Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024: TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"But who do you say that I am?"

Peter said to him in reply,

"You are the Christ." (Mk 8:29)

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*

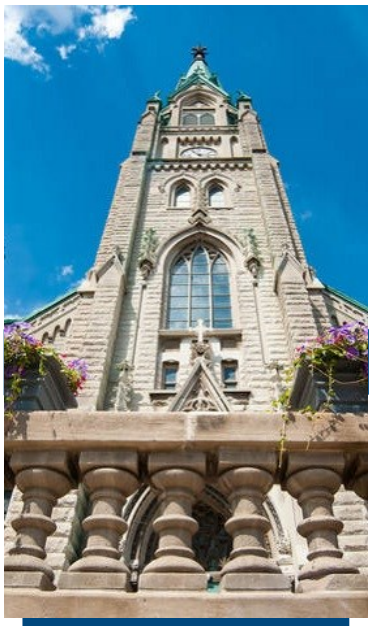
Worship

This Week's Readings

Sunday: Is 50:4c-9a/Ps 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 (9)/Jas 2:14-18/Mk 8:27-35
Monday: 1 Cor 11:17-26, 33/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17/Lk 7:1-10
Tuesday: 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 7:11-17
Wednesday: 1 Cor 12:31—13:13/Ps 33:2-3, 4-5, 12 and 22/Lk 7:31-35
Thursday: 1 Cor 15:1-11/Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28/Lk 7:36-50
Friday: 1 Cor 15:12-20/Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20/Lk 8:1-3
Saturday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Mt 9:9-13
Next Sunday: Wis 2:12, 17-20/Ps 54:3-4, 5, 6-8 (6b)/Jas 3:16—4:3/Mk 9:30-37

Please Pray for the Sick

Dorothy Bonds
Jamie Wallett
Monica Alexis Rios
Margaret Nichols
Tessa Sergent
Diane Mareci
William Ahearn
Emilia Hurtado
Michael and Elizabeth Velten
Fidel Mercado Chavez
David Birks
Celeste Soult
Michael Aldape
Janet Horvat
Frank G. Bauer
Al Corleone
Tracy Duda
Jacob Duda
Dorothy O'Brien
Ryan Meadow
Danny Browder
Carol Kania
Leslie Salimi
Jason Jamero
Rosemarie Cordero
Gary Masterson
Ramona Colon



WEDDING BANNS

Haley Robichaud

and

Evan DeBock

Giving Update

Weekly Budget Amount: $15,192

Offertory for 9/8: $16,808

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

For Mass donations via Zelle, please submit to general parish email account, parish@stalphonsuschicago.church

Welcome Our Recently Baptized

Daisy Marie Daly

Gloria Lucia Molnar



MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, September 15
9:00 AM +Edmund and Mary Gobat
11:00 AM +Mariano Susana Hermosa
12:30 PM The People of St. Alphonsus
5:00 PM +Adam Andrzejewski

Monday, September 16
8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus

Tuesday, September 17
8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus

Wednesday, September 18
6:00 PM The People of St. Alphonsus

Thursday, September 19
8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus

Friday, September 20
8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus

Saturday, September 21
8:30 AM Andrew Morris (Birthday Blessings)

Sunday, September 22
9:00 AM Glowienke Family
11:00 AM +Richard Slowinski
12:30 PM +Martin Rios and Luis Hernandez
5:00 PM +Jessica Ross Sheehan

News and Events

Serve as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion!

Our parish is in need of faithful Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion. EMHC's should be fully initiated and practicing Catholics having received baptism, confirmation, and first Eucharist. If you would like to volunteer for this important ministry at Mass, please contact Father Bauer.

Men's Pickup Basketball

Almost every Sunday at 7 PM, there is a competitive men's pickup basketball game(s) for anyone who plays. Games are played in the St. Alphonsus gymnasium that is underneath the Athenaeum. Entrance to the gym is on the side of the building between the church and the Athenaeum. If you would like to be added to the weekly email list that coordinates the games or have any questions, you can reach out to Chris at cberezniak1@yahoo.com

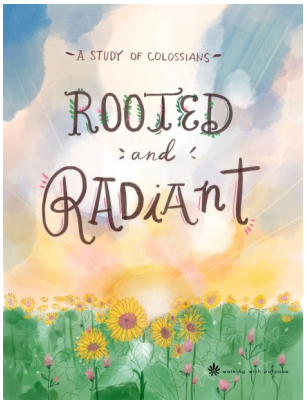
South Lakeview Neighbors Meeting

South Lakeview Neighbors is a civic organization that meet monthly to socialize and discuss important issues in our community. They will have their next meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 17 at 7:30 PM at the Paradiso room at the Athenaeum. Learn more at slneighbors.org

Alphonsus Academy—
Class of 1974 Reunion

Hello! Our Alphonsus Academy class of 1974 is looking for classmates for our 50th Reunion! We are planning a casual get together in October. If you are a ROCKET from our year please reach out to one of us!
Looking forward to hearing from you.
Kathleen Proctor-Christensen - clarkandaddison@gmail.com
Alicia Weidenbach– Fontanetta fontanetta1960@gmail.com

Walking With Purpose



Rooted and Radiant Women's Bible Study —
starting this Tuesday, September 17!

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!

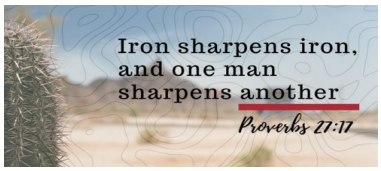
In the ***Rooted and Radiant*** study, we will learn the book of Colossians and seek to understand the challenges that faced them, recognizing that they are remarkably similar to our own challenges today.

Sessions are on Tuesdays, mornings are 9:30—11 AM and the evening session is 6:30—8 PM. Questions? Please contact Susan Combes, 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

Help Out and Have a Great Time!!



It takes more than 500 volunteers to make our Fest a success!

Volunteering is a great way to make new friends and help out your St. Alphonsus parish community. Volunteers are involved in admissions, serving food and drinks, and more! Perks include a ticket for a free beer or brat, stylish Volunteer shirt and access to the Volunteer Appreciation Party .



Kinderfest Sunday— Free Admission!

Providing additional fun for families and children, this year's Oktoberfest will feature a special Kinderfest area. The popular train ride is returning! Other fun offerings will include face painting, crafts and activities, and a friendly Kinderfest meal available for them to enjoy, while parents can hang out and enjoy a beer, brat, or soft pretzel and watch the afternoon games on a Jumbotron. Kids should also keep an eye out for a limited "oktoBEARfest buddy" for sale.



Get all the Fest details & Volunteer at *www.stalsoktoberfest.org*



Oktoberfest!

September 27, 28, and 29th

Admission $10.00
Friday and Saturday

Free Admission on Sunday!

Join us for all the Oktoberfest fun!

And just like every year, there will be plenty of beer and homemade brats!

We'll have music from lots of German bands and Fest favorites alike.

Get all the Fest details and Volunteer at

www.stalsoktoberfest.org

Entertainment

Friday 5-10 PM

~Leslie Hunt Band, ~iPop,
~The Shagadelics, ~Dancing Queen

Saturday Noon-10 PM

~School of Rock
~Sgt. Saukerkraut's Polka Band
~The Polkaholics

~Fletcher Rockwell
~Fearless, a Taylor Swift Tribute
~16 Candles



Sunday Noon-7 PM

KINDERFEST! JUMBOTRON SCREEN ON TO WATCH THE GAMES!

Craft Beer Tasting

Friday 6-9 PM, Saturday 4-7 PM
Select from dozens of options from local breweries, seasonal selections, and international favorites.
Tickets now available at
bucketlisters.com/experience/oktoberfest-chicago

VIP Package

VIP's will receive a commemorative 1L stein from Germany, brats, free admission for 4, 2 for 1 beer, Oktoberfest T-Shirts, Hat and more! Package now available on our parish GiveCentral site,
www.givecentral.org/otp/41554

PROST!!

Faith Formation

Register Your Children for Religious Education!

Registration for our Religious Education program is now open for the 2024-2025 school year for grades 1st-8th on Tuesday nights at 6:15 PM. Classes will begin on September 17. Please register at the link on our Religious Ed page, www.stalphonsuschicago.org/religious-education

Are You Ready to Become Catholic?

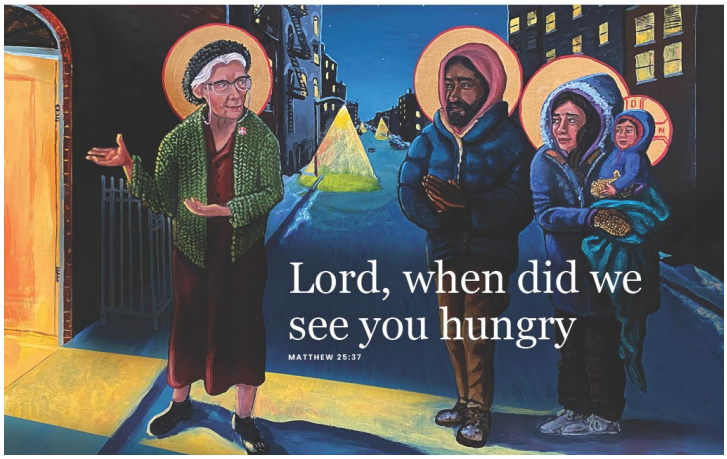
Registration is open for The Rite of Catholic Initiation for Adults (R.C.I.A.) Each year we are blessed with several individuals who desire to enter and learn more about the Catholic faith. The RCIA program is the study of the Catholic Faith and the process of introduction into the faith community.

This class is offered for adults in three situations:

1. Un-baptized adults who desire to be baptized in the Catholic Church.
2. Baptized non-Catholic Christians who desire to be formally admitted into communion with the Catholic Church.
3. Baptized Catholics who have not yet been confirmed and desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Adult baptism (and if applicable, Confirmation and First Holy Communion) takes place at the Easter Vigil (Evening before Easter Sunday). It is one of the highest celebrations in the Catholic Church's liturgical year! If you or someone you know is interested in taking the class, please contact our pastoral associate, Brooks Robinson at brobinson@stalphonsuschicago.church

Catechetical Sunday 2024



Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel.

"Lord, when did we see you hungry" Matthew 25:37

"Señor, ¿cuándo te vimos hambriento? " Mateo 25;37

Our theme reflects our call to missionary discipleship. As St John Paul II reminded us: The universal call to holiness is closely linked to the universal call to mission. Every member of the faithful is called to holiness and to mission. We are called to be eucharist by word and action to our brothers and sisters in Christ. Our times cry out for this kind of holiness, one inflamed by the ardent determination to bring as many of our brothers and sisters as possible to Christ.

Nuestro tema refleja nuestro llamado al discipulado misionero. Como nos recordó san Juan Pablo II: La llamada universal a la santidad está estrechamente vinculada a la llamada universal a la misión. Todo fiel está llamado a la santidad y a la misión. Estamos llamados a ser eucaristía por palabra y acción para nuestros hermanos y hermanas en Cristo. Nuestros tiempos claman por este tipo de santidad, inflamada por la ardiente determinación de llevar a Cristo al mayor número posible de nuestros hermanos y hermanas.

This month we begin our Religious Education and RCIA programs. These programs help to shape new believers, both adults and children. The whole church has the responsibility to share and teach the faith, to live it out and to celebrate the sacraments. Thank you to all 2024-2025 catechists!

Lord God, source of all wisdom and knowledge, you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to live among us and to proclaim his message of faith, hope, and love to all nations. In your goodness, bless our brothers and sisters who have offered themselves as catechists for your Church. Strengthen them with your gifts, that they may teach by word and example the truth that comes from you.

Dani Certad
Colin Copeland
Emily Hamrick
Andréa Liceaga
Kelly Lovewell
Katie MacDougall
Ellie Maxwell
Natalie Moll
James Morrow
Jack Nolan
Kathryn Pluta
Brian Seper
Emily Warren
Hannah Weinewuth
Emily Yeager

Young Adult Ministry (YAM)

Our Mission

As members of St. Alphonsus Young Adult Ministry, we walk alongside one another in faith. Our community is focused on:

- Meaningful worship, careful discernment, and prayerful reflection
- Curiosity and a thirst for the truth
- Service to one another, our church, and our city
- Lasting friendships and an invitation to fellowship and meaningful participation

YAM Service — Volunteer w/ Shedd Aquarium Action Days!

Saturday, September 21



Join YAM to lend a hand at a Shedd Aquarium Action Day on September 21st from 10 AM to 12 PM! Volunteers will assist with litter cleanup and coastal habitat restoration, ensuring thriving natural spaces while safeguarding the wildlife that call them home. The event will be held at 63rd Street Beach, and we will plan a carpool from St. Alphonsus (leaving by 9:20AM).
Sign up at bit.ly/stalsyamshedd

Praise and Adoration Holy Hour —Friday, September 20 at 7:30 PM



On Friday, September 20th, 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! The hour will conclude with benediction, and a group will gather for fellowship and drinks at a local bar after!

Volunteer at Oktoberfest! Sippin Social after 5 PM Mass Sept. 29



Following the 5 PM Mass on Sunday, September 29th, we will step outside for drinks and socialization at Oktoberfest! Invite some friends to come and stop by!

It's that time of year again! Oktoberfest is rapidly approaching, and we are in need of volunteers. This year, there are two volunteer shifts for young adults with 45 spots to cover between. Oktoberfest is the largest fundraiser of the year for the parish and many of YAM's events would not be possible without this event. So if you've benefitted in some way in the past year from an event hosted by us, please consider giving some of your time to support our work. Volunteers can sign up at https://signup.com/go/CVYkWmQ



FORMED® THE CATHOLIC FAITH. ON DEMAND.

LOTR and Catholicism w/Joseph Pearce | Chris Stefanick Show

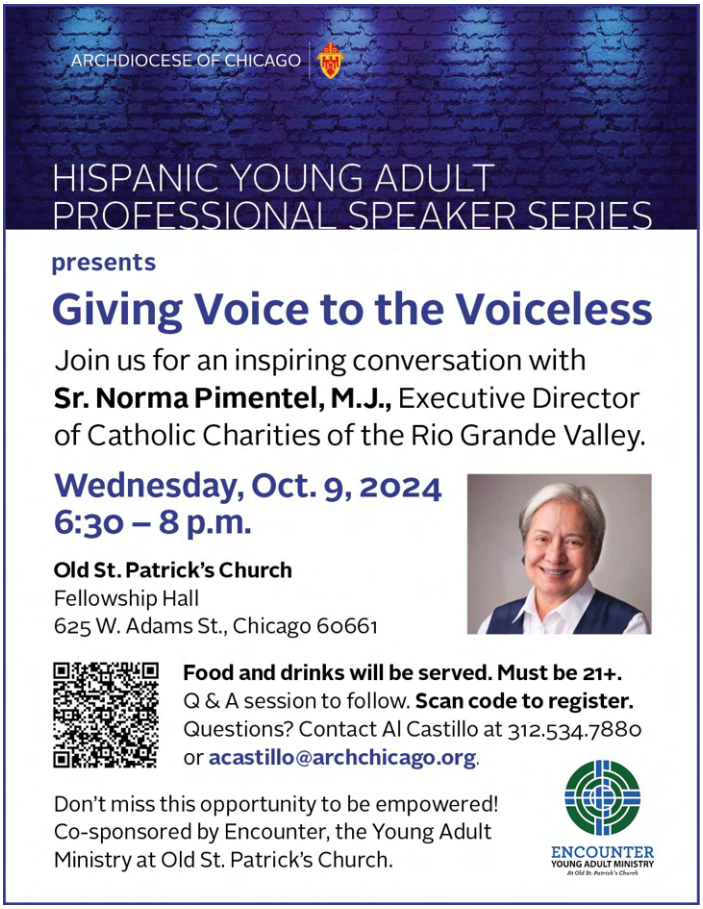
You've almost definitely heard of Lord of the Rings, but do you know about its Catholic influence? Joseph Pearce, a leading Tolkien scholar, joins Chris to talk about the famed trilogy.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription. Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish. Scan the QR code to download the FORMED app to your phone.

An offering from the Augustine Institute and Ignatius Press

https://watch.formed.org/videos/lotr-and-catholicism-w-joseph-pearce-chris-stefanick-show

Around the Archdiocese



Hispanic Speaker Series

All young adults are invited on **Wednesday, Oct. 9 from 6:30 – 8 PM at Old St. Patrick's Church (Fellowship Hall, 625 W. Adams St.)** for an inspiring conversation with Sr. Norma Pimentel, M.J., Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley. Discover the incredible work of Sr. Norma as she provides a lifeline to asylum seekers on their journey to safety in the United States. As the driving force behind creating safe spaces for immigrants to rest and recover, Sr. Norma's mission goes far beyond immediate humanitarian aid. She has become a powerful advocate for immigrant families, reminding the world that these individuals are not mere numbers – they are human beings deserving of respect, dignity and compassion. Don't miss this opportunity to hear firsthand from Sr. Norma about her impactful work and the profound difference it is making in the lives of countless individuals and families. Food and drinks will be served. Must be 21 or over. Q&A session to follow. Reserve your seat now! Questions? Contact Al Castillo at acastillo@archchicago.org.

Catholic Charities— After Supper Visions Photo Exhibit Event

The After Supper Visions exhibit is a display of photographs by the dinner guests of the Catholic Charities Sister Joyce Dura, O.S.F., Supper Program. **This event takes place on Friday, September 20 at the St. Vincent Center of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago, 721 N. LaSalle St. and is from 5-7 PM.**

The CATHOLIC CHARITIES ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Since 2003, volunteers have invited dinner guests to participate in this photography project that culminates in a yearly exhibit. Dinner guests are given cameras, attend photography classes and participate in photo shoots.

After Supper Visions is an opportunity for the hungry and unhoused, served by Catholic Charities, to participate in the artistic process. It is where hearts meet hearts on a level of creativity and joy, a level where the only difference is one's preference of color, light, and composition. It is a unique vision, a vision that deserves to be seen. A portion of each sale goes directly to the artist. For more details and to register, contact Brittany McGhee, Senior Director of Mission Engagement volunteer@catholiccharities.net .







JOIN THE ALPHONSUS FAMILY!

2025-26 APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

LEARN MORE

At Alphonsus, we offer our students a rigorous academics, supported by an arts-integrated curriculum, within a supportive Catholic community.

Please join us to discuss important application information, make introductions, and tour the school.

OPEN HOUSE DATES

- Friday, September 20, 2024 at 9am
- Monday, October 21, 2024 at 9am
- Friday, November 15, 2024 at 9am
- Monday, December 9, 2024 at 9am
- Monday, January 13, 2025 at 9am
- Sunday, January 26, 2025 at 10:30am

AACA | Alphonsus Academy & Center for the Arts

Register Now!

Open Houses are designed for adults and require advance registration for security purposes. We also invite families to schedule private tours to better suit their needs. We look forward to meeting you!

Reach out to our Director of Admissions for more information:

Madeleine Durkin
mdurkin@alphonsusacademy.org

Living Peace and Justice

Nourishing Hope Fundraiser

All are invited to honor the impact of Nourishing Hope, formerly known as Lakeview Pantry, and their partners over the past year. This year's event is at The Geraghty, 2520 S. Hoyne Ave, Chicago, 60608, on Friday, Sept. 20 at 6:30 PM. Fabulous silent auction prizes, right from your smartphone. Raise your paddle to support operating expenses and bid on exciting live auction packages. Live entertainment and dancing! Your support provides food for today and hope for tomorrow for thousands of Chicagoans in need. Go to www.nourishinghopechi.org/gala

Ales for Amate Fundraiser

Amate House is a Chicago-based service and leadership program grounded in social justice, faith, and community. The Ales for Amate fundraiser is entering its 11th year and is proud to host this year's friend-raiser on *Thursday, October 10* at Naviator Taproom | 2211 N. Milwaukee Ave. #100, Chicago, 60647, Time: 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM In-Person: Join them in person for a fun-filled night of community, good beer, and exciting raffles! Get tickets and learn more at amatehouse.org/ales-for-amate

Knights of Columbus

Knights of Columbus— Intellectual Disabilities Drive



On Saturday, September 21, our parish Knights of Columbus will be collecting donations for their annual Intellectual Disabilities (ID) aka "Tootsie Roll" fundraising drive around the parish campus from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Please look for them at the intersections of Southport, Lincoln, and Wellington.

On Sunday, September 22, starting at 9 AM, the Knights will be outside the parish campus again collecting donations for the ID Drive. They will also be in the Narthex after the Sunday Masses (9 AM, 11 AM, and 12:30 PM) at St. Alphonsus. **They can use your help with collection volunteers**. To volunteer: contact Don Ogilvie at dono2108@gmail.com or Ray San Agustin at raysanagustin15158@gmail.com



The funds generated from this drive are used to support local programs which help people with special learning and life needs. The St. Alphonsus Knights thank you in advance for your help and generosity!

Helpful Household Hints by Harvey Levin

USDA Organic is a legit term that is regulated and monitored. In order to receive the label, the animals must have been fed an organic diet without animal byproducts, raised without antibiotics, and given access to the outdoors.

Raised Without Antibiotics, Natural, All Natural, Vegetarian Fed and Vegetarian Diet can be misleading and are not strictly enforced; it's best to ignore these and just look for the organic label.

Hormone-Free is particularly meaningless, as the USDA doesn't allow hormone usage in poultry production at all.

Look for air-chilled rather than water-chilled chicken for the best flavor (you can easily identify water-chilled birds by the phrase "contains up to 4% retained water" on the packaging).

If the chicken is "enhanced," move on; that means it's been injected with broth and flavoring, which gives the meat an unpleasant spongy texture.

ALTAR SERVERS WANTED

INVITING ALL 4TH–12TH GRADERS

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to serve at the altar at Mass?
It might be God calling you to be an altar server. TRY IT!!!



To be an altar server you must:

- be in 4th-12th grade
- have received First Holy Communion
- commit to serving at least one Sunday Mass per month

TRAINING FOR NEW ALTAR SERVERS

Wednesday, September 18 at 1:45pm *or*
Monday, September 23 at 6:30pm

Training will take place inside the church. Light refreshments will be available.

For questions or details contact Fr. Jesus Raya (Fr. Chuy) jraya@stalphonsuschicago.church

SAMUEL GROUP

Discernment for young adults

Samuel Group is a program sponsored by the Vocation Office that holds monthly meetings between September 2024 and April 2025. The goal of the program is to help young adults learn to listen more clearly to the voice of God in their daily lives so that they can make a good discernment. Each meeting includes talks, a time for food and fellowship, adoration, confession, and Sunday Mass. For more information, contact Katie Hazen at **khazen@archchicago.org** or 847.508.2023.

St. Alphonsus Parish (Lakeview), 1429 W. Wellington Ave., Chicago, IL 60657
2024: September 22, October 20, November 17, December 15
2025: January 19, February 16, March 23, April 27
Meetings: 1 – 5 p.m., Mass: 5 p.m.
Meetings and Mass are in English

Cost: $45 per person
Register here: bit.ly/4cSnLTJ

At this he turned around and, looking at his disciples, rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." — Mk 8:33-34

A Spiritual U-Turn

Practically speaking, how do we follow Jesus and save our souls? Is it enough to profess that we believe in Jesus? If we were to arrive at the conclusion that Jesus is God and the Savior of the World, would we then be saved? Certainly not. Even the demons believe this truth. Jesus is quite clear that salvation requires action on our part. We must deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow Him. Furthermore, the road to salvation requires that we lose ourselves for the sake of Christ and the Gospel. What exactly does this mean, practically speaking?

To answer this question, let's first consider the way that many people live. We tend to desire that which is the easiest in life, the most enjoyable, the greatest, and the most consoling. We often seek out those things that make us feel good and the path of least resistance. For example, if you could choose to fast on bread and water or feast on the most delicious foods, which would you choose? If you could choose between a vacation in the most exotic and luxurious location or a week of very difficult work, which would you choose? If you could choose to drive a brand new, high-end car or a very old beater, which one would you prefer? Most people would quickly pick the nice food, luxurious vacation and fancy new car.

In his spiritual classic, the *Ascent to Mount Carmel*, Saint John of the Cross outlines a very different path. He gives a series of spiritual maxims to use for prayer and meditation to help purify your soul of every unhealthy attachment so that you can become more fully attached to God and His holy will. St. John says, "Strive always to prefer, not that which is easiest, but that which is most difficult; Not that which is most attractive, but that which is most unpleasant; Not that which gives most pleasure, but rather that which gives least…" These spiritual maxims, when read in their entirety, challenge us to the core of our being. They quickly reveal to those who are honest that they often prefer the easiest, most pleasant and best that this world has to offer. But what is best for your eternal soul?

Jesus' teaching, that we must deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him, is the road map to saving your eternal soul and to discovering a spiritual fulfillment that far surpasses anything this world or our flesh have to offer. But in order to understand this road map and then to follow it, we often need to make a "spiritual U-turn" so to speak. This U-turn begins with us choosing the Cross on every level of our being and concludes with God stripping away all selfish desires and replacing them with a desire for sacrificial love.

If you were to carefully examine your thoughts throughout the day, you might find that you think about yourself a lot. "I like this, don't want to do that, am angry about this, and am trying to avoid that…" Very often, our thoughts begin with "I" and end with "me." Denying yourself, taking up your cross, and losing your life means that you no longer think about yourself. It means that the eyes of your soul have turned away from yourself and focus exclusively upon the will of God and the love of others. But this will never be possible until we are freed of the numerous selfish desires that often direct most of our actions day in and day out.

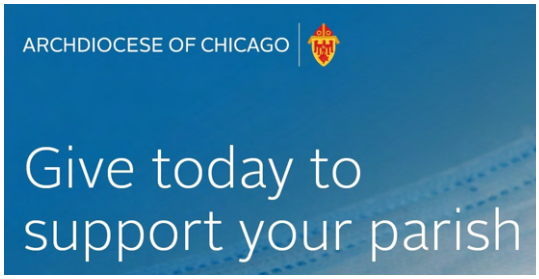
Reflect, today, upon that which you desire throughout your day. What occupies your thoughts the most? What are you drawn to the most? Do you spend most of your day thinking about how you can better serve God and His holy will? Or do you spend most of your day thinking about yourself? Do the eyes of your soul most often turn to the selfless service of others? Or do they more often think about what you want in a selfish way? Reflect upon these difficult questions and seek to eradicate everything within you that is selfish. Doing so will enable you to make a spiritual U-turn so that you can carry the glorious and transforming Cross of Christ.

My sacrificial Lord, You lived a selfless life in which Your only concerns were the glory of the Father in Heaven and the salvation of the world. Please free me from all selfishness so that I will be more able to deny myself in every way, run toward every cross in life, and follow You into the beautiful life of selfless and sacrificial love. Jesus, I trust in You.

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Stewardship—First Fruits

Who Is a Christian Steward?



One who receives God's gifts gratefully,
cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner,
shares them in justice and love with others,
and returns them with increase to the Lord.

This is the description offered in the Bishops' Pastoral Letter and one we feel paints a beautiful picture of a Christian steward. While every man, woman and child is born a steward, the practice of embracing this special way of life is an ongoing and ever-changing experience for each of us.

Stewardship begins with gratitude, when we recognize that everything – family and friends, home, health, community, work, neighborhood, parish – comes from God. It is then up to us to share these blessings with others. How we spend our time, to what extent we use our special abilities and the percentage of our financial gifts that we dedicate to the common good – these reflect our commitment to the Biblical call for stewardship and discipleship.

Time

We often link time with talent, and understand it merely as volunteer efforts. But time means so much more. Time for family, neighbors, rest, fitness, friends and, most especially, prayer – these are essential in the life of a disciple. How do I allocate the time in my life and what does that say about my priorities?

Treasure

For centuries people have sensed a close, personal relationship with God and have considered the practice of thoughtful and proportionate giving as a means of expressing their gratitude for all that God has given them. The Old Testament speaks of tithing and relates the tithe to a deep devotion to God.

Talent

The interests and abilities of our parishioners are extraordinary. A stewardship commitment simply asks, "How do I use my talents and giftedness in the service of others?" Our Parish community invites widespread involvement, but it is up to each individual to discover and discern how God is calling you to disburse your talents – within St. Alphonsus and in the world.

We pray that the members of St. Alphonsus Parish will recognize stewardship as an act of faith – a spiritual response to the call of discipleship. This simple practice of identifying and sharing our gifts in an intentional and committed manner invites us to look at time, talent and treasure in new ways.

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*

At the Athenaeum



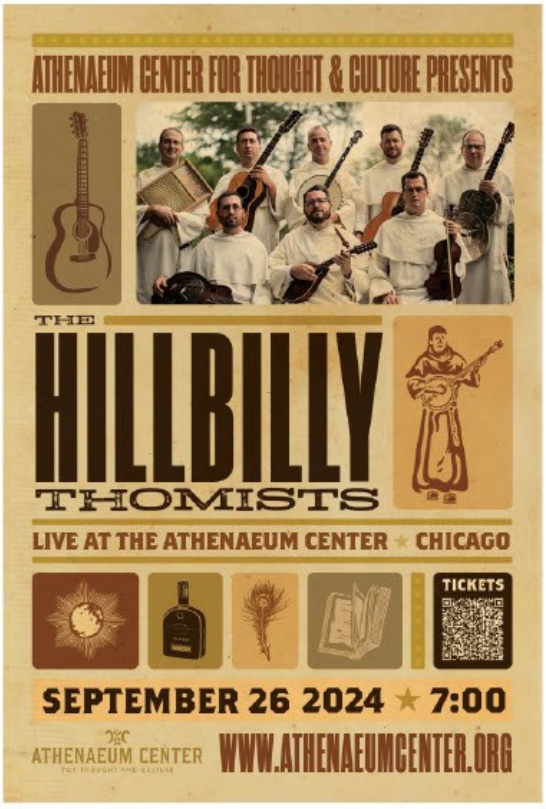
ATHENAEUM CENTER *presents*

Jesus Thirsts: The Miracle of the Eucharist

September 18

You're invited to a FREE screening of *Jesus Thirsts* with cast member and noted author Noelle Mering, who will join us for a Q&A following the film. The film embarks on a global journey to rediscover and revive the transformative power of the Eucharist. Engaging in dialogue with notable Catholic figures, the film explores the biblical origins of the Eucharist and shares personal stories of individuals whose lives have been transformed by the Blessed Sacrament. This exploration makes it unmistakably clear that the Eucharist is not merely a symbol, but is indeed Jesus Christ Himself — fervently desiring to quench our spiritual thirst with His boundless love.

TICKETS: www.athenaeumcenter.org OR
CALL: (312)820-6250 / LOCATION: 2936 N Southport Ave



The Hillbilly Thomists *September 26*

This Bluegrass band of Dominican friars will be returning to the Athenaeum Center on a rare US tour! They first graced our stage in 2022, and brought the house down with their tight harmonies and finger-pickin' melodies.

Since then, they've been busy doing what Dominicans do best—preaching, teaching, and serving. Despite living on different continents, they manage to keep making music; and just this month their newly-released album, *Marigold*, rose quickly to #2 on the Billboard Bluegrass Chart!

Gather your friends and family, and join us for a lively, soulful, and inspiring evening of Bluegrass & Americana music!

TICKETS: www.athenaeumcenter.org OR
CALL: (312)820-6250 / LOCATION: 2936 N Southport Ave
Use promo code ALPHONSUS at checkout to receive 10% off, and 10% will be donated to your parish.

Contact

Sacramental Information

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

How to Offer a Mass Intention

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

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

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

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

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

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

St. Alphonsus Social Media

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

Directory

Parish Office

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

Parish Office Hours:

9:00 AM– 5:00 PM Mon, Wed, Fri
9:00 AM– 7:30 PM Tues, Thur

School Office

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

School Office Hours:

8:00 AM– 3:00 PM

Staff

Parish Staff

Rev. Steven Bauer, Pastor
Rev. Jesús (Chuy) Raya, Associate Pastor
Brooks Robinson, Pastoral Associate
Emily Ember, Coordinator of RE/Evangelization
Brian Bloye, Director of Music and Organist
Daniel Szymanski, Director of Operations
Mario Serrano, Parish Office Manager
Kathryn Kibler, Sacrament Ministry Coordinator/Parish Secretary

School Staff

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