Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

MAY 7, 2023: FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



"Whoever has seen me has seen the Father...
I am in the Father and the Father is in me...
The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own.
The Father who dwells in me is doing His works."

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—7:30 PM
Saturday	11:00—12:00 PM

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

Worship

This Week's Readings

Sunday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 (22)/1 Pt 2:4-9/Jn 14:1-12
Monday: Acts 14:5-18/Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16/Jn 14:21-26
Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21/Jn 14:27-31a
Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/Jn 15:1-8
Thursday: Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10/Jn 15:9-11
Friday: Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12/Jn 15:12-17
Saturday: Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18-21
Next Sunday: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17/Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20 (1)/1 Pt 3:15-18/Jn 14:15-21

Welcome Our Recently Baptized

Josephine Mae Bryll



Please Pray for the Sick

Dorothy Bonds
Jamie Wallett
Sandra Wilson
Monica Alexis Rios
Margaret Nichols
Maria Eisler
Tessa Sergent
Diane Mareci
Fidel Mercado Chavez
Emilia Hurtado
Bernard Zapp
David Birks
Celeste Soult
Carol Reckwerdt
Magdalena Gonzalez
Michael Aldape
William Ahearn
Janet Horvat
Frank G. Bauer
Al Corleone
Mary Perisin
Judy Fredrickson
Tracy Duda
Jacob Duda
Dorothy O'Brien
Ryan Meadow
Danny Browder
Carol Kania
Juanita Ramirez

Giving Update

Weekly Budget Amount: $15,218

Offertory for 4/30: $15,509

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

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.

Wednesday Evening Men's Vespers

Men of the parish are invited to attend our Communio prayer group each Wednesday at 8:15-9 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, share reflections on the upcoming Sunday gospel reading, followed by a social with refreshments, fellowship, and conversation. All men of the parish are invited. Questions or more info, contact James Morrow, jemseoul@hotmail.com

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, May 7
9:00 AM +Richard Meindl
11:00 AM +Natividad Velasco
12:30 PM +Manuel and Maria Naula
5:00 PM +Colette Marie Morris

Monday, May 8
8:30 AM +Colette Marie Morris & Family

Tuesday, May 9
8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus

Wednesday, May 10
6:00 PM +Maria Swachta

Thursday, May 11
8:30 AM +Colette Marie Morris & Family

Friday, May 12
8:30 AM +Jean Smith

Sunday, May 14
9:00 AM +Lois Riffner
11:00 AM +Ted Huxhold
12:30 PM +Julissa Castañeda and Magda Ramirez
5:00 PM +Maria Swachta

First Communions 2023

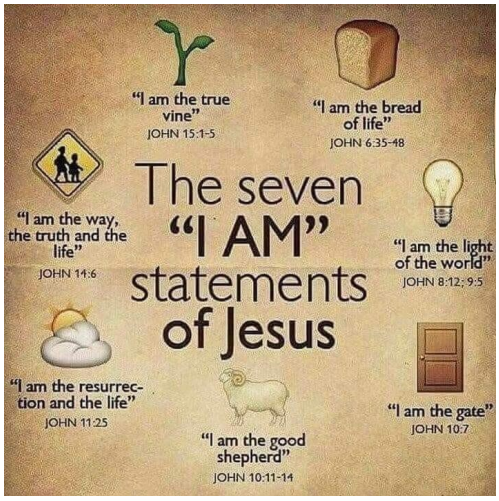


Congratulations and God's blessings on the following children from the parish who will receive the Eucharist for the first time this weekend of May 6-7! They have prepared with their families, in classes, and by coming to celebrate mass on Sundays.

Congratulations also to their families, and thanks to our parish Religious Education coordinator Erica Cook, and the catechists and teachers who helped to prepare them.

David Allen	Miabella Estrella	Henry Merok	John Salas
Hunter Benzon	Sebastian Estrella	Ryan Metz	Ian Shiel
Estelle Bohn	Georgia Finck	Samantha Michels	Sienna Siegel
Roman Bozzelli	Bridget Gunville	Finnegan Miller	Benjamin Sinnard
Adelaide Bryll	Taylor Harris	Mila Moreno	Merrill Stine
Olivia Calcaro	John Herrity	Michael Morris	Polly Stringer
Quinn Carosello	Sophia Higgins	Lily Moyers	Autumn Taylor
Mason Cleland	Jane Kennedy	Grant Nemec	Henry Thenot-Siegel
Adeline Clifford	Alexander Kohli	Zachary Nickas	Serena Tutrone
Tessa Coates	Andrew Lagoni	Declan Nunnink	Ashley Tynan
Frances Connolly	Mason Lee	Lillian O'Connor	Amelia Velasco
Louisa Dababneh	Benjamin Link	Tierney Patterson	Nathan Velazco
Mona Diesfeld	Lillian Lynch	Jose Penarrubia	Zara Wilcox
Harrison Dubiel	Phoebe Macey	Stella Pham	Connor Wilkins
Camden Erfurt	Nora McCorkle	Landon Rhea	Samuel Yost

Want to Get More Involved at St. Alphonsus?
Time and Talent Survey



To carry out our mission that God has graciously invited us to participate in, we must be stewards of the temporal goods. By giving up our time, talent, and treasure, we are able to respond to the call of our why in our "whats" and "hows." This means, we baptize, we see others face-to-face, we draw in, we invite in, we create spaces of deep hospitality that we are able to accompany others as they seek to discover how God has been already present to them. In other words, as Henri J.M. Nouwen reminds us in, *A Spirituality of Fundraising*, stewardship, fundraising, and generosity are all concrete ways we help the Kingdom of God come about.

We invite you to join us in responding to the vocational call of our shared baptism. Please go to tinyurl.com/stalphonsusttt and consider the ways in which you may be generous with your time, talent, and treasure for the sake of the Kingdom of God and the mission with St. Alphonsus.

Faith Formation

Spring Your Kids Into Totus Tuus Summer Camp!

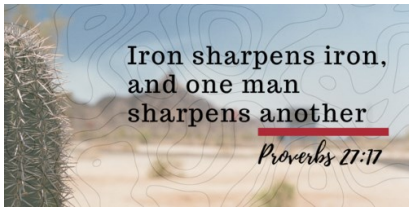


For all families looking forward to summer, we've got the perfect thing for your children to do: the Archdiocese is bringing the Totus Tuus summer camp back to St. Alphonsus, July 23-28. It's like a week-long vacation Bible school, only way more fun and active. Each session is limited to only 50 participants. All safety protocols will be followed to ensure the health & safety of all participants and volunteers. For more information, please visit vocations.archchicago.org/events/totus-tuus/what-is-totus-tuus

The price is only $75 per child for an entire week!
Register on our parish GiveCentral page at www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/32872

Any parent or parishioner interested in volunteering with Totus Tuus should contact Erica Cook, ecook@stalphonsuschicago.church

St. Alphonsus Men's Group
Thursday Evenings



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

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

We meet every Thursday night at 7 PM in the rectory. Food and drinks provided. All men are welcome, with most men being in their 20s and 30s. Access can be gained at the west facing rectory door in the parking lot. For questions or more information, contact Peter Tigue, peter.tigue@gmail.com

Chicago's Got Sisters



Chicago's Got Sisters will be held in-person on Friday, May 19 beginning at 5 PM. through Saturday, May 20 at 7 p.m. This is a discernment opportunity for single Catholic women ages 18-40 interested in exploring religious life. Participants have the chance to visit four convents and spend time with sisters from several communities, hear their stories and ask questions. There will be prayer, personal reflection, service, shared meals and conversation. Overnight accommodations are provided. To register, visit bit.ly/3ZyZGdd. Questions? Contact Sr. Jess Lambert jlambert@archchicago.org

Stewardship—First Fruits

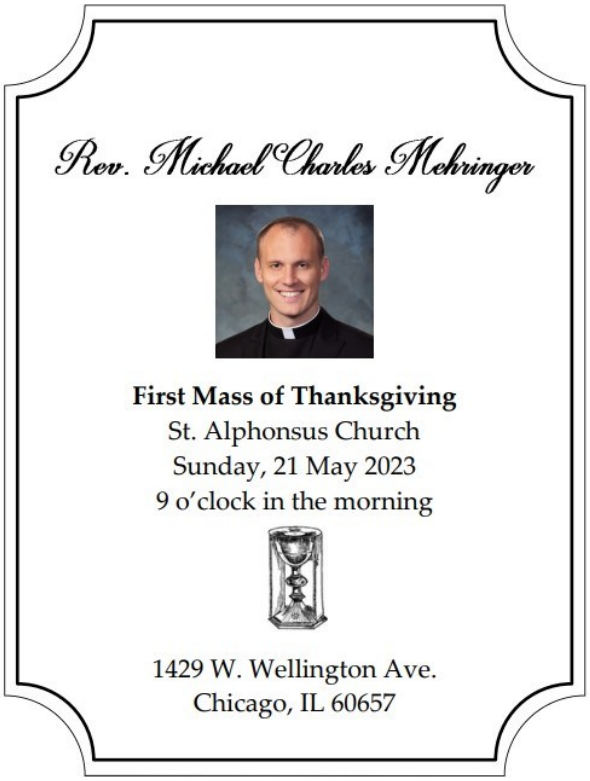
FIRST FRUITS
time talent treasure

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*

News and Events



Father Mehringer's First Mass of Thanksgiving May 21 at 9 AM

Prayer for the Newly Ordained

Lord Jesus, you have chosen priests from among us and sent them out to proclaim your word and act in your name. For so great a gift to your Church, we give you praise and thanksgiving.

We ask you to fill them with the fire of your love, that their ministry may reveal your presence in the Church. Since they are earthen vessels, we pray that your power shines out through their weakness. In their afflictions let them never be crushed, in their doubts never despair, in temptation never be destroyed, and in persecution never abandoned. Inspire them through prayer to live each day the mystery of your dying and rising.

Through the gifts of the Holy Spirit, put your word on their lips and your love in their hearts, to bring good news to the poor and healing to the brokenhearted.

And may the gift of Mary, your Mother, once given to your disciples, be your gift to every priest. Grant that she who formed you in her human image, may form them in your divine image, by the power of your Spirit, to the glory of God the Father, Amen.

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.church
For adult baptisms contact Brooks Robinson at brobinson@stalphonsuschicago.church

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.church

Friends Through Faith

Our Friends Through Faith Adult Social Group will be taking the month of May off due to Memorial Day weekend. We are creating small groups, charity/service opportunities, outings and friendships out of this community and would love more parishioners joining us. If you'd like more information, please email Amy amykeefner@gmail.com

South Lakeview Neighbors

May 9th Meeting, Tuesday, May 9, 2023
At the Athenaeum Theater, 2936 N. Southport Ave.
Doors open at 6:30PM, Meeting begins at 7:00 PM
Read more about the meeting agenda and download the latest monthly newsletter at slneighbors.org

Recovery Programs at St. Alphonsus

If you or loved ones you know have a problem with alcohol/substance abuse, please seek help! Our parish hosts two AA programs. Daily Reflections meet on Monday mornings at 8:30 AM in the rectory Common Room. Contact Lauren Merrill Sammis, lauren.merrill@live.com for more information. There is also a Young People's Big Book AA group that meet Sunday evenings at 7 PM in the Festival Hall. You can contact one of the coordinators, Samuel, samuelaaronmosley@gmail.com for more info.

Safe Families for Children

Safe Families 5K— June 24



Looking for a family-friendly event in a gorgeous forest preserve that also benefits one of our St. Alphonsus ministries? Then join our St. Al's 5k team this June to benefit Safe Families for Children Greater Chicago!!! Whether you run, walk, or stroll, you are guaranteed an amazing day complete with music, food, bounce house, face painting, medals for the 5K participants, & more!

Register here (& join team "St. Alphonsus Church"): bit.ly/sffc5k
5k run / 1 mile walk Saturday, June 24th 2023, 8:30AM-12:00PM
Busse Woods, Rolling Meadows, IL (~30min drive from St. Alphonsus)
Virtual Race also available
Questions about Safe Families? Please reach out to safefamiliesstals@gmail.com

Gospel Reflection

The Answer

"Jesus said to him, I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." — John 14:6

I consider myself to be something of a connoisseur of kitschy Catholic magnets.

Having had the good fortune, in my lifetime, to spend a considerable amount of time in the kitchens of the elderly faithful, I've seen it all. The silhouette of a Rosary with the caption "Call your mother — she's waiting to hear from you." A nativity tableau that reads "Every family needs a stable foundation." The classic "WWJD" — a real ecumenical gem, it's a favorite across all denominations.

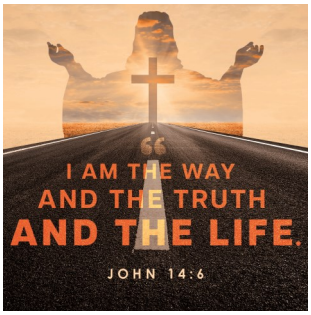
One that always irked me, though, was this: "It doesn't matter what the question is. The answer is Jesus." This particular magnet adorned my grandmother's refrigerator for years, and my sarcastic adolescent brain just couldn't handle it.

That's just silly, I thought. Jesus is not the answer to every question. Jesus is not, for instance, the answer to the question, 'What should I have for lunch?' Or the question, 'Who is your favorite Beatle?' Or the question, 'Why won't my parents buy me a car?'

But darn it all if that magnet doesn't pop into my head as I read the fourteenth chapter of John.

Every question has a backstory, even the little ones. Every silly, ordinary question has a larger question floating beneath the surface. What should I have for lunch? Because I am hungry. My body is tired. It needs food. It is a passing thing, a dying thing, and one day it will dry up and crumble away with the dust. Is there anything that could sustain it forever?

Who is your favorite Beatle? Because we all have opinions about this. Mine is Paul, obviously. Such a great songwriter, and such a tireless performer, and so faithful to his fans. Gosh, I love the Beatles. Their music is great. I can't explain why. It makes me feel ... I don't know. Is there anything else that makes me feel the way that music does — happy in a way I can't explain, for reasons I don't understand?



Why won't my parents buy me a car? Because I really want a car. I look like an idiot being dropped off at school by my dad every day like I'm 12 years old. Gosh, I care so much what other people think of me. I want them to like me. I want them to love me. Is there someone who could love me even though I look like an idiot all the time?

Jesus. Jesus. Jesus. The answer is always Jesus. Ahh, Grandma — touché.

My grandparents are dead, their belongings long ago dispersed to various relatives. I have no idea what's become of that magnet — probably languishing in a far-flung Goodwill with a 49-cent sticker affixed to its back. Perhaps one of my aunts salvaged it, but I doubt it — it's not the magnet that was important. It's not the magnet that we carried with us from the house when it was being packed up and sold. What we carried with us was the answer to all the questions.

— Collen Jurkiewicz Dorman

PRAYER
Gracious and holy Father,
grant us the intellect to understand You,
reason to discern You, diligence to seek You,
wisdom to find You, a spirit to know You,
a heart to meditate upon You.
May our ears hear You, may our eyes behold You,
and may our tongues proclaim You.
— Prayer of St. Benedict

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 Event— Cradles to Crayons



Come join St. Alphonsus and St. Mary of the Lake's young adult ministries at Cradle to Crayons on **Saturday May 13th**!

Cradles to Crayons provides children from birth through age 12, living in homeless or low-income situations, with the essential items they need to thrive – at home, at school and at play. They supply these items free of charge by engaging and connecting communities. As volunteers, we will process and package donations.

We will carpool from St. Alphonsus around 12 PM. There is a sign-up on the St. Alphonsus YAM Facebook page, www.facebook.com/AlphonsusYoungAdult

Young Catholic Professionals— May Networking Happy Hour

YOUNG CATHOLIC PROFESSIONALS
Working in Witness for Christ™

On Tuesday May 9 from 6-9 PM, all young professionals in their 20s and 30s are welcome to join YCP Chicago for an evening of socializing and networking at Joy District! Meet and mingle with other young professionals from across the Chicagoland area and learn how YCP Chicago can empower both your professional and faith life. Visit bit.ly/ycpnhhMay2023

ANNUAL VOCATIONS APPEAL

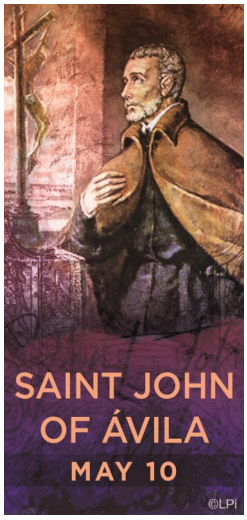
Mass and Adoration with Cardinal Blase Cupich
Friday, May 12, 5:30–7 p.m.
Holy Name Cathedral

All are invited to pray for vocations and all those who will be ordained.

If you have questions regarding your vocation, please contact Fr. Tim Monahan at 847.531.0148 or **tmonahan@archchicago.org**.

ER

Know Your Saints



St. John of Ávila — Feast Day May 10

Saint John of Ávila, Priest and Doctor, 1499–1569
Patron Saint of Andalusia Spain and Spanish clergy

His humble epitaph reads "I was a sower"

Some of the most passionate and daring missionaries stayed close to home. They never sailed the high seas or crossed a snow-capped mountain. Today's saint was one of them. He was an only child, and after his parents died, Fr. John sold his family property, travelled to Seville, cut all ties, and prepared to sail to New Spain (Mexico), one more wave in that surging missionary tide which crashed on Mexico's shores throughout the 1500s. But it was not to be. Saint John of Ávila never walked up the ship's plank. He never crossed the ocean. While waiting for his ship in Seville, his skills as a preacher and catechist, and his obvious holiness, were noticed by the local bishop, who convinced him to preach, teach, and evangelize in Andalusia, in Spain's rugged south.

Saint John then spent himself crisscrossing a region that had only recently been conquered by the Spanish Crown and so was still populated by Spanish Muslims and Jews whose conversions to Catholicism were often more matters of expedience than religious conviction. In this newly opened mission field, our saint's broad, humanistic education perfectly matched the pastoral need. Father John harmonized orthodox theology, renaissance humanism, rigorous morality, and an insightful spirituality into a powerful synthesis which, when conveyed through his compelling preaching, moved his congregations to their very cores. As John migrated through the great cities of southern Spain—Seville, Córdoba, Granada—large numbers of the faithful followed him everywhere, eager to absorb every word that flowed from his mouth or pen.

People of every class, educational level, and depth of religious commitment found St. John fascinating. In his own lifetime, he came to be known as "Master Ávila" for his dominance of the sacred sciences and his vigorous pastoral efforts. He converted, or led to deeper conversion, Saint John of God, founder of the Hospitaller Order, and Saint Francis Borgia, a future Master General of the Jesuits. He was a friend of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits, and advised Saint Teresa of Ávila, foundress of the Discalced Carmelites. Despite these, and many other, personal connections to famous religious orders and their founders, St. John always remained a diocesan priest, not a religious order priest, something unusual for a priest of his era with such wide influence.

Saint John's erudition and solid virtues were further buttressed by his life of abject poverty and physical suffering. He was also part of that loud, pan-European cry for church reform that preceded the Council of Trent by decades. Saint John established several seminaries and colleges, provided spiritual direction to multitudes of laity, religious and seminarians, wrote a long spiritual treatise called Audi filia ("Listen daughter") and was invited by a bishop to attend the Council of Trent as his theological adviser, though illness prevented Saint John from making the journey.

John was declared Venerable in 1759, Blessed in 1893, and Saint in 1970. Proving that saints are always contemporary, he was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Benedict XVI in 2012 after a petition from the Spanish episcopacy for such an honor was duly studied and approved by the Vatican. The Papal Bull declaring him a Doctor of the Church states: "The teaching of John of Ávila is outstanding for its quality and precision, and its breadth and depth, which were the fruit of methodical study and contemplation together with a profound experience of supernatural realities."

In his last few years, Saint John suffered acute physical pain and was largely confined to his humble home. Confinement allowed him to finally perfect his theological and spiritual writings and to correspond with those seeking his wise counsel. The esteemed Master Ávila died clutching a crucifix, surrounded by many disciples, on May 10, 1569.

Saint John of Ávila, your refined education, broad mind, and ardent love of God and Mary showed itself in all you did and said. May our lives likewise reflect our deepest Christian beliefs, inspiring our friends and families to live saintly perfection, intimacy and community of family life and work."

The Corporal Works of Mercy

The Corporal Works of Mercy are charitable actions we can perform that extend God's compassion and mercy to those in need; they are acts of kindness toward our neighbor for their spiritual and physical wellness.

The Corporal Works of Mercy are the kind acts by which we help our neighbors with their material and physical needs. First and foremost, they recognize the sacredness of human life. By fulfilling these works of mercy we are reminded that we are our brother's keeper. When we see a need in our neighbor, we are to strive to fill it. Corporal works of mercy are those that relieve corporal or material needs of our neighbor. They are based on the teachings of Jesus and give us an example of how we should treat one another.

To Feed The Hungry

We must never turn away anyone who is hungry. Those in authority should prevent unemployment. Giving work is the best means for removing the necessity of feeding the unemployed. Donating money to an Outreach Ministry or volunteering at a local soup kitchen are wonderful ways to feed the hungry.

Holy Example: In her short life, *St. Elizabeth of Hungary* (1207-1231) manifested such great love for the poor and suffering that she has become the patroness of Catholic charities and of the Secular Franciscan Order. The daughter of the King of Hungary, Elizabeth chose a life of penance and simplicity. Under the spiritual direction of a Franciscan friar, she led a life of prayer, sacrifice and service to the poor and sick. Daily she would feed the hungry by taking bread to hundreds of the poorest in the land who came to her gate.

To Give Drink to the Thirsty

Our Lord says that a cup of water given in His name shall not go unrewarded (Mark 9:41). Those who construct reservoirs, purify public drinking water, or who actively work to bring safe and accessible drinking water to developing countries are giving drink to the thirsty. Donating juice boxes or bottled water to a local food pantry are other ways to give drink to the thirsty.

Holy Example: As king, *St. Louis of France* (1226-1270) bound himself by oath to behave as God's anointed, as the father of his people and feudal lord of the King of Peace. Louis interpreted his kingly duties in the light of faith. Every day, he gave drink to the thirsty by welcoming 13 special guests from among the poor to eat with him. A large number of poor were served meals near his palace, and he often served them himself.

To Clothe the Naked

Many make a practice of giving clothes to the poor; donating to coat and blanket drives also belong to this kind of alms. Every human being needs clothing for warmth, protection, modesty, and dignity. Donating money to Catholic Charities or Catholic Relief Services helps to provide clothing for the poor.

Holy Example: According to a famous legend, *St. Martin of Tours* (316-397) met a poor man on a bitterly cold day. The man sat almost naked trembling in the cold and begging from passerby at the city gate. Martin drew his sword, cut his cloak into two pieces, gave one to the beggar and wrapped himself in the other half. That night in his sleep, Martin saw Christ dressed in the half of the garment he had given away, and heart him say, "Martin, still a catechumen, has covered me with his garment."

Shelter the Homeless

Those who do this work of mercy are like the Good Samaritan; take care of the needs of the homeless and they welcome the stranger. We can "shelter the homeless" by saying hello to a new neighbor, classmate, or co-worker, and by welcoming the immigrant and praying for the refugees in the world.

Holy Example: *St. Frances of Rome* (1384-1440) longed for a lifestyle of prayer and service. In an effort to help alleviate some of the suffering of the poor, Frances sold all her possessions and used her money to buy whatever the sick might possibly need. Welcoming the stranger, this saint even opened a section of her house as a hospital for the poor. Frances became convinced that this way of life was so necessary for the world; she founded a society of women who simply offered themselves to God and to the service of the poor.

To Visit the Sick

When we visit the sick, in order to give them temporal or spiritual relief, we do an act of mercy. To build, support, or aid a hospital is a most meritorious act of charity. Several religious orders have been founded for the express purpose of taking care of the sick, such as the orders founded by Saint John of God and Saint Vincent de Paul.

Holy Example: *St. John of God* (1495-1550), moved with repentance for his past, became actively involved in tending to the needs of others rather than in enduring his personal hardships. John began to work among the poor. He established a house where he tended to the needs of the sick poor. Excited by the saint's great work and inspired by his devotion, many people began to assist him w/ money and provisions. Behind John's outward acts of total concern & love for Christ's poor was a deep interior prayer life that reflected his spirit of humility.

To Visit the Imprisoned

Those who visit the prisoners in jails and give them instruction and material help are doing a work of mercy. Prayer is another way to "visit" the imprisoned; we can pray for all those who are involved in prison ministry, pray for the victims of crime, and pray for the persecuted church.

Holy Example: *St. Peter Claver* (1581-1654) declared himself "the slave of the Africans". When thousands of slaves poured into the port of Cartegena each year after crossing the Atlantic from West Africa under foul conditions in slave ships, Peter Claver entered into the infested holds to minister to the ill-treated passengers suffering in the "prison" of slavery. Claver plunged in among them with medicines and food. With the help of interpreters, he gave basic instructions and assured his brothers and sisters of their human dignity and God's saving love. During the 40 years of his ministry, Claver instructed and baptized an estimated 300,000 slaves.

To Bury the Dead

It is an act of love to show respect for the bodies of the dead, since during life they were temples of the Holy Spirit. To attend funerals or aid bereaved families are compassionate ways of practicing this work of mercy. Send a card to someone who recently lost a loved one. Visit the grave of a loved one who has passed away and pray for the repose of their soul.

Holy Example: *St. Joseph of Arimathea* (1st Century) was a respected, wealthy civic leader who had become a disciple of Jesus. Following the death of Jesus, Joseph obtained Jesus' body from Pilate, wrapped it in fine linen, and buried it. For the way in which he showed deep respect for the lifeless body of Christ, Joseph is considered the patron saint of funeral directors and pallbearers. Joseph showed incredible courage in asking Pilate for Jesus' body and providing a proper burial for Him.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that the corporal works of mercy first and foremost recognize the sacredness of human life. By fulfilling these works of mercy we are reminded that we are our brother's keeper. It is our duty and obligation to love our neighbor through acts of charity and kindness. When we see a need in our neighbor, we are to strive to fill it.

Helpful Household Hints by Harvey Levin

Helmets

There are many activities in which people wear helmets. Bicycling, skiing, horseback riding, mountain climbing, motorcycling etc. But is your helmet really protecting your head? Helmets can be damaged in a number of ways. Of course, it can be damaged in a hard fall, but some minor impacts can also damage the helmet. If a helmet is dropped from waist high onto cement, it will develop microscopic cracks which destroys its ability to protect the wearer. But, you say, "I am not going to spend the money to replace a helmet just because it was dropped." A new helmet costs much less than brain surgery to repair a subdural hematoma.

Theology of the Body

Echo Retreat 2023

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

ECHO

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY CAMP

ECHO is a dynamic and immersive Catholic retreat experience of St. John Paul II's landmark teaching called the Theology of the Body. This year, ECHO Chicago is geared towards young adults. ECHO is not just an intellectual exercise, but a journey into the heart where we discover the "distant echo" of God's plan for life and love from the very beginning.

Focused on identity, prayer, vocation, relationships and the Catholic Church's teachings on human sexuality, participants are invited into a new level of freedom to be the gift that God has called them to be. ECHO Chicago will be an overnight retreat that begins on **Friday evening, June 23 and concludes on Sunday evening, June 25. St. Alphonsus pastor Rev. Steven Bauer will be chaplain of the ECHO retreat.**

WHEN: June 23-25, 2023
Where: Casa Iskali, Our Lady of Guadalupe Campus, 9430 W. Golf Rd. Des Plaines
For more info and to register, visit
https://pvm.archchicago.org/human-dignity-solidarity/respect-life-chastity-education/events

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 |
www.stalphonsuschicago.org
parish@stalphonsuschicago.church

Parish Office Hours:

9:00 AM— 5:00 PM Mon, Wed, Fri
9:00 AM— 7:30 PM Tue, Thurs

School Office

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

School Office Hours:

8:00 AM– 3:00 PM

Staff

Parish Staff

Rev. Steven Bauer, Pastor
Rev. 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
Angela Kladis, Assistant Principal
Mary Bodlak, Director of Admissions
Kim Wallett, Secretary
Connie Del Toral, Administrative Assistant