Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

MARCH 27, 2022: FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



"'But now we must celebrate and rejoice,
because your brother was dead and has come to life again;
he was lost and has been found.'" (Lk 15:32)

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—7:00 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: Jos 5:9a, 10-12/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [9a]/2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30
Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/Jn 5:31-47
Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12/Jn 7:40-53
Next Sunday: Is 43:16-21/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11

Please Pray for the Sick

Dorothy Bonds
Joanna Ravelingeen
Jamie Wallett
Sandra Wilson
Monica Alexis Rios
Margaret Nichols
Maria Eisler
Rita Gerich
Tessa Sergent
Carolina Goldie
Diane Mareci
William Ahearn
Emilia Hurtado
Bernard Zapp
Rachel Schopp
Mike Madigan
David Birks
Celeste Soult
Carol Reckwerdt
Doug Tally
Jeff De La Cruz
Stacy Strickland
Tim Dooling
Spencer Lyles
Magdalena Gonzalez
Christopher Bibat
Michael Aldape
Fidel Mercado Chavez
J.J Keils
Janet Horvat
Lauren Macias
Sara O'Connor
Frank G. Bauer

Giving Update

Weekly Budget Amount: $15,218

Offertory for 3/20/2022: $12,293

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



WEDDING BANNS

Taylar Kobylas
and
Benedict Michal

Find Peace in the Middle of the Week: 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. That 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 to 9 PM in the sanctuary.

Welcome Our Recently Baptized

Zoey Hattibelle Hunt
Lincoln Ziggy Kowalewski

At Rest in the Peace of Christ

Gabriel Nava

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, March 27
9:00 AM +Daniel Brusstar
11:00 AM +John P. Huffman
12:30 PM +Magda Castañeda
5:00 PM +Richard Bazzanella

Monday, March 28
8:30 AM +Barbara Elliston

Tuesday, March 29
8:30 AM +Francisco Sazon

Wednesday, March 30
6:00 PM The People of St. Alphonsus

Thursday, March 31
8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus

Friday, April 1
8:30 AM +Dante Pagalunan
+Rosita Pagalunan
+Bartolome Pagalunan Jr.
+Bartolome Pagalunan Sr.

Sunday, April 3
9:00 AM +Mrs. H Rieg-Witt
11:00 AM Maria Fatima Magturo (Birthday Blessing)
12:30 PM +Maria and Delfina Gutierrez
5:00 PM +Kerry W. Self

A Message From Our Pastor

Safe From All Distress…

For many Catholics, this title of this article might sound familiar. It's excerpted from the Mass, from the prayer the priest says on behalf of the congregation immediately after the Our Father:

"Deliver us Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant us peace in our days, that by the help of your mercy we may be always free from sin / and ***safe from all distress,*** *as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ."*

The previous vernacular translation of the Mass rendered the middle part of that prayer as "keep us free from all sin and protect us from all anxiety." It's a little different, but the overall meaning is the same. The prayer also evokes *Philippians 4:5b-6a: "The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all."*

In a complicated and busy world, oftentimes our lives feel increasingly driven by things that make us feel pressured and distressed, or burdened by anxiety. The daily commute, work stress spilling into home life, academic pressures, family tension, fitting in prayer time, running errands, and worries about finances, relationships, faith, health… and the list of activities and worries goes on and on. Much of what busies us is necessary or even good, but many of our lives run at a frenetic pace. Without intentionality or active spirituality, many people find themselves racing through daily life at a superficial level, which, when one pauses to reflect on it, feels isolating. And social media can exacerbate that. For some people, that can create a kind of existential angst.

When we feel that way, it's easy to lose our spiritual center, to lose sight of Christ who has conquered sin and death, the One who wants us to know His love and joy. While that is fulfilled beyond our comprehension in Heaven, Jesus genuinely desires to give us a foretaste of that even now. Whether it's a reminder of the embracing and forgiving love of the Father (as in the parable of the Prodigal Son), or the restoration of spiritual sight (as in the healing of the man born blind), all human persons – *especially you!* – are created in God's image and likeness and therefore destined for a greater vision and love than the world can give. You are made for more.

Lent is a time of increased emphasis on prayer. Prayer is simply defined as a conversation with God, yes, but it is meant to be more than that. St. John of Damascus defined prayer as the lifting up – and opening up – of the mind and heart to God.

When we lift up and open up our hearts to the Lord, we receive gifts of grace; that is, a share in the life, love, beauty, and peace of God. The more intentionally we open our hearts to the Lord, the more fully aware we are of those gifts, the less troubled we are by anxiety. Eventually, then, we can become safe from all distress.

When we are free of existential distress, we can see ourselves for who we really are: children of a loving Father who created us in His image and likeness, and called by the Son to live lives of love according to the pattern with which we were originally created.

While we all still have to navigate through the various tensions in our days, the human heart was not created to be defined by anxiety or distress or even sin. That is *not* our destiny. We are made for more. You are defined by God's love for us.

Periodically, we all need to be reminded of this – myself included!

If you find yourself in a place where you want to be kept safe from distress or anxiety, if you could use a catalyst to rekindle hope, if you desire to rise above the mediocrity of the secular world, I invite you to attend the Made for More event on Tuesday, April 5th from 7 – 9:30 PM. Rediscover the love with which you created and reconnect to the life and joy of the Heavenly Father who is bursting with excitement to reveal to you the glory of Heaven.

Holy Week & Easter Schedule



Palm Sunday, April 10
Mass times: Sunday 9:00, 11:00 AM, 12:30 PM (Spanish) and 5:00 PM

Holy Thursday, April 14

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

Good Friday, April 15

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

Holy Saturday, April 16

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

EASTER SUNDAY, April 17
7:30 AM; **recently added!**
9:00 AM
11:00 AM
12:30 PM

Divine Mercy Sunday, April 24

3:00 PM	Holy Hour & Confessions

We Are Made for More.

A Q&A with Christopher West and Mike Mangione

As parishes and families try to keep up with a fast-moving world where the definition and purpose of our humanity seem to constantly change, an eye-opening and breathtakingly beautiful national touring event called **Made for More: Visions of the Promised Land** is coming to **St. Alphonsus Catholic Church, 1429 W. Wellington Ave. Chicago, IL 60657, at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 5th, 2022.**

"Where do we come from and where are we going? If we don't have compelling answers to these questions, we have no orientation in our lives." says Christopher West, world-renowned teacher of St. John Paul II's liberating vision of human life and love called "Theology of the Body."

The event, led by West and internationally touring folk/Americana musician Mike Mangione, will dive deeply into life's deepest questions and provide both grounding and great hope.

"This is not just a lecture or a talk," insists West. "It's an evening of beauty and reflection that weaves music, video, images and the spoken word into a message of hope that there really is a banquet of love that corresponds to the deepest hunger of our hearts."

West and Mangione recently spoke to the media about some of these clues and much more, including the transformation they hope takes place in those who attend Made for More. **The evening is hosted by St. Alphonsus Parish.**



Christopher West (left) and Mike Mangione.

What is Made for More? Why is this your focus?

Christopher West: We call it Made for More because we yearn for so much more than what the world is telling us. The world understands that we are creatures of hunger and passion, but they lead us to what I call "the fast food gospel," which is the promise of immediate gratification for that hunger. Many people think Christianity, on the other hand, is an invitation to a "starvation diet." No! That's not the Gospel. Christianity is an invitation to an infinite feast of life-giving love, and that's what this event is all about.

Mike Mangione: It's a presentation meant to meet you where you are and bring you to a place of communion. It is the culmination of Christopher's 25 years in this work, my 15 in music and our friendship. It is a conversation through sight and sound about how God reveals himself through creation and how our desires are meant to draw us closer to Him. It is a special and unique opportunity coming to your area.

It is my focus because it addresses the question of what it means to be human, Christian, Catholic right at a crucial moment in our history. We really need to look at these questions before we lose ourselves and slip into a stale state of indifference as a culture.

How is it different from other Catholic presentations?

MM: It is broad and relevant to all types of people. "Catholic talks" tend to be more on a specific element of the Catholic tradition/faith. This talk will be focused on the human heart no matter where it has been before. This presentation uses sight, sound, video, music, and images to reveal, teach and enable us to experience something communally as a group.

CW: Catholicism is a sensual religion – meaning, we experience the divine in and through our bodies, through our senses. And this event is designed to engage your senses, to wake them up and enable a new way of seeing, of hearing, of experiencing the world.

Mike, what is your role in the event? What are you trying to convey through your music?

MM: I am a co-creator as well as the musician for the event. My goal is to facilitate an experience that is communal between presenters, recipients and the Holy Spirit. I call it the Holy Campfire experience ... where we can all gather around and discuss the deepest mysteries of what it means to be human and be part of the human mystery. It is sometimes easier to achieve this with music because, like most art forms, it is often felt first and understood later. My aim is to create an event that brings the audience into the experience rather than just simply watching a talk.

Christopher, what are you trying to convey through your presentation?

CW: We're taking people on a journey through some particular words of Christ. We start with: "They look but do not see." So we've been trained to look at the world, but not see it; to look at the human body, for instance, but not see it. All of creation has a message, and Jesus says, "Come and become one who sees." He's in the business of giving sight to the blind.

The great battle between lightness and darkness is particularly intense in the world today. The meaning of our humanity is being eclipsed. The goal of this event is really to help turn the lights on for people, so they can see the mystery of God revealed through all of creation, and especially through our own humanity, our own bodies as male and female. Through that "coming to see," our eyes are opened in stunning new ways to God's plan for creation and for our own lives.

Mike, what is the "dance" between your music and Christopher's presentation?

MM: There are places music can go that the spoken word cannot. There is so much happening at once: lyrics, melody, instrumentation etc. All of these things can combine into a potent force that can pierce the heart. Sometimes the spoken word can tease out very clear ideas in a way that music never can. Combined, if done correctly, you can create a full head and heart experience. We try to create an experience where Christopher sets up a thought or a vision and then the music helps to prayerfully reflect upon it.

Is Made for More just for adults and parents? Or can youth attend?

MM: Made For More is for everyone who is ready to ponder the questions "Who am I, what am I, and where am I going?" This event is for married, single, celibate, Catholic, non-Catholic, devout, skeptic, youth and ... experienced.

Why is art and beauty essential to the event?

CW: Art is the language of the heart and the heart is wired for beauty, but, sadly, a lot of us are anesthetized in the modern world. "Anesthetized" actually means "numb to beauty." We want to wake people up to beauty, and through that, help people get in touch with their deepest yearnings. That's where we discover the great mystery we are all part of.

How can Made for More transform a parish? How can it help the priest and parish leadership?

MM: Made for More can tenderize the hearts and dig the furrows for the Holy Spirit to drop seeds and cultivate. We provide post-event resources that help those seeds take root and potentially grow into something beautiful and life-giving. Any seeds dropped in the right conditions can provide an abundant harvest.

What would you like attendees to come away feeling?

MM: Empathy, affirmation and hope.

CW: That they're not crazy to yearn for more than what this world offers. They're not crazy to want to be loved and affirmed as they are, behind the masks, warts and all. They're not crazy to imagine a world where every tear is wiped from the eye and every cry of the heart is answered. It's called "the promised land," and we want to give people a vision of it.

FOR MORE
VISIONS OF THE PROMISED LAND

Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 7 p.m.
St. Alphonsus Catholic Church
1429 W. Wellington Ave.
Chicago, IL 60657
Tickets: $25 available at:
DOWNTOWNCHICAGO.EVENTBRITE.COM

News and Events

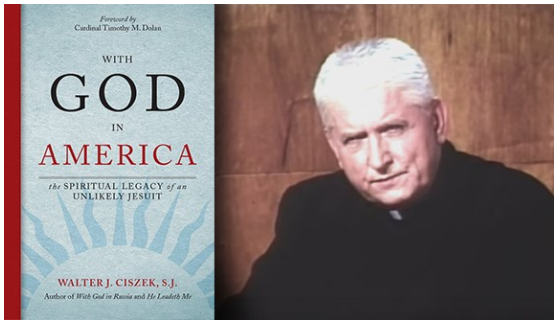


Made For More— Tuesday April 5

An evening of live music, visual beauty, and reflection

Where do we come from and where are we going? These questions are DECISIVE for understanding what it means to be human and how to orient our lives and our actions toward authentic fulfillment. Join Christopher West and Mike Mangione as they creatively weave together dynamic presentations with live music, movie clips, YouTube videos, and sacred art for an evening of beauty and reflection on the meaning of life, love, and human destiny. You will come away with a faith-filled vision of hope that will instill in you the sheer wonder and joy of being alive… Ticket sales are at www.eventbrite.com/e/made-for-more-chicago-downtown-tickets-78664111475 or through the parish office.

Spirituality and Spirits— This Sunday March 27 at 6 PM



Join us after the 5 PM Mass on Sunday March 27 as professor John DeJak will enlighten all about the incredible story on the life and faith of Fr. Walter Ciszek, S.J., a 20th century missionary to Russia who spent more than 20 years in Stalinist prisons and survived arrest, imprisonment, and Siberian labor camps. This presentation is based off Ciszek's posthumous book, *With God in America: The Spiritual Legacy of an Unlikely Jesuit*. This event is free of charge; drinks and refreshments will be served. You can read a review of the book at www.catholicworldreport.com/2016/12/26/the-holiness-of-fr-walter-ciszek-s-j/

Save the Date!! Lenten Fish Fry— Friday April 8 at 6 PM

Truly a highlight and staple of Lent, St. Alphonsus will be hosting one grand Lenten Fish Fry this year. This event is sponsored by our Knights of Columbus council to benefit charitable projects of the parish. The 2022 Fish Fry details will be up soon on www.stalphonsusknights.com/fishfry/

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

Contact Paul Gillespie, pgillespie15158@gmail.com for more information.

AACA Art & Soul Fundraiser— Reach For The Stars



Our parish school's biggest fundraiser, Art & Soul is Saturday, April 2 from 6:30 to 11:30 PM. The event will be held at Ravenswood Event Center, 4043 N. Ravenswood and includes a silent and live auction, dinner, drinks, and dancing! Tickets are $175 and will sell out. For more info and to purchase tickets, you can go to https://e.givesmart.com/events/g4P/

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.

To receive a low gluten host at Mass, please come to the sacristy at least ten minutes before mass begins, so that one can be prepared for you. Then, be sure to get into the communion line to receive from the priest.

Faith Formation

Confirmation 2022

Congratulations to our parish 8th graders who made their Confirmation on March 25!
A huge THANK YOU to all our catechists/teachers especially Erica Cook, Anthony Matar, Amanda Clark, Katie Key and Ellen Pattee

Natalie Crosby
Simon Dean
Amalia Favaro
David Gallo
Evelyn Gramlick
Gabriella Greco-Scott
Lily Berhalter
Sophia Fabro
Joseph Flanagan
August Grondy
Benjamin Grondy
Andrew Hart
Matthew Izokaitis
Chloe Knezevic
Noah Liss
Nolan Meadows
Noah Morgan
Nicholas Nocera
Emelia Pastorelli
Joseph Petracca
Anna Rhomberg
Daphne Schnack
Sophia Shaughnessy
Marcella Thomas
John Turnbull
Nicholas Turner
Charles Kerr
Nick Larned
Sean Mala Cahill
Finnegan Manning
Erica Miller
Gunnar Mueller
Addison Oros
Vladimir Palomo
Maisie Prugh
Samuel Reif
Katherine Schell
Aubrie Sese
Cian Siwek
Liam Smith
Mary Stapleton-Herda
Natalka Superson
Kathryn Vanderbeek
Colin Wigmore



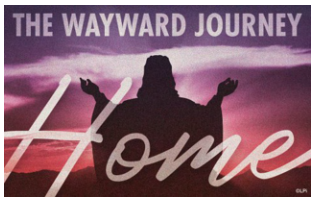
Women's Bible Study Meetings– Tuesdays at St. Alphonsus



Are you looking for a way to refuel and be refreshed, make authentic connections with other women, and learn more about God? It's time to come back to community! Our mission at Walking With Purpose is to help every Catholic woman and girl in America encounter Jesus Christ through our Bible studies.

Walking With Purpose meet on Tuesdays at the St. Alphonsus Common Room in the rectory. Meetings are from 9:30 AM to 11 AM or 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. For more info, contact suecombes@hotmail.com

Gospel Meditation

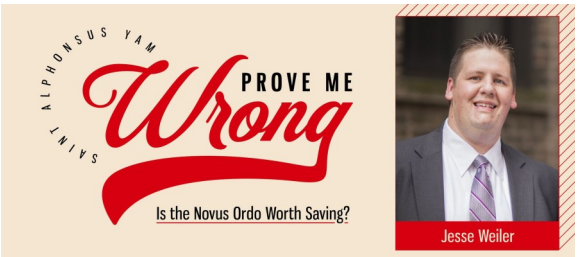


God's love story reveals itself in our stories, experiences, and aspirations. We are all prodigal sons and daughters. There are many times in our lives when we would "sell our souls" in order to pursue our passions. We pursued what we wanted without regard for others or God. We have sowed our oats, thrown ourselves into careless pleasures, spent what we know we ought to have saved, turned our backs on those we love and abused gifts we have been given. We even hit bottom and realized the silliness and self-destruction of it all. We needed to come home. We knew we erred and needed a gentle presence to show us God's unconditional love. This wayward journey home changed us.

As much as we need to be welcomed, we are also the one who needs to do the welcoming and mercy giving. Those we love need our guidance, but they don't always take it. We know that what they are doing is off the mark, self-destructive and wrong. We have to let them go and let it happen, even though they might get hurt. As we wait and hope, they choose to make their way back to us. They don't need us to judge them. They have done enough of that to themselves. We immediately embrace them and are just happy they're home. God uses us to help heal them. Knowing how much we craved understanding and forgiveness ourselves, we can now freely give it away. God uses what he has taught us to teach others.

We are also the entitled ones. At least we "think" we are entitled. After all, we work hard for what we have. We cannot get our heads around the idea that someone can get something that I really deserve! If I do what I'm supposed to do, I ought to be rewarded for that, right? If I do something wrong, I ought to pay the consequences. This is justice, isn't it? This is not God's justice. God is all about love, mercy, compassion, and forgiveness. God's justice is love freely given without merit. We carry the stories of the prodigal son, the unconditional forgiving father, and the entitled angry brother with us. When we make friends with all three, humbly telling those stories to others makes us Christ's ambassadors.

Young Adult Ministry



Prove Me Wrong Speaker Series
This Tuesday March 29 6:30 PM

Join us for the next event in the Prove Me Wrong series, "***Is the Novus Ordo Worth Saving?"*** The conversation will be with Jesse Weiler, director of The Liturgical Institute at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, and co-host of the award-winning Catholic podcast, *"The Liturgy Guys."*

He has produced multiple digital projects including "Elements of the Catholic Mass," the Adoremus Bulletin Author Podcast, and weekly live interviews for the Institute on Religious Life.

If you'd like to know anything in particular or have any questions pertaining to this topic , there is a Google Form you can fill out on this event's Facebook page.



YAM 3X3 Basketball Tournament
Saturday April 2 starting at 2 PM

3-on-3 Basketball is back!! Come join St. Alphonsus' Young Adult Ministry (YAM) for its annual 3-on-3 basketball tournament. It's been three years since we've been able to crown a new champion so dust off your basketball shoes, grab some friends and join us for one of our most exciting events of the year!

The tournament will be a round-robin group play followed by a single elimination tournament for the top 6 teams. Each team is guaranteed 3 games in the group play. There is not a separate tournament for men and women so teams can be co-ed. There will be a limit of 16 teams, so sign-up before all of the spots are full!

Full details and sign-ups are on the St. Alphonsus GiveCentral event page:

www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/33435



Young Adult Speed Dating
Saturday April 30; 6—10 PM

Young adult (21-39 yrs old) speed dating will take place on Saturday, April 30th with registration check-ins beginning at 6:00 PM.

Cost per individual ticket is $50. You must pre-register for the event. Final day to register is Wednesday, April 27. At the door sign ups are not allowed, to ensure everyone is able to meet their matches for each round.
There is a 2 step registration process. First, please register online on the parish GiveCentral event page:
Women: www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/33522
Men: www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/33521

Once registering, please be sure to 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: www.stalphonsuschicago.org/yam-speed-dating-form
Save your login for making matches after the event

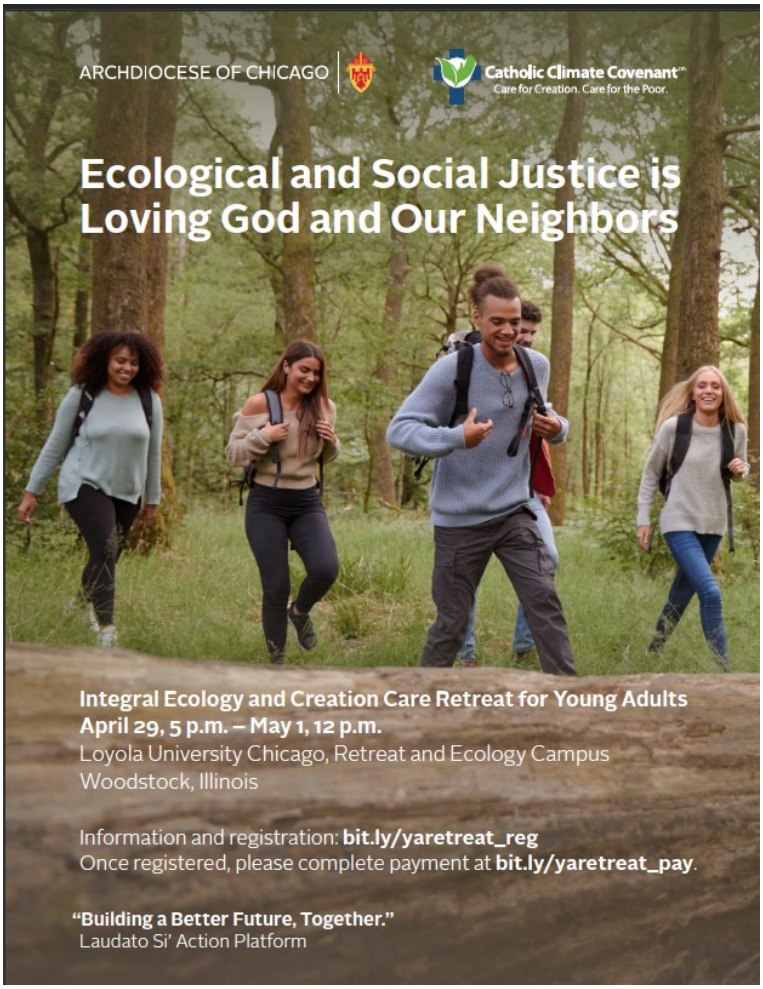
Join us for a tremendously fun evening of quality conversations with great dates, food and drinks included! Don't wait to register! Seats go super fast. All ticket sales are final, only 40 tickets available for each men and women's group so buy yours now before they sell out.

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



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Around the Archdiocese





Centennial Celebration of Mundelein

Join our seminarians to celebrate the seminary's centennial on **April 21** and the inspiring ministry of our alumni priests. This year we honor George Cardinal Mundelein with the 2022 "As Those Who Serve" Award in tribute to the thousands of alumni priests who continue his legacy by building bridges to Christ in parishes across the country and around the world. The centennial celebration would not be complete without our alumni priests and the parishioners they serve. We hope parishioners will come together to purchase a table for the evening to represent their parish and show support for their priests so we can recognize the true fruits of the seminary's mission--forming priests who lead vibrant communities of faith. **Honor our St. Alphonsus priests by submitting a photo and tell us how he has made a difference in your life, parish or community.** Learn more at https://usml.edu/priest/

More info and tickets at
https://e.givesmart.com/events/q30/

Bishop Perry's Chicago Catholic Men's Forum

A Morning to foster Catholic men on their spiritual journey

Saturday, April 23, 2022

8:30 AM to 1PM

Saint Anne Parish
16801 Dixie Hwy. Hazel Crest, Illinois

Father Ryan Brady
Chicago Priest

Authentic Christianity Lived



8:30 am: Hot Breakfast
9:30 am: Program & Group Discussion
12:00 Noon: Mass with Bishop Perry

"We are proud to offer a few hours of respite, prayer and solid input to men across the Archdiocese on how they can live faithfully the implications of their baptism and discipleship in Christ for these times."

~ Most Reverend Joseph N Perry of Chicago



Registration and Information:
www.cmcsmen.net/registration

CMCS
Catholic Men Chicago Southland
LIVING THE GOODNESS OF A CATHOLIC MAN

More News and Events

Aid for Ukraine Thank You!



This past Wednesday evening, our parish's regular 6 PM Mass was dedicated to the Aid for Ukraine. Thank you to all St. Alphonsus parishioners who answered the call in providing much-needed relief during this humanitarian crisis! At the time of the bulletin going to press, exactly $4,014.02 was raised and will be sent to Catholic Relief Services! You can make a donation on our parish GiveCentral at www.givecentral.org/location/39 and clicking on the Aid for Ukraine event.

We continue to pray for an end to this war in Ukraine and for peace based on justice and respect for international law. We remember always that prayer is never a feeble gesture of last resort! It is a weapon of hope.

Baptisms



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 contact Kaitlin Holyk at weddings@stalphonsuschicago.com.
For adult baptisms contact Brooks Robinson at brobinson@stalphonsuschicago.com

Marriage 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 Kaitlin Holyk at weddings@stalphonsuschicago.com.

Book Club at St. Alphonsus

Join our Young Adult Book Club this Lenten season! We meet on Wednesday evenings at 7 PM in the rectory and sometimes virtually. On March 30, we will start reading "*The Abolition of Man*", a short work by C.S Lewis. For more information, please contact Leora Wallace, lwallac2@alumni.nd.edu

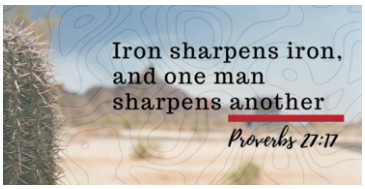
Donation Item Requests!

This SUNDAY, MAR 27, FOOD DRIVE Knights are collecting non-perishable food (snackbars, water, tuna/crackers, peanut butter/crackers) for Mission of Our Lady of the Angels. Collection spots will be at both church entrances following all masses.



Men and women detained in jail often lack even the most basic self-care necessities. This Lent, parishes in the Archdiocese are asked to collect items for those in jail. The items we are collecting are men's white crew socks, standard sized white washcloths, and travel-size (1 oz.) bar soap. Please bring your donations to Mass by Sunday April 10. You can drop them off in the food pantry bins near the exits. Thank you!!

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 Matt Duff at mduff527@gmail.com.

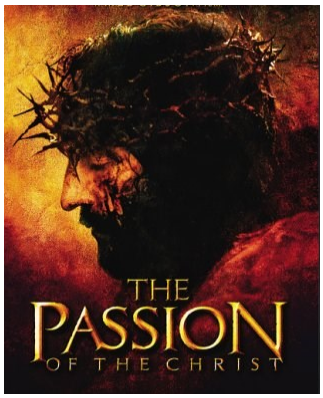
"Open Gym"

Saturday Morning Kids Play Time



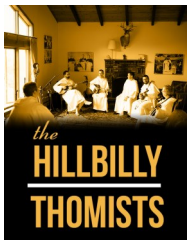
Looking for a chance to get out of the house and for your kids to run around? Please join us Saturday mornings in Festival Hall (below the church) for a chance to spend time with other St. Als families and for the kids to play together. Please bring your own coffee, snacks, and any toys your kids would like to play with. Enter through the West door closest to the parking lot (by the Mary Altar). Saturdays 8:30 AM-10:30 AM. For questions, please contact Monica Cloghessy at (630) 347-3028 or monica.mccormack15@gmail.com.

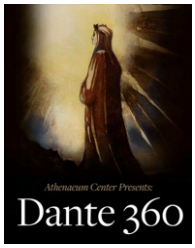
Athenaeum Center

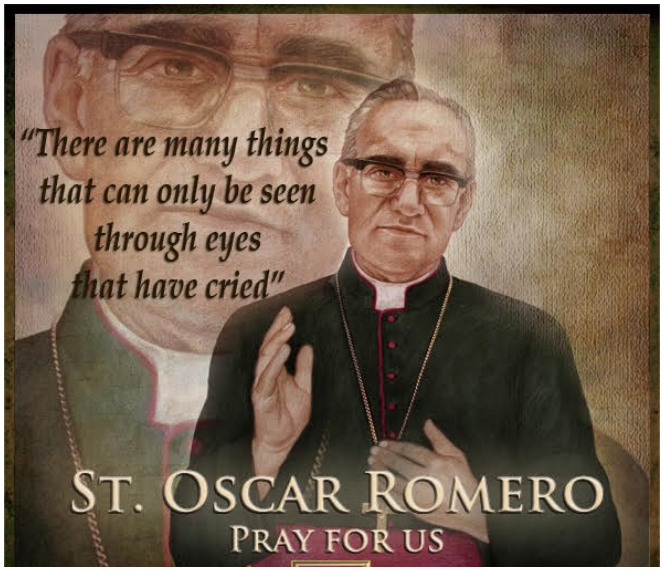


The Passion of the Christ movie screening on Good Friday

On Good Friday, April 15, after Stations of the Cross at St. Alphonsus at 3 PM, the faithful are invited to walk over to the Athenaeum Center for Thought and Culture, where they will be showing Mel Gibson's *Passion of the Christ* at 4 PM. There will not be admission charged, but please donate a free-will offering! More info will be up soon on their website. You can also check out upcoming shows, including bluegrass favorites Hillbilly Thomists and the return of Dante 360 in November! Visit www.athenaeumcenter.org/events/







Know Your Saints

March 24 is the Feast Day of St. Oscar Romero, who was assassinated in 1980 while saying Mass. He spoke out against human rights violations in El Salvador, was beatified in 2015 & declared a martyr by Pope Francis. Romero actively denounced violations of the human rights of the most vulnerable people and defended the principles of protecting lives, promoting human dignity and opposing all forms of violence The right to the truth is often invoked in humanitarian law. Visit www.un.org/en/observances/right-to-truth-day

Helpful Household Hints by Harvey Levin

Risotto Garlic Shrimp and Asparagus

1 (32 ounce) container vegetable broth
2 tablespoons olive oil
½ onion, chopped
½ clove garlic, minced
3 cups Arborio rice
1 lb. raw shrimp, peeled and deveined
1 lb. fresh asparagus, cut into thirds
½ cup grated Parmesan cheese
3 tablespoons butter
1 tablespoon salt
1 tablespoon ground black pepper
1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley

1) Pour broth into a pot; bring to a simmer over medium-low heat.

2) Heat olive oil in a large saucepan over medium heat. Cook and stir onion and garlic in the hot oil until slightly softened, about 2 minutes. Add Arborio rice; cook, stirring frequently, until coated with oil, about 4 minutes.

3) Stir 1/2 cup of the hot vegetable broth into the saucepan; cook and stir until the rice has absorbed the broth, about 2 minutes. Repeat this process 4 more times, stirring constantly, until rice is creamy and tender yet firm to the bite, about 15 minutes.

4) Stir shrimp and asparagus into the remaining hot broth. Cook until shrimp is no longer translucent, 2 to 3 minutes. Remove broth from heat.

5) Stir shrimp and asparagus into the rice; cook for 1 minute. Stir Parmesan cheese and butter into the rice; cook until melted, about 1 minute. Remove rice from heat. Season with salt and pepper. Sprinkle parsley over each serving.

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

April Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 **6:30 PM** Divine Mercy Chaplet **7:00 PM** Stations of the Cross	**2** **8:30 AM** Children's Play Group **2:00 PM** YAM 3v3 Basketball Tournament **6:30 PM** AACA Art & Soul Fundraiser
3 **6:00 PM** YAM Board Meeting **7:00 PM** Big Book AA Meeting	**4** **8:00 AM** AACA H.S/ College Prep Fair **8:30 AM** AA Daily Reflections Group **7:30 PM** Knights of Columbus Meeting	**5** **9:30 AM** Walking With Purpose **4:00 PM** Boy Scouts **6:15 PM** Religious Education  **7:00 PM Made For More** **7:00 PM** Boy Scouts Troop 889 Meeting **7:00 PM** YAM Philosophy Forum	**6** **1:45 PM** Daisy Scouts—1st **6:00 PM** RCIA **7:00 PM** Young Adult Book Club **7:30 PM** Women's Faith Group **7:30 PM** Young Adult Small Faith Group **8:00 PM** Men's Group Vespers	**7** **5:30 PM** Women's Faith Sharing Group **6:30 PM** Women's Faith Group **7:00 PM** Men's Faith Sharing Group **7:30 PM** Young Adult Volleyball League **8:30 PM** CL School of Community	**8** **3:30 PM** Brownie Scouts— 2nd Gr. **5:00 PM** Webelos/ AOL Scouts— 4th & 5th **5:00 PM** Stations of the Cross **6:00 PM** Lenten Fish Fry, sponsored by Knights of Columbus	**9** **8:30 AM** Children's Play Group
10 ***Palm Sunday*** **7:00 PM** Big Book AA Meeting	**11** **8:30 AM** AA Daily Reflections Group **8:30 AM** AA Daily Reflections Group	**12** **9:30 AM** Walking With Purpose **3:00 PM** Brownie Scouts— 2nd **6:30 PM** Walking With Purpose **7:00 PM** Parish Finance Council **7:00 PM** Boy Scouts Troop 889 Meeting **7:00 PM** YAM Philosophy Forum	**13** **1:45 PM** Daisy Scouts—K **6:00 PM** RCIA **7:00 PM** Young Adult Book Club **7:30 PM** Women's Faith Group **7:30 PM** Young Adult Small Faith Group **8:00 PM** Men's Group Vespers	**14** ***Holy Thursday*** **8:30 AM** Liturgy of the Hours **7:00 PM** Mass of the Lord's Supper	**15** ***Good Friday*** **8:30 AM** Liturgy of the Hours **3:00 PM** Stations of the Cross **4:00 PM** *The Passion of the Christ* screening at Athenaeum **7:00 PM** Good Friday Liturgy	**16** ***Holy Saturday*** **12:00 PM** Blessing of Easter Baskets **8:00 PM** Easter Vigil

Holy Week

Coming to Confession

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

Divine Mercy Chaplet/ Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent, the Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed at 6:30 PM on Fridays before Stations. Stations of the Cross are prayed at 7 PM. This prayer allows us to meditate on Christ's Passion & 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.

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.

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

Stewardship Reflection

"No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan." (Joshua 5:12)

Over the forty years that the Israelites journeyed through the desert, God provided them with manna to eat. As soon as they were able to enjoy the fruits of the Promised Land the manna ceased. Likewise, God's blessings to us may change over the years but it is important to trust that God will always provide us with all that we need.

April Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
17 ***Easter Sunday*** **7:30 AM** Mass **9:00 AM** Mass **11:00 AM** Mass **12:30 PM** Mass	**18** *Rectory Office Closed* **8:30 AM** AA Daily Reflections Group	**19** **9:30 AM** Walking With Purpose **4:00 PM** Brownie Scouts **6:15 PM** Religious Education **6:30 PM** Walking With Purpose **7:00 PM** Boy Scouts Troop 889 Meeting **7:00 PM** YAM Philosophy Forum	**20** **6:00 PM** RCIA **7:00 PM** Young Adult Book Club **7:30 PM** Women's Faith Group **7:30 PM** Young Adult Small Faith Group **8:00 PM** Men's Group Vespers	**21** **6:30 PM** Women's Faith Group **7:00 PM** Men's Faith Sharing Group **7:30 PM** Young Adult Volleyball League **8:30 PM** CL School of Community	**22** **5:00 PM** Webelos/AOL Scouts— 4th and 5th	**23** **8:30 AM** Children's Play Group
24 **1:00 PM** Samuel Group **7:00 PM** Big Book AA Meeting	**25** **8:30 AM** AA Daily Reflections Group	**26** **9:30 AM** Walking With Purpose **4:00 PM** Boy Scouts **6:15 PM** Religious Education **6:30 PM** Walking With Purpose **7:00 PM** Boy Scouts Troop 889 Meeting **7:00 PM** YAM Philosophy Forum	**27** **6:00 PM** RCIA **6:30 PM** AACA Musical at Athenaeum **7:00 PM** Young Adult Book Club **7:30 PM** Women's Faith Group **7:30 PM** Young Adult Small Faith Group **8:00 PM** Men's Group Vespers	**28** **6:30 PM** Women's Faith Group **7:00 PM** Men's Faith Sharing Group **7:30 PM** Young Adult Volleyball League **8:30 PM** CL School of Community	**29** **5:00 PM** Webelos/AOL Scouts— 4th and 5th	**30** **8:30 AM** Children's Play Group **1:00 PM** RE First Communion **6:00 PM** Young Adult Speed Dating

Celebrating Penance and Reconciliation

The gift of Christ's presence in the sacraments can't be duplicated. This sacrament of forgiveness and mercy offers us the healing experience of Christ. God is present and anxious to heal the wounds in our life due to sin and to help us grow.

Celebrating reconciliation reminds us that we are meant to move in the direction of God's call for us. We are loved and forgiven. Until the day we die we always have the opportunity to turn to God and hear those words again.

This guide and examination of conscience can help you to celebrate the sacrament this Lent.

Follow these basic steps:

1) Make the Sign of the Cross, while saying it aloud. 2) Start with *Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been* (how long) *since my last confession. These are my sins....*

Examination of Conscience

- Have I honored God above everything else?
- Have I ignored God's guidance in making my decisions?
- Have I neglected praying to God regularly?
- Have I used the name of God or of Jesus in a disrespectful way?
- Have I come to celebrate the Eucharist on Sundays?
- Have I cared for my parents and other adults in my family?
- Have I cared for my children and grandchildren in a responsible way? Have I failed to look at some one lovingly, or have I seen them as a burden or a bother?
- Have I failed to take good care of my own body with good food, rest and exercise? Have I abused drugs or alcohol?
- Have I physically hurt anyone, or have I hurt someone's feelings, or have I been so angry that I might have hurt someone?
- Have I been faithful in my marriage? Have I been loyal and faithful to my family and friends?
- Have I been responsible in the exercise of my sexuality?
- Have I respected others in my relationships?
- Have I taken what is not mine?
- Have I told the truth?
- Have I been jealous of other people or of other things?
- Have I done what I can to help the poor?
- Have I done what I can to make the earth a good place to live?
- Have I done what I can to be part of my church and community?
- Have I shared my possessions and my talents with others?

The United States Bishops give some more examples of grave sin:

- Swearing a false oath while invoking God as a witness;
- Acting in serious disobedience against proper authority;
- Committing murder, including abortion and euthanasia; harboring deliberate hatred of others;
- sexual abuse of another, especially of a minor or vulnerable adult; physical or verbal abuse of others that causes grave physical or psychological harm;
- Stealing in a gravely injurious way, such as robbery, burglary, serious fraud, or other immoral business practices;
- Speaking maliciously or slandering people in a way that seriously undermines their good name;
- Producing, marketing, or indulging in pornography;
- Engaging in envy that leads one to wish grave harm to someone else.

This list covers most of the major areas of our lives. However, it is not exhaustive. As was stated above, it is important to look for patterns and habits of acting, as well as to look for specific offenses.

Act of Contrition

My God,
I am sorry for my sins with my whole heart.
In choosing to do wrong
and failing to do good,
I have sinned against you
who I should love above all things.
I firmly intend with your help,
to do penance,
to sin no more,
and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.
Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us.
In his name, my God, have mercy.

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 Office Hours:

9:00 AM— 4:00 PM Mon, Wed, Fri
9:00 AM— 1:00 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
Matt Gunsaulus, Assistant Principal
Mary Bodlak, Director of Admissions
Caroline Jordan, Advancement Director
Kim Wallett, Secretary
Connie Del Toral, Administrative Assistant