Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

DECEMBER 17, 2023: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



In celebration of Gaudete Sunday – when the church lights the rose-colored candle symbolizing joy on the Advent wreath – our bulletin cover features artwork by Fenelon B., a 5th grader at Alphonsus Academy & Center for the Arts.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Mass Schedule

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

Alphonsus Academy & Center For the Arts

Friday	8:30 AM or as announced

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday	6:30—7:30 PM

Confessions

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

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

Worship

This Week's Readings

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/
1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25
Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38
Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45
Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56
Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66
Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 (2a)/Rom 16:25-27/
Lk 1:26-38

Please Pray for the Sick

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

Giving Update

Weekly Budget Amount: $14,890

Offertory for 12/10: $16,975

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

The left QR code goes to our GiveCentral

The right QR code is for our parish Venmo.

Welcome Our Recently Baptized

Cillian James Stewart
Connor Wyatt Wiss
Charles Ryan Zepeda
Mary Laura Weisenfels

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

Welcome to the Parish!

Liza and Justin Hucek
George
Emmett
Alex Jiskra
Jeff Schmitt
Cathy and Alex Thornburg
June

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 17
9:00 AM +Christian Kebr
11:00 AM Cora Magturo
12:30 PM The People of St. Alphonsus
5:00 PM +Dolores Huffman

Monday, December 18
8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus

Tuesday, December 19
8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus

Wednesday, December 20
6:00 PM +Lucila Padilla Yap

Thursday, December 21
8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus

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

Saturday, December 23
8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus

Sunday, December 24— Christmas Eve
9:00 AM James Harrison (Birthday Blessing)
11:00 AM The People of St. Alphonsus
12:30 PM +Delfina y Dolores Gutierrez
+Florentina Ornelas
4:00 PM +Gregory Duda
6:00 PM The People of St. Alphonsus
11:00 PM The People of St. Alphonsus

Advent Reflection

Each week of Advent, one of our pastoral staff will kindly share a reflection. Our Third Sunday of Advent reflection comes from our Coordinator of Religious Education/Evangelization, Emily Ember

Gaudete! Rejoice!

"God is the joy of my soul" (Is 61:10), proclaims Isaiah, and St. Paul exhorts, "Rejoice always!" (1 Thes 5:16).

By the Lord's command, Isaiah walked around naked and barefoot for three years (Is 20:3). St. Paul was imprisoned, beaten, and stoned (2 Cor 11:24-28). Yet they both rejoice. How?

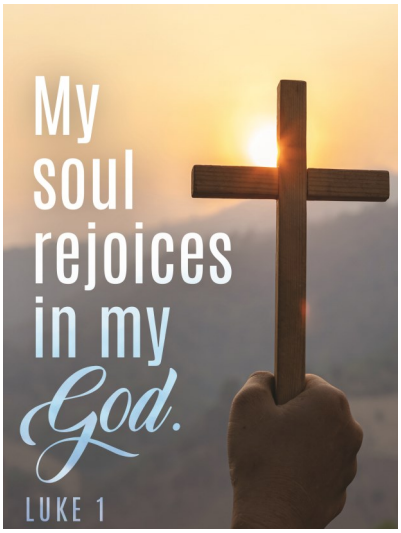
Their fullness of joy comes from knowing God intimately and comprehending His love for them.

We too can begin to know God's love for us by first knowing who we truly are and who God is, in a word, through humility. Just like Isaiah and St. Paul, we can experience joy in our trials and sufferings if we have a clear image of both God as a loving Father and our identity in Christ.

At Baptism, you became a co-heir with Christ and a partaker of His Divine Nature. As a beloved child, God the Father delights in you. God desires to give you eternal life, and He invites you to begin that life now. He calls you to begin living Heaven here on Earth!

This is why we rejoice! For God gave up His only begotten Son for us while we were yet sinners (Romans 5:8). And He did it out of love for YOU. He specifically created YOU because He knew in His infinite wisdom that the world would be a better place with you than without you.

God invites us to share in His divine life, and He calls us to share in His divine labor. Just as Zechariah proclaimed that John the Baptist would be a prophet of the most high, you too have been anointed by the Holy Spirit that you may go out and bring glad tidings to the poor, those who lack material goods, yes, but especially those who live in spiritual poverty, who don't yet know the love of God.



John the Baptist came to prepare the way of the Lord, baptizing with water to help prepare his followers to receive the Messiah when He arrived. You too are called to prepare the way for the Lord that you might receive Him and give Him entrance into your heart this Advent. Every encounter with God transforms you, but you must prepare yourself to be disposed to transform. Receiving the Eucharist one time has the power to make us the greatest of saints, but so often we close ourselves off from God and His grace because we do not believe in God's love for us or we feel unworthy to receive it.

But God is love! And the love God has for you surpasses knowledge (Eph 3:19). His love is a gift that cannot be earned nor can it ever be lost.

Rejoice this Sunday in the gracious gift of love that has been bestowed upon you. And pray to the Lord that your trust and faith might be deepened that you may spread this joy out into the world.

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

Faith In Action

St. Alphonsus Christmas Pancake Breakfast

On Sunday, December 10th, parishioners at St. Alphonsus enjoyed a Free Christmas Breakfast after mass. The event was a hit! Pancakes, eggs, sausage, tater tots, fresh fruit, and hot chocolate with marshmallows were served. Good cheer and lighthearted conversation were shared by all.

Thank you to all who joined us, and thank you especially to our volunteers who made this event possible! This Breakfast was funded and run by members of the community with the goal of spreading joy and fellowship. Look out for our next event (a Waffle Breakfast) in about 2-3 months!

Want to help put on more events like this one? We are always looking for volunteers who have a love of the Lord and a heart for service. Reach out to Emily Ember at eember@stalphonsuschicago.church to get involved!



Certificate of Lay Leadership

Are you passionate about serving your parish community and making a positive impact? A Certificate of Lay Leadership is your gateway to enhancing your skills, deepening your faith, and becoming a confident leader within the Catholic Church.

Enroll in the Certificate of Lay Leadership program today and unlock the doors to a transformative experience. The program is open to all individuals who are passionate about their faith and eager to contribute to the Church's mission. This two-year program involves monthly formation days on the USML campus in Mundelein and academic courses that will be offered on Monday nights at St. Alphonsus starting January 8th!!

For more information, or to start your application, scan the QR code below or contact Leah Lewandowski at LLewandowski@usml.edu or Brooks Robinson at brobinson@stalphonsuschicago.church.

SCHOOL OF
PARISH LEADERSHIP
& EVANGELIZATION
University of Saint Mary of the Lake

Helpful Household Hints by Harvey Levin

Doggie Booties

With the winter coming, our best friend needs booties to protect the four feet from the snow. But Fido will object to the encumbrance and shake one or more booties off of the foot. The solution is to go to a resale shop and buy a set of clip-on suspenders. Shorten the suspenders and then you can clip them to the booties over Fido's back.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24

9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, and 12:30 PM, these Masses are for the 4th Sunday of Advent and will utilize those readings.

4:00 PM Family Mass, 6:00 PM, and 11:00 PM, Vigil Masses for Nativity of the Lord

Christmas Day, Monday, December 25

The Nativity of the Lord

9 AM (in English & German), and 11 AM (in English & Spanish)

New Year's Eve and New Year's Day

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

Sunday, December 31

9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 12:30 PM, 5:00 PM

Monday, January 1, 2024

10:00 AM

If you are traveling to be with family or friends over Christmas, join us on January 7, the Feast of the Epiphany. The Midnight Mass program will be repeated at the 9 and 11 AM Masses.



More Parish News

Catholic Christmas Trivia

Question: When is one week only 16 hours long?
Answer: Once every seven years when December 25th is on a Monday.
Explanation: When Christmas is on a Monday, the liturgical celebration of Christmas begins with the first Mass (4 PM) on Christmas Eve, which is on a Sunday. But the prior 16 hours of Sunday, December 24th -- the fourth Sunday of Advent -- end up constituting the entirety of the fourth week of Advent. But because the fourth Sunday of Advent is a Sunday of its own liturgical import, and because Sunday has an ordinary obligation of Mass attendance, Catholics would therefore still be required to attend Mass on the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

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

Christmas Cards From St. Alphonsus



Our parish Christmas cards have shipped out to all registered members of our faith community. As part of the annual contest, our talented Alphonsus Academy & Center for the Arts students submitted many worthy candidates but the winning artwork was drawn by Ella B, a 5th grader at AACA! Runner-up submissions will be utilized for our front cover of the Christmas bulletin as well as featured periodically on our parish Facebook page.

Volunteer Watering Our Poinsettias!



Our parish is looking for one green thumb volunteer to help out with watering our Christmas poinsettias. If you love flowers, please email Kelly Lovewell, kjlovewell@gmail.com

Keeping Advent 2023

The Home Stretch

Because of our calendar this year, the Fourth Sunday of Advent is also Christmas Eve. So, this is the last week of Advent that we will keep during 2023.

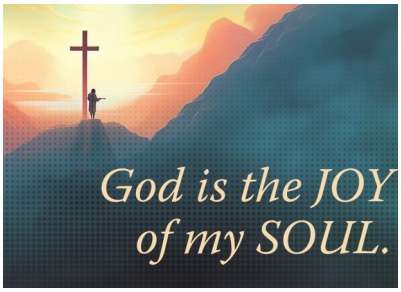
Don't let the brevity of the season stop you from enjoying its fullness! For many, Advent is a good time to spend some quiet moments, remembering the things for which we long, the patience needed for things to come to fruition. (If nothing else, we might long for some quiet moments in the midst of 'making Christmas', packing to travel and social obligations.)

The theme for the third week of Advent is 'Joy.' That is the reason for the rose color of the candle and in the priest's vestments.

Take some time this week to be mindful of what gives you joy. What does God put in your life that lifts your heart and spirit? As you uncover each instance, bring it to God in prayer.

Another way to connect with 'Joy' is to pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. Keep in mind the name that these five stories have been given. As you pray, use your imagination to put you in touch with the joy and wonder experienced by Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph (and even the unborn John the Baptist!)

A third way to experience joy is to celebrate the sacrament of penance. We don't necessarily think of 'penance' as 'joy' but there is nothing greater than the feeling of relief and gratitude for God's mercy. And God's response to us is always joy. Nothing makes God more joyful than our return to a life of grace.





The Third Sunday of Advent helps us to remember joy and the call to rejoice in the Lord, who is coming to save us.

Light Advent Candles

Light two violet and one rose candle each evening for the third week of Advent.

Pray Lord Jesus Christ,
you are the joy of every human heart.
Give us the knowledge of your presence
and the strength that comes from you alone.
Keep us in your embrace
and bring us to you at the last.

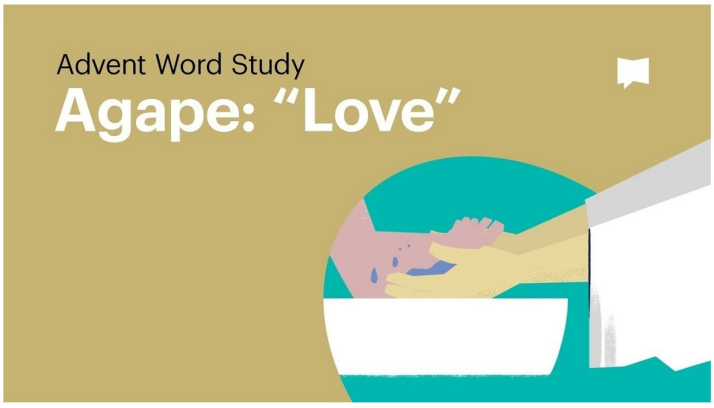
This week often seems one of the most hectic of the year. Find a way to give yourself some space and peace. Take the time to savor the goodness of life, rather than rush to try to make it all 'perfect'.

Advent Video Reflections 2023 are available on YouTube/Catholic Chicago and the archdiocesan social media channels.

FORMED— Just Press Play!

St. Alphonsus is dedicated to YOUR spiritual formation. We encourage our faithful to check out FORMED, a premier online platform filled with over 4,000 Catholic studies, movies, audio dramas, talks, e-books, and even cartoons for our children. FORMED has content from over 60 apostolates, including Augustine Institute, Ignatius Press, and the Knights of Columbus, with material that is professionally produced, engaging, and solid in its catechism. **Best of all, this material is FREE to you.**

https://watch.formed.org/videos/agape-love-advent-word-studies-the-bible-project



FORMED® | THE CATHOLIC FAITH. ON DEMAND.

Agape/Love | Advent: Word Studies | The Bible Project

The word "love" is one of the sloppiest words in our language, as it primarily refers to a feeling that happens to a person. In the New Testament, "love" refers to a way of treating people that was defined by Jesus himself: seeking the well-being of others regardless of their response.

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

Contact

Sacramental Information

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

How to Offer a Mass Intention

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

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

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

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

St. Alphonsus Social Media

Choose to participate in meaningful engagement! Having an attitude of engagement challenges us to love our digital neighbor as ourselves. You can find St. Alphonsus' Facebook and 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- Fri

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

School Staff
Gerit McAllister, Principal
Angela Kladis, Assistant Principal
Madeleine Durkin, Director of Admissions
Kim Wallett, Secretary
Connie Del Toral, Administrative Assistant