Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

MARCH 17, 2024: FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



"Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies,

it remains just a grain of wheat;

but if it dies, it produces much fruit." (Jn 12:24)

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

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—12:00 PM

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

Worship

This Week's Readings

Sunday: Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 (12a)/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33
Scrutiny: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (7)/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45
Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Jn 8:1-11
Tuesday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Jn 8:31-42
Thursday: Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 8:51-59
Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7/Jn 10:31-42
Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13/Jn 11:45-56
Next Sunday: Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 (2a)/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1—15:47 or 15:1-39

Giving Update

Weekly Budget Amount: $14,890

Offertory for 3/10: $16,124

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

Left QR code for GiveCentral

Right QR code for Venmo

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
Magdalena Gonzalez
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



At Rest in the Peace of Christ

Rev. Daniel R. Fallon

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 PM. This can be a great way to re-center yourself in God and experience the peace that only Christ can give.

Wednesday Evening Men's Vespers
Men of the parish are invited to attend our Communio prayer group each Wednesday from 8:15 PM-9:00 PM in the rectory chapel (come to the rectory side door). It's a great way to take your spiritual life a step further as we enrich our knowledge of the faith, encourage each other in life's challenges, and grow in fortitude together. We chant the Liturgy of the Hours and share reflections on the upcoming Sunday gospel reading, followed by a social with refreshments, fellowship, and conversation. All men of the parish are invited. Questions or more info, contact James Morrow, jemseoul@hotmail.com

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, March 17
9:00 AM +Raymond Cavanagh
11:00 AM +Michael Blumenthal
12:30 PM +Gustavo Medina Jr.
5:00 PM The People of St. Alphonsus

Monday, March 18
8:30 AM Angie Harrison (Birthday Blessings)

Tuesday, March 19
8:30 AM +Carol Casey

Wednesday, March 20
6:00 PM +Ed Urias

Thursday, March 21
8:30 AM +Ed Urias

Friday, March 22
8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus

Saturday, March 23
8:30 AM Bennett Schmidt

Sunday, March 24
9:00 AM +Enrique Partosa and Claudia Tuballa
11:00 AM +Mary Pond
12:30 PM +Delfina and Dolores Gutierrez
+Florentino Ornelas
5:00 PM The People of St. Alphonsus

News and Events

Parish Breakfast This Sunday!



FREE Parish Breakfast After Mass! Sunday, March 17th, 10 AM-2 PM. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day and get to know your fellow parishioners! ALL are invited to stay after Mass and enjoy pancakes, eggs, and St. Patty's Day treats.

NET Missionaries Return!



On April 2nd and 3rd, our team of 10 NET Missionaries are returning to St. Alphonsus to host a retreat for our AACA 7th Graders! We are in need of food donations (pizzas, bagged lunches, gift cards, etc.) to provide meals for the missionaries.

Support the missionaries, Spread the faith, Inspire the hearts of our youth! Contact Emily Ember, eember@stalphonsuschicago.church for info.

Help Wanted

A parish family is looking for assistance for an 85 year old senior citizen who lives in the 1200 block of W. Wellington Ave. Looking for someone for 3 hours one day a week to assist with going to the grocery store with him and light housekeeping. He is a delightful and caring person, very friendly and smart. He just recently had knee surgery and is slowing down.
He does not need any physical assistance in walking or anything, just someone to carry groceries, tidy up a bit, and throw out the garbage.
The hours are completely flexible on your end.
Please call/text Erik at (312) 520-7440 if you are interested to discuss pay and availability.

Disclaimer: Placement of this notice in the parish bulletin does not connote a positive recommendation. Interested members need to conduct their own research of a potential employer.

March Madness Watch Party



Everybody loves March Madness! Our Young Adult Ministry will be showing multiple games for the annual college basketball tournament on **Saturday, March 23rd** from 1 PM— 5 PM in the Festival Hall. We have included the below spreadsheet for Food/Drinks sign up but feel free to bring a dish, snack, or dip to share with the other members of the St. Al's YAM community. Sign-up at bit.ly/Yamarchmad24

Cleaning Angels Ministry



Help create a beautiful and welcoming church this Easter! In anticipation of our Holy Week liturgies, our St. Alphonsus Cleaning Angels ministry will be volunteering to help clean and beautify our Church and we need your help! There is a sign-up link on our email parish newsletter to **volunteer after 8:30 AM Saturday morning Mass for either March 23rd or March 30th**. If all the signup slots for your designated date and group are filled, but you still want to help, please feel free to come!

Donate Blood at St. Alphonsus!

GIVE BLOOD
American Red Cross

Our parish will be hosting an American Red Cross blood drive on **Sunday, April 7** in the Festival Hall. You can register for an appointment by going online to www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive and entering StAlphonsusChurch in the sponsor code search.

Be Sure to Vote!!

Pope Francis offered during a 2013 homily: *"Good Catholics meddle in politics, offering the best of themselves, so that those who govern can govern..."* This **Tuesday, March 19 from 6 AM to 7 PM**, our parish Festival Hall will be utilized as a polling place for the Illinois Primary Election.

Holy Week & Easter Schedule



Palm Sunday, March 24
Mass times: 9:00, 11:00 AM, 12:30 PM (Spanish) and 5:00 PM

Holy Thursday, March 28
8:30 AM Liturgy of the Hours
7:00 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday, March 29
8:30 AM Liturgy of the Hours
3:00 PM Stations of the Cross
7:00 PM Good Friday Liturgy

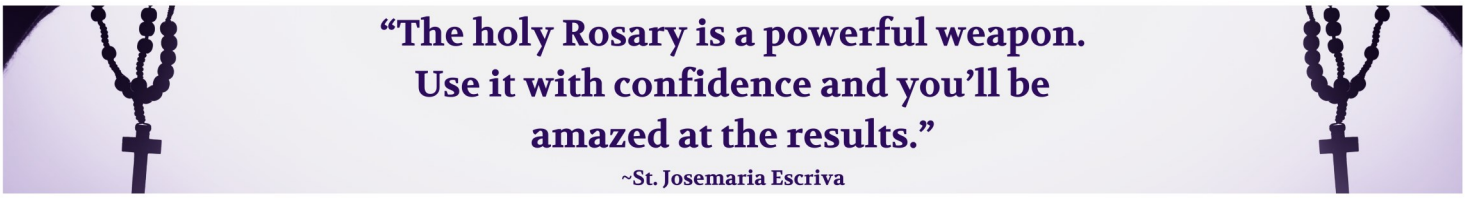
Holy Saturday, March 30
12:00 PM Blessing of Easter Baskets
8:00 PM Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY, March 31
7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM (en Español)
No 5:00 PM Mass



Divine Mercy Sunday, April 7
Mass times: 9 & 11 AM, 12:30 & 5 PM
Holy Hour & Confessions: 3 PM

Faith Formation



Rosary Lenten Study— The Pathway to Paradise

Thursday Morning, March 21, 9:30 AM-11:00 AM, in the Rectory

Join us and contemplate the piercing of Jesus' side on the cross. Love empties itself, holding nothing back. Christ's heart was wounded by our sins. Now His Heart is opened wide for us to enter into as a pathway back to the Father, a pathway back to Paradise. In this final episode, we will enter into the depths and open our hearts to receive the gift Christ offers us in these final moments: the gift of His Mother.

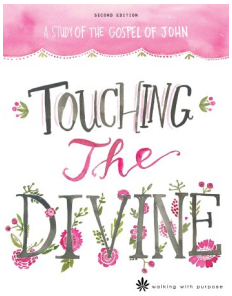


First Communion Retreat Volunteers Needed!

On April 6th and April 20th, the students preparing to receive their First Communion along with their parents will be enjoying a morning of diving deeper into the mystery of the Eucharist. Volunteers are needed to help run craft stations and should be available from 9 AM-12 PM. If you love children and love the Eucharist, this is for you!
Contact Emily at eember@stalphonsuschicago.church to sign up.

Walking with Purpose

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

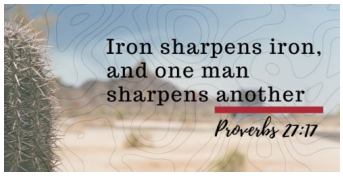


Come as you are. You are welcome here. Make authentic connections with other women! Refuel and Refresh! Learn more about God!

The **Touching the Divine** Bible study focuses on qualities of Jesus revealed through the Gospel of John. This study draws us into a deeper loving relationship with Jesus as we reflect on His life and personality.

Saint John referred to himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved," and as we study, John will teach is how much Jesus loves us and how His love is the true satisfaction of our souls. Questions? Contact Susan Combes at smbcombes51@gmail.com

St. Alphonsus Men's Group



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

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

We meet every Thursday night at 7 PM in the rectory. Food and drinks provided. All men are welcome, with most men being in their 20s and 30s. Access can be gained at the west facing rectory door in the parking lot.

For questions or more information, contact Men's Group at our email, divineofficers@gmail.com

"Come to me all you are labored and burdened and I will give you rest" Matthew 11:28

Young Adult Ministry



Speed Dating! Saturday, April 20

Young Adult (21-39 yrs old) speed dating will take place on Saturday, April 20th with registration check-ins beginning at 6:00 PM. This event will be held at St. Alphonsus Festival Hall.

Cost per individual ticket is $50. You must pre-register for the event. Final day to register is Wednesday, April 17th. At the door sign ups are not allowed, to ensure everyone is able to meet their matches for each round.

Women's registration link: www.givecentral.org/otp/39969
Men's registration link: www.givecentral.org/otp/39970

Create a Profile link. Participants create a profile and select a preferred dating range. They will then be matched with people that select similar ranges (*your age must fall within the range). *Once you create your profile, be sure to save your login to make matches, after the event.
Link: https://www.stalphonsuschicago.org/yam-speed-dating-form
1. Register on the Give Central Link
2. Create a Speed Dating Profile in using the above link, if you have issues, please contact us at the stalsyamsocial email address.

Join us for a tremendously fun evening of quality conversations with great dates, food and drinks included! Don't wait to register! Seats go super fast. All ticket sales are final and a limited number of tickets are available for each men's and women's group, so buy yours now before they sell out.
Follow-up questions can be sent to stalsyamsocial@gmail.com

Praise and Adoration— Friday, March 22 at 7:30 PM

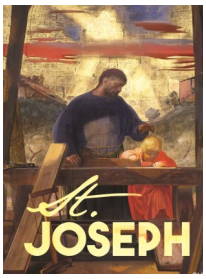


On Friday, March 22nd, spend time with our Lord in praise and adoration in the church. We'll spend the first 15 minutes in silent adoration, and then our musicians will lead worship in song. Confession will also be available! If you haven't had a chance to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation this Lent, this is a great way to enter into Holy Week. The hour will conclude with benediction, and we will gather for fellowship at Olive Black after!

Talk on The Last Supper w/ Fr. Pat Gorman

Join YAM on Wednesday, March 27 at 7:00 PM in Festival Hall for light dinner and a talk. Former St. Alphonsus associate pastor, Fr. Patrick Gorman will speak on the Last Supper focusing on the institution of the Eucharist and the priesthood. This event is free of charge; goodwill donations accepted. Contact us at stalphonsusyam@gmail.com for more information.

Solemnity of Saint Joseph— March 19



On December 8, 1847, Pope Pius IX declared Saint Joseph to be the Universal Patron and Protector of the Catholic Church. This unique title reflects the same truth that Mary is the Mother of God and the Mother of the entire Church. Since she was the mother of the Son of God, and we, the Church, are members of the Body of Christ, then she is our Mother. And since Joseph was the father of the Son of God, His guardian and protector, over whom he was given authority, and from Whom he received obedience, then we, too, can trust in Joseph's guardianship over us. We must have confidence in submitting to his spiritual authority in our lives, for we are members of the Body of Christ.

As we honor Saint Joseph as the husband of Mary, ponder the effect of that unique marriage bond. Saint Joseph was not perfect, but his absolute obedience to the Father's will and his unity in marriage to the Mother of God makes him our father, just as he was the father of Jesus. As a loving father, he will direct us with the authority of God the Father, will protect us in times of trouble as he did for Jesus and Mary, and must always be seen as one uniquely chosen to be the father of the family to which we belong.

Stewardship—First Fruits

We 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*
You can also text *Sunday* to (773) 570-7600

Make your Easter offering online this season!

Throughout the year, many already support St. Alphonsus with your time, talent and treasure. Thank you again for your continued support of our church! Your spirited generosity ensures our parish continues our mission and good works throughout our community and beyond for years to come!

Sign up at *www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/527*
You can also text *Risen* to (773) 570-7600

Stewardship Reflection

"I will be their God and they shall be my people."- Jeremiah 31:33

What does it mean to be God's people? It means we recognize that everything we have and everything we are belongs to God. We aren't "owners" of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts God has given us. It means we are willing to use our gifts and our lives to care for our family, our neighbors and for people we don't know, just as God cares for each of us.

Lent 2024

Coming to Confession During Lent



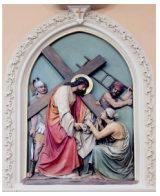
Lent is a traditional time to 'take stock' and discover the ways in which we can turn more fully toward the Lord and away from the sin that weighs us down. It is a great season in which to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

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

Divine Mercy Chaplet

The Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed at 6:30 PM on Fridays before Stations. If you need a refresher on how to pray the chaplet, you can go to www.catholic-link.org/how-to-pray-the-divine-mercy-chaplet-your-step-by-step-visual-guide/

Stations of the Cross



Each Friday during Lent, the Stations of the Cross are prayed at 6 PM (en Espanol) and 7 PM (in English). This prayer allows us to meditate on Christ's Passion and death while walking the "Way of the Cross." It is a wonderful way to grow in one's knowledge of being a disciple of the Lord.



Catholic Relief Services— Rice Bowl

Through CRS Rice Bowl, faith communities in every diocese throughout the United States put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. CRS Rice Bowl provides support to both our local and international sisters and brothers in need. This year, families, parishes and school communities here in the Archdiocese of Chicago can bring Lenten spirituality to life through resources such as stories, videos, meatless recipes, and lesson plans we can connect with those most in need around the world in our Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Visit crsricebowl.org

You can participate by grabbing a Rice Bowl at Mass this weekend, fill with your spare change, and return to St. Alphonsus by Holy Thursday, March 28.

Gospel Reflection

"I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again." John 12:27–28

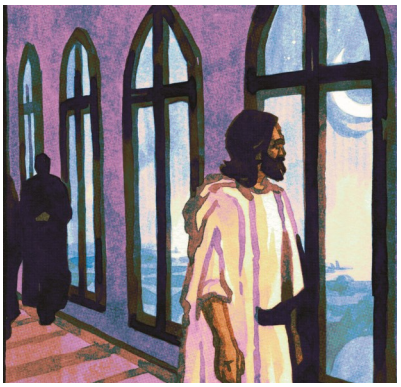
Suffering Transformed By Glory

Our Lord's human soul was "troubled." Other translations state that His soul was in agony. After expressing His interior suffering, Jesus identified the human temptation caused by this suffering: to flee from His "hour." Of course Jesus dismisses this temptation as a way of teaching us a lesson from His human experience.

As God, Jesus had perfect strength and always remained faithful to the mission He received from the Father. But as a human, Jesus permitted Himself to experience temptation and human suffering for many reasons. One reason was so that He could relate to us in every way. That includes being able to relate to interior human suffering. In doing so, Jesus also made it possible for us to imitate Him and to share in the strength and determination He had as He perfectly fulfilled the will of the Father. Jesus allowed Himself to endure the agony caused by foreseen suffering because we will endure similar temptations through life.

What is it that causes you fear and anxiety as you look into the future? If there is something that immediately comes to mind, try to look at that within the light of Jesus' own experience above. The first thing Jesus does is identify the temptation to fear. He does this by identifying the interior suffering He experiences and then by looking at the cause: His coming "hour." The "hour" of Jesus in the Gospel of John is a reference to His crucifixion and death. This was the reason He came to us. He came to suffer the consequences of our sins and to destroy death itself. But this mission of His was the cause of true human suffering and was also a temptation toward fear. But it was a fear that He perfectly overcame.

As you look at anything that tempts you to give into fear and anxiety, first ask yourself whether it is the will of God that you fulfill that action. If we are fearful of something that is not the will of the Father, then we should reject it. But very often the plan God has for our lives will include acting with courage in the face of some pending cross and suffering. Experiencing fear is normal, but fear will not turn into anxiety if we imitate our Lord and choose the will of God no matter the cost.



Jesus also embraced His Cross by looking at it through the lens of glory. He understood that His suffering and death would glorify the Father in Heaven. Therefore, He allowed Himself to see the Cross as a glorification of the Father. The same must happen in our lives. No matter what we face in life, no matter the cross we are given, if it is the will of God that we embrace it, then we must see it not only as a suffering we must endure but primarily as an act by which God will be glorified in our lives. This truer perspective will bring with it hope, joy and strength which will free us from anxiety caused by fear.

Reflect, today, upon the ways in which God is calling you to the cross. As you do, don't allow fear to deter you. Instead, look at every pending suffering as an opportunity to glorify God in your life. See your crosses with gratitude and joy, and allow this new perspective to give you the strength you need to fulfill the mission given to you by the Father in Heaven.

Most glorious Father, Your will is perfect. You called Your Son to the suffering of the Cross. Through that act of perfect love, the suffering Your Son endured gave You perfect glory. Lord Jesus, please give me Your courage as I face my own sufferings in life and help me to imitate Your perfect obedience to the Father's will in all things so that I, too, may give Him glory. Jesus, I trust in You.

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NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival

Eucharistic Prayer Companion

Fifth Sunday of Lent: Following Where God Leads

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.

Pause for a few moments, and allow yourself to become aware of Jesus' gift of himself in the Eucharist. Realize that, at this very moment, the Lord of Life is gazing upon you with great love. Allow yourself to receive his loving gaze. You are his beloved child. Rest in his loving gaze.

Thank Jesus for the gift of himself in the Eucharist.

ASK FOR THE GRACE: Jesus, help me to follow you wherever you go.

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION — *Read slowly, 3–4 times. Allow the words of Scripture to wash over your mind and heart. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you through this passage.*

> **"But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD. I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people." (Jeremiah 31:33)**

REFLECTION QUESTION — *Allow yourself to sit with these questions for a while, being attentive to how the Lord is speaking in your heart.*

Today we hear the Lord promise us that he establishes a covenant with us. He promises to form our hearts and to be our God. In what areas of your life do you doubt his promise to be your God and to be present in your heart? Be specific and ask the Lord how he wants to be present in those places of your life.

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION — *Read slowly, 3–4 times. Again, allow the words of Scripture to wash over your mind and heart. Let the Holy Spirit speak to you through this passage.*

> **"Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me." (John 12:26)**

REFLECTION QUESTION — *Allow yourself to sit with these questions for a while, being attentive to how the Lord is speaking in your heart.*

Today we are given quite the challenge: if we serve Jesus, we MUST follow him wherever he leads! However, he also promises that the Father honors all who do this. Do you sense a place in your life where Jesus is trying to lead you, but you are afraid to follow because you don't have all the answers yet? Give this fear to the Lord, asking for his loving presence to comfort you and encourage you.

Remain in silence with the Lord. Allow him to speak in the silence, in your heart. Receive his presence. If it helps, write down what you sense the Lord communicating to you during this time of prayer.

CLOSING PRAYER — By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen. (Collect, Fifth Sunday of Lent)

SUNDAY MASS CONNECTION — At every Mass, Jesus offers himself to the Father for us. We can always join our own offerings with Jesus at Mass. This Sunday, offer your desire to whole-heartedly follow Jesus wherever he leads you.

LOVE IN ACTION — In the busyness of daily life, it can often be a challenge to look beyond our own struggles and difficulties to follow the Lord's command to care for others, especially when they are suffering. Is there someone in your life who is really struggling right now, perhaps with disappointment or grief? Ask the Lord how he wants you to comfort them, trusting that this will be part of following him more closely.

Effective and Meaningful Catechesis in Schools

The USCCB reminds us that, "the teaching mission of the Church comes from Christ himself. The responsibility for fulfilling that mandate passes on unchanged to the bishops and to all Catholics." *The Directory for Catechesis* (2020) specifies this further in its identification of the priest as the "bishop's first co-worker" as educator in the faith (DC 115).

In this article, Father Kevin Gregus, Associate Pastor at Two Holy Martyrs Parish and St. Symphorosa School, (former parishioner of St. Alphonsus and Men's Group alum!) reflects on strategies for catechesis in Catholic schools and how approaches to effective and meaningful catechesis can engage students, teachers, staff, and families in Catholic school communities.

How does effective and meaningful catechesis take place in Catholic Schools? Why is this important?

Fr. Gregus: Based on my own experience as a Catholic grade school student and now as a priest and teacher at our parish school, I think that effective catechesis takes places differently in each grade. All children are naturally inquisitive. It's easiest to reach younger students through hands-on experiences, games, and songs. With older students, priests can acknowledge students' questions and affirm their curiosity about their faith. Most importantly, religious instruction cannot simply exist as a separate chunk of time during the school day. Catholic teaching and truth are intertwined, so we don't need to approach catechesis in a segmented way. This is important because seeking truth is part of learning in all disciplines. Priests can help teachers to understand this and discern strategies for engaging our faith in interdisciplinary instruction.

What can all priests do to support a love of learning about Jesus among youth and adults in schools?

Fr. Gregus: Catholic schools are places where people are coming to us (and, in most cases, paying for it!) The effort isn't in trying to discover where people are. The effort is in investing time and using strategies that meet people where they're at. We are a Church of an "incarnational faith." Through Jesus Christ, God accompanies us in our human experience. The context of our human experience provides a multitude of ways that we can better know God, others, and ourselves. Priests have an opportunity to meet people where they are and bring understanding and comfort to them as they develop their discipleship.

Ultimately, everything requires time and effort. In particular, catechesis is relationship-based and built on trust. Long-term, relational engagement takes investment on the part of the priest. Once trust is established, serious conversations can happen out of organic, grassroots engagement with students, teachers, and families.



This is what ministry and teaching is all about. It's a worthwhile investment to spend time in schools to engage students and adult members of the community.

What are a few best practices for effective school catechesis that you can share?

Fr. Gregus: **Establish a "ministry of presence":** Regularly visit classrooms and offer to team-teach with instructors. Preside at school Masses, eat with students in the lunchroom, play with them at recess, cheer them on the sports field. Have conversations with kids, teachers, and parents at places where they are already at.

Stay current on trends for kids: Be aware of and show interest in what kids are encountering in their world and what they care about. This makes relationship building easier. Sometimes, connections between our faith and trends in youth culture can be made for the purpose of catechesis. Find these meaningful bridges and use them.

Make connections: Facts about faith aren't useful if presented as just "trivia knowledge." Help kids understand why Church teachings matter and how it supports their discipleship in the "real world."

For teachers and staff: Offer to facilitate mini retreats and moments of prayer at key points in the school year. Make it clear that priests are available to adults if they have questions and want to learn more.

For parents: Parents often develop interest in and invest in what their kids care about. Build trust with parents. Let parents know who you are. Explore options for family based formation with schools and how models for this could work in your school community.

Share what you love with your school community: Take what you love, what you're good at, and apply it to ways to teach kids about God. Passions can lead to creativity in approaches to catechesis.

Father Kevin Gregus was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Chicago in 2023 and currently serves as Associate Pastor at Two Holy Martyrs Parish, 6135 S. Austin Ave. Prior to his ordination, Fr. Gregus worked as an aerospace engineer.

Knights of Columbus

Dear St. Alphonsus Parishioners and Community Members,

On behalf of the St. Alphonsus Knights of Columbus, I am writing to thank you for attending our annual Fish Fry. We had a great turnout— a true representation of our vibrant parish and community. Your generosity and good cheer made for a memorable evening.

We thank our many volunteers who set up Festival Hall, made multiple shopping trips, prepared the food, sold raffle tickets, cleaned up, and otherwise facilitated a fun night.

We thank our generous donors who provided gifts for our raffle prizes:

- Southport Grocery
- Finley Dunne's
- Karetas Brewing
- The Smyla Family
- Music Box Theatre

Thank you to the Trinity Irish Dancers for performing so beautifully and adding to the festive spirit.



We thank Fr. Steve and Fr. Chuy and their team for the prayers and ongoing support of our various events.

Thank you again for attending our Fish Fry. It was a great night, and we look forward to seeing you at our other annual events.

I leave you with a quote by Gwendolyn Brooks:

"We are each other's harvest; we are each other's business; we are each other's magnitude and bond."

God Bless you all during this time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Sincerely,
Ray C. San Agustin
Grand Knight

Upcoming Events/Volunteer Opportunities

Ongoing - 5 PM Mass Ushers Needed!
Our church needs our help ushering. Knights to help with hospitality, ushering, bearing gifts, lecturing.

Sunday, April 7 : Red Cross Blood Drive
Volunteers needed. Interested in helping? Contact Deputy Grand Knight Andrew Coppens, and81cop@gmail.com

Friday-Saturday April 12-13: Annual Retreat
Joseph and Mary Retreat House, 1300 Stritch Dr, Mundelein, IL 60060
Are you interested in co-chairing the retreat? Message Grand Knight Ray San Agustin raysanagustin15158@gmail.com

Sunday, May 30: Corpus Christi Procession
More info to come!

Helpful Household Hints by Harvey Levin

Jokes. We all like jokes. Often someone you know e-mails a joke to you. After your chuckle you want to share the fun with someone else. So, should you forward it? NO. If you just forward the joke you are disclosing the e-mail address of the original sender. Often there will be a stream of a dozen different people that forwarded the joke. Here is what you do. Highlight the joke and only the joke and paste it in a new e-mail.

Now the problem is that you want to send the joke to many people. But you do not want to disclose all of the e-mails to everyone. The solution is to send the joke to yourself. Then add anyone you want to share the joke with to the bcc line on your e-mail. That way you will not disclose anyone else's e-mail address and you can share the chuckle with your friends without disclosing their e-mail address.

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- Fri

School Office

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

School Office Hours:

8:00 AM– 3:00 PM

Staff

Parish Staff

Rev. Steven Bauer, Pastor
Rev. 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
Connie Del Toral, Administrative Assistant