Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

FEBRUARY 19, 2023: SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"You have heard that it was said,
You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.
But I say to you, love your enemies
and pray for those who persecute you." (Mt 5:43-44)

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—11:30 AM

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

Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help

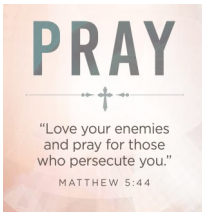
Wednesday:	5:50 PM

Worship

This Week's Readings

Sunday: Lv 19:1-2, 17-18/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13 (8a)/1 Cor 3:16-23/Mt 5:38-48
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: Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 9:22-25
Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19/Mt 9:14-15
Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 5:27-32
Next Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17 (see 3a)/Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11





Please Pray for the Sick

Dorothy Bonds
Jamie Wallett
Sandra Wilson
Monica Alexis Rios
Margaret Nichols
Maria Eisler
Tessa Sergent
Carolina Goldie
Diane Mareci
Fidel Mercado Chavez
Emilia Hurtado
Bernard Zapp
David Birks
Celeste Soult
Carol Reckwerdt
Magdalena Gonzalez
Michael Aldape
Jane Christensen
William Ahearn
Janet Horvat
Frank G. Bauer
Al Corleone
Mary Perisin
Cheryl Nester-Detweiler
Marla Alicea
Leon Wink
Judy Fredrickson
Tracy Duda
Jacob Duda
Dorothy O'Brien
Ryan Meadow
Danny Browder

Giving Update

Weekly Budget Amount: $15,218

Offertory for 2/12: $13,594

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

Welcome to the Parish!

Christopher and Malika Hainer
Kira
Oliver

Kate Steingreaber and Angelo Corso

Erik Doersching

Sarah and Jack Sweany

Patrick Doerr

Marilyn Adler

Megan and James Mahren
Michelle

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, February 19
9:00 AM Dorothy O'Brien
11:00 AM +Genoveva Gilana
12:30 PM +Thomas Lopez
5:00 PM +Cesar Guerrero Sr.

Monday, February 20
8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus

Tuesday, February 21
8:30 AM +Irene Foster

Wednesday, February 22 (Ash Wednesday)
8:30 AM +For All the Victims of the War in Ukraine and For Peace Among Nations
6:00 PM The People of St. Alphonsus
7:00 PM The People of St. Alphonsus

Thursday, February 23
8:30 AM +Dr. Anthony Caruso

Friday, February 24
8:30 AM +For All the Victims of the War in Ukraine and For Peace Among Nations

Sunday, February 26
9:00 AM +Edward Marsalek
11:00 AM +Phil Piazza
12:30 PM +Manuel and Maria Naula
5:00 PM Ann Marie Gillespie (Healing)

Ash Wednesday is February 22!

7:00 AM **Service,** with distribution of ashes (English)
8:30 AM **Mass w/ AACA**
12:00 PM **Service,** with distribution of ashes (English)
3:30 PM **Service,** with distribution of ashes (English)
6:00 PM **Mass (Español)**
7:00 PM **Mass (English)**



There are traditional practices for Lent which help us to engage in the penitential nature of the season.

Fasting All adults from the age of 18 until their 59th birthday are asked to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This means eating only one full meal that day. One can eat at two other times, but the total food should not equal a full meal. This does not apply to those who are ill, pregnant or nursing.

A Message From Our Pastor

Where Do Ashes Come From?

Catholics the world over are preparing for Lent, which we all know begins on Ash Wednesday. People everywhere are discerning what treats, creature comforts, or bad habits we should give up for Lent, and many of us are adjusting our schedules so we can get to church to get our ashes. And once in a great while someone might ask the priest, "Father, where do ashes come from?" The question that is more commonly asked is, "Father, what do I do with my palms from last year's Palm Sunday?"

Actually, the two questions are very much related. One of the customs in parishes is to collect the previous years' palm branches prior to the start of Lent. Those branches are burned a day or two before the start of Lent, and then their ashes can be used on Ash Wednesday. So one year's ashes were the palms from the previous year!

This weekend at St. Alphonsus we will be collecting your old palm branches. Please deposit them in the marked basket in the narthex. Children and adults always seem to enjoy this tradition of recycling palm branches. But sometimes a person is a little embarrassed they can't find the ones from last year, and they want to participate, so when they ask if they can borrow a palm branch… they're asking for a frond.

The burning of palms isn't an uber-important ritual, like the receiving of ashes, and is often done unceremoniously. But understanding this custom, and viewing it alongside the spiritual significance of the liturgical days of Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday, it can help us appreciate the Lenten journey of a Christian pilgrim.

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, and the distribution and procession of palm branches recalls the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem when the crowds hailed Jesus as king. They cut branches off the palm trees and waved them in the air and laid them on the ground as Jesus entered the city riding on a colt. Palm Sunday, is also our entry into Holy Week, in which we follow Jesus from the parade of palms to Calvary. There we witness the Son of God die on the cross for our sins, and then on the third day we celebrate His Resurrection.

The palms which hail Jesus as king on Palm Sunday are burned up so that their ashes can be used to mark us as sinners in need of redemption. Sin leads to death, and without Jesus maybe our fate would be as bleak as that of old palm branches. But because our Lenten journey carries us beyond the parade of palms, beyond the Cross of Calvary, to the Garden of Gethsemane on Easter Sunday morning, the mark of the ashes on our foreheads is not a sign of corruption and death; shaped in the form of a cross, they are a sign of resurrection and new life.

As we receive the cross of ashes on Wednesday, we hear the minister say "Repent, and believe in the Gospel." This mark, then, moves us into the 40-day season of conversion of heart and spiritual growth, especially by employing the customary practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. In this we unite our hearts and souls to Jesus so that our lives will be marked by His transforming love and resurrection.

Rev. Steven Bauer
Pastor

Faith Formation

Walking With Purpose Women's Group
Tuesday mornings/evenings



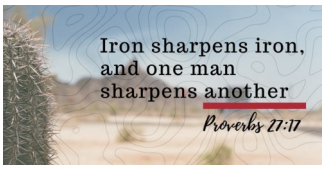
Come as you are. You are welcome here. Make authentic connections with other women! Refuel and Refresh! Learn more about God!

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.

Our new Beholding Your King bible study group meets ***Tuesdays from 9:30—11 AM and 6:30—8 PM***. Questions? Contact Susan Combes at suecombes@hotmail.com

St. Alphonsus Men's Group
Thursday Evenings

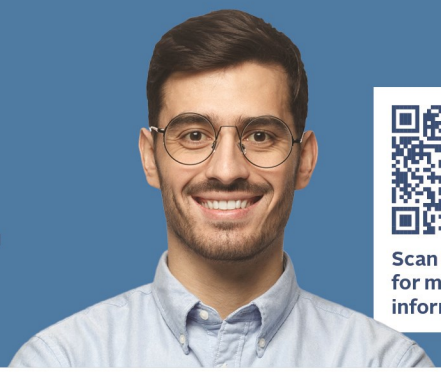


St. Alphonsus Men's group meets Thursday nights to pray the liturgy of the hours, have fellowship, and to propose challenging topics to discuss.

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.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



BE THE CHANGE.
JOIN THE ARCH.

Scan QR code for more information.

Career Fair

February 25, 2023
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Archbishop Quigley Center
835 North Rush Street
Chicago, IL 60611

Free parking at One Chicago Square

We are hiring full- and part-time positions in Cook and Lake counties.

Make a difference every day by working in Archdiocese of Chicago schools, parishes and ministries. We are hiring for roles from teaching to finance, administration to pastoral care throughout the Chicagoland area. If you have recently graduated or are exploring a job change, serve your community and build your career with the arch.

News and Events

Friends Through Faith Brunch

Do you know the names of the familiar faces you see each week at Mass? Do you feel you're missing a sense of *community* after leaving Church?

The newly formed Friends Through Faith Adult Social Group hopes to foster these essential faith-filled connections and build our St. Alphonsus community through fellowship and fun starting with a gathering -- continental breakfast, cocktails, coffee, and tea-- on **Sunday, February 26th following the 11 AM Mass**. Connecting with other parishioners can lead to lasting friendships, fruitful ministries, or even just a friendly wave and smile the next time you attend Mass. We hope to create small service groups, outings and friendships out of this community.

Our Catholic tradition teaches that human beings grow and achieve fulfillment in community. Pope Francis says, *"No one saves oneself. The community is essential."*

For more information, to help with this event and to RSVP, contact Amy Keefner - amykeefner@gmail.com.

Safe Families for Children Ministry

New Volunteer Training

Join us in serving local moms and kids!
Become a host family or family friend.

9AM-1PM, Saturday 3/11/23
St. Alphonsus Rectory (2nd floor)
1429 W Wellington Ave
Chicago, IL 60657

Safe Families for Children

Please join us for New Volunteer Training on Saturday March 11th, here at St. Alphonsus! FREE light breakfast and lunch included!

Volunteer roles covered in training:

- "Host Family" - host local children in your home for short periods of time
- "Family Friend" - provide volunteer babysitting or transportation for host families and local families in crisis situations

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



Art & Soul Fundraiser— Friday March 10

Tickets are now on sale for our parish school's biggest fundraiser, Art & Soul, which will take place Friday March 10 at Rockwell on the River, 3057 N. Rockwell. The gala includes a silent and live auction, dinner, dancing, and a paddle raise for a specific project benefiting all our students. *"Plant the Seed for Tomorrow"* is the theme this year! Volunteers needed!

Get your tickets, sign up to volunteer and learn more about this amazing annual event at www.aaca.school/artandsoul

Knights of Columbus News

Next weekend, FEB 24-25, - 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 8 PM 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. Open to Men's Group, Parishioners, YAM, AACA Dads & Friends, all men are welcome! Please sign up at tinyurl.com/FEB-24-MENS-RETREAT

Tuesday Evening Philosophy Group



Join us on Tuesdays for weekly philosophy discussions and digging deeper into the greatest thinkers of all time. Get in touch with our Philosophy group coordinator Evan at esadasiv@alumni.nd.edu for info.

St. Alphonsus— Polling Place

Pope Francis offered during a 2013 homily: *"Good Catholics meddle in politics, offering the best of themselves, so that those who govern can govern..."*

On Tuesday February 28 from 6 AM to 7 PM, our parish Festival Hall will be utilized as a polling place. Chicago voters can cast their ballots for mayor, alderpeople and police district council members.

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

Praise and Adoration

Friday February 24 at 7:30 PM



On Friday, February 24th, spend time with our Lord in praise and adoration in the church. We'll spend the first 15 minutes in silent adoration, and then our musicians will lead worship in song. Confession will also be available! The hour will conclude with benediction, and fellowship at Lincoln Tap after!

Volunteer w/ EZRA Uptown Cafe

Tuesday March 7, 5:30— 7:30 PM

SERVICE EVENT

Join the St. Alphonsus Young Adult Ministry group at EZRA Multi-Service Center's Uptown Cafe!

The JUF Uptown Café, 909 W. Wilson Ave., is a restaurant-style meals program dedicated to fighting hunger, reducing isolation, and creating community. Four times a week, volunteer waitpersons serve healthy kosher meals in a dignified setting.

As volunteers, we will take orders, grab drinks and condiments, and get a chance to also sit and chat with the clients we are serving. Please check our event page on Facebook for the registration link! Feel free to email us at stalsyamservice@gmail.com with any questions!

3v3 Basketball Tournament

Saturday April 1 at 10 AM

ST. ALPHONSUS YAM 3ON3 TOURNAMENT

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/event/33435

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. After the event we will be heading to a bar (TBD) to socialize and watch the Final Four for March Madness

Time: Starts at 10:00 AM, Cost: $15 per person; each player must sign-up individually.

Youth Free Throw Competition

All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level for the 7th annual Free Throw Championship sponsored by the St. Alphonsus Knights of Columbus. The local competition will be held on **Sunday, February 26, 2023 in the St. Alphonsus parish gym starting at 1:00 PM**. Space is limited so reserve your spot today at bit.ly/Kocfreethrow23
Volunteers Needed! Sign up to volunteer at tinyurl.com/HelpShamus

COMPETITION FORMAT:
Each contestant receives three warm-up tosses followed by 15 consecutive Free Throw attempts from the appropriate age-designated foul line. To break a tie, contestants take a second round of five free throws. No warm-up tosses are permitted for the tie-breaker rounds. Successive rounds of five free throws each continue until a winner emerges.
The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship is sponsored annually, with winners progressing through local, district and state competitions. All boys and girls 9 to 14 years old are eligible to participate and will compete in their respective age divisions.

The Knights of Columbus is an international Catholic family fraternal service organization with 1.9 million members in 17,000 local councils. Last year, Knights donated over 70 million volunteer hours and $170 million to charitable and benevolent causes, sponsoring projects to benefit their church, councils, communities, culture of life, families and youth.

RULES:
- All children must be pre-registered in order to compete.
- ONLY GYM SHOES are allowed in the gym, no marking shoes are permitted.
- VIRTUS trained adults will be on staff to run the event
- No food or drink allowed on basketball court.

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

Gospel Reflection

Of all the things Jesus says which seem totally bat-crazy, this one might take the cake: *"But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you."* An enemy is someone who desires the destruction of you, your projects, or those you care about. To love and pray for them is to want their health, strength, and flourishing. But if they thrive, they are more likely to hurt you and others. So, aren't you indirectly willing your own destruction, or that of your friends? If you doubt that this problem is embedded in this teaching, when was the last time you actually prayed honestly for the people you really hate?

How can we solve this riddle so we might actually live this command? Recall that enemy-love is the surest sign that you love someone with God's love, and not with indirect egotism. After all, if my love for my enemy ends up hurting me or my loved ones, it can't be for me. Enemy-love costs more because there are no tit-for-tats. No reciprocity — just loved poured out, and often pain in return.

Continued on page 8

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



Reflection Cont...

That's why it is so precious and rare. "What is unusual about that?" asks the Lord about love for our friends. Jesus wants us to experience the unusual love which only comes from him.

When Jesus was being killed on the cross, he was loving his executioners. In fact, he was holding them in being as they nailed him to the cross. He loved those who were spiritually piercing his Mother's heart, while they were doing it. And when he rose from the dead, he showed us that this kind of love is always worth it. It's stronger than death. Real love is unusual.

— Father John Muir

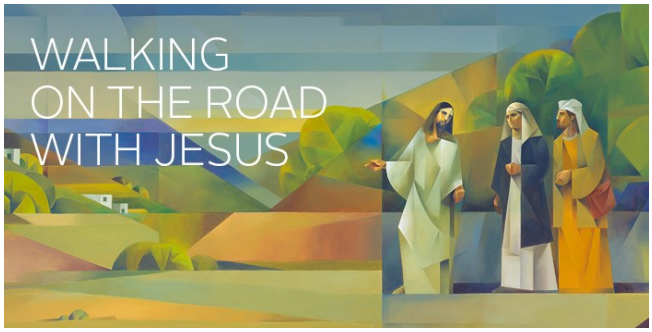
Stewardship

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*



Support the Annual Catholic Appeal!

All parish communities in the Archdiocese are currently participating in the ACA, and the gifts of many enable us to continue our work of sanctification and evangelization. When we ***Walk on the Road w/ Jesus***, we draw the grace, strength, and encouragement to be the people He wants us to be. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and generous response! To make your gift, you can complete the mail-in giving envelope available in church or make a gift online at www.annualcatholicappeal.com Be sure to credit your gift towards St. Alphonsus-Chicago in the parish designation field.



Disposed for Confession

In the Mass, we enter into the New Covenant of love between God and humanity through receiving Christ's Body and Blood. If this is true, why are so many people reluctant to go to Mass? In the United States, participation is so low that it is estimated that only 20 percent of Catholics attend Mass each week!

If you ask many Catholics why they don't go to Mass, they might say something about how they get nothing out of Mass. One response to this confession is to underline that what we get out of Mass is the gift of receiving Christ's Body and Blood.

Still, we have to give a better answer than this (believe it or not). If the Mass was just about receiving Communion, then couldn't it be a lot shorter? Why do we have to sing so many chants or hymns? Why do the prayers have to be so long? Mass could be over in a matter of minutes.

In fact, the Mass involves a lot more than our reception of Christ's Body and Blood. The Mass is a prayer that forms us as disciples of Jesus Christ. As disciples, we are meant to let every part of our lives become a space where the Word can become flesh. God wants to dwell with us, to enter into union with us.

But if we are to reveal the gift of the Mass, then we must learn to pray the Mass well. Part of it requires that we learn the words of the Mass, the various parts of the Eucharist. But part of it means that we come to the Mass well-disposed to pray.

In prayer, the Church emphasizes the importance of dispositions. If you go to the gym angry, bitter that you have to work out, you're likely not going to benefit as much from the exercise. Similarly, if you don't know the right dispositions to bring to Mass, you might not get much out of the prayers of the Mass.

"We go to Mass because we are sinners and we want to receive God's pardon, to participate in the redemption of Jesus, in his forgiveness."
— Pope Francis

Learning to pray the Mass well therefore necessitates that we know how to come to Mass disposed to pray.



SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

THE DISPOSITION OF CONFESSION

Saint Augustine wrote a book about God's presence in his life entitled *The Confessions*. For us modern readers, we hear "confession" and likely think only about sin. For Augustine, confession is more robust than this. We confess our sins to God. But we also confess faith. We confess Jesus Christ as Lord, which means that we participate in an act of praise.

Fruitful prayer of the Mass requires us to come to Mass disposed in all three of these aspects of confession. Throughout the Mass, we regularly confess our sins before God. This act of confessing

THE MASS BULLETIN SERIES

- Week 1 - Origin of the Mass
- ➤ Week 2 - Disposed for Confession
- Week 3 - Liturgy of the Word
- Week 4 - Liturgy of the Eucharist
- Week 5 - Communion of People

READY TO LISTEN

The purpose of "the rites that precede the Liturgy of the Word … is to ensure that the faithful, who come together as one, establish communion and dispose themselves properly to listen to the Word of God and to celebrate the Eucharist worthily."

— General Instruction of the Roman Missal, No. 46

our sins is not ultimately about feeling guilty for what we've done. Rather, it is about recognizing our total reliance on God (and God alone).

Sin, after all, is about forgetting that we belong first and foremost to God. When we lie at work, get angry with our spouse, or ignore our children, we are "confessing" that we are ultimately the "god" of our life. To stand before God and our fellow Catholics, acknowledging our incompleteness, is the beginning of wisdom. It means that we recognize that we are a creature, rather than the creator.

Yet, we must also know something about this God to whom we confess our sins. After all, it's possible that God is kind of an angry grump like us, looking to hold a grudge. But each week at Mass, we confess that God is the creator, redeemer, and sustainer of the world. What makes God worthwhile is that God is the source of all wisdom, all goodness, and all love. It is this glorious God who became present among us in the person of Jesus Christ, who loved us to the end. Every other God is insufficient. There is but one God.

And this God is all good and all beautiful. That's why we must learn to praise this God. Praise is not just about singing a song that we like. Instead, it's a recognition that God alone is God. We remain incomplete until we give everything about ourselves over to Jesus Christ. To praise God, to confess his glory, is the only source of wisdom for a creature.

If we want to be prepared for confession at Mass, then we need to practice it throughout the day. How often do we think about where we've missed the mark, turning ourselves into gods rather than adoring God? How often do I confess the attributes of God, acknowledging God as the source of all wisdom? How often do I interrupt the day through praise, delighting in the wondrous glory of Jesus Christ?

CONFESSING GOD IN THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

The beginning of Mass is when we most fully prepare ourselves to confess ourselves as sinners, to acknowledge the goodness of God, and to praise God as the pinnacle of what it means to be human.

Our first act in confession is to show up to Mass at all! There are a variety of other things that we could be doing, from going to a football game to sleeping in. But by structuring our day around Mass, we're already proclaiming that God is the only truth of our life. If the secret of life is showing up, so, too, the secret of the Mass is being present.

We also confess God in the introductory rites through several gestures. The priest reverences the altar, kissing it, showing us that the stone (altar) we gather around is not just a table. It's the place where God becomes present, where we receive our identities as children of God. We sign ourselves with the cross, confessing to all that Jesus Christ is Our Lord.

We confess our sins in the penitential act. There, we acknowledge before God and our brothers and sisters that we are incomplete. And we recognize that the communion of love that we share in the Church is the only way we can be complete. The saints themselves intercede for us.

During all Sundays of the year except during Advent and Lent, we sing an early Christian hymn called the *Gloria in Excelsis*. This hymn prepares us to enter into our vocation as those made to praise God. We can't get enough of praising God, for God is the source of all glory.

DISPOSED TO CONFESS

Confession of God calls us as Catholics to assume our vocation as creatures made for praise. In our own age, where there is so often the politics of blame and bitterness, we Catholics live in another way. To be fully human means to move away from this monstrous way of living, one where everyone is at fault except ourselves. Instead, we recognize like Saint Augustine that we are incomplete. The only way to be complete is to turn to God, who is the source of all wisdom and love.



PHOTO BY KENNY LUO ON UNSPLASH

For print use only. Copyright © by Our Sunday Visitor, Inc. Nihil Obstat: Msgr. Michael Heintz, Ph.D. Censor Librorum. Imprimatur ✠ Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend

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