# Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

NOVEMBER 30, 2025: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT




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## 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*

### Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

| | |
|---|---|
| ***Wednesday*** | 5:45 PM |

# Worship

## This Week's Readings

Sunday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44
Monday: Is 4:2-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
Next Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 (see 7)/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

## Please Pray for the Sick

Dorothy Bonds
Jamie Wallett
Monica Alexis Rios
Richard Wagner
Frances Buscemi
Michael & 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
Brian Krembs
Margaret Nichols
Leslie Salimi
Jason Jamero
Carol Kania
Eileen Koutnik
Rosemarie Cordero
Michelle Moya
Ernest Nora
Albert Meier
Dan Clark
Kevin Combs
Norma Ehrenberg
Janet Dahm
Mary Ziko
Joan Garber

## Welcome to the Parish!

Anna Speyer and Collin Burnham
Hadley Holt
Marc Maguire
Nicholas Wozniak
Josefina Olivares and Kenderick Simpson Ander
Allison Kistenbroker
Charlotte Rath and Jeffrey Chu Camille
Evan Heintz
Michael Lima
Adam Newlon
Valerie Glinski
Dayana and Erik Mizhquiri
Brett Piasecki

**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, & 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. Contact James Morrow, jemseoul@hotmail.com

## *Wedding Banns*

II. Lauren Lonergan and Robert Tonkovich




## MASS INTENTIONS

***Sunday, November 30***
9:00 AM +Ed & Mary Gobat
11:00 AM People of St. Alphonsus
12:30 PM +Emilio & Amalia Guaman and Luis & Aurora Naula
5:00 PM +Rosario Anzelmo

***Monday, December 1***
8:30 AM People of St. Alphonsus

***Tuesday, December 2***
8:30 AM People of St. Alphonsus

***Wednesday, December 3***
6:00 PM People of St. Alphonsus

***Thursday, December 4***
8:30 AM People of St. Alphonsus

***Friday, December 5***
8:30 AM People of St. Alphonsus

***Saturday, December 6***
8:30 AM +Dr. Fausto O. Magno

***Sunday, December 7***
9:00 AM +Ronald & Barbara Dorsen
11:00 AM +Robert Karall
12:30 PM +Rosalinda Nuñez Burgos
5:00 PM People of St. Alphonsus




# Holiday Cheer!!

## Sweets w/ Santa Sunday, Dec. 7

Our parish school is hosting a wonderful event for kids! Join us for light bites, Christmas crafts, and photos with Santa! All members of our community with small children are welcome, no affiliation with AACA required. For planning purposes, we ask to register online at our parish website by clicking on the logo.




## Christmas Concert— Friday, Dec. 12

Camerata Chicago Orchestra & Choir: HANDEL'S MESSIAH Family-friendly Christmas portion - sing-along Hallelujah Chorus!
**December 12, 2 PM**
Use **coupon code SACC** for a 15% DISCOUNT
Tickets: www.cameratachicago.org/t/sacc-tx/
Enjoy the outstanding musical artistry of the Camerata Chicago Orchestra and Choir!

- Family friendly performance (approx. 1 hour)
- Hallelujah Chorus - Sing Along.
- Delta David Gier, guest conductor!
- Soloists: Emily Richter, Lauren Decker, Daniel Espinal and Laureano Quant.

After Discount: Adult $42.50; Senior $34; Students $8.50; Children 14 & Under $1.70 Discount coupon available online only and not at the door.

## FREE Christmas Pancake Breakfast!

### Sunday, December 14th, 10 AM—2 PM

Our Pancake Breakfast is back! ALL are invited to stay after Mass on December 14th to enjoy pancakes, eggs, and delicious treats with St. Nicholas!

### Volunteer!

Help us serve breakfast, bring Christmas cheer, and get first dibs on the food! Shifts are 2 hours each. Contact us at parish@stalphonsuschicago.church







## Mama Meetup

Join us for the Pancakes with Santa event on December 14! We will meet in Festival Hall after the 9am Mass for breakfast and coffee, and a special guest for the kids! This event is open to everyone in the parish, so bring the whole family and get to know other families with littles. If you have any questions, please reach out to Kathryn at kkibler@stalphonsuschicago.church.




## Cookie Exchange Giveback— Sunday, December 21

**The bulletin went to press before full details were finalized so next week's newsletter/bulletin will have the registration info!**

This will be a fun little event for a couple different charities. Everyone that buys a ticket would bring 3 to 4 dozen cookies and a container to bring home cookies of their choice from the cookie exchange. Participants would help wrap and label gifts while there. There will be a table for participants to make holiday cards for those we are sending gifts to.

# Gospel Reflection

*"Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." Matthew 24:42–44*

## Being Prepared

How does one "stay awake" as our Lord commands us? We receive this holy exhortation as we enter into a new liturgical year. In Advent, we begin at the beginning. We ponder the Incarnate Son of God dwelling as a human Child in the precious womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We anticipate the celebration of His birth into the world at Christmas. As the liturgical year progresses, we will prayerfully walk through each moment of His life, from the events of His childhood, to His public ministry, and ultimately His death, resurrection, and ascension into Heaven.

Our Lord's exhortation to stay awake invites us to be attentive to the ways that the Son of God's human life speaks to us, calling us to become fully united to Him so as to share in the glorious gifts of holiness in this life and eternal salvation in the next. After exhorting us to stay awake, the Son of God said, "For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." Of course, we know He came into this world over 2,000 years ago in physical form. This exhortation is not only a call to ponder that event long ago; it's also an invitation and exhortation to become continuously more attentive to the effect that His historical coming has upon us today. Advent is a season that invites us to reflect on Christ's first coming in Bethlehem, His daily coming to us in grace, and His final coming at the end of time. These moments are intimately connected, as each prepares us more fully for the next.

From Heaven, the Son of God continues to descend to us, inviting each of us to conceive Him in our souls by grace, to be attentive to His divine presence within us, and to nurture His divine presence so that He will grow and live within us, making us true members of His Body, the Church. Staying awake means being aware of Christ's presence in every moment and cultivating a personal relationship with Him that is alive and growing. This Advent, ask yourself: How am I nurturing my relationship with Jesus so that I am ready to meet Him whenever He comes?



Jesus calls us to be prepared at every moment of every day, "for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." Though this is a promise that He will return one day to judge the living and the dead at the end of time, it is also a promise that He relentlessly pursues us here and now, communicating to us by grace and inviting us to be transformed more fully, so as to love Him and manifest His love to the world around us. As we mature in our faith, God often speaks in subtler ways, inviting us to listen with the ears of our hearts. These gentle whispers of grace require us to be even more attuned to His presence, ready to respond to His call in the quiet moments of our day.

Reflect today on Jesus' exhortation to be awake, vigilant, attentive, and ready to love Him in the smallest ways. To stay spiritually awake, cultivate habits that keep you attuned to God's presence: set aside time for daily prayer, receive the sacraments frequently, and be mindful of opportunities to serve others. These practices will help you remain vigilant and ready to encounter Christ at any moment. Search for Him this Advent, and never tire of loving Him in your prayer and in those around you. The Son of God continuously comes to you "at an hour you do not expect." By building a spiritual habit of being prepared, you will meet and love Him throughout your day.

*My ever-present Lord, You surround me with Your grace and flood me with Your mercy day and night. Please give me a heart that is attentive and receptive to You so that I can receive all that You wish to bestow and love You and others with Your Sacred Heart. Jesus, I trust in You.*

# *Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary— Monday, December 8*



Next Monday on December 8, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. **This feast is a Holy Day of Obligation**.

To celebrate our nation's patroness, **our Mass times will be at 8:30 AM and 7:00 PM.**

On this special day we turn to our heavenly patroness to invoke her powerful intercession for our country. We pray for peace, reconciliation, the preservation of our values and ideals, and religious liberty for those who do not have that basic freedom. Please join us for Mass on this great feast of Our Blessed Mother.

# *Young Adult Ministry*




## Christmas Ball— Saturday, December 13

Celebrate the Christmas season with YAM!!! Dust off your dancing shoes and show off your best cocktail attire for the 3rd annual Christmas Ball! Don't let the cold deter; come out and join other young adults for a night of dinner, dancing, and fun holiday festivities!

As it is also the time of year for giving, especially to those most in need, we will be collecting charitable donations to put together blessing bags at the event as well. Suggested items are toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, socks, wet wipes, tissues, and non-perishables, such as applesauce or fruit cups, raisins, pasta, canned vegetables, etc.). This is just a short list of items, but please feel free to donate anything of your choosing along these lines. We're looking forward to constructing these packages together and donating them all to Catholic Charities!

Please signup to attend this event at www.givecentral.org/otp/42088

The price for this event is $20 now through December 12th, and $30 at the door on the day of. Dinner and drinks are included in the cost of the event. Any questions, contact stalsyamsocial@gmail.com

## Christkindlmarket




On Sunday, December 7, join St. Alphonsus YAM for an outing to the Christkindlmarket at Wrigley Field! We will be meeting at 2 PM at the event and will have a fun afternoon of shopping for Christmas gifts, enjoying snacks, and potentially ice skating! Afterwards, we will head to 5 PM Mass at St. Alphonsus. There is a sign-up form on our Linktree, linktr.ee/stalphonsusyam

## Volunteer Decorating the Parish Rectory!




Join us at the YAM Christmas decorating event on Saturday, December 6! We will enjoy community together as we help decorate the St. Alphonsus rectory for Christmas. Please sign up for this fun and festive event. We will meet at 9 AM at St. Alphonsus and finish at 12 PM. All are encouraged to dress in the Christmas spirit!

# *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

The bulletin went to press before the November 23 collection could be counted. The December 7 bulletin will have the November 23 & 30 offertory totals.

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

## Helpful Household Hints by Harvey Levin

**Required Minimum Distribution**

The IRS requires that you withdraw at least a minimum amount - known as a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) - from some types of retirement accounts annually. RMD's are minimum amounts that IRA and retirement plan account owners generally must withdraw annually starting with the year they reach age 72 (73 if you reach age 72 after Dec. 31, 2024). When you take this money out of your retirement account, you have to pay income tax on that amount. But there is an exception. If you pay this money directly from the retirement account to a charity like St. Alphonsus Church, you do not have to pay the income tax. This is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). Just make sure that the money is paid directly from the retirement account to the church. This does not work if the money goes through your bank account. This is a great way to give your donation to the church with tax free money.

GIVINGTUESDAY
Dec. 2, 2025

***Make your contribution at www.givecentral.org/otp/16800 or TEXT Tuesday to (773) 570-7600.***

#iGIVECATHOLIC ON GIVING TUESDAY

What is Giving Tuesday? Giving Tuesday is a global day of giving and an opportunity for Catholics and others to #GiveCatholic in support of our diocese's parishes, schools, and ministries. During these 24 hours of giving, we encourage you to donate to several of your favorite causes with the goal of accomplishing great things together through the power of generosity.




This year, we invite parishioners to show their thankfulness to the Lord for His blessings through making a donation to St. Alphonsus Parish. Every gift is appreciated, and any amount is appropriate. There are many wonderful blessings here, the blessings of Giving Tuesday helps us keep our ministries running and the blessings flowing!

# Christmas Mass Schedule

### Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24

**4:00 PM**, **6:00 PM**, and **11:00 PM,**
**Vigil Masses for Nativity of the Lord**
**Join us for festive caroling 30 minutes prior to the start of each Mass. A program of beloved carols, motets, and festive Christmas arrangements will precede Mass. Arrive early to get the best seat!**

### Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25

### The Nativity of the Lord

**9:00 AM (bilingual English w/ German),**
**11:00 AM (bilingual English w/ Spanish)**



### New Year's Eve and New Year's Day

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

### Wednesday, December 31

**8:30 AM, 4:00 PM (Vigil Mass) no 6 PM Mass this holiday**

### Thursday, January 1, 2026

**10:00 AM**

***If you are traveling to be with family or friends over Christmas, join us on January 4, the Feast of the Epiphany. The Midnight Mass program will be repeated at the 9 and 11 AM Masses.***

# St. Alphonsus Giving Tree

## *Bring Your Gifts! Last weekend is Dec. 7!*

Celebration of Giving
Unwrap the Spirit

The Giving Tree service project involves our whole parish and 'makes Christmas' for hundreds of people less fortunate.

This year, our parish community gives gifts to exactly 100 individuals through Catholic Charities, as part of the Celebration of Giving program.



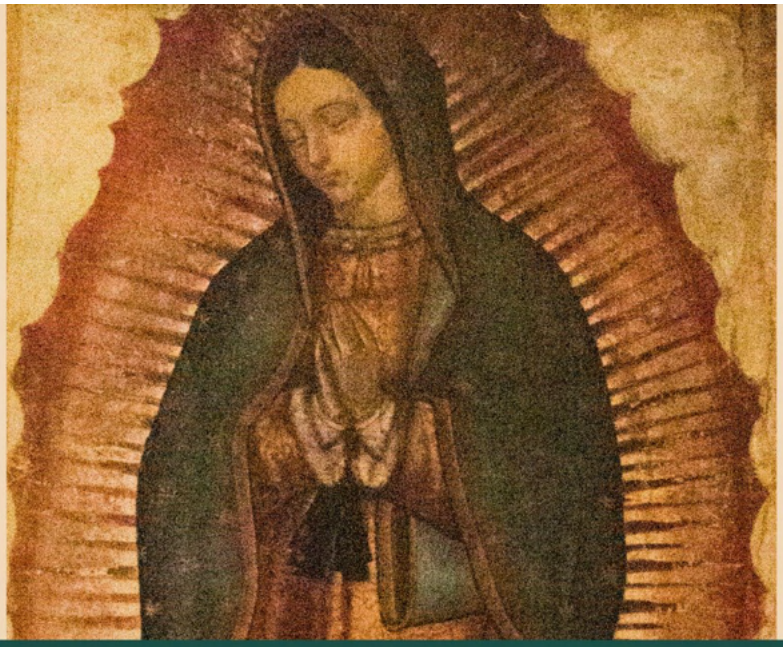
You can also support this service project at the Catholic Charities site, www.catholiccharities.net/give/celebration-of-giving
Contact Mario Serrano at mserranostals@gmail.com if you have questions.

### We greatly appreciate the amazing generosity of the parish!

## *Low Gluten Hosts Available*



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



# Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe



## Rezo Del Santo Rosario Y Novena–Rosary & Novena

♦ Dec. 3–6 [ 7PM ] ♦ Dec. 7 [ 1:30PM ]

♦ Dec. 8 [ 6:30PM ] ♦ Dec. 9 [ 7:30PM ] ♦ Dec. 10–11 [ 7PM ]

## Misa Solemne– Solemn Mass (Spanish)

♦ Dec. 12 [ 7PM ]

**Está cordialmente invitado a la fiesta en el Salón Parroquial de la Parroquia de San Alfonso después de misa. You are cordially invited to the celebration in St. Alphonsus' Festival Hall after Mass.**

# At the Athenaeum




## It's a Wonderful Night—Fundraising Gala

Celebrate the season with us at the Athenaeum Center's annual gala, It's a Wonderful Night, on **Tuesday, December 2**. This year's celebration is especially meaningful as we mark our **five-year anniversary**—a milestone made possible through your generosity and support.

Enjoy an elegant evening of cocktails, dinner, and live entertainment as we celebrate this season of joy and gratitude together. The evening will feature special guest Kelsey Grammer, performances from upcoming productions including *Bernadette, The Musical* and *Call Me from the Grave*, and a celebration of the flourishing of Catholic arts and culture in Chicago. We can't wait to celebrate this joyful milestone with you. Learn more and get tickets at athenaeumcenter.org/its-a-wonderful-night







## We are Hiring!

We're looking for a connector: someone who loves people, the arts, and building community. Join us as our Community & Group Sales Representative and help bring schools, parishes, and organizations together through meaningful cultural experiences here at the Athenaeum Center.

Apply now and help us make the arts a shared encounter with beauty.

athenaeumcenter.org/careers/

# December Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **1**<br>**8:30 AM** AA Daily Reflections Group<br>**9:00 AM** AACA Admissions Open House<br>**6:00 PM** Legion of Mary (Espanol)<br>**7:00 PM** Baptismal Prep Class<br>**7:00 PM** Finance Council Meeting | **2**<br>Giving Tuesday<br>**9:30 AM** Walking With Purpose<br>**6:15 PM** Religious Education<br>**6:30 PM** Walking With Purpose<br>**6:30 PM** Boy Scouts<br>**7:00 PM** Philosophy Forum | **3**<br>**1:45 PM** Junior Scouts (5th)<br>**6:30 PM** Young Adult Book Club<br>**7:00 PM** Novena-Our Lady of Guadalupe | **4**<br>**6:15 PM** Leonine Forum Mass<br>**6:30 PM** Women's Faith Group<br>**7:00 PM** Men's Faith Group<br>**7:00 PM** Novena-Our Lady of Guadalupe | **5**<br>AACA— No School<br>**5:00 PM** Legion of Mary<br>**7:00 PM** Novena-Our Lady of Guadalupe<br>**7:30 PM** Men's Group Holy Hour/Adoration | **6**<br>**9:00 AM** YAM Service— Decorating Parish Rectory<br>**7:00 PM** Novena-Our Lady of Guadalupe |

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **7**<br>**AACA Sweets w/ Santa in Festival Hall 10:00 AM—12:00 PM**<br>**10:15 AM** Religious Education Catechist Retreat<br>**1:30 PM** Novena-Our Lady of Guadalupe<br>**2:00 PM** YAM Christkindlmarket<br>**2:30 PM** OCIA<br>**7:00 PM** Big Book AA Meeting | **8**<br>**Feast of the Immaculate Conception— Mass at 8:30 AM and 7:00 PM**<br>**8:30 AM** AA Daily Reflections Group<br>**6:00 PM** Legion of Mary (Espanol)<br>**6:00 PM** Religious Education—First Communion Seminar<br>**6:30 PM** Novena-Our Lady of Guadalupe | **9**<br>**9:30 AM** Walking With Purpose<br>**6:00 PM** Choral Music Concert Rehearsal<br>**6:30 PM** Walking With Purpose<br>**6:30 PM** Boy Scouts<br>**7:00 PM** Philosophy Forum<br>**7:00 PM** Novena-Our Lady of Guadalupe | **10**<br>**1:45 PM** Junior Scouts (4th)<br>**6:30 PM** Young Adult Book Club<br>**7:00 PM** Novena-Our Lady of Guadalupe | **11**<br>**3:00 PM** Daisy Scouts Meeting<br>**6:00 PM** Knights of Columbus Christmas Party<br>**6:30 PM** Women's Faith Group<br>**7:00 PM** Men's Faith Group<br>**7:00 PM** Novena-Our Lady of Guadalupe | **12**<br>**2:00 PM** Cantina Chicago *Handel's Messiah* Concert<br>**3:00 PM** Boy Scouts—Arrow of Light Den Meeting<br>**5:00 PM** Legion of Mary<br>**Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass at 7 PM**<br>**8:00 PM** Our Lady of Guadalupe Fiesta in Hall | **13**<br>**6:00 PM** YAM Christmas Ball |
| | | | ***AACA Secret Santa in Festival Hall*** | | | |
| **14**<br>**Retirement for Religious Special Collection**<br>**Pancake Breakfast in Festival Hall 10:00 AM—2:00 PM**<br>**2:30 PM** OCIA<br>**7:00 PM** Big Book AA Meeting | **15**<br>**8:30 AM** AA Daily Reflections Group<br>**6:00 PM** Legion of Mary (Espanol) | **16**<br>**6:15 PM** Religious Education— Advent Service<br>**6:30 PM** Boy Scouts<br>**7:00 PM** Philosophy Forum | **17**<br>**1:45 PM** Daisy Scouts— (1st)<br>**6:30 PM** Young Adult Book Club | **18**<br>**8:15 AM** Blessings in a Backpack<br>**10:00 AM** AACA Pre-K Christmas Concert<br>**3:30 PM** Cub Scouts Meeting<br>**6:00 PM** AACA K-8 Christmas Concert<br>**6:30 PM** Women's Faith Group<br>**7:00 PM** Men's Faith Group | **19**<br>**5:00 PM** Legion of Mary | **20**<br>**9:15 AM** Christmas Decorating in Church |
| **21**<br>**12:00 PM** Cookie Exchange Giveback<br>**7:00 PM** Northside Brass Christmas Concert<br>**7:00 PM** Big Book AA Meeting | **22**<br>**8:30 AM** AA Daily Reflections Group<br>**6:00 PM** Legion of Mary (Espanol) | **23** | **24**<br>**Christmas Eve**<br>**Mass Times for Nativity of the Lord Vigil**<br>**4:00 PM**<br>**6:00 PM**<br>**11:00 PM** | **25**<br>**Christmas—The Nativity of the Lord!**<br>**Mass Times:**<br>**9:00 AM**<br>**11:00 AM** | **26** | **27** |
| | | | ***AACA Christmas Vacation*** | | | |
| **28** | **29**<br>**8:30 AM** AA Daily Reflections Group<br>**6:00 PM** Legion of Mary (Espanol) | **30** | **31**<br>**New Year's Eve**<br>**Mass Times: 8:30 AM and 4:00 PM (Vigil Mass)** | **1**<br>**New Year's Day**<br>**Mass at 10:00 AM** | | |

# Faith Formation

## 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 Men's Group at our email, divineofficers@gmail.com

***"Come to me all you are labored and burdened and I will give you rest"***

## Walking With Purpose
### Women's Bible Study on Tuesdays

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

Come as you are. You are welcome here. Make authentic connections with other women. Learn more about God! Walking w/ Purpose continues a new bible study, Grounded in Hope on Tuesdays from 9:30—11 AM or 6:30—8PM.

In a world where levels of despair, addiction, and suicide are rising, we need more than clichés or positive thinking. Grounded in Hope, based on the book of Hebrews, will help you encounter Jesus in such a powerful, comforting, and stabilizing way that He can become your lifeline. Hebrews contains some of the most beautiful passages you'll find in Scripture. It will comfort you and challenge you. Every word of it has a treasure to mine, and those who are willing to make the effort will be richly rewarded. For questions about WwP, contact Marianne at mariannek36@yahoo.com

# Sacraments and More

## Extraordinary Ministers of Communion



To elevate our experience of beautiful liturgies here at St. Alphonsus, we are inviting more people to serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. EMHC's should be practicing Catholics in good standing who have received Confirmation. If you would like to volunteer for this important ministry at Mass, please contact us at parish@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 our website and scroll under the Sacraments tab, click on Baptisms and complete the form online. Our Sacraments ministry coordinator will be in contact to schedule the date.

## 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 Kathryn at kkibler@stalphonsuschicago.church

## Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary is now at St. Alphonsus! 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. 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 take place on Fridays at 5 PM in the rectory. Meetings in Spanish are on Mondays at 6 PM. For more info, please contact Fr. Jesus Raya,* ***jraya@stalphonsuschicago.church***

# BRINGING ADVENT HOME



During Advent, we prepare for the birth of Jesus by praying for and cultivating the virtue of hope - within ourselves and for others. These days of preparation are the perfect time to be an example of Christ's light and to share hope with others in big or small ways. As many among us experience food insecurity or housing challenges, we can bring hope to those who need it




As you light each Advent candle, pray for someone you love who might be struggling this season. Ask God to bring them peace and hope during a difficult time. Consider making a meal or running errands for them. Share Christ's light through joyful, loving acts – seen and unseen.

*"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them has light shined." (Isaiah 9:2)*

## Themes of Advent

The Advent themes traditionally focus on the virtues and qualities central to the preparation for Christmas.

- Hope – Reflecting on the hope of Christ's coming, past and future, and God's promises of redemption.
- Peace – Embracing the peace that Christ brings into the world and seeking peace within our hearts and relationships.
- Joy – Rejoicing in the anticipation of Jesus' arrival, especially celebrated on the third Sunday (Gaudete Sunday).
- Love – Remembering God's love for humanity in sending his Son and reflecting that love to others.

### Hope

The Advent theme of **hope** is the first focus of the season, setting the tone for a period of anticipation and expectation. This is Advent's first Sunday theme. Rooted in the promises of God, hope during Advent looks forward to both the celebration of Christ's birth and his eventual return.

Biblically, hope is a steadfast trust in God's faithfulness, seen in verses like *Jeremiah 29:11*—"For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, give you a future and a hope." This hope encourages believers to trust in God's plan, even in uncertain times, just as God's people awaited a Savior in times of hardship.

In Advent, hope reminds us that God is with us and has promised a future filled with his presence and peace. Lighting the first Advent candle of hope serves as a reminder of the light that Jesus brings to a world in darkness. Embracing the theme of hope calls us to pray, reflect, and align our hearts with God's promises, looking forward to the joy of Christ's arrival at Christmas and his return at the end of time.

### Peace




The Advent theme of **peace** centers on the tranquility and wholeness that Jesus brings to the world. Celebrated during the second week of Advent, peace reminds us that Christ's coming is meant to reconcile humanity with God and with one another. In Scripture, peace is more than just the absence of conflict—it's a deep, lasting harmony rooted in God's presence.

*Isaiah 9:6* foretells Jesus as the "Prince of Peace," whose kingdom will bring justice and peace to all who follow him. This is a common Scripture verse to read during Advent.

As we light the second Advent candle, we reflect on the ways Jesus calls us to be peacemakers in our lives, showing kindness, understanding, and forgiveness to others. Advent peace encourages us to let go of our anxieties, trusting in God's love and guidance.

### Joy

The Advent theme of **joy** is celebrated during the third week, known as Gaudete Sunday, a Latin term meaning "rejoice." Joy is central to Advent, as it reflects the excitement and gratitude for the coming of Jesus, who brings salvation to the world. This joy isn't merely happiness—it's a profound, resilient gladness rooted in God's love and promises.

In *Luke 2:10*, the angel announces Jesus' birth to the shepherds, saying, "I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people." This message captures the joy of Advent: God's promise fulfilled in the birth of Christ.

Continued on page 13

# Advent 2025

Lighting the pink candle for joy symbolizes a break from the season's penitential tone, inviting us to celebrate the blessings of Christ's coming. Advent joy calls us to pause and appreciate the presence of God in our lives, looking forward to the fullness of joy that Christmas brings. It's an invitation to reflect this joy through kindness, gratitude, and worship, radiating the light of Christ to those around us.

### Love

The Advent theme of **love** is celebrated during the fourth and final week of Advent, highlighting God's deep and boundless love for humanity. Love is at the heart of the Christmas story: God sent his only Son, Jesus, as an act of selfless love to redeem the world.

This theme reminds us of *John 3:16*—"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son." It's a powerful message that the birth of Christ is the ultimate expression of God's love, freely given to all.

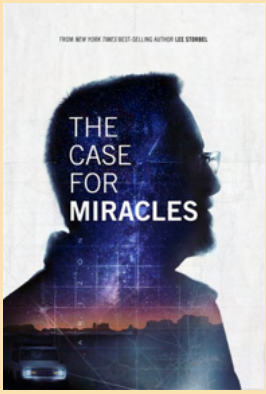
As we light the fourth Advent candle, symbolizing love, we reflect on how Jesus calls us to love one another as he has loved us. This season encourages us to embody God's love through acts of kindness, compassion, and forgiveness, extending that love to family, friends, and those in need. Advent love invites us to open our hearts to receive God's love anew and share it generously, preparing to welcome Christ with a heart full of gratitude and grace.

The four themes of Advent—hope, peace, joy, and love—guide us through a season of meaningful reflection and spiritual preparation. As each week unfolds, these themes encourage us to align our hearts with the message of Christ's birth, deepening our understanding of his presence in our lives. As we pray throughout Advent, we're called to reflect and embody these themes. Embracing these themes allows us to celebrate Advent in a way that's both personal and communal, preparing us to experience the full beauty and mystery of Christmas. By reflecting on God's promises, seeking his peace, rejoicing in his presence, and sharing his love, we enter Christmas with hearts ready to receive the gift of Jesus anew.

On the tables in the narthex of our church, please be sure to grab a FREE Little Blue Book or a Word on Fire Advent Gospel reflection book to help you keep the season! (limited quantity available)




## *Faith at the Movies— December 15-18*




Before Lee Strobel was an atheist. A thriving legal editor at The Chicago Tribune, he set out to investigate the resurrection of Jesus. His confident disbelief was turned on its head. His findings? Faith. Decades later, Strobel continues his investigations as he builds ***The Case for Miracles*** and asks: Do miracles still happen today?

From awe-inspiring wonders to God's silence in times of suffering, this documentary takes audiences on a remarkable journey. Through stories of people who claim have experienced the impossible, and experts who cross-examine the evidence, the film challenges skeptics, inspires seekers, and shows that the search for answers can transform us.

Follow Lee Strobel and director Mani Sandoval on a cinematic journey into the miraculous. **Limited screenings in Chicago area. Get tickets at** [www.fathomentertainment.com/releases/the-case-for-miracles/](www.fathomentertainment.com/releases/the-case-for-miracles/)



# Around the Archdiocese

## Upcoming Concerts

**Handel's Messiah– December 13 at 11 AM (family-friendly) and 7 PM**
Usher in the Christmas Season with a beloved tradition – *Handel's Messiah* at St. Clement, 642 W. Deming Pl. This year's concert holds special significance as they are celebrating the 50th anniversary of their parish's first performance of Messiah in 1975. Please note, there will be no performance of *Messiah* in 2026, so be sure to join this year! The 60-minute morning concert is an interactive performance for all ages, especially young concert-goers accompanied by their parents, hosted by Terri Hemmert of WXRT Radio. With soloists Nicole Besa, Marissa Simmons, Ryan Kirk, and Aaron Wardell, the evening concert is not to be missed. Both concerts will feature a 75-voice festival chorus and the Orchard Street Baroque Orchestra conducted by Jeremy Kiolbassa.

**Holiday Pops Concert, Saturday, December 6** at St. Benedict, 2215 W. Irving Park Rd. hosted by NBC5's Stefan Holt and Allison Rosati, brings the joy of the season to life with upbeat arrangements of holiday favorites, a festive sing-along, and a special visit from Santa Claus himself. Whether you're planning a cozy date night, a festive outing with friends, or a magical evening with family, Holiday Pops Chicago is the perfect way to celebrate. It's a holiday tradition you won't want to miss!




As we begin Advent, Hallow, the #1 prayer app, is once again offering 3 free months for a limited time. Join this Advent and pray alongside Sr. Miriam, Mother Natalia, Fr. Pierre Touissant and more for the Pray25 challenge, "Be Still". Dive into the story of the Nativity and walk alongside Mary and Joseph to learn from their holy examples. You will also have access to Christmas and Advent music, Sleep Bible Stories, Bible in a Year with Fr. Mike Schmitz, and so much more.

**The Vigil Project** returning to Chicago with the Way of the Star on Sunday, December 7 at Nativity of Our Lord/ St. Gabriel Parish, 653 W. 37th St. for a night of prayer, music, and reflection. This powerful evening will help open our hearts to Jesus as we prepare for Christmas.




# THE PERFECT GIFT THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

## Wine and Spirituality

**BY ANNA PAKULA**
**INTERNATIONAL WINE CONSULTANT**

*Wine and Spirituality is* a beautifully illustrated album that intertwines the splendor of winemaking, Sacred Scripture, and spirituality. In this inspiring work, Anna compares the stages of winemaking to the journey of human spiritual growth — showing how patience, transformation, and grace shape both the vine and the soul.

A must for Catholics and wine lovers!
Not available in bookstores.

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www.wineandspirituality.com




***Follow the link here to start your free trial now! try.hallow.com***

# 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
***Brian Bloye,*** Director of Music and Organist
***Daniel Szymanski,*** Director of Operations
***Dr. Steven Torres***, Coordinator of Religious Education
***Mario Serrano***, Parish Office Manager
***Kathryn Kibler***, Sacrament Ministry Coordinator
***Margaret Piery***, Parish Secretary/Sacristan

### School Staff

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