Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

DECEMBER 18, 2022: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



LITURGY SCHEDULE

Mass Schedule

Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri 8:30 AM
Wed 6:00 PM
Sun 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 12:30 PM (Spanish) and 5:00 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 AM—12:00 PM
**Or call one of the priests for an appointment*

Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help

Wednesday 5:50 PM

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."
-- Mt 1:23

Bulletin artwork by AACA student Hayden R., 1st Grade

Worship

This Week's Readings

Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24
Monday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
Tuesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45
Thursday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56
Friday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66
Saturday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79
Next Sunday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is 52:7-10/
Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3])/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Please Pray for the Sick

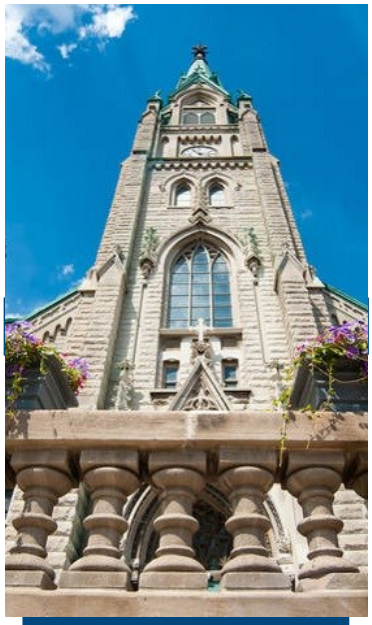
Dorothy Bonds
Jamie Wallett
Sandra Wilson
Monica Alexis Rios
Margaret Nichols
Maria Eisler
Tessa Sergent
Carolina Goldie
Diane Mareci
William Ahearn
Emilia Hurtado
Bernard Zapp
Rachel Schopp
Mike Madigan
David Birks
Celeste Soult
Carol Reckwerdt
Magdalena Gonzalez
Michael Aldape
Jane Christensen
Richard Meindl
Fidel Mercado Chavez
Janet Horvat
Frank G. Bauer
Al Corleone
Mary Perisin
Rita Longnecker
Cheryl Nester-Detweiler
Marla Alicea
Leon Wink
Judy Fredrickson

Giving Update

Weekly Budget Amount: $15,218

Offertory for 12/11: $16,390

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



Quinceañera

Zalia Perez

Welcome Our Recently Baptized

Jane Elizabeth Trainor

At Rest in the Peace of Christ

Enrique Rico

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
All men in the parish are invited to pray with us every Wednesday evening from 8:00-9 PM in the sanctuary.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 18
9:00 AM Justin Pellino
11:00 AM +Dolores Huffman
12:30 PM +Manuel and Maria Naula
5:00 PM +Ed Marsalek Sr.

Monday, December 19
8:30 AM +Rosemary Acosta

Tuesday, December 20
8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus

Wednesday, December 21
6:00 PM The People of St. Alphonsus

Thursday, December 22
8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus

Friday, December 23
8:30 AM +Jose Romeo Gonzalez

Saturday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)
4:00 PM The People of St. Alphonsus
6:00 PM +Edward Marsalek Sr.
11:00 PM The People of St. Alphonsus

Sunday, December 25 (Christmas Day)
9:00 AM The People of St. Alphonsus
11:00 AM +Jose Espina Jr.
12:30 PM +Florentino Ornelas and Delfina Gutierrez

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24

4:00 PM, **6:00 PM**, and **11:00 PM**

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25

The Nativity of the Lord

9:00 AM, **11:00 AM**, **12:30 PM (Spanish)**

New Year's Eve and New Year's Day

Masses to celebrate the **Feast of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

Saturday, December 31— No Vigil Mass

Sunday, January 1— Normal Mass Schedule

If you are traveling to be with family or friends over Christmas, join us on January 8, the Feast of the Epiphany. The Midnight Mass program will be repeated at the 9 and 11 AM Masses.



News and Events

Thank You Fr. Gorman!

Our recent parish E-Newsletter publicized a statement from our Associate Pastor, Fr. Gorman, discussing his new position (starting July 2023) as Archdiocesan Chicago Seminarians & Spirituality Year Director. We all have our calling from the Lord and should go joyfully into our next challenge! There will be a celebratory party in June, 2023 for Father Gorman, date TBD.

Prayer for Vocations

God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as priests, deacons, and consecrated persons. Send your Holy Spirit to help others to respond generously and courageously to your call. May our community of faith support vocations of sacrificial love in our youth and young adults. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
Amen.

Eucharistic Ministers 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 Harvey Levin, harveylevin@rcn.com

Christmas Usher Call

St. Alphonsus is looking for volunteers to help usher at all Christmas Eve/Day Masses. There is a sign-up sheet on the main table in the back of church. Contact Head Usher John Meindl, jmeindl66@gmail.com

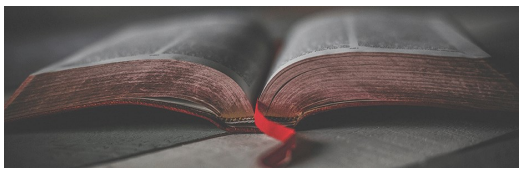
Knights of Columbus News

JAN 8, 2023, St. Alphonsus Parish BLOOD DRIVE - Reserve your donation time, bit.ly/JAN8StAlphonsus Spread the word. Donations are needed.

FEB 24-25, 2023 - St. Alphonsus Parish Men's OVERNIGHT RETREAT led by Fr. Patrick Gorman at Joseph & Mary Retreat House, University St. Mary of the Lake Seminary, Mundelein, IL; retreat will begin about 8PM FRI evening and finish mid-afternoon on SAT, permitting return back home by SAT evening; will include Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Confession, talk(s), rest, leisure time to walk around the lake. Fee of $128 includes dinner (available for late arrivals), one night's stay in individual room, breakfast & lunch. Please sign up at tinyurl.com/FEB-24-MENS-RETREAT

Faith Formation

Religious Education at St. Alphonsus



Our Religious Education program is a ministry to support children & families in deeper formation of our Catholic faith! We currently serve children in grades 1st - 8th. Two consecutive years of enrollment is required to participate in First Communion and Confirmation! Our program relies on the time & talents of volunteer parishioners to serve as catechists to our students. **We are currently looking for an additional 2nd grade catechist(s) to serve beginning in January 2023!** If you have any questions, please reach out to: ecook@stalphonsuschicago.church

Exploring the Diaconate



The Institute for Diaconal Studies (IDS) invites all men who feel the gentle nudge of the Holy Spirit to attend an Exploring the Diaconate session.
It is a time to pray, discuss, and learn more about the discernment process and the formation program that aspirants and candidates pursue. Please join us with your wives, if married, as we explore the potential of a vocation, engage in dialogue and pray in search of the next step. All are welcome to attend any of the sessions.

RSVP REQUIRED Contact Sr. Caroline Onuoha, DMMM at 847.837.4563 or conuoha@usml.edu

Exploring the Diaconate Sessions 7:30–8:30 PM

- Thursday, January 5, 2023 - Zoom
- Monday, February 6 - Zoom
- Tuesday, March 7 - Zoom
- Monday, April 24 - Our Lady of Ransom, Niles
- Tuesday, May 9 - Our Lady of Ransom, Niles

For more information contact Deacon Bob Puhala, bpuhala@usml.edu or (847) 837-4564 or visit usml.edu/ids. Application deadline for the 2023–2024 Aspirancy Path is July 15, 2023.

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!

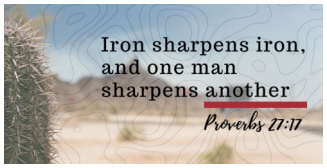
If you or someone you know is interested in taking the class, please contact our pastoral associate, Brooks Robinson at brobinson@stalphonsuschicago.church

Communio: A Men's Prayer Group

Men of the parish are invited to attend the Communio prayer group each Wednesday at 8 PM in the rectory chapel (come to the rectory side door at the southwest corner of the building at 7:55). 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. For questions or more info, contact James Morrow, jemseoul@hotmail.com

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 Matt Duff at mduff527@gmail.com.

Young Adult Ministry

January Winter Retreat



On Saturday, January 21, our St. Alphonsus YAM will be hosting Julia Hogan for a January day retreat. Julia is a licensed therapist, author, and speaker (www.juliamariehogan.com). She will be discussing mental health, our faith lives, and living a healthy and balanced life.

Julia has spoken at the SEEK retreat, Notre Dame, Deloitte, and many other places and we are excited to have her! The day will be filled with talks, small group discussions, adoration, music, and more!
Sign up online at www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/36002
The early bird price will be $50 until Jan 4th and $60 after. Walk ins are welcome!

Christkindlmarket and Ice Skating



Come join St. Al's YAM on Tuesday, December 20th as we explore the Christkindlmarket at Gallagher Way by Wrigley Field. This is an elftastic chance to buy any last minute Christmas gifts for your family and friends while taking in a great market. There is also ice skating on Wrigley Field, which is $5 per person.
www.gallagherway.com/events/christkindlmarket-wrigleyville-2022/2022-12-20
www.christkindlmarket.com/wrigleyville-vendors/
Tickets are required- ONLY FOR ICE SKATING
$5 for admission

More Young Adult News

Registration is up for Catholic Sports Leagues' indoor volleyball league starting in February. In 2023, Thursday evening volleyball will not be at our AACA/St. Alphonsus gym as in previous years, but at St. Aloysius, 1510 N. Claremont Ave.

All are encouraged to join for this popular league. Sign up as an individual, or with a friend or two. Register at www.catholicsportsleagues.com before early bird pricing ends on January 11th!

Catholic Sports Leagues

Gospel Meditation



An entire town is wiped out by fire, a tornado rips through several neighborhoods, a bomb claims a maternity hospital and a sudden heart attack takes the life of a soul mate. Life is unpredictable and dramatic. Many buy into the sad illusion that the securities and familiarities we see around us today will remain forever: our homes, our friends, our spouses, our churches, and even our health. We are stunned and shaken by a sudden change, finding ourselves bewildered, mortified, and even embittered. We do not like change, especially change driven by sources beyond our control. Are there any guarantees in life? We often live as if our lives come with lifetime warranties. When they break, they can be fixed or replaced. Such is not the case. Many things are irreplaceable and unable to be fixed. During life's inevitable chaos, God says: "Do not be afraid." Seriously? How can one not be afraid when things are falling apart?

Fear is normal and it has a purpose. It is unrealistic, and somewhat unhealthy, to strive to live without any fear. Fear teaches us lessons and can be a catalyst to discovering more profound things. What we do with fear and how we understand it is critical. Fear can either cripple us or move us forward. God does not want fear to cripple us. If we look around at all that can change in our lives and consider what we might have to do, we can easily wallow in the mire of self-misery. Or we can step up to the challenge, as Mary did, and do what needs doing! We can stand tall, as did Joseph, and do the right and just thing! What gives us this courage? Faith.

God is with us. This is the focus of our Advent preparations. We need to be reminded that we are not in this alone. God not only made us and loves us, but God keeps us! In the person of Jesus Christ, God is the sign we need to persevere! Do not be afraid and do not be unbelieving! Hold fast to what God has done in giving us His only begotten Son. We do not have to anxiously attempt to control life's unpredictability. God has blessed us with the birth of His Son. Trust that He is with us and will not abandon us, even in death.

St. Alphonsus Weddings

Visit us at https://www.stalphonsuschicago.org/marriage

Start by filling out the date request form on our website or request a tour of the church. Our coordinator will walk you through the steps to getting married in our beautiful church.

Package Details - The cost of the package is **$1,650** and includes:

- **Wedding Coordinator to assist with ceremony planning, rehearsal, and day-of coordination**
- **Catholic Couple Checkup pre-marriage inventory**
- **Altar Servers**
- **Music: Organist + Cantor**

Excluded from the cost of the package is Pre Cana, additional musicians/instruments, and gratuity if you so desire.

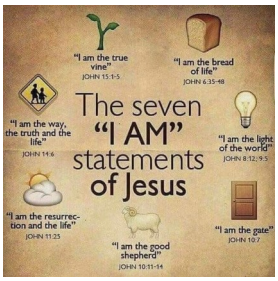
Getting Married Out of Town?
Other churches may require you to complete your file at your home Parish. We can help with that!

We will help you gather the necessary items needed to be married in the Catholic Church then we make sure it is sent through the Archdiocese 2 months before your wedding date.

Contact **Kaitlin Holyk** for questions and inquiries.
weddings@stalphonsuschicago.church 773.525.0709

Time, Talent, Treasure

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 https://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.



Walking With Purpose

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



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

We live in a self-centered culture that all too often leaves us feeling empty and dissatisfied. A fuller view of God and His glory is the perfect antidote—find this during our journey through the **Beholding Your King** Bible study.

We'll study King David, select psalms, the temple, and many Old Testament prophets and see the ways in which they all point to the coming King of Kings, Jesus Christ. This Nine-Lesson Bible study is the second part of a two -part series and is ideally completed after *Beholding His Glory*.

** **Walking With Purpose is taking a break for winter. The new Beholding Your King bible studies will start up again on Tuesday February 7** Questions? Contact Susan Combes at suecombes@hotmail.com

Support St. Alphonsus This Christmas!

This Christmas season, we express our gratitude for the generous gifts received this time of year. We are continuously overjoyed at how our parish and school families come together to help each other. While you are planning your seasonal giving, show your gratitude for God's blessings in your life by making a special donation to our annual Christmas Collection. Your spirit of giving demonstrates a deep understanding of our mission, as we witness together, the miracle of incarnation.

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.

www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/526

You can also text Joyful to (773) 570-7600

St. Alphonsus Baptism

Choosing A Baptism Date - Most baptisms at St. Alphonsus are celebrated at 2:00 PM on Sundays. To request a date, please complete the Baptism Request form on our website (one form per child).

If your child is age 7 or older, please contact Erica Cook (ecook@stalphonsuschicago.church) for religious education classes.

Preparing For Baptism - First time parents are required to take our baptismal prep class. We hold this class once a month via Zoom, please rsvp in advance. Godparents are welcome to attend class at St. Alphonsus or at their local parish.

If you have already had a child baptized at St. Alphonsus, you need not attend the preparation session again, unless you would like to.

Godparent requirements - It is required to have at least one Catholic godparent who is confirmed and over the age of 16. Godparents are typically one male and one female. The maximum number of Godparents is two.

Contact **Kaitlin Holyk** for questions and inquiries.
weddings@stalphonsuschicago.church
773.525.0709

Stewardship Reflection

"When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home."Matthew 1:24

Putting our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return. Striving to put God first in all things and follow Him wherever He may led us. Joseph was a model of these pillars of our faith. As we prepare for the birth of our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.

Honor the Memory of a Loved One

Even though our Catholic faith can offer us comfort and consolation, losing a loved one is never easy. Memorial bequests – or remembering St. Alphonsus Parish in your will – can be a very spiritually meaningful way to honor the life of a loved one who has gone to be with the Lord. To make a bequest, you may visit our parish's Give Central page at www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/28307

Advent 2022

The Fourth Sunday of Advent is full of hope, as we join with Christians around the world and through the ages who prayed *Come, Lord Jesus!*



Light Advent Candles

Light all the candles of your Advent wreath.

Pray **Lord Jesus Christ,**
you are the way to the Father.
Come and teach us your truth
Word made flesh, Word or God
help us to hear.
Open our ears and our hearts
to the promise of new life

Check out the many online resources

Things to explore this week:

- **Last minute shopping that does good for others**. Check out Fair Trade gifts. You do good for those who created the goods— and your recipients get a lovely present too!
- **Are you making a New Year's resolution to give more of yourself to others?** All sorts of ways to serve in the community throughout the year are listed in our weekly parish newsletters.
- **Make time for daily prayer in your life.** You might have gotten 'back on track' this Advent. Don't stop— or check out our suggestions to refresh your prayer life.
- *www.divineoffice.org* guides you through the Liturgy of the Hours, the official daily prayer of the church. *www.pray-as-you-go.org* is a well produced podcast that provides a daily meditation.
- Check out https://pvm.archchicago.org/evangelization/advent-resources There are some great resources on the Archdiocese page for adults and kids!

At the Athenaeum

The Nutcracker— Final Show This Sunday Dec 18 at 2 PM



Ballet Chicago's "The Nutcracker" is celebrating 20 years at the Athenaeum! Through its inspiring story, beautiful music and charming choreography, "The Nutcracker" is a celebration of the joyous holiday season. "The Nutcracker" takes us on an unforgettable journey with young Marie as she travels from her home on Christmas Eve to the Kingdom of Snow and the Land of the Sweets, featuring George Balanchine's Sugar Plum Fairy Pas De Deux. For adults, it is a time to relive cherished memories of childhood. For children who wait with breathless anticipation for the holidays to arrive, it is the opportunity to create new memories. For everyone, it is a time for sharing and giving among family and friends.

For tickets and to check out all upcoming shows at the Athenaeum Center for Thought and Culture, visit athenaeumcenter.org/events/

Safe Families For Children

"Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause." ~ Isaiah 1:17 ESV

Safe Families for Children

Safe Families for Children is a national, Christian nonprofit which connects local families in crisis with "safe families" who volunteer to watch their children while parent(s) get back on their feet. This is a great opportunity to show Christ's love and compassion for local families, often young single moms with no support system, in a tangible and meaningful way.

Interested in learning more? Reach out to safefamiliesstals@gmail.com

THE EUCHARIST

Adoration

Writing about adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the late pope and now Saint John Paul II encouraged the faithful "to spend time with [Christ under the Eucharistic species], to lie close to his heart like the Beloved Disciple (cf. Jn 13:25) and to feel the infinite love present in his heart" (*Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, 25).

John Paul II wrote these words in 2003 when he recognized among the Church's faithful both praiseworthy attention to and lamentable abandonment of Eucharistic adoration. Given the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, it is understandable why people would want to adore him. But why would anyone shun adoration?

Recent polls that report a majority of U.S. Catholics disbelieve the Church's teaching about the Eucharist suggest at least part of the reason. Lack of belief is nothing new. When Jesus told his disciples that they must eat his body and drink his blood to have eternal life, many of them walked away. It was only Peter and the apostles who remained and placed their faith in Jesus' words (see Jn 6:53–69).

Perhaps the apostles were thinking what Saint Ambrose articulated years later: "Could not Christ's word, which can make from nothing what did not exist, change existing things into what they were not before? It is no less a feat to give things their original nature than to change their nature" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1375).

"THIS IS MY BODY"

The Church from its earliest days bases its teaching regarding the Eucharist on the words of Jesus, who declared "this is my body" and "this is my blood." "The signs of bread and wine become, in a way surpassing understanding, the Body and Blood of Christ" (CCC 1333). Faith assures the believer of God's truthfulness (see Heb 11), and believers by their witness attract others to the truth of God.



SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

THE EUCHARIST BULLETIN SERIES

- Week 1 – What the Church Teaches
- Week 2 – Invitation of the Eucharist
- Week 3 – Biblical Basis
- ➤ Week 4 – Adoration

It was, in fact, the faith and witness of Christians who believed in Jesus' real presence in the Eucharist that led to the wide practice of Eucharistic adoration. As faith in the Real Presence deepened, people desired to adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament even outside of Mass.

During the first millennia of Christianity, one would not be able to find a local parish that offered perpetual adoration in a separate chapel or even Eucharistic processions. Christians still adored Christ in the Eucharist, but the main encounter was during Mass. When the Eucharist was reserved, it was for the purpose of bringing Communion to the sick.

As Christianity grew and became part of the wider culture, members of the Church began to speculate (respectfully) about various beliefs. In the eleventh century, Berengar of Tours seemed to suggest in his discourses that the Eucharist contained only the risen and glorious body of Christ, with no connection to the body born of the Virgin. Pope Gregory VII clarified the issue by stating that the Eucharist contained the true body of Christ, born of Mary and seated at the right hand of God. Berengar assented to the pope's definition.

The presence of Christ in the Eucharist became a hot topic and speculations continued. People in parishes responded to the intense focus on the Real Presence with awe and wonder. It became common for the faithful to look reverently at the consecrated Species (in the form of bread and wine) rather than to receive the Sacrament.

During the thirteenth century, Pope Urban IV decreed the annual celebration of the feast of Corpus Christi at which the priest carrying the consecrated Host processed through the church and neighborhood so that onlookers might adore the Sacrament. Indeed, the medieval period witnessed the beginning of many Eucharistic devotions that encouraged the adoration of the faithful.

The Council of Trent, which met during the years 1545–63, endorsed heartily the veneration of the Blessed Sacrament during Mass and outside of Mass, such as in processions. But the council also noted that the faithful, properly prepared, should consume the

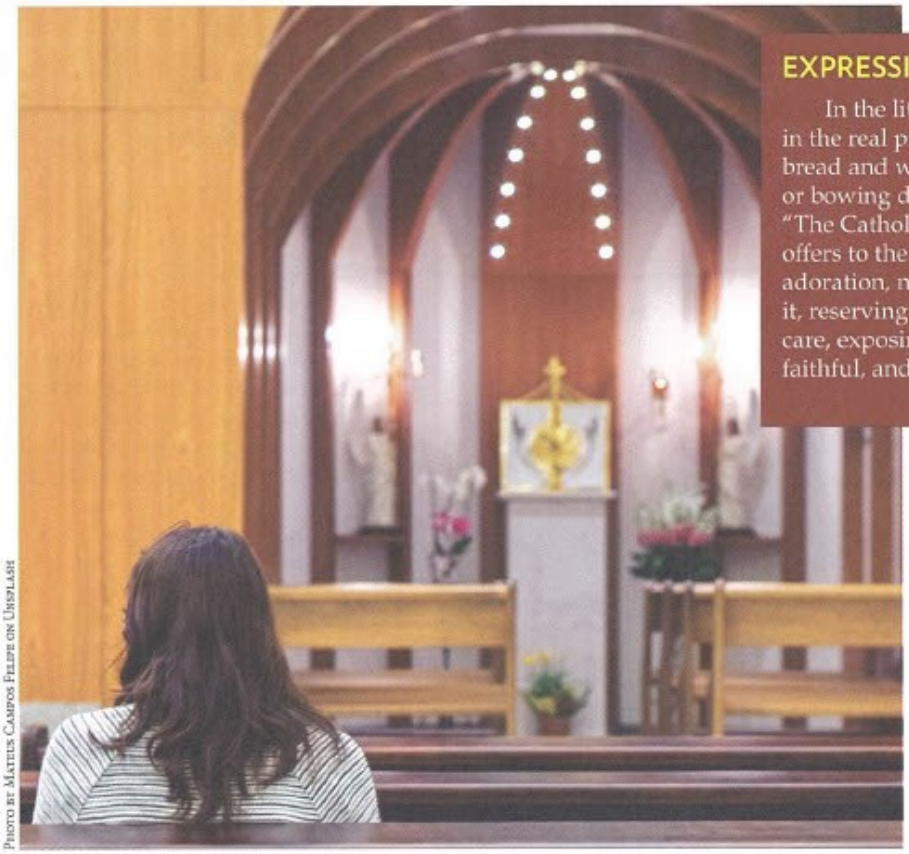


Photo by Mateus Campos Felipe on Unsplash

EXPRESSING FAITH

In the liturgy of the Mass we express our faith in the real presence of Christ under the species of bread and wine by, among other ways, genuflecting or bowing deeply as a sign of adoration of the Lord. "The Catholic Church has always offered and still offers to the sacrament of the Eucharist the cult of adoration, not only during Mass, but also outside of it, reserving the consecrated hosts with the utmost care, exposing them to the solemn veneration of the faithful, and carrying them in procession."

— *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1378

TANTUM ERGO (ENGLISH TRANSLATION)

Down in adoration falling,
Lo! the sacred Host we hail,
Lo! o'er ancient forms departing
Newer rites of grace prevail;
Faith for all defects supplying,
Where the feeble senses fail.

To the everlasting Father,
And the Son who reigns on high
With the Holy Spirit proceeding
Forth from each eternally,
Be salvation, honor blessing,
Might and endless majesty. Amen.

consecrated bread and wine at the celebration of the Eucharist. The concern was that people were becoming simply spectators and not participants.

The Second Vatican Council, in its Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, picked up on this concern and urged that the faithful at Mass "should not be there as strangers or silent spectators; on the contrary, through a good understanding of the rites and prayers they should take part in the sacred action conscious of what they are doing, with devotion and full collaboration" (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 48).

PAPAL SUPPORT

That document was not proscribing Eucharistic adoration; rather, it was bringing balance to the faithful's participation at Mass. But lest there by any misunderstanding, Pope Paul VI followed two years later with his encyclical *Mysterium Fidei*, which focuses on the Eucharist more directly. In his teaching, Pope Paul recommends that people should receive Communion at Mass, even daily, and remember to pay a visit to the Most Blessed Sacrament where it is reserved in churches (see 66).

Pope John Paul II, as already noted, wrote of Eucharistic adoration in a tender and loving manner, suggesting that it was the same as resting on Jesus' breast. But he too noted the balance the faithful must have between participating in the Eucharist and contemplating the divine presence:

"*The worship of the Eucharist outside of the Mass* is of inestimable value for the life of the Church. This worship is strictly linked to the celebration of the Eucharistic Sacrifice. The presence of Christ under the sacred species reserved after Mass … derives from the celebration of the sacrifice and is directed towards communion, both sacramental and spiritual" (*EE*, 25; emphasis in original).

"It is not to remain in a golden ciborium that he comes down each day from heaven, but to find another heaven, the heaven of our soul in which he takes delight."
— Saint Thérèse of Lisieux

Pope Francis has also encouraged Eucharistic adoration and emphasizes that adoration of God should lead the believer to spread the Gospel and to serve one's brothers and sisters.

Adoration of Jesus in the Eucharist as practiced well by believers has the potential to attract other people to Christ, not only in the practice itself but in its fruits, which include communion with Christ. "In his Eucharistic presence he remains mysteriously in our midst as the one who loved us and gave himself up for us" (CCC 1380). May we who believe in him adore him in his presence and join him in his mission.

For more info on any of our parish or school programs visit us at **www.stalphonsuschicago.org** or call the rectory at **773-525-0709**. To stay connected with us during the Advent season, **like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/stalphonsuschgo/**

like us on facebook

Contact

Sacramental Information

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

How to Offer a Mass Intention

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

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

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

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

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

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

Our parish has received permission to once again host important sacraments. Please be patient as the pandemic created a scheduling backlog regarding Baptisms and Weddings. You can find more info at:

www.stalphonsuschicago.org/baptism

www.stalphonsuschicago.org/marriage

St. Alphonsus Social Media

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

Directory

Parish Office

1429 W Wellington Ave, Chicago, IL 60657-4121
(P): 773-525-0709 | (F): 773-525-3238
www.stalphonsuschicago.org
parish@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 | (F): 773-348-4829
www.alphonsusacademy.org

School Office Hours:

8:00 AM– 3:00 PM

Staff

Parish Staff

Rev. Steven Bauer, Pastor
Rev. Patrick Gorman, Associate Pastor
Brooks Robinson, Pastoral Associate
Brian Bloye, Director of Music and Organist
Erica Cook, Coordinator of Religious Education
Daniel Szymanski, Director of Operations
Mario Serrano, Parish Office Manager
Kaitlin Holyk, Sacrament Ministry Coordinator

School Staff

Gerit McAllister, Principal
Angela Kladis, Assistant Principal
Mary Bodlak, Director of Admissions
Caroline Jordan, Advancement Director
Kim Wallett, Secretary
Connie Del Toral, Administrative Assistant