth was accompanied by a new star. So when they saw this new, bright and brilliant star, they were filled with curiosity and hope. One of the most significant aspects of this story is that they responded. God called them through the use of a star, and they chose to follow this sign, embarking on a long and arduous journey.

God often uses those things most familiar to us that are part of our daily life to send forth His calling. Recall, for example, that many of the Apostles were fishermen, and Jesus used their occupation to call them, making them "fishers of men." He especially used the miraculous catch of fish to clearly indicate to them that they had a new calling.



In our own lives, God is constantly calling us to seek Him out and worship Him. He will often use some of the most ordinary parts of our lives to send forth that calling. How is He calling you? In what way is He sending you a star to follow? Many times when God speaks, we ignore His voice. We must learn from these Magi and diligently respond when He calls. We must not hesitate and must seek to daily be attentive to the ways that God invites us to deeper trust, surrender and worship.

Reflect, today, upon God's call in your life. Are you listening? Are you responding? Are you ready and willing to abandon all else in life so as to serve His holy will? Seek Him, wait on Him and respond. Doing so will be the best decision you ever make.

Lord, I love You and pray that I will be open to Your guiding hand in my life. May I always be attentive to the countless ways that You call to me each and every day. And may I always respond to You with all my heart. Jesus, I trust in You.

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 12/29: $13,374

The Christmas collection to date is $44,637.55

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

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!

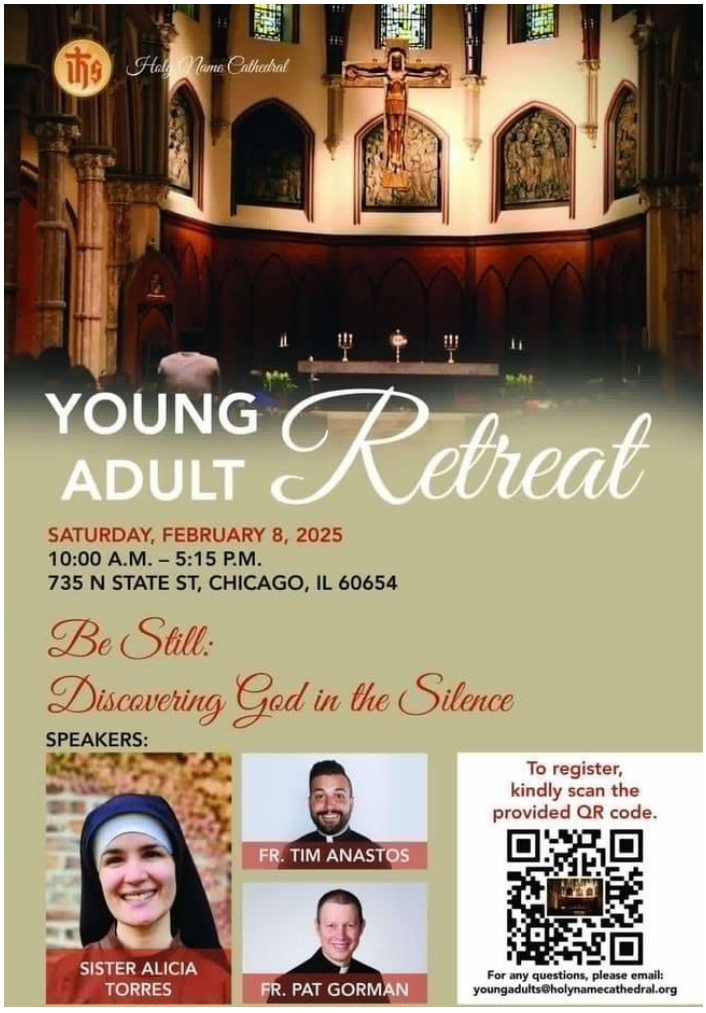
Join St. Alphonsus' Young Adult Ministry on January 11th in partnership with UIC's Newman Center! We will be helping out as part of their once a semester Deep Clean Day. Carpool will be arranged, leaving from St. Alphonsus. Event is 9 AM—Noon. A sign-up is available online at our YAM Facebook page.

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

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

The Jubilee Year: A Tradition of Reconciliation & Renewal

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has appointed me;
He has sent me to bring the good news to the afflicted, to bind up the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives, release to the prisoners,
To announce a year of favor from the LORD.
ISAIAH 61:1-2

On Christmas Eve, December 24, 2024, **Pope Francis proclaimed a year of the Lord's favor.** He opened the Holy Door of the Basilica of Saint Peter in the Vatican, thus inaugurating in the year of jubilee, 2025. In his words, *"Now the time has come for a new jubilee, when once more the Holy Door will be flung open to invite everyone to an intense experience of the love of God."*

A holy year of jubilee in the Roman Catholic Church is a year-long celebration of God's favor and forgiveness. The jubilee year is rooted in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, and occurs every 25 years, according to church tradition.

The Holy Door

The opening of the Holy Door by the pope at Saint Peter's Basilica in Vatican City announces the beginning of a jubilee year, and the sealing or closing of the Holy Door declares its conclusion. The beginning of Jubilee 2025 was Christmas Eve 2024, with its ending on the feast of the Epiphany in January 2026.



In the past, the Pope would use a silver hammer to loosen the mortar of the wall built to seal the Holy Door. During the opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica in 1975, cement fragments and bricks fell just inches from Pope Paul VI as he hammered the door. Due to this narrow escape, the opening ceremony has been changed for safety reasons. The wall that seals the door is dismantled days ahead of the opening ceremony, and a small chest, which contains a key, is extracted from the door. The Pope, key in hand, symbolically pushes open the door to illuminate the interior of the basilica. The Holy Door remains open for the entire jubilee year.

The last week of 2024 and the early weeks of 2025 mark the opening of four additional Holy Doors by Pope Francis. The first is a Holy Door at Rebbibia Prison. Next is the Holy Door at the cathedral that Pope Francis termed "my own church"—Saint John Lateran, the main cathedral of the Diocese of Rome, of which the pope is bishop. Known as "the mother church", the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran, founded in the fourth century, is the oldest public Roman Catholic church in Rome and is one of the oldest basilicas in the Western world. November 2025 is the seventeen hundredth anniversary of the basilica's dedication, celebrated as part of the jubilee events. The next Holy Door is that of the Papal Basilica of Saint Mary Major, opened, appropriately, on the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, followed by the Holy Door of the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

Pope Francis writes about the jubilee year as an opportunity for everyone to experience a "moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the 'door' (cf. Jn 10:7-9) of our salvation, whom the Church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere, and to all as 'our hope" (1 Tim 1:1) Reflecting the Pope's concern for the rehabilitation of prisoners, the *Memorandum of Understanding* signed by Italy's Extraordinary Commissioner, the Ministry of Justice, and the Holy See outlines the involvement of suitable prisoners in maintenance and other work during the jubilee with the intention of helping them acquire professional skills useful for their future reintegration into society.

Passing through a Holy Door during a jubilee symbolizes conversion for a pilgrim,: a coming home to Christ. Pilgrims who walk through a Holy Door at the end of their jubilee pilgrimage may receive a plenary **indulgence** when other conditions have been met, including the sacrament of reconciliation and being in the state of grace. A plenary indulgence eliminates all temporal punishment for ones' sins. Pilgrimages, pious visits to holy places, and works of mercy and penance are specific ways to acquire a plenary indulgence during the jubilee year. The Apostolic Penitentiary published the *Decree on the Granting of the Indulgence* while planning the 2025 jubilee, accompanied by easy-to-follow guidelines set forth by local diocese on obtaining a plenary indulgence, taking into consideration the circumstances, cultures, and traditions of each diocese.

Rooted in Scripture

In the Book of Leviticus, the year of jubilee occurred every 50th year. "You shall treat this fiftieth year as sacred. You shall proclaim liberty in the land to all its inhabitants" (Leviticus 25:10). In Isaiah 61, the prophet write of the jubilee year as "a year of favor from the LORD" in a passage Jesus read in his hometown synagogue at the beginning of his ministry: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, /because he has anointed me/to bring glad tidings to the poor./ He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives/and recovery of sight to the blind,/ to let the oppressed go free,/ and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord." As he rolled up the scroll and sat down, he said, "Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:18-19, 21).

During this year of favor, debt-ridden Israelites were freed from their obligations, land was returned to its owners, and reputations were restored. Hebrews would spend their lives in anticipation of the jubilee event, but many Israelites would not experience a year of jubilee, as 50 years was longer than many would live.

Jubilee in the Catholic Church

The 1st jubilee in the Catholic Church was observed in the year 1300, when Pope Boniface VIII established the jubilee tradition, to be observed every 100 years. In 1343, the jubilee was changed to every 50 years, in agreement with the biblical tradition, ushering in the Jubilee Holy Year of 1350.

In the 14th and 15th centuries, the early beginnings of the jubilee years of the Church, the span between jubilee years excluded many people who longed for favor, liberation, and the possibility for forgiveness that a year of jubilee would bring. They simply did not live long enough. For this reason, in 1470, Pope Paul II changed the timeline to every 25 years. Celebrating an ordinary jubilee year every 25 years has remained the practice for more than 550 years. Before Jubilee 2025 was the ordinary jubilee in the year 2000, under the guidance of Pope John Paul II, as the Catholic Church prepared to enter a new millennium.

While ordinary jubilees are every 25 years, a Pope can proclaim extraordinary jubilee years, such as the Jubilee of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis in 2015, the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Second Vatican Council. In the Bull of Indiction for this extraordinary jubilee year, Pope Francis quoted Pope John XXIII, who opened the council with these words: "Now the Bride of Christ wishes to use the medicine of mercy rather than taking up arms of severity.... The Catholic Church, as she holds high the torch of Catholic truth at this Ecumenical Council, wants to show herself a loving mother to all; patient, kind, moved by compassion and goodness toward her separated children" (Bull of Indiction, 4)

Planning and Preparation

Years go into the planning of a celebration of this magnitude. The official announcement of the jubilee year was in May 2024 on Ascension Thursday, when Pope Francis pronounced the theme of the jubilee, "Pilgrims of Hope," and read a document that the church calls the Papal Bull of Indiction. Commonly shortened as the "Papal Bull," this unusual name is the centuries-old established title for a document, written in Latin, that announces the jubilee. This document, which bears the seal of the reigning pontiff, sets the calendar for the jubilee year and how it will be celebrated. The Papal Bull for Jubilee 2025 is titled *Spes Non Confundit*, which translates from Latin as "Hope Does Not Disappoint." Pope Francis' Bull of Indiction for Jubilee 2025 is an inspiring document, detailing the Pope's own hope for the jubilee year. It can be read in its entirety of the Vatican website (www.vatican.va) The name "Papal Bull" has nothing to do with the large animal. The name is taken from the Latin *bulla*, meaning "a round object." The revered papal stamp used to verify the Papal Bull was kept in a *round* capsule, which led to the name *bull* or "Bull" for the document to which the seal was affixed.

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

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

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