Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

FEBRUARY 23, 2025: THE SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." (Jn Lk 6:36)

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Mass Schedule

Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri, Sat	8:30 AM
Wed	6:00 PM
Sunday	9 AM, 11 AM, 12:30 (Spanish) and 5 PM

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday	6:30—7:30 PM

Confessions

Wednesday	6:30—7:30 PM
Saturday	11:00—12:00 PM

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

Worship

This Week's Readings

Sunday: 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23/1 Cor 15:45-49/Lk 6:27-38
Monday: Sir 1:1-10/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Mk 9:14-29
Tuesday: Sir 2:1-11/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40/Mk 9:30-37
Wednesday: Sir 4:11-19/Ps 119:165, 168, 171, 172, 174, 175/Mk 9:38-40
Thursday: Sir 5:1-8/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mk 9:41-50
Friday: Sir 6:5-17/Ps 119:12, 16, 18, 27, 34, 35/Mk 10:1-12
Saturday: Sir 17:1-15/Ps 103:13-14, 15-16, 17-18/Mk 10:13-16
Next Sunday: Sir 27:4-7/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 (see 2a)/1 Cor 15:54-58/Lk 6:39-45

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
Michelle Renee Moya
Vera Wilkinson
Ernest Nora

Eucharistic Adoration: A Source for Peace:
Sometimes our weeks can be quite hectic, making it hard to find quiet time to pray. If this sounds familiar, join us for Mass on Wednesdays at 6 PM, followed by Eucharistic Adoration from 6:30-7:30. This can be a great way to re-center yourself in God and experience the peace that only Christ can give.

Men's Vespers– WED evening
Men of the parish are invited to attend our Communio prayer group each Wednesday from 8-9 PM in the rectory chapel (come to the rectory side door) It's a great way to take your spiritual life a step further as we enrich our knowledge of the faith, encourage each other in life's challenges, 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

Praying for the Holy Father!

Pope Francis has a complex clinical condition resulting in bilateral pneumonia requiring further drug therapy. Nonetheless, Pope Francis is in good spirits, receiving the Eucharist and alternating between rest, prayer, and reading. He expresses his gratitude for the support he feels at this time and kindly asks that prayers for him continue.



Welcome to the Parish!

Matthew & Veronika Tobias
Nate Egan
Irene Parisi
Todd & Brianne Ptacek
Benjamin
Emmett
Kayla & Rowan Quinain
Guadalupe Hernandez

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, February 23
9:00 AM +Christian Kebr
11:00 AM +Phil Piazza
12:30 PM +Genaro Corral, Esteban Corral y Genaro Corral Casillas
5:00 PM +Barbara Elliston

Monday, February 24
8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus

Tuesday, February 25
8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus

Wednesday, February 26
6:00 PM Nick Marsalek (Birthday Blessings)

Thursday, February 27
8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus

Friday, February 28
8:30 AM +John Foster

Saturday, March 1
8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus

Sunday, March 2
9:00 AM +Stephen Graham
Jeffrey Graham (Birthday Blessings)
Justin Pellino (Baptism Anniversary)
11:00 AM The People of St. Alphonsus
12:30 PM +Ray y Lupita Rios
5:00 PM The People of St. Alphonsus

News and Events

Ash Wednesday Schedule

7:00 AM **Service,** with distribution of ashes (English)

12:00 PM **Service,** with distribution of ashes (English)

6:30 PM **Mass (Bilingual in English and Español)**



Ash Wednesday is March 5!

Please note the Ash Wednesday evening Mass will be Bilingual. On this date, there will not be Adoration and Reconciliation after the Mass compared to our regular 6 PM Wednesday evening Mass.

Children's Liturgy of the Word
Volunteers Needed!

Children's Liturgy of the Word is returning to St. Alphonsus Parish! This is an offering for 4-7 year olds to hear the Word of God proclaimed in a way that they can understand. Join the Children's Liturgy Team and help the children enter into prayer, leading them to an encounter with Our Lord!

We are looking for the following Volunteer Positions:

- **Prayer Leaders** – Provide a Child-Friendly Reflection and Conversation on the Day's Readings, bringing the Scriptures to Life
- **Lectors** – Read Aloud the Day's Readings and the Prayer of the Faithful
- **Music Ministers** – Sing the Responsorial Psalm or Provide Accompaniment on the Piano
- **Assistants** – Help Maintain a Prayerful Atmosphere by Soothing and Caring for the Children

All Volunteers need to be VIRTUS Certified (*required to work with children in the Archdiocese*) and attend one Children's Liturgy of the Word Training Session to be prepared. If you are unable to attend a group training session date, reach out to schedule a private training. Sign-Up to volunteer for one Sunday or for them all! Your time and talents are appreciated and a gift to the children.

Questions? **Contact Emily Ember, Coordinator of Religious Education**, at eember@stalphonsuschicago.church
DATES: (at the 9AM Mass on Sundays)
March 9th
March 30th
May 4th
June 1st

Volunteer Training Session: Thursday, February 27th @ 6:00 PM – Festival Hall



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

Faith Formation





On Saturday, March 15, our parish is hosting a Lenten Morning of Reflection. All current Liturgy volunteers, including Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion, Cantors, Ushers, and Altar Servers are highly encouraged to participate! The morning will start with 8:30 AM Mass and then move into the Festival Hall. Contact our Associate Pastor, Rev. Jesus Raya Custodio, jraya@stalphonsuschicago.church for more information.

Walking With Purpose— Women's Bible Study

Tuesday Mornings at 9:30 AM; Evenings at 6:30 PM

walking with purpose

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

Reclaiming Friendship: God's Plan for Deep Connection explores what it takes to stay close to friends for the long haul, what to look for in a friend, and how to navigate toxic relationships.

Let God reshape how you see and experience intentional relationships, and become a woman who is capable of the lifelong bond of true friendship.

Meetings take place every Tuesday on the 2nd Floor Common Room in the parish rectory. For questions and more info, please contact Marianne at mariannek36@yahoo.com



Virtual Marriage Retreat— February 25 & 26

Paradisus Dei offers life-changing programs for men, women, couples, and families that integrate authentic Church teachings with modern science and the wisdom of the saints. Encounter practical ways to:

* Transform your house into a holy home
* Make your home sacred ground
* Create a place to profoundly encounter God
* Live out joyful service and loving sacrifice
* Create a refuge and respite in the chaos of the world.

Learn more & register at paradisusdei.org/marriage-retreats/

More News & Events

Mama Meetup



St. Alphonsus Parish is pleased to introduce its newest ministry, Mama Meetup! Moms of the parish are invited to join other moms for coffee and fellowship on Saturday, March 8, at 10 AM at Big Shoulders Coffee (1165 W. Diversey Pkwy)!

Babies are more than welcome to join, or just bring yourself! This group is geared towards new and first time moms with kids under 18 months, but any mother looking for community and a safe space to discuss the joys and difficulties of motherhood is welcome. As this is a fledgling group, our first meetup will be concentrated on getting to know each other and discussing how the group can best serve the moms of the parish. We look forward to seeing you!

For questions, email Kathryn Kibler at kkibler@stalphonsuschicago.church.

Baptisms at St. Alphonsus



Baptism is a fundamental sacrament for Christians. It is a sacrament of initiation that unites us to Christ's mystical body, incorporates us into the Church, and marks the beginning of the Christian journey. Without baptism we cannot participate in the full sacramental life of the Church. In the sacraments we concretely and most visibly encounter God's grace—life reunited with life.

If you are interested in having your child baptized at St. Alphonsus, please contact Kathryn Kibler at kkibler@stalphonsuschicago.church
For adult baptisms, contact Brooks Robinson at brobinson@stalphonsuschicago.church

Weddings at St. Alphonsus



The love between two people is a gift from God. The commitment you make to be together for the rest of your lives is sealed before the community and God during the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage. If you are recently engaged and planning to get married (either at St. Alphonsus Church or out of town) please review the Marriage page on our website and reach out to Kathryn at kkibler@stalphonsuschicago.church

Low Gluten Hosts Available



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

At the Athenaeum



No Country for Old Men Screening w/ Q&A— Thursday, February 27 at 7 PM

A rare cinematic experience! Don't miss a special screening of *No Country for Old Men* on the big screen, followed by an exclusive conversation with Roger & James Deakins. This must-see event is just the second in Deakins Week—learn more on their website!

Danú— Monday, March 10 at 7 PM

Get ready for an evening of pure Irish spirit! Danú is bringing their incredible sound to the stage. Grab your tickets now and start celebrating St. Patrick's Day!



Get your tickets for these events and check out more coming to the Athenaeum at athenaeumcenter.org/events/

Stewardship— First Fruits

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

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

FIRST FRUITS
time talent treasure

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

Giving Update

Weekly Budget Amount: $15,192

Offertory for 2/16: $12,408

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

Stewardship Reflection

"But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend without expecting anything back…" - Luke 6:35

Easier said than done, right? But, if we are to imitate Christ, most of us need to practice mercy and compassion more frequently. Start with the little daily annoyances that we experience, the unkind word or hateful glance we receive. Instead of plotting revenge on that person, try saying a quick prayer for that person. Praying for our enemies doesn't change them, it changes us. Mercy and compassion will keep us on the path to holiness.

Annual Catholic Appeal— February 23



This week, we will ask you to consider making your gift to the 2025 Annual Catholic Appeal. The Annual Catholic Appeal offers us an opportunity to join with others and affirm that ***"Together We Bring Hope***." In addition to providing for ministries and services throughout the archdiocese, the Appeal also funds services that are of great help here in our parish. For example, Appeal funds support priest development, low-income parishes and schools and initiatives for peace, justice, and respect for life. As we consider God's many gifts to us, we should also reflect on our gratitude in using and sharing those gifts. Your financial support for the work of our parish, our archdiocese, and the Church throughout the world is one way to express this gratitude. Please give what you can to the 2025 Annual Catholic Appeal. Thank you for your continued generosity!

You can make a contribution at
www.annualcatholicappeal.com

Young Adult Ministry

YAM 3x3 Basketball— Saturday, March 8



3-on-3 Basketball is back! Come join St. Alphonsus' Young Adult Ministry (YAM) for its annual 3-on-3 basketball tournament. 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. Teams are limited to 5 players. If you do not have a team and want to sign up individually without a team, we will place you with other individual sign ups to create a team. Please specify "Individual" in the team category at the registration link.

Sign up here: www.givecentral.org/location/39/33436

As part of the event, we will provide snacks and drinks. All are welcome to come and watch the event for free if not part of a team. For those watching the event who are not part of a team but would still like to partake in the food and drink we ask that you make a $5 donation.

Date: Saturday March 8th; Location: St. Alphonsus Gymnasium
Time: Starts at 10:00 AM ; Cost: $15 per person; each player must sign-up individually.

Safe Families for Children

Volunteer With Safe Families for Children!

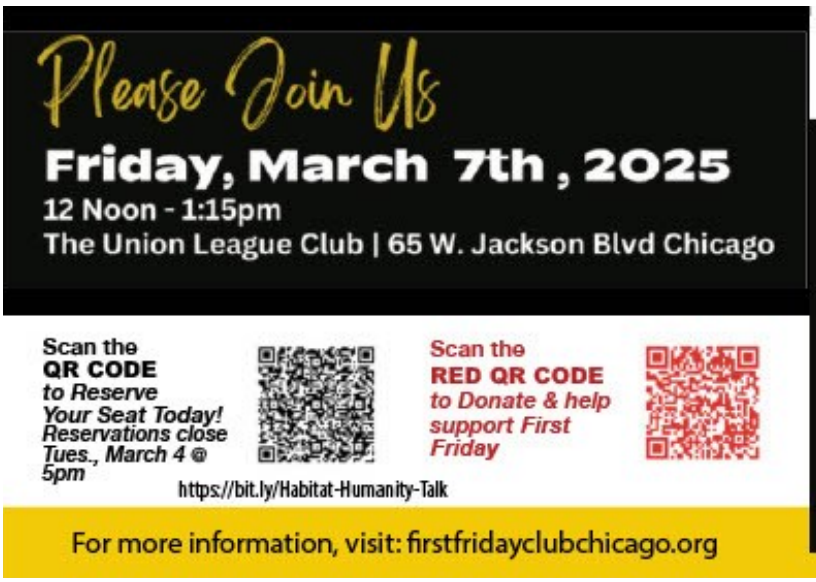


When a single parent experiences a crisis (hospitalization, loss of housing, unemployment, etc.) and has no support system to lean on for childcare, they can call Safe Families for Children.

Safe Families works by connecting families in crisis with compassionate, background-checked families to care for their children until the parent(s) are back on their feet.

Apply to be a "Host Family" or "Family Friend" today! https://sfcms.net/apply/

Learn more at safe-families.org or contact us at safefamiliesstals@gmail.com





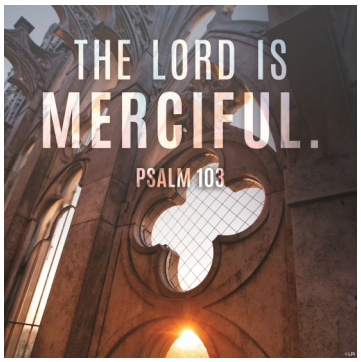
"But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." Luke 6:35–36

Kindness Toward All

It is certainly difficult to be "kind to the ungrateful and the wicked." But doing so is exactly what our Lord commanded us to do. And His command is not a command in the sense of being a burden. On the contrary, it's a command that frees us from the ingratitude and wickedness we encounter.

Oftentimes, when we encounter ingratitude from another, or any other form of wickedness, we tend to react in kind. Our fallen human nature lures us into cruelty when faced with cruelty. We criticize, condemn, attack and get angry. But Jesus is very clear that this is not how the "Most High" acts toward the wicked. And it is not how He acts toward us. In the end, the wicked who fail to repent will endure the consequences of their rejection of God's mercy. But until that final judgment, hope of conversion must always be present. And for that reason, we must never give up on another, no matter how difficult. Kindness shown to everyone, in every circumstance, goes to the heart of the mission we have received as children of God.

Think about the person in your life who seems unworthy of your kindness and generosity. Why are they undeserving? Are they truly undeserving? The truth, according to our Lord's teaching, is that these are not questions we should even ask ourselves. Instead, we must fully commit ourselves to loving everyone who appears to be our enemy, and do good to them and to everyone whom we encounter. Though this is difficult, it won't be if we understand the goodness that God has shown to us.



God has shone us perfect goodness, not because He expected anything back, but simply because He has willed to love us. If we want to be children of God the Most High, then we must reciprocate the love given to us. That's the nature of God's love. It cannot be contained. It cannot be selfishly received without also allowing it to pour forth from our lives. When we understand this, we will understand the reason Jesus instructed us to be "kind to the ungrateful and the wicked." It is simply because this is how God has treated us.

Reflect, today, upon the unlimited love God has for you. It is beyond what you could ever comprehend. Reflect, also, upon the great benefit there is in opening yourself to God's perfect love, kindness, generosity and mercy. The benefit is that you are able to be filled with that which you receive. And as you receive this love of God, it necessarily overflows into the lives of everyone you encounter, the good and the wicked. Everyone must always be offered this love. Do not hesitate, for God does not hesitate with you.

Most merciful Lord, You bestow Your abundant goodness upon all people, the good and bad alike. You never cease offering Your love and mercy. May I always be counted among those who fully open themselves to Your grace, and may I always offer this same depth of love to all. Jesus, I trust in You.

Helpful Household Hints by Harvey Levin

Warped Doors

If your interior wooden doors do not align now and they are not latching or are not straight it is probably because it is winter. In the winter your house has less humidity and wooden doors tend to dry out. First of all, think of which side of the door has less humidity. On bathroom doors, the side toward the shower will be more moist. Thus, the moist side will expand and the dry side will contract. The door will be slightly curved with the concave side to the dry room. Solve this by merely wiping the dry side with a wet cloth or sponge and do not dry it. This will increase the moistness in the wood and that side will expand. The door should straighten out.

Volunteer w/ Mission of Our Lady of the Angels!



Mission of Our Lady of the Angels, 3808 W. Iowa St. (via the Franciscans of the Eucharist) provides hope to the poor on the west side of Chicago via food pantries supporting 3000 families a month, after-school programs, seniors programs, community meals, and much more! Sister Stephanie Baliga is looking for talented individuals who are willing to come help on a certain day/time of the week each week (or every other week) + commit to a routine task. Example: Clean 2nd floor of school, do weeding in the convent front yard, clean the school bathrooms etc.
If you are interested, let her know your availability/ interest + she can get you set up! E-mail Sr. Stephanie at olamission@gmail.com

Little Sisters of the Poor Trivia Night

Come know-it-all with the Little Sisters of the Poor at their annual trivia event, Travinia, on **Saturday, March 8th, 4:45 PM—8 PM**, at St. Mary's Home, 2325 N. Lakewood Ave. Bring your picnic and gather your team of friends for an indoor evening of trivia fun! Tickets are $30 and will be available to purchase **online or over the phone only**!

www.littlesistersofthepoorchicago.org for tickets or call (773) 935-9600. Trivia questions begin promptly at 5:30 p.m., so don't be late! Sponsorship opportunities with benefits are available!

Mid-Life Singles Retreat

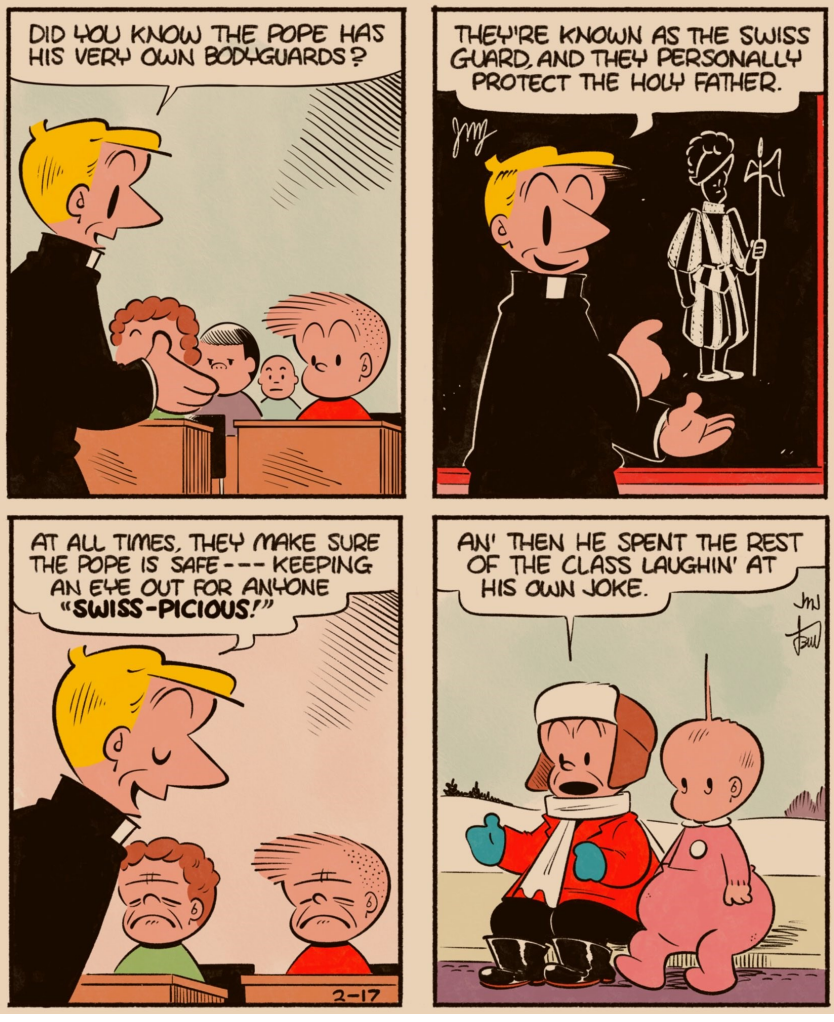
REFLECT is a Catholic Retreat for single adults in their mid-30s to 50s. This is a wonderful opportunity to "get back out there" and meet other like-minded singles and also reflect on where you are in life, where you want to be, and how you will get there.

Are you looking for a renewed sense of purpose & belonging? Register today for a life-changing REFLECT weekend retreat at the Carmelite Renewal Center, in Darien, IL (in the south-western suburbs), on April 25-27, 2025. Take a chance and get involved... you won't regret it! Visit www.ReflectRetreat.com, e-mail reflect.chicagoland@gmail.com, or call (630) 222-8303 for details

"Damien" One-Man Play

As part of Holy Name Cathedral's 175th anniversary celebrations, Chicago sports icon Wayne Messmer will transform into the title role of *"Damien"* in a one-man play by Aldyth Morris about Saint Damien of Molokai on Sunday, March 2 at 7:30 PM. This one-man play revisits the life of Saint Damien, champion of marginalized, abandoned men, women and children as well as the patron saint of people suffering from leprosy. Complimentary general seating tickets are a gift from Rector, Fr. Greg Sakowicz. Preferred reserved seating tickets are available for $15, including a pre-play light dinner, refreshments, and private entry to the Cathedral. Reservations are required for both types of tickets. Go to tinyurl.com/DamienPlay

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UNIVERSITY OF ST. MARY OF THE LAKE

SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2025 | 10:00 AM - 2:45 PM

WHAT *REALLY* HAPPENS WHEN...?

NEWMAN FORUM WINTER CONFERENCE FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

UNIVERSITY OF SAINT MARY of THE LAKE

LUMEN CHRISTI INSTITUTE 1997

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO VOCATION OFFICE



FIND OUT MORE & REGISTER

www.newmanforum.org

Questions? Email:
newmanforum@lumenchristi.org

What really happens when Chat-GPT does your homework? When you try to live forever? When a child is born with disabilities? When statues weep and paintings bleed? When the universe seems completely random?

On March 1, 2025, the Newman Forum's "What Really Happens When..." conference will gather high school students at the University of St. Mary of the Lake to discover the fascinating realities of everyday and misunderstood scientific, historical, literary, and religious topics. Students will meet with presenters and discuss the wonders of science, the lessons of history, the beauty of literature, and the mysteries of faith.

The conference will have three sessions of "lightning-round" talks, where students can choose a talk based on their own interests. Then, after lunch, we will hold "Office Hours," where students can bring their own questions to the presenters in an informal environment. We will close with Eucharistic Adoration.

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
Margaret Piery, Parish Secretary/Sacristan

School Staff

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