Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

JANUARY 8, 2023: THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

The Epiphany of the Lord



"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 Art by Evelyn C, 5th grader at Alphonsus Academy & Center for the Arts

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*

Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help

Wednesday:	5:50 PM

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: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 (11b)/Mt 3:13-17
Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/Mk 1:21-28 or Heb 1:1-6 and 2:5-12/ Mk 1:14-20 and 1:21-28
Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9//Mk 1:29-39
Thursday: Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11/Mk 1:40-45
Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8/Mk 2:1-12
Saturday: Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mk 2:13-17
Next Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34

Please Pray for the Sick

Dorothy Bonds
Jamie Wallett
Sandra Wilson
Monica Alexis Rios
Margaret Nichols
Maria Eisler
Tessa Sergent
Carolina Goldie
Diane Mareci
Fidel Mercado Chavez
Emilia Hurtado
Bernard Zapp
Rachel Schopp
Mike Madigan
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

Giving Update

Weekly Budget Amount: $15,218

Offertory for 1/1: $13,042

The Christmas collection to date: $56,685

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

WEDDING BANNS

Bridgett Husk
and
John Lyons

Shannon Bauer
and
James Miloch

Welcome Our Recently Baptized

Luca Andres Gonzalez

At Rest in the Peace of Christ

Pope Benedict XVI
Richard Meindl
Barbara Farrell
Emily Mola

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
All men in the parish are invited to pray with us every Wednesday evening from 8:00-9 PM in the sanctuary.



MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, January 8
9:00 AM +Christian Kebr
11:00 AM +Kathleen Radcliffe
12:30 PM +Maria Nuala (2 year anniversary of passing)
5:00 PM +Donna Marie White

Monday, January 9
8:30 AM +Albert and Gertrude Fick

Tuesday, January 10
8:30 AM +Edward and Katherine Dorsen

Wednesday, January 11
6:00 PM +Ed and Millie Dorsen

Thursday, January 12
8:30 AM +Barbara Elliston

Friday, January 13
8:30 AM +Ronald and Barbara Dorsen

Sunday, January 14
9:00 AM +David A. Dufek
11:00 AM +Felix Espinoza Jr.
12:30 PM The People of St. Alphonsus
5:00 PM +Robert Nimietz

A Message From Our Pastor

The German Shepherd

This past week the world watched as Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI was laid to rest after passing away at the age of 95. He was buried in the papal grottoes beneath St. Peter's Basilica in the tomb in which his predecessor, St. John Paul II, was originally buried. (After his beatification, JP2 was moved upstairs and entombed under a side altar in the Basilica proper). In a sense, then, one could say that Pope Benedict XVI has followed John Paul II in life, and in death.

Actually, though, that was one the primary reasons he was elected by the College of Cardinals to succeed John Paul II as pope. The papacy of JP2 lasted 27 years, and the late Francis Cardinal George of Chicago reflected after the conclave in 2005 that the cardinals had discerned that, following the charismatic legacy of John Paul II, the Church needed someone who would honor the legacy of JP2 and be able to communicate fidelity, love and hope to the world. On April 19, 2005, Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger was elected and took the name of Benedict XVI.

To those who knew him, Cardinal Ratzinger was a holy and humble man, a scholar, teacher, theologian, and also a bit of an introvert. He never sought to be in the limelight, and preferred small group conversations rather than large gatherings and audiences – a marked shift from his predecessor. For more than twenty years prior to his election, Cardinal Ratzinger was the head of the Congregation of the Doctrine of Faith, an office of the Vatican that made sure those people writing and teaching in the name of the Church were properly following Catholic doctrine. Because of this, some in the media who did not understand Catholic culture misunderstood Ratzinger and his role as head of CDF and were afraid he would aggressively stamp out any dissenting voices. They dubbed him, the German Shepherd, intending it to be a pejorative term. However, Catholics worldwide -- especially young people at World Youth Day in Cologne, Germany three months after his election -- quickly recognized the Pope's gentleness, compassion, and authenticity, and for the youth, the nickname of the German Shepherd became an endearing an apt description for the new Pope. He won their hearts as their shepherd.

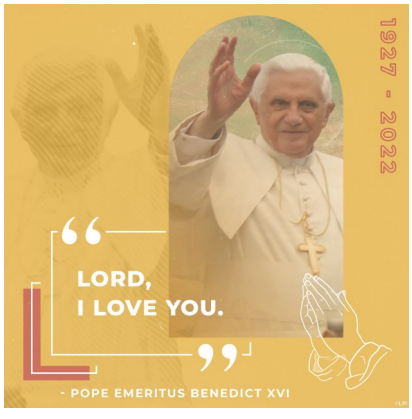
I was in Cologne for that World Youth Day and witnessed the shift in perception. The location had been planned for three years prior, and it turned out to be Pope Benedict's first major trip – and his first trip to his homeland as Pope. Within weeks of his election to papacy, registration doubled to 800,000. Even though some German media outlets were skeptical, nearly one million teens and young adult Catholics from Germany and all corners of the world flocked to greet their new spiritual shepherd. The enthusiasm was alive and palpable.

The theme for that WYD, "We have come to adore Him," was chosen because the Cathedral of Cologne (the Kölnerdom) housed the relics of the magi: Melchior, Kaspar, and Baltasar. And today, on Epiphany Sunday, we follow the three kings into the Nativity scene, adopting their raison d'etre as our mantra. We, too, have come to adore the Newborn King. At World Youth Day, Pope Benedict guided hundreds of thousands of young people in meditating on the meaning, depth, and beauty of their journey to adore Christ. For the three magi, it was adoring Jesus as a baby; for the attendees of WYD, it was adoring the same Jesus, only now today in Eucharistic Adoration. And the same is true for us.

Young people responded to the new pope's invitation, and Benedict taught them to see Christ hidden in the Eucharist, because then we can see Him in the Mass, in our brothers and sisters, and especially hidden in the poor. And hundreds of thousands of hearts, minds, and souls were opened to see, know, and love the beauty of God. Ultimately, that is the journey of life -- a journey that takes us from this life into the next.

While the Church today mourns the passing of her German Shepherd (Emeritus) on Epiphany Sunday, may we follow his example of inviting others to see Jesus, especially on Epiphany Sunday, together with the late Pope, we echo the call of the magi: "We have come to adore Him."

Rev. Steven Bauer



'Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.'

Excerpt from Pope Benedict's encyclical on Christian love, Deus Caritas Est (2005)

Faith Formation

Religious Education at St. Alphonsus



Our Religious Education program is a ministry to support children & families in deeper formation of our Catholic faith! We currently serve children in grades 1st - 8th. Two consecutive years of enrollment is required to participate in First Communion and Confirmation! Our program relies on the time & talents of volunteer parishioners to serve as catechists to our students. **We are currently looking for an additional 2nd grade catechist(s) to serve beginning in January 2023!** If you have any questions, please reach out to: ecook@stalphonsuschicago.church

Exploring the Diaconate



The Institute for Diaconal Studies (IDS) invites all men who feel the gentle nudge of the Holy Spirit to attend an Exploring the Diaconate session.
It is a time to pray, discuss, and learn more about the discernment process and the formation program that aspirants and candidates pursue. Please join us with your wives, if married, as we explore the potential of a vocation, engage in dialogue and pray in search of the next step. All are welcome to attend any of the sessions.

RSVP REQUIRED Contact Sr. Caroline Onuoha, DMMM at 847.837.4563 or conuoha@usml.edu

Exploring the Diaconate Sessions 7:30–8:30 PM

- Monday, February 6 - Zoom
- Tuesday, March 7 - Zoom
- Monday, April 24 - Our Lady of Ransom, Niles
- Tuesday, May 9 - Our Lady of Ransom, Niles

For more information contact Deacon Bob Puhala, bpuhala@usml.edu or (847) 837-4564 or visit usml.edu/ids. Application deadline for the 2023–2024 Aspirancy Path is July 15, 2023.

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!

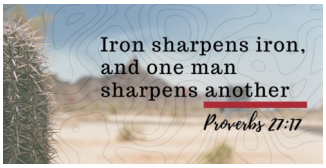
If you or someone you know is interested in taking the class, please contact our pastoral associate, Brooks Robinson at brobinson@stalphonsuschicago.church

Communio: A Men's Prayer Group

Men of the parish are invited to attend the Communio prayer group each Wednesday at 8 PM in the rectory chapel (come to the rectory side door at the southwest corner of the building at 7:55). 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. For questions or more info, contact James Morrow, jemseoul@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.

Parish News and Events

Friends Through Faith Brunch



Do you know the names of the familiar faces you see each week at Mass? Do you feel you're missing a sense of community after leaving Church?

Our Catholic tradition teaches that human beings grow and achieve fulfillment in community. Pope Francis says, *"No one saves oneself. The community is essential."* Our newly formed Friends thru Faith Adult Social Group hopes to foster these essential faith-filled connections and build the St. Alphonsus community through fellowship and fun starting with brunch--breakfast, cocktails, coffee, and tea--on **Sunday, January 29th 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.

For more information or to help with this event and to RSVP, please contact Amy Keefner, amykeefner@gmail.com

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 Harvey Levin, harveylevin@rcn.com

2023 Mayoral Election— Meet the Candidates

South Lakeview Neighbors is sponsoring a "Meet the Candidates" Event on **Tuesday, January 10**. Doors open at 6:30 PM, candidates to present starting at 7:00 PM. Athenaeum Theatre- Event Center 2936 N. Southport. All are invited. www.slneighbors.org

Vitalant Blood Drive

Please consider giving blood this Sunday Jan. 8 at St. Alphonsus! The blood drive takes place from 9 AM to 3 PM in the Festival Hall. Giving blood greatly benefits local patients and saves lives! There is a severe blood shortage in our area. Walk-Ins are Welcome! All donors who donate will get a free long-sleeve shirt and will be entered into a lottery to win a trip to the Big Game! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact parishioner Paul Gillespie, pgillespie15158@gmail.com

Knights of Columbus News

FEB 24-25, - St. Alphonsus Parish Men's OVERNIGHT RETREAT led by Fr. Patrick Gorman at Joseph & Mary Retreat House, University St. Mary of the Lake Seminary, Mundelein, IL; retreat will begin about 8 PM FRI evening and finish mid-afternoon on SAT, permitting return back home by SAT evening; will include Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Confession, talk(s), rest, leisure time to walk around the lake. Fee of $128 includes dinner (available for late arrivals), one night's stay in individual room, breakfast & lunch. Please sign up at tinyurl.com/FEB-24-MENS-RETREAT
Open to Men's Club, Parishioners, YAM, AACA Dads & Friends-all men are welcome!

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 meet on Monday mornings at 8:30 AM in the rectory Common Room. Contact Lauren Merrill Sammis, lauren.merrill@live.com for more information. There is also a Young People's Big Book AA group that meet Sunday evenings at 7 PM in the Festival Hall. You can contact one of the coordinators, Samuel, samuelaaronmosley@gmail.com for more info.

Helpful Household Hints by Harvey Levin

Fluffy Pancakes

Use buttermilk instead of milk. Buttermilk makes fluffier pancakes. The acid it contains interacts with the alkaline baking soda to inflate the batter with extra carbon dioxide, and its viscous body produces a thicker batter that's better at retaining those air bubbles throughout the cooking process.
Leave the batter lumpy. Over stirring the batter deflates it and overdevelops gluten, in turn leading to thin, dense, tough pancakes.
Letting the batter rest for at least 10 minutes allows time for the flour to fully hydrate (dissolving all those lovely lumps) and for the leavener to evenly aerate the batter.

Gospel Meditation



A friend of mine is a young priest who teaches high school physics at a Catholic boys' prep school. Like many today, the boys often think science and religion are enemies. So, he delights in their raised eyebrows when he reminds them his first full-time job as a priest was to be an astrophysicist. He cataloged the size, shape, and matter of distant stars. He tells them, "Science gave me more love for God, not less."

The Magi were something like scientist-astronomers. Like today's scientists, they employed disciplined methods of discovering dependable patterns in the world. Their rigorous commitment to the truth led them to the joy of discovering Jesus. Their love for knowledge leads them to worship the Source of all knowledge. Luke says of them, "They were overjoyed at seeing the star."

We may see the universe as cold and empty and feel sad. But why should we do that? The Magi, like my priest-friend, show us there is another way to experience the world. We use our intelligence to discover the beautiful patterns in the world — in mathematics, physics, astronomy, biology, neuroscience, and so on — and allow this to lead us to greater love for God. So, my fellow Magi: the world needs us to be overjoyed at finding God in science and, finally and fully, in Jesus.

— Father John Muir

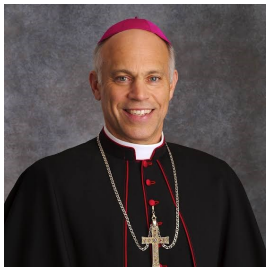
January is Poverty Awareness Month



"This experience [of the Covid-19 pandemic] has made us all the more aware of the need for everyone, including peoples and nations, to restore the word 'together' to a central place.... Only the peace that comes from a fraternal and disinterested love can help us overcome personal, societal and global crises." - message of Pope Francis, World Day of Peace 2023

During Poverty Awareness Month, join the U.S. Bishops, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and the Catholic community in the United States in taking up Pope Francis' challenge to live in solidarity with the poor and marginalized. More resources can be found in our parish E-Newsletter this weekend.

Helping the World's Poor and Vulnerable



In 2022, Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco gave an interview answering questions about the Church's mission of helping the poorest of the poor.

CCO: Archbishop Cordileone, how do you believe the works of Cross Catholic Outreach relates to Catholic social teaching?

Archbishop Cordileone: Catholic social teaching has its basic principles about the dignity of the human person, about solidarity, about the spiritual and social nature of the human person, that we are essentially spiritual beings destined for a transcendent goal or life of heaven. And we work out our salvation in the context of society, sharing generously of our gifts. This is perfectly what Cross Catholic Outreach's mission is about, sharing generously of the gifts that God has given to us in solidarity with the poor, and in that way, spreading the love of Jesus Christ, to those who need that love. And when we share it with that generous heart, with the love of Christ, for the good of the other without expecting anything in return, that's when we experience the real blessings.

CCO: Archbishop, never before has the human race enjoyed such an abundance of wealth. Still, so many people live in poverty. How can the church expand its ministry to the poor?

Archbishop Cordileone: In a number of ways, first of all, by encouraging that spirit of generous sharing of the blessings that God has given to each one, but it has to go beyond a sharing of material blessings, there has to be that personal encounter, I think one of the best things we can do is to bring people who are from areas of means to encounter those who are struggling and experiencing material poverty, that human interaction is what really changes hearts, and to make it a spiritual endeavor, which begins with that personal human encounter. So, it's a matter of, as Pope St. John Paul II, defined solidarity, whereas each gives and each receives, we all have something to give, no matter how materially poor one is, we all have something to give. And with an open heart, we all have something to receive as well.

Full interview can be found at https://crosscatholic.org/blogs/2021/11/an-interview-with-archbishop-cordileone/

Epiphany Reflection

Six Family Traditions for Epiphany



Epiphany is an ancient feast celebrating the appearance or manifestation of God to the whole world. Traditionally celebrated on January 6 (still the practice in some places around the world), the liturgical reforms of 1970 moved Epiphany to the second Sunday of January. Epiphany was once a more prominent celebration; not only was it the preferred day for gift-giving (in imitation of the Magi), but Christians originally celebrated Epiphany as all the manifestations of the divinity of Jesus prior to the start of his public ministry: his birth (with the visit of the Magi), the presentation in the Temple, the finding in the Temple, his baptism in the Jordan, and even the miracle at Cana.

Today, Roman Catholics focus on the manifestation of Christ's birth to the entire world, represented by the magi and the star. (Birthday announcements don't get more public than hanging a new star in the sky.) Here are six ways you can celebrate Epiphany with your kids this year.

1. Bless your home and household on Epiphany

It is traditional to bless your home and household on the Feast of the Epiphany, perhaps because of the biblical reference to the three kings entering the home where the Holy Family was staying in order to worship the Christ child there. You can find an Epiphany blessing of the home in Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers (or at the USCCB website).

A more traditional form of the Epiphany blessing involves using blessed chalk to write the letters C, M, and B, plus the year, above the main entrance to the home (or above the door to each room in the house), like so: 20 + C + M + B + 18. The letters are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also represent the Latin words Christus *mansionem benedicat*, which means: "May Christ bless the house." Of course, the + represents the cross.

2. Send the magi on a journey through your house

If you have a manger set, bring out the three kings on Christmas Day—but instead of placing them at the manger right away, put them somewhere else in your house so that they can journey to the manger over the twelve days between Christmas Day and the traditional date for the Feast of the Epiphany (January 6).

You can have the three kings move to a different room or area of your house on each day. Let your kids search for them every morning; when they find them, say to your kids: "The wise men are searching for Jesus in ____ (the dining room, your bedroom, etc.). How can we show the magi that Jesus is present in this place?" Brainstorm examples of Christian behavior in the particular place, then close with a short prayer: *"O holy magi, help us to see Christ in this place, and make it holy in all we say and all we do here. Amen."*

3. Hold a procession of the magi

On the Feast of the Epiphany, read the Gospel account of the visit of the three wise men (see Matthew 2:1-12), then have your children march through the house holding the figures of the three kings and singing "We Three Kings."

4. Eat King's Cake

A popular Epiphany tradition in many cultures, the King's Cake (or King Cake) is a sweet cake in which a small figure of the baby Jesus is hidden. Searching for the baby Jesus in the cake imitates the Magi's search for the baby Jesus. You can find great recipes for King's Cake, along with some cultural background, over at Catholic Cuisine. Another option? Galette des Rois, a traditional French cake for Epiphany with a sweet almond filling.

5. Celebrate Twelfth Night

Twelfth Night is a largely forgotten traditional celebration held on the twelfth night of the Christmas season, January 6—the traditional date of Epiphany before the liturgical reforms of Vatican II.

Over at Catholic Cuisine, they have a complete and comprehensive plan for a Twelve Days of Christmas themed dinner feast that features twelve courses, including partridge in a pear tree pie. You can also find an extensive history, as well as some traditional ways of celebrating, at Fish Eaters.

6. Give gifts

Some families make it a tradition to save Christmas gift-giving until Epiphany...and then to give each person just three gifts. This might be a fun tradition to transition to as your kids get older. One advantage: More time to get the perfect gift, which means less stress around Christmas...plus, take advantage of those after-Christmas sales.

Walking With Purpose

Women's Group at St. Alphonsus—
Tuesday mornings and evenings 9:30-11 AM or 6:30-8 PM



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*.

**** Walking With Purpose is taking a break for winter. The new Beholding Your King bible studies will start up again on Tuesday February 7** Questions? Contact Susan Combes at suecombes@hotmail.com

St. Alphonsus Baptism

Choosing A Baptism Date - Most baptisms at St. Alphonsus are celebrated at 2:00 PM on Sundays. To request a date, please complete the Baptism Request form on our website (one form per child).

If your child is age 7 or older, please contact Erica Cook (ecook@stalphonsuschicago.church) for religious education classes.

Preparing For Baptism - First time parents are required to take our baptismal prep class. We hold this class once a month via Zoom, please rsvp in advance. Godparents are welcome to attend class at St. Alphonsus or at their local parish.

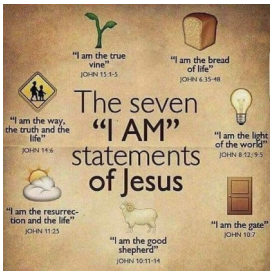
If you have already had a child baptized at St. Alphonsus, you need not attend the preparation session again, unless you would like to.

Godparent requirements - It is required to have at least one Catholic godparent who is confirmed and over the age of 16. Godparents are typically one male and one female. The maximum number of Godparents is two.

Contact **Kaitlin Holyk** for questions and inquiries.
weddings@stalphonsuschicago.church
773.525.0709

Time, Talent, Treasure

To carry out our mission that God has graciously invited us to participate in, we must be stewards of the temporal goods. By giving up our time, talent, and treasure, we are able to respond to the call of our why in our "whats" and "hows." This means, we baptize, we see others face-to-face, we draw in, we invite in, we create spaces of deep hospitality that we are able to accompany others as they seek to discover how God has been already present to them. In other words, as Henri J.M. Nouwen reminds us in, *A Spirituality of Fundraising*, steward-ship, fundraising, and generosity are all concrete ways we help the Kingdom of God come about. We invite you to join us in responding to the vocational call of our shared baptism. Please go to https://tinyurl.com/stalphonsusttt and consider the ways in which you may be generous with your time, talent, and treasure for the sake of the Kingdom of God and the mission with St. Alphonsus.



Young Adult Ministry

BE SOCIAL
BE SPIRITUAL
BE CHARITABLE
BE INTELLECTUAL
BE CATHOLIC

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.

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

YAM Town Hall

Please join us on **Sunday January 15th** after the 5 PM Mass in St. Al's Rectory Common Room (2nd Floor of Rectory) for our Town Hall Event. This is an event we are restarting for this year! Please bring any questions or suggestions you have to help us plan future St' Al's YAM events. Our YAM Board will be present at this event to help answer any questions you might have and take down your suggestions for future events in a Town Hall setting.

Plus learn how to get involved in our small groups and Spiritual, Social, Service and Intellectual pillars.
We will provide free soda, water, beer and wine along with having some snacks!
We look forward to seeing you at our event! Whether you're a YAM regular or newcomer, all are welcome!
If you have any questions about this event, please feel free to email Reilly Cosgrove or Matt Rebernick at stalsyamsocial@gmail.com

Catholicism, Ourselves, and Others: A Faith-Based Perspective on Mental Health



Saturday, January 21, our St. Alphonsus YAM will be hosting Julia Hogan for a January day retreat. Julia is a licensed therapist, author, and speaker (www.juliamariehogan.com). She will be discussing mental health, our faith lives, and living a healthy and balanced life.

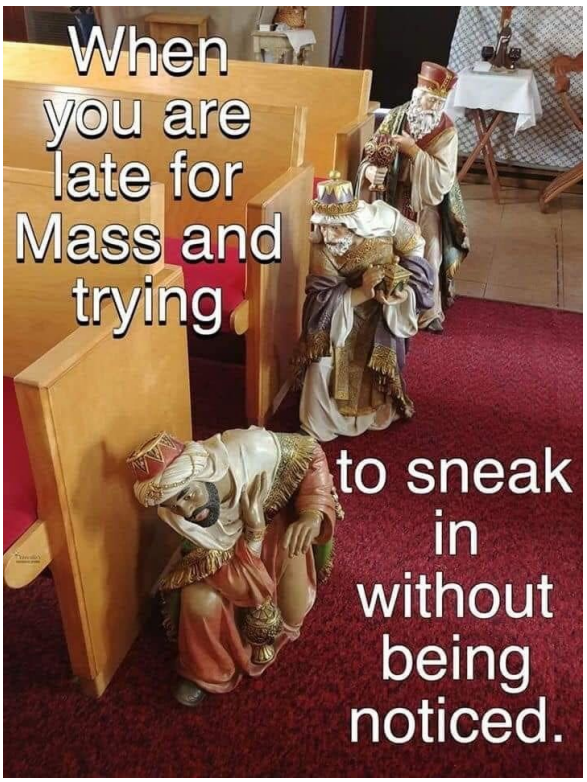
Julia has spoken at the SEEK retreat, Notre Dame, Deloitte, and many other places and we are excited to have her! The day will be filled with talks, small group discussions, adoration, music, and more!

Sign up online at www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/36002
Registration is $60. Walk ins are welcome!

Spirituality and Spirits: The Eucharist and Intimacy

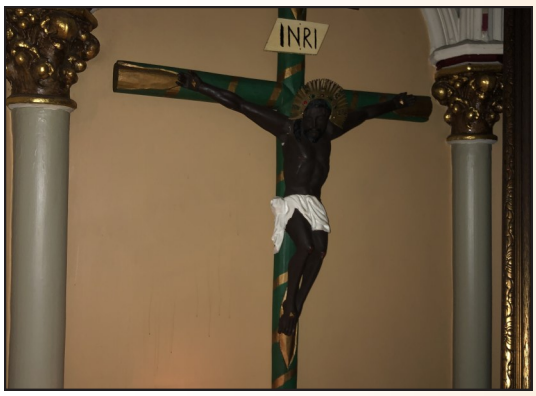
Tuesday January 24 from 6:30–8:30 PM in the Festival Hall, Sr. Jess Lambert, FE will help us dive into the profound intimacy that the Lord desires for us in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. It is an intimacy that can only be experienced when we let down our masks and walls such that Jesus in the Eucharist can truly speak to us and we can truly encounter Him.

Drinks and light appetizers provided. Freewill offerings accepted. We hope to see everyone for this engaging discussion!



Misa de Señor de Esquipulas

Señor de Esquipulas Mass Sunday January 15 at 12:30 PM



The 12:30 PM Mass on Sunday Jan 15 will be a grand liturgical celebration to honor our Lord in a way that is particular to the people of Guatemala, yet also bears relevance for all of us, who, by virtue of their baptismal call, follow the way of Jesus. Therefore the invitation to participate is extended to all the Christian faithful.

The celebration of Señor de Esquipulas, a cultural devotion to the Black Christ of Esquipulas, therefore invites all the Christian faithful to participate, since we are all called to walk in the way of the Lord Jesus. Esquipulas is a city in Guatemala, and in 1594 an artist from Portugal carved a large crucifix there to help foster devotion among the natives, who found Jesus and the Catholic faith more relatable because of the dark color of the cross. (You may have seen the replica of the cross which resides in the shrine next to the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.) Down through the centuries, devotion to this image of our Lord has grown in Central America. The Cross is carried in processions each January, and it has become a powerful symbol offering hope, peace and justice to so many. There will be a fiesta in the Festival Hall after the Mass. All are invited!

Stewardship—First Fruits

FIRST FRUITS
time talent treasure

We want to invite all parishioners who want to participate in online giving to do so by enrolling through GiveCentral and setting up your donation via the First Fruits campaign (weekly Mass offering).

A huge thank you to those that are already giving online. Please consider making St. Alphonsus an extension of your home and family when contributing.

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

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

It is not too late to make your Christmas contribution for the 2022 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!



Prayers for Damar Hamlin!

Many saw a horrific scene on live television Monday January 2, when Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin suffered a cardiac arrest during an NFL football game in Cincinnati. Hamlin required CPR to restore his heart beat and was rushed to UC Medical Center in Cincinnati where he is listed in critical condition. Hamlin, only 24 years old, is an alum of Central Catholic in Pittsburgh, where he also started a charitable toy drive, Chasing M's Foundation just before being selected in the 2021 draft. Hamlin's Twitter timeline over the past two years includes multiple expressions of faith and gratitude, along with support for friends and fellow athletes.

Contact

Sacramental Information

Contact our parish office (773) 525-0709 for information regarding celebrating sacraments including Baptisms (infant and adult), Reconciliation (confession), Eucharist (Communion), Confirmation, Marriage, Anointing of the Sick. For information regarding Funerals, please first contact the funeral director of your choice to begin making arrangements.

How to Offer a Mass Intention

Did you ever notice that every Mass said here at St. Alphonsus is offered for a special intention? The entire congregation prays for that intention during the petitions (Prayers of the Faithful) when we say, "For those who have died, and for the intention of this Mass: (named intention)"

You can make a Mass Intention request here. Masses are often offered for family, friends and relatives that have died. Praying for the dead is a Spiritual Work of Mercy. Offering a Mass for someone that has died is an especially comforting gesture to the family. Mass can also be offered to commemorate joyful occasions and to give thanks to God for blessings received.

The customary offering for a Mass here is $15. However, any amount that you would like to offer is completely acceptable. You can request Masses by visiting the Parish Office during office hours or calling the Parish Office at (773) 525-0709.

You can ***register in the parish*** by coming to the rectory office or going online at *www.stalphonsuschicago.org*. The advantage to registering is that we know who you are and can better plan our programs by knowing whom we serve.

Want *to find out what is happening in the young adult community?* Join the St. Al's Young Adult Listserv. We send out monthly emails to let people know about our upcoming events. To register for the listserv, contact *stalphonsusyam@gmail.com*

The ***Knights of Columbus*** are the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization. For more information, visit *www.stalphonsusknights.com*

Our parish has received permission to once again host important sacraments. Please be patient as the pandemic created a scheduling backlog regarding Baptisms and Weddings. You can find more info at:

www.stalphonsuschicago.org/baptism

www.stalphonsuschicago.org/marriage

St. Alphonsus Social Media

Choose to participate in meaningful engagement! Having an attitude of engagement challenges us to love our digital neighbor as ourselves. You can find St. Alphonsus' Facebook and Twitter by going to the parish website and clicking the icons at the footer of the page.

Directory

Parish Office

1429 W Wellington Ave, Chicago, IL 60657-4121
(P): 773-525-0709 | (F): 773-525-3238
www.stalphonsuschicago.org
parish@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 | (F): 773-348-4829
www.alphonsusacademy.org

School Office Hours:

8:00 AM– 3:00 PM

Staff

Parish Staff

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

School Staff

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