



Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

NOVEMBER 20, 2022: OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE



*Then he said,
“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”
He replied to him,
“Amen, I say to you,
today you will be with me in Paradise.” (Lk 23:42-43)*

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

Worship

This Week's Readings

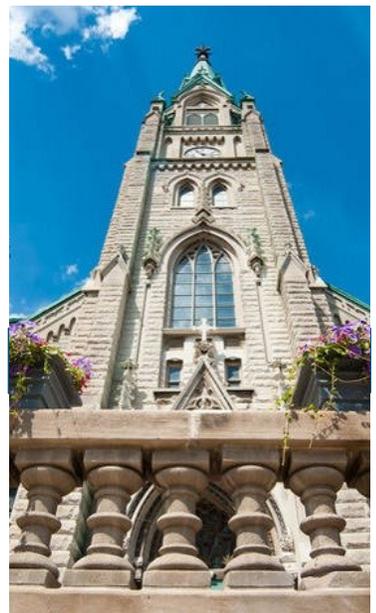
Sunday: 2 Sm 5:1-3/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5/Col 1:12-20/Lk 23:35-43
 Monday: Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5/Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 21:1-4
 Tuesday: Rv 14:14-19/Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13/Lk 21:5-11
 Wednesday: Rv 15:1-4/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 7-8, 9/Lk 21:12-19
 Thursday: Rv 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 21:20-28
 Friday: Rv 20:1-4, 11-21:2/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6a and 8a/Lk 21:29-33
 Saturday: Rv 22:1-7/Ps 95:1-2, 3-5, 6-7ab/Lk 21:34-36
 Next Sunday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44

Please Pray for the Sick

William Ahearn	Fidel Mercado Chavez
Emilia Hurtado	Janet Horvat
Dorothy Bonds	Bernard Zapp
Jamie Wallett	Rachel Schopp
Sandra Wilson	Mike Madigan
Monica Alexis Rios	David Birks
Margaret Nichols	Celeste Soult
Maria Eisler	Carol Reckwerdt
Tessa Sergent	Magdalena Gonzalez
Carolina Goldie	Michael Aldape
Diane Mareci	Jane Christensen
	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 11/13: \$14,864
 Please remember to help the poor. Donations to the poor box in the narthex go to our St. Vincent DePaul Society.



WEDDING BANNERS

Katie Baumgartner
 and
 Matthew Caulfield

Welcome Our Recently Baptized

Emily Ruth Long
 William James Rathbun
 Matilda Quinn McCarthy
 Barrett Thomas McKenna

Eucharistic Adoration: re-center yourself in God and experience the peace that only Christ can give.
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

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.

Welcome to the Parish!

Bridget and Ryan Lavelle
 Annie
 Claire Tracy and Jim Bragiel
 Grace McSorley
 Jose Cataneo Serrato
 Kimberly Pulvermacher and Derek Masters
 Grainne Dunne Mike Bauer



MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, November 20

9:00 AM +Norman Enderle
 +Alphonsus Venkus
 11:00 AM Sharon Pellino
 12:30 PM +For All Souls in Purgatory
 5:00 PM +Helen Kam Kim Hui

Monday, November 21

8:30 AM Steven Oliver Family

Tuesday, November 22

8:30 AM Mariana Gramajo (Health and Blessings)

Wednesday, November 23

6:00 PM Somes Family

Thursday, November 24 (Thanksgiving)

9:00 AM +Floro and Zoila Espinosa

Friday, November 25

8:30 AM +Winston Martinelli

Sunday, November 27

9:00 AM Schenkel Family
 11:00 AM +Teresita Narido Cordero
 12:30 PM Roberto, Carmen and Jesus Rodriguez
 5:00 PM +For All Souls in Purgatory



News and Events

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Our faith community kicks off the holiday season in style with the annual lighting of the Lakeview Christmas tree **this Sunday November 20 after 5 PM Mass from 6-7:30 PM!**

Enjoy carols performed by our Alphonsus Academy & Center for the Arts students, FREE hot chocolate from our wonderful neighbor, S&G restaurant and more surprises! The festivities will take place directly outside the veranda of the church on the corner of Lincoln/Wellington/Southport. This event is hosted by the Lakeview Roscoe Village Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by a SSA 27 grant. More details can be found at www.lakeviewroscoe.org/communitytreelighting

St. Alphonsus Giving Tree

Please Take A Tag From the Tree



The Giving Tree is now up in the narthex. This great project involves our whole parish and 'makes Christmas' for hundreds of people less fortunate. We give gifts to about a hundred individuals through Catholic Charities, as part of the Celebration of Giving program.



Please make sure to bring all gifts by December 4! Gifts dropped off outside of Sundays should be brought to the rectory office during regular business hours. Contact Mario Serrano at mserranostals@gmail.com if you have questions.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- *Are these real names?* No, they are pseudonyms.
- *Why mention ethnicity?* It is to help inform your purchase of children's toys and books.
- *Why gift cards for fast food?* Those who are homeless have no place to cook. Also, some agencies use them as incentives.
- *Why do some of these items look like luxuries and not necessities?* Even those who are down on their luck appreciate a few items that are more to 'feed the soul' than to feed the body.

We appreciate the great generosity of the parish!



Looking for a way to donate to children this Christmas? Join St. Alphonsus as we support The Women's Center this year by collecting Giving Tree Gift Cards for their clients' children. This year, instead of collecting clothing and toys, The Women's Center has opted to collect a "suggested donation" of \$25 gift cards for their clients' children. The Women's Center will use the money collected online to purchase \$25 gift cards from Walmart, Visa, and Jewel Os-

co. This will allow their clients to be able to purchase both a Christmas meal and gifts for their children. The gift cards will be given out at The Women's Center Christmas parties on Saturday, December 17th to the children of clients who have been counseled this year and have chosen LIFE for their unborn baby. Approximately 650 people will attend our North and Southside parties. The children will get to meet Santa & Mrs. Claus and receive their gift cards and candy. **These gifts are possibly the only ones they will receive for Christmas this year!** Merry Christmas and may God bless you for supporting the work of The Women's Center.

More News and Events

Happy Thanksgiving!



Our St. Alphonsus parish staff warmly wishes everyone an amazing Thanksgiving and safe travels if you are visiting family and/or friends. There will be morning Mass on Thursday, November 24 at 9 AM.

Knights of Columbus— Dec. Food Drive



Our parish Knights council is running a Christmas food drive for Misericordia and Mission OLA on December 3rd and 4th. They will be collecting any non perishable items on Saturday the 3rd in the parking lot from 11AM-2PM and after every Mass at the back of church on Dec. 4. Your support is greatly appreciated!

The KofC was founded by Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney to support our Pastor, our Parish and those in need, as well as to support strong marriages & families. Interested in learning more about joining the Knights? Contact parishioner/Grand Knight, Carlos Medina, cmolina15158@gmail.com.

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 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

Dante 360— Final Show at 3 PM Today!



Join us for a journey through the Divine Comedy, from Inferno to Paradiso. Featuring art historian, Elizabeth Lev, this event will explore the significance of the world's most famous epic poem and its author, the illustrious Dante Alighieri. Experience the depth and complexity of Dante's vision through a series of recitations, displays of visual art, and music provided by the vocal ensemble Schola Antiqua, which carry the soul alongside the pilgrim in his ascent to Paradise. Support our parish and enjoy an evening of uplifting entertainment! Use our parish's promo code **ALPHONSUS**; get 10% off your ticket and 10% of your purchase will be donated to our parish community. Tickets: www.athenaeumcenter.org/dante

A Mexican Christmas Concert

Newberry Consort will perform a concert here at St. Alphonsus on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 8 PM. Visit newberryconsort.squarespace.com/christmas for more info and tickets.

If your extended family was facing a sudden crisis situation and your nephew needed a place to stay for a few days, **would you host them?**

What about the child of a friend? Or the child of a neighbor?

What about the child of a stranger?



God calls us to show hospitality to strangers and care for the fatherless.

(Matthew 25:38, Psalm 82:3, Isaiah 1:17)

Stewardship at St. Alphonsus

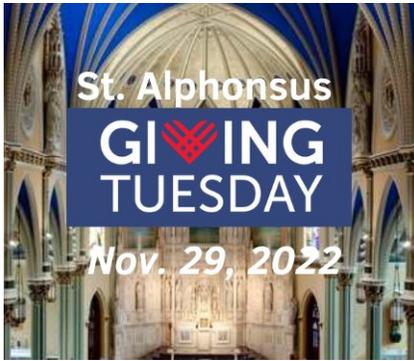
Stewardship is a spirituality, a way of life, a response in gratitude to God for what has been given us. It is intentional, planned and proportionate giving of our time, talent, and treasure. As stewards we receive gifts of God with gratitude, cultivate them responsibly and share them lovingly in justice with others, all the while standing before the Lord in the spirit of accountability.

As you reflect upon the ways you return your gifts, please consider the time and talent you might have to offer.

Supporting The Giving Tree is a great opportunity to combine Stewardship with the Christmas season by treasuring in making someone's Christmas needs come true!

Giving Tuesday 2022

Giving Tuesday is Nov. 29



As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, there is excitement everywhere that this year's feast day will look a lot more like the family gatherings we all know and love: families will be reunited, dining room tables will be covered with our favorite foods, football will be on the TV, and kids will be watching Snoopy serve a smorgasbord of popcorn, buttered toast, and jelly beans.

This holiday, of course, enables us to articulate the reasons we have to be thankful. And after the tryptophan-induced sluggishness wears off, Americans also celebrate the custom of Giving Tuesday, where we show our gratitude by making an offering to charity. This year, we invite parishioners to show their

thankfulness to the Lord for His blessings through making a donation to St. Alphonsus Parish. Every gift is appreciated, and any amount is appropriate. There are many wonderful blessings here, the blessings of Giving Tuesday helps us keep our ministries running and the blessings flowing. Make your contribution today at www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/16800 or TEXT **Tuesday** to (773) 570-7600.

Stewardship Reflection

*"...giving thanks to the Father, who has made you fit to share in the inheritance of the holy ones in light."
Colossians 1:12*

God wants us to be happy! Instead of looking at the Ten Commandments as being restrictive and telling us what we can't do, look at them as guides for living a joy-filled and peaceful life. Most of our problems arise when we put our own needs first or we spend most of our time trying to acquire more stuff. Instead, try putting God first in all things. We were made for God. Open your heart and let Him in!

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Saint Alphonsus | San Alfonso

Están Cordialmente Invitados

a Celebrar la Fiesta

Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

Misa 12 de Diciembre a las 7:00 PM

**Join Us In Celebrating
Our Lady of Guadalupe**

Novena starts December 3rd through 11th

Mass on Monday, December 12th at 7:00 PM followed by a
Fiesta in the Festival Hall after the Mass.



Flowers for Our Lady of Guadalupe

When the Virgin Mary appeared to St. Juan Diego on Mount Tepeyac on Dec 12, 1531, she told him to pick roses which were miraculously in bloom, and present them to the bishop as proof that her appearance was real. So as we celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe, we invite you to help fund the roses used to decorate the Mary altar in church. Special envelopes will be found in the narthex, or donate online at www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/32188

Faith Formation

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!

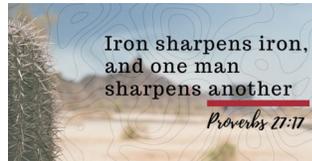
If you or someone you know is interested in taking the class, please contact our pastoral associate, Brooks Robinson at brobinson@stalphonsuschicago.church

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.

Men's Group Presents:



For the entire parish -
**Eucharistic adoration
and benediction the
first Friday of every
month 7:30-8:30 PM.
Starts Dec. 2**

*"Come to me all you are labored and burdened
and I will give you rest" Matthew 11:28*

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!

As we look at Old Testament people and events, we'll encounter problems that only Christ will solve, needs that only He will satisfy, and promises that only He can deliver.

Beholding His Glory, a nine-lesson Bible study, reminds us how all Scripture points us to our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. We will learn to recognize and appreciate God's plan for our own lives, His

awe-inspiring majesty, and His desire for personal intimacy with each one of us.

Questions? Contact Susan Combes at suecombes@hotmail.com

Gospel Meditation



It's not unreasonable to think that if God wanted to make a statement he could do so in a very dramatic way. After all, he spoke through a burning bush that

didn't actually burn, parted the Red Sea, sent manna to the Israelites from the sky, cured lepers, healed the sick and cast out demons. All of that is pretty dramatic stuff, and they made statements! Now, Jesus hangs dying on a cross. He has been referred to as a king. Considering all of the miracles Jesus did in his short time on earth, isn't one more in order? If Jesus came down off of the cross, defied death, and parted the waters of suffering and death, onlookers, believers and unbelievers alike, would take notice. It would prove who God is and show us what God wants us to do. Or would it?

Great spiritual masters remind us not to focus on miracles or consolations received from God. They can distract us. Doing anything other than what Jesus did would distract humanity as well, misplacing our focus.

It's not about a miracle, at least not the dramatic kind people are eager to see. It's about something more profound. It all goes back to where it began for the earthly Jesus. God becomes one with humanity in Jesus Christ. All that goes into being human is holy and blessed, and that becomes a place where God is born, again and again. God, through Jesus, tells us to hold firm to all of the experiences of being human, the joys and the wonders, the disappointments and the failures.

God's lesson is found in Jesus' vulnerability. It is only when we are vulnerable that we learn how to love. When Jesus breathed his last, God's unconditional and tender love was realized. Jesus always had a soft spot for the weak, lost, vulnerable, and broken. God wants us to come to Him freely, not because we have witnessed some fantastic display of prowess. God desires that we find Him through who we are, as our hearts and souls direct. This will mean that our love is authentic as it will be born of the heartache, pain, and turmoil that are a part of life. The fragments of our lives need to be made whole. Our fragmented king, Jesus Christ, is the only one who can help put the pieces together.

Stewardship— First Fruits



**FIRST
FRUITS**
time talent treasure



It is encouraging to see both new and familiar faces at our worship

services. Throughout the year, many already support St. Alphonsus with your time, talent and treasure.

Thank you again for your continued support of our church! Your spirited generosity ensures our parish continues our mission and good works throughout our community and beyond for years to come!

Sign up at [www.givecentral.org/
location/39/event/527](http://www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/527)

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

Young Adult Ministry

Young Catholic Professionals St. Joseph Saturday Retreat— December 3



Join us on Saturday, December 3rd for the annual St. Joseph Saturday Retreat! This retreat is a FREE half-day retreat (open to all young adults in their 20s and 30s), where young adults are encouraged to "look upon work with the eyes of faith" and see God's presence in their vocations and professional lives. The retreat will include talks, group discussion, and prayer, and it will be a time to reflect on the life of YCP's patron saint, St. Joseph the Worker.

**This retreat is being sponsored by YCP Chicago, St. Mary of the Angels Young Adult Ministry, St. Alphonsus Young Adult Ministry, St. Clement Young Adult Community, and Holy Name Cathedral Young Adults.

This retreat will be hosted at St. Mary of the Angels, 1810 N. Hermitage Ave. from 9 AM to 1 PM. Morning Mass/Reconciliation available. To register and for more info, visit bit.ly/ycpdec2022

Helpful Household Hints by Harvey Levin

There are more excellent recipes for stuffing than you have fingers and toes but, just in case, here is grandma's stuffing. Diced onion, diced celery, diced carrots, a handful of ground beef, diced water chestnuts, salt and pepper and a big box of corn flakes. No quantities? Grandma never measured anything. The corn flakes give a subtle nutty flavor, the ground beef adds moisture and the water chestnuts give a nice crunch. No matter how long you cook water chestnuts they will stay crunchy.

Around the Archdiocese

Run w/ Team OLA in the 2023 Marathon!



Run with Mission of Our Lady of the Angels in the

BANK OF AMERICA
Chicago Marathon
October 8, 2023



Our Mission

Mission OLA strives to spread the love of Jesus by providing food and basic necessities to over 3000 families a month in West Humboldt Park.

Runners Get

- Guaranteed entries into the race
- Race weekend accommodations
- Training help from Sr. Stephanie (2:53 marathoner, former D1 runner)



The Official team



The Finishers

For More Info

Please visit our website www.missionola.com/marathon.html or contact Sr. Stephanie at alamission@gmail.com, or call 773-486-8431.

Mission of Our Lady of the Angels (via the Franciscans of the Eucharist) provides **hope to the poor** on the west side of Chicago via food pantries supporting 3000 families a month, afterschool programs, seniors programs, community meals, and much more. **Consider running to support Mission OLA in the...** Bank Of America Chicago Marathon (Oct 8, 2023)

Registration is OPEN!

Limited # of Guaranteed Entries- SIGN UP TODAY!

Benefits of joining:

- Guaranteed entries into the race!
- T-shirts, pre-race Mass & dinner, place to stay the night before the race, and more...
- Sr. Stephanie (2:53 marathoner, NCAA D1 cross-country and track athlete, as featured in Runner's World) can write a training plan for you
- (hopefully) Complimentary subscription to the Hallow App so you can pray while you run!
- Each team member will be paired with a member of the prayer team to pray for them!
- Please see missionola.com/marathon.html for details

MASS OF HEALING FOR THOSE SUFFERING FROM ADDICTION



Wednesday, November 23, 2022
7 p.m.

St. Linus Church of
Our Lady of the Ridge and St. Linus Parish
10300 Lawler Avenue, Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Please contact Fr. Ryan Brady for more information at
rbrady@archchicago.org or 708.422.2400

Mass for Healing From Addiction— Nov. 23

The night before Thanksgiving has become a celebrated night of binge-drinking and drunkenness. Since 2020, alcohol and drug induced deaths have skyrocketed. Depression and anxiety have never plagued more people. Many will go out and overdo it on Wednesday, November 23.

St. Linus Church of Our Lady of the Ridge and St. Linus Parish (10300 Lawler Avenue, Oak Lawn, IL 60453) will host a special Mass on Wednesday Nov. 23 at 7 PM to pray for healing for those who suffer from addiction. If we're to celebrate anything that night, let's celebrate the fact that healing from addiction is possible. And let us keep close in prayer those whom we love who suffer from this incredibly sad disease. Contact Fr. Ryan Brady, rbrady@archchicago.org for more information.

Tips for Parents & Guardians

Parents need to establish *clear expectations* with teens and check-in regularly to be sure those expectations are being met. As much as possible, try to have an adult at home when teens are there and always know where they are and who they are with.

Archdiocesan Office for the Protection of Children & Youth

(312) 534-5254



THE EUCHARIST

What the Church Teaches

The Church's teaching on the Eucharist is contained in many documents, but Pope Saint John Paul II provides a succinct summary in his encyclical letter *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* (on the Eucharist in its relationship to the Church):

"The Church has received the Eucharist from Christ her Lord not as one gift – however precious – among so many others, but as the gift *par excellence*, for it is the gift of himself, of his person in his sacred humanity, as well as the gift of his saving work. Nor does it remain confined to the past, since 'all that Christ is – all that he did and suffered for all men – participates in the divine eternity, and so transcends all times'" (11; emphasis in original).

As it is with any gift from God, the Eucharist transcends definition, for it is too great a mystery to be exhausted by human language. Yet, so that we may appreciate the Eucharist more deeply, Saint John Paul II offers for our contemplation its essential features – namely, that Jesus himself instituted the Eucharist, that he is really present in the sacrament, and that we also receive the fruits of his saving work.

INSTITUTED BY JESUS

Once Jesus began his public ministry, he set out to fulfill the mission given him by his Father: to save the world from sin and death and to open the way to eternal life. He demonstrated his power by teaching with authority (even the

demons obey him – see Mk 1:27) and performing amazing signs ("he has done all things well" – Mk 7:37). Great crowds flocked to him and wanted to make him king (Jn 6:2,15).

But Jesus said that he would save the world by dying on a cross and rising from the dead, which his disciples did not understand at first. He explained that he would remain with the world until the end of time through a meal – the Eucharist, which means thanksgiving. His sacrifice would be made present at the meal, and his body and blood would be consumed. Hearing this, many disciples stopped following Jesus, but the apostles remained, declaring that Jesus had "the words of eternal life" (Jn 6:68).

On the night before he was crucified, Jesus shared a Passover meal with his apostles. The unleavened bread and wine, which signified God's fidelity to his people and the joyful expectation of the Messiah, were given "a new and definitive meaning" by Jesus (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1334). The

bread was his body and the wine was his blood, to be offered for the salvation of the world. Just as God led the Israelites into the promised land, Jesus would pass over death and lead his disciples into the kingdom of heaven:

"In order to leave them a pledge of [his] love, in order never to depart from his own and to make them sharers in his Passover, he instituted the Eucharist as the memorial of his death and Resurrection, and commanded his apostles to celebrate it until his return" (CCC 1337).

After the Resurrection, the disciples recognized Jesus at meals in which he breaks bread and shares his words on the beach (see Jn 21:9-14) and on the road to Emmaus (Lk 24:13-35). These are the same actions he did at the Last Supper (Mt 26:17-29; Mk 14:12-25; Lk 22:7-20). The disciples remembered his words and then understood that Jesus would remain present in the Eucharist. From then on "they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes" (Acts 2:46).

THE EUCHARIST BULLETIN SERIES

► Week 1 – What the Church Teaches

Week 2 – Invitation of the Eucharist

Week 3 – Biblical Basis

Week 4 – Adoration



RENATA SHUMAKOVA / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

JESUS IS REALLY PRESENT

Some people still have trouble believing that Jesus is really present in the Eucharist, just like those disciples who could not accept even the thought of consuming his Body and Blood. The remedy remains the same: placing one's faith in Jesus and yielding to his words (see CCC 1375, 1381).

Jesus taught clearly that he would remain with his disciples always (see Mt 28:20). He tells them that he will intercede for them (Rom 8:34) and that he will be with them whenever they gather in his name (Mt 18:20). He taught that when his disciples tended to the needs of the hungry, the thirsty, and the imprisoned, they were serving him, too (Mt 25:31-46).

But the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist is unique. At Mass we not only encounter the real, living Lord, who speaks to us through the words of Scripture, but also receive his Body and Blood for our nourishment: "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you" (Jn 6:53).

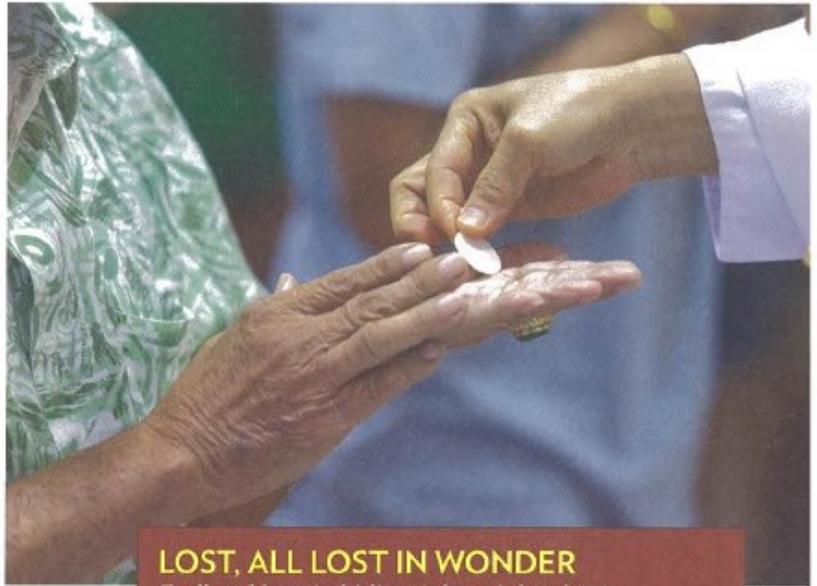
To better understand these words of the Lord, the Church assists us in grasping the meaning. For example, the Eucharistic presence is not limited to time, to Jesus' life; the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist is far greater. What we receive at Mass, under the appearance of bread and wine, is the glorified Christ, who was born of Mary and is now living in heaven. We receive his Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity. What looks and tastes like bread and wine has changed, substantially and wholly, into Christ, a change the Church calls transubstantiation (see CCC 1374-76).

THE SAVING WORK

If the Christ is really and truly present at Mass, then his saving work is made present, too. "The sacrifice of Christ and the sacrifice of the Eucharist are one single sacrifice: 'The victim is one and the same: the same now offers through the ministry of priests, who then offered himself on the cross; only the manner of offering is different'" (CCC 1367).

The Church calls the Eucharist a memorial of Jesus' sacrifice in the same way that Jewish people celebrate Passover. It is not simply an event from the past; it is an event that perdures, continues to exist. The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross happened once and for all, and it continues now, re-presented every time the Mass is celebrated. Therefore, we who participate receive not only Jesus but also his gift of salvation, meaning the forgiveness of sins, freedom from everlasting death, and the gift of eternal life (see CCC 1366).

The teaching of the Church on the Eucharist states clearly what Christians have received and believed from Jesus himself. The teaching has not changed, but years of reflection and prayer on the part of the Church has helped countless people appreciate Jesus' presence. If we have any understanding of the mystery of the Eucharist, it will come as we remain with Jesus, yielding to his words, and placing our faith in him (see Mt 26:38-41; Jn 6:60-71).



LOST, ALL LOST IN WONDER

Godhead here in hiding, whom I do adore,
Masked by these bare shadows, shape and
nothing more,
See, Lord, at thy service low lies here a heart
Lost, all lost in wonder at the God thou art.

Seeing, touching, tasting are in thee deceived:
How says trusty hearing? that shall be believed;
What God's Son has told me, take for truth I do;
Truth himself speaks truly or there's nothing true.

On the cross thy godhead made no sign to men,
Here thy very manhood steals from human ken:
Both are my confession, both are my belief,
And I pray the prayer of the dying thief.

I am not like Thomas, wounds I cannot see,
But can plainly call thee Lord and God as he;
Let me to a deeper faith daily nearer move,
Daily make me harder hope and dearer love.

O thou our reminder of Christ crucified,
Living Bread, the life of us for whom he died,
Lend this life to me then: feed and feast my mind,
There be thou the sweetness man was meant to find.

Bring the tender tale true of the Pelican;
Bathe me, Jesu Lord, in what thy bosom ran
Blood whereof a single drop has power to win
All the world forgiveness of its world of sin.

Jesu, whom I look at shrouded here below,
I beseech thee send me what I thirst for so,
Some day to gaze on thee face to face in light
And be blest for ever with thy glory's sight. Amen.

— Saint Thomas Aquinas (translation by
Gerard Manley Hopkins, S.J.)

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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 Walleth, Secretary
Connie Del Toral, Administrative Assistant