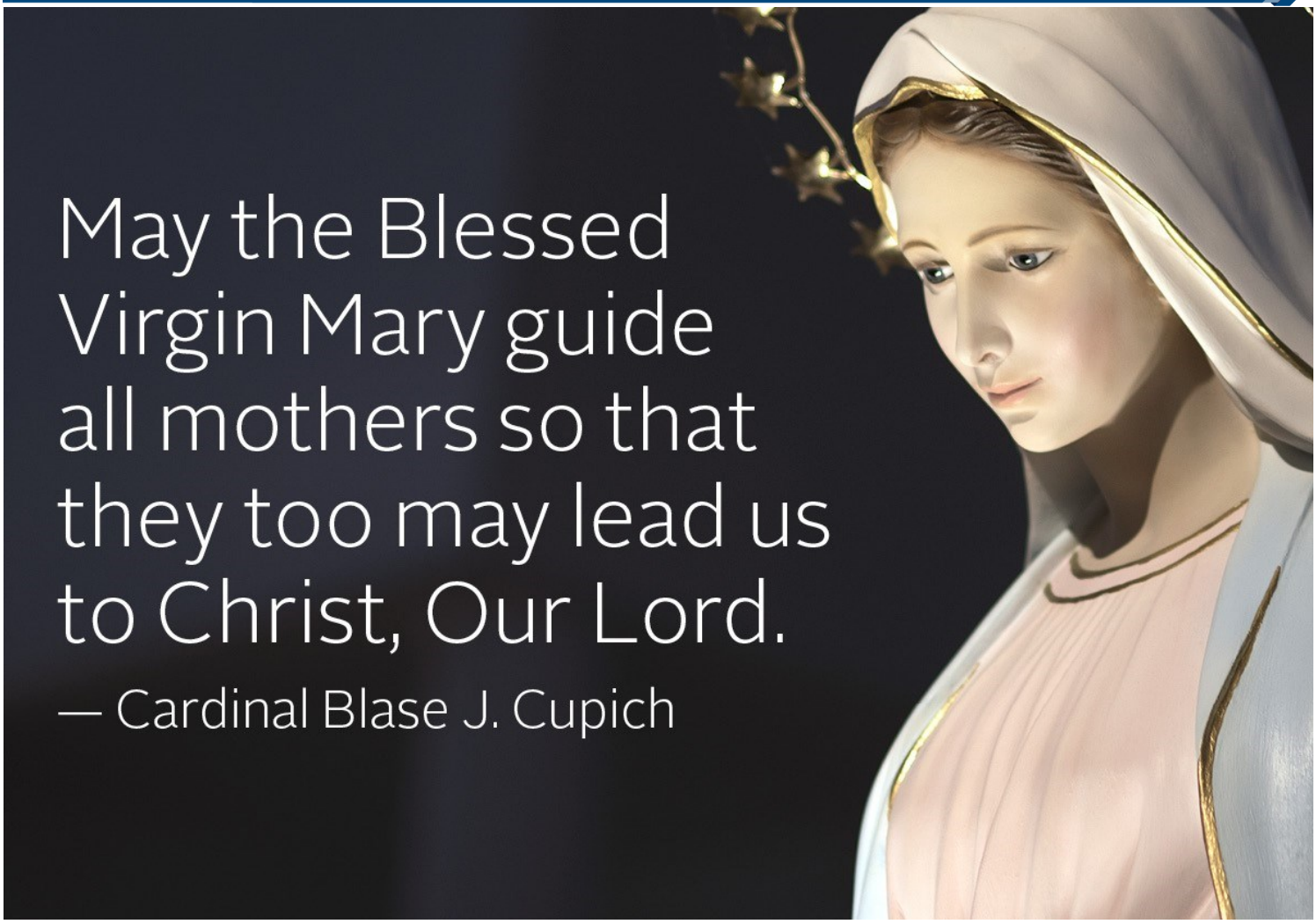
Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

MAY 14, 2023: SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



"If you love me, you will keep my commandments.
And I will ask the Father,
and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always,
the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept,
because it neither sees nor knows him." (Jn 14:15-17)

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 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
Monday: Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Jn 15:26—16:4a
Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/Jn 16:5-11
Wednesday: Acts 17:15, 22—18:1/Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14/Jn 16:12-15
Thursday: Acts 18:1-8/Ps 98:1-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 16:16-20
Friday: Acts 18:9-18/Ps 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Jn 16:20-23
Saturday: Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47:2-3, 8-9, 10/Jn 16:23b-28
Next Sunday: Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 (6)/Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20



Please Pray for the Sick

Dorothy Bonds
Jamie Wallett
Sandra Wilson
Monica Alexis Rios
Margaret Nichols
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
Judy Fredrickson
Tracy Duda
Jacob Duda
Dorothy O'Brien
Ryan Meadow
Danny Browder
Carol Kania
Juanita Ramirez

At Rest in the Peace of Christ

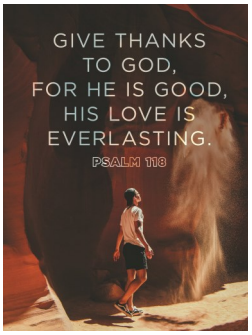
Mary Perisin
Maria Eisler
Carl Klopp
Areanah Preston

WEDDING BANNS

Catherine Gallagher
and
Steven Pacholski

Welcome Our Recently Baptized

Layla Jean Mills
Cooper Patrick Corgan
Everest Peedikayil
Liliana Kathleen Crowe
Alena Nyx Montenegro



Giving Update

Weekly Budget Amount: $15,218

Offertory for 5/7: $17,017

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

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, May 15
8:30 AM Benedict Pipp

Tuesday, May 16
8:30 AM +Janet Kachos and Mike Carlos

Wednesday, May 17
6:00 PM Alton Family

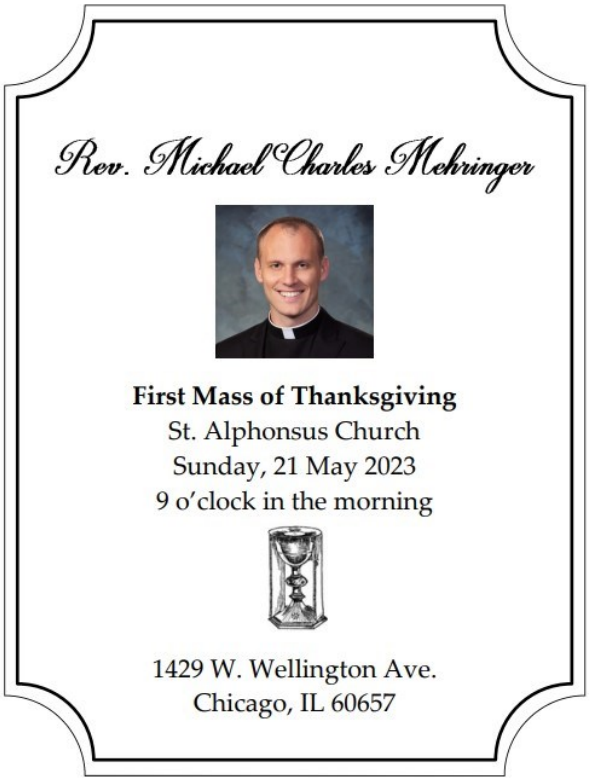
Thursday, May 18
8:30 AM +Melvin Soult

Friday, May 19
8:30 AM +Peter Marsalek

Sunday, May 21
9:00 AM +Fred Hilgart, Rose Hilgart Ward, Joan Hilgart Grahf, & Dennis Hilgart
11:00 AM +Arcadio Malcaldo & Family
12:30 PM The People of St. Alphonsus Parish
5:00 PM +John P. Huffman

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

No Reconciliation Saturday May 20

All available priests will be assisting at the Archdiocese of Chicago Priest Ordination at Holy Name Cathedral. There will not be Confessions at St. Alphonsus at 11 AM on Saturday, May 20.

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

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.

Faith Formation

Spring Your Kids Into Totus Tuus Summer Camp!



We are excited to again offer Totus Tuus Summer Camp here at St. Alphonsus! Totus Tuus is a week-long summer youth retreat for young people in 1st through 12th grade. Participants will grow in their faith through skits, games, songs, the celebration of the sacraments, and engaging interactive teaching.

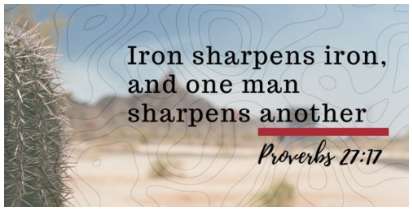
Day Program: Grades 1-6 Monday July 24– Friday July 28 9 AM-2:30 PM $75 per child (yes, really!) Register on our parish GiveCentral page at www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/32872
Highlights include: 11:15 AM daily Mass (parents welcome to attend), outdoor recess, silly skits, Friday water fight. Sack lunches & water bottles required for students

What is Totus Tuus?
For more information, please visit
vocations.archchicago.org/events/totus-tuus/what-is-totus-tuus

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

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

Joining St. Alphonsus Parish

St. Alphonsus welcomes all community members on their faith journey! Just moved in the area? Coming back to practicing our Catholic faith? You will want to learn about all the events going on at our parish. If you are not receiving our weekly parish newsletter in your email, contact Mario Serrano at mserrano@stalphonsuschicago.church

You can officially register to join the parish at www.stalphonsuschicago.org/visitors

Young Adult Ministry

BE SOCIAL
BE SPIRITUAL
BE CHARITABLE
BE INTELLECTUAL
BE CATHOLIC

The Young Adult Ministry (YAM) is one of St. Alphonsus' most active parish groups! YAM is led by a volunteer board and is guided by Pastoral Associate, Brooks Robinson. Stated simply, the ministry's mission is to help one another participate in Christ's mission, that we, as young adult Catholics, may be effective disciples, evangelists, and agents of charity in all that we do. YAM provides many social, intellectual, service, and spiritual opportunities for growth. Members range in age from 21-39 years old.

Our YAM group is made up of 4 main pillars, Spiritual, Intellectual, Service, and Social.

Visit the St. Alphonsus YAM Facebook page, *www.facebook.com/AlphonsusYoungAdult* or contact the YAM board at *stalphonsusyam@gmail.com*

Praise and Adoration— Friday May 26

On Friday, May 26 at 7:30 PM, 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!

More Young Adult Opportunities Around Chicago— YCP Gives Back

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church and School, 5472 S. Kimbark in Hyde Park needs volunteers on Saturday May 27! Please arrive at 9:30 AM and be ready to work! Read more details and sign up here: bit.ly/ycpchi-gbmay After work is finished at 12:30, all are invited to lunch nearby. (Lunch is fellowship, optional, and pay your own way.) *If you live on the northside of Chicago and want to carpool, there will be a group meeting at 8:45 AM at the St. Clement parking lot (642 W. Deming Pl.) and leaving PROMPTLY at 9:00 AM. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Nicole, the Volunteer Coordinator, at nicole.brennan@ycpchicago.org

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

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*



Congratulations to all the women of our parish whom we honor on this Mother's Day! The vocation of motherhood is a distinctly religious vocation, and our parish is blessed with many children. A woman is a mother the instant she conceives a child, and so we honor pregnant women today as well as those who have adopted children. We are grateful for the intercession of Saint Gerard, the patron saint of pregnant women & young mothers and children. (His statue is in our Church).



Know Your Saints

Saint Gerard Magella

Back in 1726, in a little town outside of Naples, in southern Italy, Gerard Magella was born. Sickly at birth, he was taken immediately to the cathedral church for baptism. His father died early, and so Gerard was working as a tailor apprentice by age twelve to help support his family. His fervent religious devotion led him to seek acceptance into a religious order; however because of his frail health, he was refused admittance. Finally, his persistence with the Redemptorists, the order founded by Saint Alphonsus, paid off, and he was finally accepted as a lay brother. (*The story of his leaving home is an interesting one: his mother had locked him in his room to keep him from following the Redemptorists who had been in town giving a mission. The next morning, however, she found the room empty with the window open and sheet hanging down to the ground outside. On the table, was a note from her son: "I have gone to become a saint."*)

Gerard quickly earned a reputation for holiness and prayerfulness. He was known to have bi-located (being in two places at once), and many answered prayers were attributed to his intercession. His humility and child-like innocence, even in the face of a serious false accusation, won him the deepest respect of even Saint Alphonsus himself. He trusted deeply in the will of God, and was willing to bear whatever cross he was given. However, he prayed fervently for others, and miracles began to be attributed to his prayers.

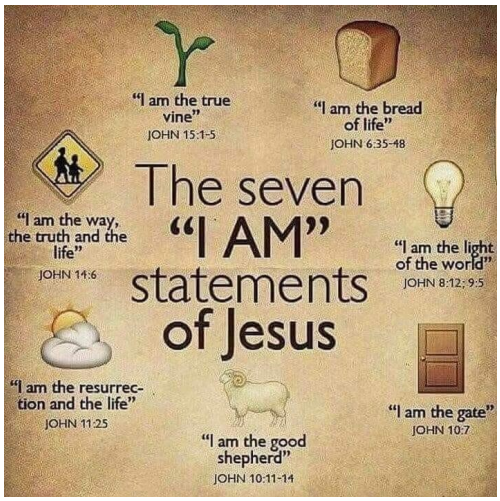
He was known for being able to read hearts, and so is invoked as a patron of those going to confession, giving courage to souls when fear and shame has overcome them. He is known to have brought many back to the sacraments during his lifetime.

His miraculous apostolate for mothers also began during his lifetime. Several cases of difficult pregnancies and childbirth were entrusted to his prayers, with amazing results. When Gerard died in 1755 at age 29, thousands came to pay respect to the one whose prayers had helped them so often. Soon after, miracles began to be reported from almost all parts of Italy, attributed to his intercession. He was beatified by Pope Leo XIII in 1893, and canonized a saint by Pius X in 1904.

The veneration of Saint Gerard has been promoted by his Redemptorists confreres, and has been sustained through newsletters and prayer groups. Associations such as the *League of Saint Gerard* forge a sense of solidarity among those seeking to honor the sanctity of life of children. Many couples experiencing difficulties in conceiving or in carrying a baby to term have turned to St. Gerard for his prayers. Young mothers have sought his intercession as they begin their lives as parents. The proliferation of holy cards and medallions gives witness to the power of this devotion.

Statues portray St. Gerard as a young man, frequently holding a crucifix- he carved them, and was known to meditate frequently upon Christ's Passion. He is clothed in a Redemptorists soutane, (still worn by Redemptorists today). His feast day is October 16. He is the patron saint of childbirth, children, expectant mothers, falsely accused people, good confessions, mothers, the pro-life movement, and unborn children.

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.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES®
Archdiocese of Chicago

Mother's Day Collection

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Mother's Day is a time dedicated to remembering all of the mothers and mother figures in our lives— the women who have fed, natured, taught and sustained us. Mothers are essential in every generation, in every moment of each day, to the fullness of God's plan for human life and community.

Helping mothers in need is core to our faith, and helping mothers is a central calling for Catholic Charities. As Christ reminds us, we must care for women and children in needs, especially mothers raising children alone.

Your generous donation to the Mother's Day Collection for Catholic Charities enables the Church's work on behalf of mothers. Catholic Charities helps tens of thousands of mothers each year with counseling services; food, housing, and utility assistance; adoption support; home-visit parenting support; domestic violence safe-shelter; and so much more.

Catholic Charities

Your donations are critical to this work of faith. They enable us to be Christ's hands throughout Cook and Lake counties. As the largest provider of human services in our region, the Catholic Church touches thousands of lives daily through the work of Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities relies on the contributions of Catholics who recognize and embrace the call to witness and unite in service, as one Church.

I reach out to our parishes once each year for support of Charities' work. Mother's Day is your chance to make a gift to this central, mighty mission of our Church. Please consider donating either:

- In-person during the second collection this Mother's Day, May 14
- Online at www.catholiccharities.net/donate
- By mail at Catholic Charities, P.O. Box 8275, Carol Stream, IL 60197-8275

Please accept my sincere gratitude for your past support. I encourage you to be as generous as you can again this year, so that together we might witness a message of mercy and hope in a world in need— starting with mothers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago

Helpful Household Hints by Harvey Levin

If you use caulk around the house occasionally, there is the problem of the rest of the tub getting hard and going bad. How do you save it? A little aluminum foil or plastic wrap? No, use a cork. The next time you use wine with a synthetic cork, save it. Drill a 5/16 hole in one end about 1 in. deep. Now you have an airtight cap for your caulk tube.

Gospel Reflection

Conversations with Jesus

How familiar are we with God's Presence in our lives … I mean, really?!?! We say that we are because that's the right answer to the question.

Recently, I came across a story of an old man dying of cancer.

"The old man's daughter had asked the local priest to come and pray with her father. When the priest arrived, he found the man lying in bed with his head propped up on two pillows and an empty chair beside his bed. The priest assumed that the old fellow had been informed of his visit. 'I guess you were expecting me,' he said. 'No, who are you?' 'I'm the new associate at your parish,' the priest replied. 'When I saw the empty chair, I figured you knew I was going to show up.' 'Oh yeah, the chair,' said the bedridden man. 'Would you mind closing the door?' Puzzled, the priest shut the door.

I've never told anyone this, not even my daughter,' said the man, 'but all my life I have never known how to pray. At the Sunday Mass, I used to hear the pastor talk about prayer, but it always went right over my head. Finally, I said to him one day in sheer frustration, 'I get nothing out of your homilies on prayer.' 'Here,' says my pastor, 'read this book by Hans Urs von Balthasar. He's a Swiss theologian. It's the best book on contemplative prayer in the twentieth century.' 'Well, Father,' says the man, 'I took the book home and tried to read it. But in the first three pages I had to look up twelve words in the dictionary. I gave the book back to my pastor, thanked him, and under my breath whispered, 'for nothin'.' 'I abandoned any attempt at prayer,' he continued, 'until one day about four years ago my best friend said to me, 'Joe, prayer is just a simple matter of having a conversation with Jesus. Here's what I suggest. Sit down on a chair, place an empty chair in front of you, and in faith see Jesus on the chair. It's not spooky because He promised, "I'll be with you all days." Then just speak to Him and listen in the same way you're doing with me right now.' 'So, Padre, I tried it, and I've liked it so much that I do it a couple of hours every day. I'm careful, though. If my daughter saw me talking to an empty chair, she'd either have a nervous breakdown or send me off to the funny farm.'

The priest was deeply moved by the story and encouraged the old guy to continue on the journey. Then he prayed with him, anointed him with oil, and returned to the rectory. Two nights later the daughter called to tell the priest that her daddy had died that afternoon. 'Did he seem to die in peace?' he asked. 'Yes, when I left the house around two o'clock, he called me over to his bedside, told me one of his corny jokes, and kissed me on the cheek. When I got back from the store an hour later, I found him dead. But there was something strange, Father. In fact, beyond strange — kinda weird. Apparently just before Daddy died, he leaned over and rested his head on a chair beside his bed.'"



—An excerpt from: *Abba's Child: The Cry of the Heart for Intimate Belonging* (p. 106-107) by Brennan Manning

What if we were really attuned to God's Presence in our lives … like this man in the story? What difference would it make given the realities of the world we live in? How do we even begin to be aware of it?

Let's start with this: Jesus never goes back on his word. So, when he says in today's Gospel, "I will come to you" and "I will love him and reveal myself to him," we can be sure that Jesus intends to do this. This is faith. But there is a qualifying clause, "If you love me" (verse 15). IF … That's a sobering thought. Peter says to Jesus, "You know I love you" (Jn 21:15). We might say the same. But when pressed further, Peter becomes distressed. The same should be said of us. A careful examination of our conscience might reveal that we might love Jesus, but there are also other 'loves' in our lives which attract us. One of my former co-workers in evangelization was fond of saying, "The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing." It's not that Jesus is a liar, it's that our faith can be flimsy, easily persuaded (or justified) by the ephemeral possession, the esteemed reputation, the novel commodity, the socially acceptable position, the polarizing ideology, the unexpected opportunity, the seductive relationship, or the alluring activity. These may have some value in the short term, but they are not the main thing. The main thing is Jesus, and this lesson is what the man in our story learned even later in life.

Perhaps, we can be honest with ourselves by saying that there are many loves that occupy our hearts and minds. And from that starting point, let's learn to have a conversation with Jesus about what — or who — the 'main thing' in our lives should be.

—Br. John-Marmion Villa

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

The Spiritual 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 Spiritual Works of Mercy are acts of compassion by which we help our neighbors with their emotional and spiritual needs. The spiritual works of mercy recognize sin, ignorance, doubt, sorrow and other human conditions that keep us from fully loving and serving God. When we recognize these conditions in others we are called to reach out in faith and in love so that we might draw them closer to Christ. The spiritual works of mercy are based on the teachings and practices of the Church since apostolic times.

To Counsel the Doubtful

We should be most zealous in helping those whom a word may save or aid. How happy we should be if the word we say helps a doubtful one to become firm in his/her faith! Advising the doubtful should be done prudently, and gently, to effect good results. It is seldom effective to rush into heated argument. Let us pray for wisdom and compassion before giving counsel.

Holy Example: As a Doctor of the Church, *St. Thérèse of Lisieux* (1873-1897), counsels the doubtful through her profound spiritual writings. This Carmelite nun lived a cloistered life of obscurity in the convent of Lisieux, France. Thérèse sought to serve others, to do something outside herself, and to forget herself in quiet acts of love. Truly she was a valiant woman who did not whimper about her illnesses and anxieties, as she lived with great holiness. Shortly before she died, she wrote, *"I want to spend my heaven doing good on earth."*

To Instruct the Ignorant

Missionaries, catechists, confessors, and all Christians are called to participate in this important work of mercy. We must all strive to continually learn about the Catholic faith so as to be able to instruct others in the faith. Continued learning includes reading excellent Catholic books, listening to good Catholic CDs, and attending Catholic conferences, retreats or pilgrimages.

Holy Example: The first American-born citizen to be canonized by the Catholic Church, *St. Elizabeth Ann Seton* (1774-1821), founded the first American religious community for women, opened the first American parish school, and established the first American Catholic orphanage. Three basic points led her to convert to Catholicism: belief in the Real Presence, devotion to the Blessed Mother and conviction that the Catholic Church led back to the apostles and to Christ. The Bible was her continual instruction, support and comfort throughout her life as she dedicated herself to instructing others.

To Admonish the Sinner

Whenever we think our words may have a good effect, we should admonish the sinner with gentleness and charity. Those in authority, such as parents, teachers, and priests, are bound to admonish those under them of their faults, even if in doing so they bring trouble upon themselves. We can ask God for the courage and grace to correct others with love and mercy.

Holy Example: At the age of 15, *St. Pio of Pietrelcina* (1887-1968) joined the Capuchins. On September 20, 1918, as he was making his thanksgiving after Mass, Padre Pio had a vision of Jesus. When the vision ended, he had the stigmata in his hands, feet and side. Padre Pio rarely left the friary after he received the stigmata. Each morning after a 5 AM Mass in a crowded church, he heard confessions until noon. He took a mid-morning break to bless the sick and all who came to see him. Every afternoon he also heard confessions. In time, his confessional ministry during which he would compassionately admonish sinners would take 10 hours a day.

To Comfort the Sorrowful

We can comfort the sorrowful by showing them sincere sympathy and by helping them in their need. To give comfort, we may speak of God's love for every single one of His creatures and of the happiness He reserved for us in Heaven, when all earthly sorrows and troubles will be ended. Just being present to someone who is sorrowful is a powerful way of offering comfort.

Holy Example: The deathbed confession of a dying servant opened *St. Vincent de Paul's* (1580-1660)eyes to the crying spiritual needs of the peasantry of France. As the leader of what is now known as the Congregation of the Mission, or the Vincentians, Vincent devoted himself as a missionary entirely to the people in the smaller towns and villages. He established confraternities of charity for the spiritual and physical relief of the poor and sick of each parish. In his writings, he counseled people to forget their own sorrows; *"Strive to live content in the midst of those things that cause your discontent. Free your mind from all that troubles you. God will take care of things."*

To Forgive All Injuries

We must forgive others, as we hope God will forgive us. Instead of seeking revenge or holding a grudge, those who wish to imitate the saints go out of their way to do favors to those who injure them. Like Jesus Christ, they love all. They pray for those they need to forgive, and confess their lack of forgiveness.

Holy Example: When *St. Maria Goretti* (1890-1902) was 12 years old, her 18-year-old neighbor, Alessandro, seized her and pulled her into a bedroom.

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She struggled and tried to call for help, "No, God does not wish it," she cried out. "It is a sin." Alessandro began striking at her blindly with a long dagger. On her deathbed at the hospital, she forgave Alessandro and received her last Holy Communion. She died about 24 hours after the attack. Her unrepentant murderer was sentenced to 30 years in prison. One night he had a vision of Maria, gathering flowers and offering them to him. His life changed, knowing she had forgiven him.

To Bear Wrongs Patiently

By being patient when faced with injustice, we benefit both ourselves and others. Our patience helps may help another realize their wrong-doing. Yet, we must not simply allow others to falsely lay a serious crime against us. When unjustly attacked, we can strive to remain calm with the peace of Christ and respond with love.

Holy Example: *St. Joan of Arc* (1412-1431) was only 12 when she experienced a vision and heard voices that she later identified as Sts. Michael the Archangel, Catherine of Alexandria, and Margaret of Antioch. During the Hundred Years War, she led French troops against the English and recaptured the cities of Orleans and Troyes. Joan was captured near Compiegne the following year, sold to the English and placed on trial for heresy and witchcraft. She had to endure brutal questioning and false accusations throughout the trial and while in prison. Yet through it all, she patiently relied on God as her source of strength and courage.

To Pray for the Living and the Dead

We may not see the effects of our prayers, but God sees. Not one single prayer raised to God from a sincere heart is wasted. Prayers do good for those we pray for, and for ourselves as well. Remembering in your prayers those who are in need, and having Masses said for the souls in purgatory are acts of spiritual kindness.

Holy Example: *St. Faustina Kowalska* (1905-1938) is known as the "Apostle of God's Mercy". In the 1930's, Sister Faustina received from the Lord a message of mercy that she was told to spread throughout the world. She is a model of how to be merciful to others, and an instrument for re-emphasizing God's plan of mercy for the world. At the Divine Lord's request, she prayerfully and willingly offered her personal sufferings in union with Him to atone for the sins of others; both the living and the dead. In her daily life, she became a doer of mercy, bringing joy and peace to others, encouraging them to trust in Him.

It is our lifelong duty of work to fulfill the works of mercy even in our ordinary, daily deeds as we live the teachings of Jesus.

Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did w see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'
(Matthew 25:34-40)

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