# Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

FEBRUARY 9, 2025: THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



*Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid;*
*from now on you will be catching men."*
*When they brought their boats to the shore,*
*they left everything and followed him. (Lk 5:10-11)*

## 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 |

### 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 6:1-2a, 3-8/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8 (1c)/1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11/Lk 5:1-11
Monday: Gn 1:1-19/Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10 and 12, 24 and 35c//Mk 6:53-56
Tuesday: Gn 1:20—2:4a/Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mk 7:1-13
Wednesday: Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17/Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30/Mk 7:14-23
Thursday: Gn 2:18-25/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mk 7:24-30
Friday: Gn 3:1-8/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/Mk 7:31-37
Saturday: Gn 3:9-24/Ps 90:2, 3-4abc, 5-6, 12-13/Mk 8:1-10
Next Sunday: Jer 17:5-8/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6, (40:5a)/1 Cor 15:12, 16-20/Lk 6:17, 20-26

## Please Pray for the Sick

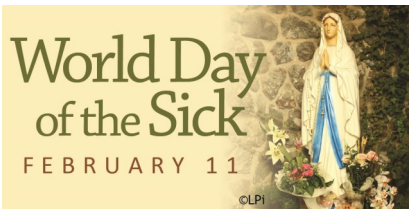
Dorothy Bonds
Jamie Wallett
Monica Alexis Rios
Margaret Nichols
Tessa Sergent
Diane Mareci
William Ahearn
Emilia Hurtado
Michael and Elizabeth Velten
Fidel Mercado Chavez
David Birks
Celeste Soult
Michael Aldape
Janet Horvat
Frank G. Bauer
Al Corleone
Tracy Duda
Jacob Duda
Dorothy O'Brien
Ryan Meadow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

**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.

**Men's Vespers– WED evening**
Men of the parish are invited to attend our Communio prayer group each Wednesday from 8-9 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 and 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

## Welcome to the Parish!

LyLena Estabine
Catherine Kelly & Justin Redeker Hannah
Emilia Kraus & Pierce Randle
Caroline Kraus
Hanna Russell
Allie Braun
Olivia Bertoncini & Samuel Person
Juan Jahen
Shane Steinl




## Welcome Our Recently Baptized

Rory Joseph Lott

## At Rest in the Peace of Christ

Virginia Halas McCaskey

## MASS INTENTIONS

***Sunday, February 9***
9:00 AM +Norma Pellino & +James Pellino
11:00 AM +Robert Missty Family
12:30 PM +Guadalupe Medina y Esteban Corral
5:00 PM +Alina Lipniewski

***Monday, February 10***
8:30 AM Holy Children's Liturgy Volunteers

***Tuesday, February 11***
8:30 AM Holy Children's Liturgy Volunteers

***Wednesday, February 12***
6:00 PM +Gilbert and Marie Mendonca

***Thursday, February 13***
8:30 AM +Veronica Frohnauer
Edward & Ann Marsalek (anniversary)

***Friday, February 14***
8:30 AM +Irene Foster

***Saturday, February 15***
8:30 AM Holy Children's Liturgy Volunteers

***Sunday, February 16***
9:00 AM +William Henry Remmes
11:00 AM Jonathan & Grace Gilana (Birthday Blessings)
12:30 PM +Serafin Jaime-Gonzalez
5:00 PM The People of St. Alphonsus

# News and Events

***Ash Wednesday Schedule***

**7:00 AM** **Service,** with distribution of ashes (English)

**12:00 PM** **Service,** with distribution of ashes (English)

**6:30 PM** **Mass (Bilingual in English and Español)**



## *Ash Wednesday is March 5!*

**Please note the Ash Wednesday evening Mass will be Bilingual. On this date, there will not be Adoration and Reconciliation after the Mass compared to our regular 6 PM Wednesday evening Mass.**

## Children's Liturgy of the Word
### Volunteers Needed!

Children's Liturgy of the Word is returning to St. Alphonsus Parish! This is an offering for 4-7 year olds to hear the Word of God proclaimed in a way that they can understand. Join the Children's Liturgy Team and help the children enter into prayer, leading them to an encounter with Our Lord!

We are looking for the following Volunteer Positions:

- **Prayer Leaders** – Provide a Child-Friendly Reflection and Conversation on the Day's Readings, bringing the Scriptures to Life
- **Lectors** – Read Aloud the Day's Readings and the Prayer of the Faithful
- **Music Ministers** – Sing the Responsorial Psalm or Provide Accompaniment on the Piano
- **Assistants** – Help Maintain a Prayerful Atmosphere by Soothing and Caring for the Children

All Volunteers need to be VIRTUS Certified (*required to work with children in the Archdiocese*) and attend one Children's Liturgy of the Word Training Session to be prepared. If you are unable to attend a group training session date, reach out to schedule a private training. Sign-Up to volunteer for one Sunday or for them all! Your time and talents are appreciated and a gift to the children.

Questions? **Contact Emily Ember, Coordinator of Religious Education**, at eember@stalphonsuschicago.church
DATES: (at the 9AM Mass on Sundays)
March 9th
March 30th
May 4th
June 1st

**Volunteer Training Session: (Attend One)**
**Tuesday, February 11th @ 6:30 PM** – Festival Hall
**Thursday, February 27th @ 6:00 PM** – Festival Hall




## Indoor Volleyball League at St. Alphonsus

Looking for a fun activity? All young adults aged 21-39 are encouraged to check out Catholic Sports Leagues annual indoor volleyball league, held here at St. Alphonsus' gym on Thursday evenings from February 20 to April 10. Similar leagues around the area are typically $100 or more, but their registration is only $65! (And includes post-volleyball merriment at Southport Betty's...)

Sign-up for their Bowling League at Waveland Bowl in April is now open too! Visit catholicsportsleagues.com



# Faith Formation

## Walking With Purpose— Women's Bible Study

### Tuesday Mornings at 9:30 AM; Evenings at 6:00 PM

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

walking with purpose

***Reclaiming Friendship: God's Plan for Deep Connection*** explores what it takes to stay close to friends for the long haul, what to look for in a friend, and how to navigate toxic relationships.

Let God reshape how you see and experience intentional relationships, and become a woman who is capable of the lifelong bond of true friendship.

Meetings take place every Tuesday on the 2nd Floor Common Room in the parish rectory. For questions and more info, please contact Marianne at mariannek36@yahoo.com

## St. Alphonsus Men's Group

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 Men's Group at our email, divineofficers@gmail.com

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

# Staff Updates at St. Alphonsus

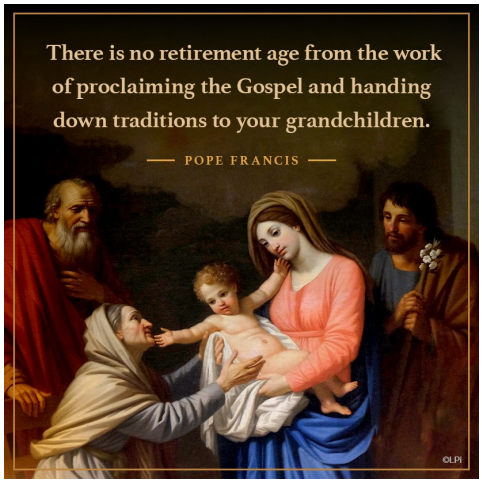
## Wishing Sacristan Kelly Lovewell a Wonderful Retirement!



Our parish sacristan Kelly Lovewell has been a wonderful volunteer, helping with various ministries such as Cleaning Angels, our Decorations team, and growing in faith participating with our women's Walking w/ Purpose group. Kelly was kind enough to share her thoughts about St. Alphonsus and what our parish means to her!

*The beauty of St Alphonsus pulls you inside the church. Our house of God is reverent to our Lord, increasing our humility as Jesus touches our hearts and opens our minds to His love. The vitality of St Alphonsus begins with Fr Bauer, Fr Raya, Fr Lim, the staff, volunteers and parishioners. This vitality provides each of us an opportunity to serve our Lord, each other and our community.*

*With a grateful heart, I have decided to retire. My plans are to leave the area sometime this summer. It has been a labor of love to serve you as the sacristan and I am grateful for your care.*



# More News & Events

## Federal Scholarship Tax Credit Program— Educational Choice Act for Children (ECCA)

***In collaboration with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Catholic Conference of Illinois supports both Senate Bill 292 and House Resolution 817, which were recently filed in Congress. These two bills each create the federal Educational Choice for Children Act, a national tuition tax credit program that provides students opportunities for scholarships exclusively through individual or corporate philanthropy .***

***The Catholic Church teaches that parents are the first and primary teachers of their children and therefore have the right to select the best educational environment for their children. Whether that is in a public or nonpublic schools, parents know the needs of their children. This legislation would help families in all fifty states afford access to the school of their choice.***

***Learn more at www.ilcatholic.org***




The observances of National Marriage Week (Feb. 7-14) and World Marriage Day (Sunday, Feb. 9) are an opportunity to focus on building a culture of life and love that begins with supporting and promoting marriage and the family. This year's theme is ***"Marriage: Source of Hope, Spring of Renewal. Pursue a Lasting Love!"***

Are you looking for ways to intentionally nourish your marriage and family? Sign up for *For Your Marriage's* monthly newsletter for marriage tips and advice, book reviews, and more delivered straight to your inbox to help your marriage flourish. www.foryourmarriage.org/newsletter-signup

## Baptisms at St. Alphonsus



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 Kathryn Kibler at kkibler@stalphonsuschicago.church
For adult baptisms, contact Brooks Robinson at brobinson@stalphonsuschicago.church

## Weddings 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 Kathryn at kkibler@stalphonsuschicago.church

## *Low Gluten Hosts Available*



If you are allergic to wheat or have celiac disease, or for any reason can't tolerate gluten, we have hosts available for you. Low gluten hosts are available at every Mass, even daily Masses. To receive a low gluten host at Mass, all you have to do is get in the Communion line for the celebrant, and then just point to the little ciborium that the priest sets on the communion rail. These hosts have 0.01% gluten. We can provide further information about their content upon request.

*After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. Luke 5:4–6*

## Overcoming Discouragement



Jesus had just cured Simon Peter's mother-in-law as one of His first miracles. As a result of this and other miracles, Peter's entire hometown of Capernaum, as well as many of the surrounding towns, were quickly coming to faith in Jesus. Today's Gospel takes place during this initial excitement over our Lord. In it, Jesus personally invites Peter to become an Apostle, promising to make him a fisher of men.

There is much symbolism in this passage worth pondering. First, notice that Jesus uses something very familiar to Peter to invite Him to become one of the Twelve Apostles. He used his trade of fishing. This is similar to the way God used a star to draw the Magi, who were astrologers, to Bethlehem.

Another symbolic action Jesus uses is that of putting out "into deep water." It was not enough to simply go a short distance from shore. Instead, the deep water was to symbolize the fact that the Gospel was to go forth to the ends of the earth, just as the fishermen were to fish in the depths of the sea.

Finally, the fact that they "caught a great number of fish" symbolizes the superabundance that would come forth through Peter's apostolic ministry. And the fact that the "nets were tearing" points to the fullness that everyone will experience when they embark upon the mission of Christ.

Though the symbolic aspects of this Gospel passage are worth much prayerful pondering, there is another line within the Gospel that might speak to you just as powerfully. Peter had been fishing all night and had caught nothing. The fact that he relates this to Jesus suggests that he was tired and perhaps even discouraged. Any fisherman could relate to this. But the important lesson Peter teaches us is that he does not give in to that discouragement. And the reason he doesn't give in to discouragement is because it was Jesus who commanded him to lower the nets.

In our own lives, we can all get discouraged at times. But the real test of our fidelity to God is whether or not we continue to listen to His commands of love and respond generously, dispelling any temptations to discouragement when things do not seem to be going our way. If we can do this, it is especially in these moments that God often uses us in powerful ways.

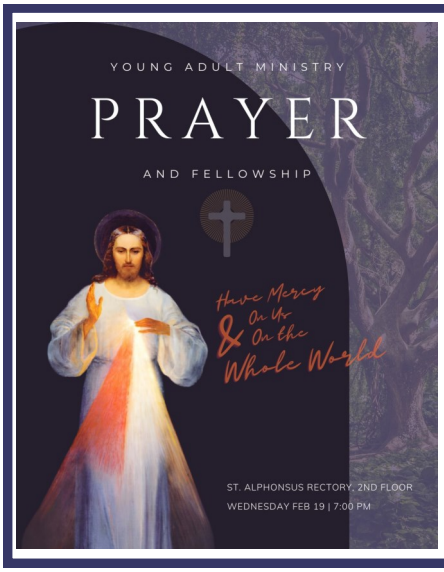
Reflect, today, upon the voice of God in your life. What is it that you sense Him calling you to do? What is that "deep water" to which He is calling you? As you ponder this, reflect especially upon the words of Peter, "Master...at your command I will lower the nets." Say "Yes" to the command of our Lord. Do so even if it is difficult, and especially if you do not feel like doing what He asks of you. If you do, you will find that in this act of fidelity, God will bring forth an abundance of good fruit.

*My miraculous Lord, You gave a command of love to Saint Peter, and he obeyed You with generosity. As a result, You brought forth an abundant catch. Please give me the strength of will to obey all that You speak to me, so that You will bring forth an abundance of good fruit in my life also. Jesus, I trust in You.*

## Tips to Help Your Child Participate in Mass

Here are a few tips that might help your child enjoy mass more. First **sit up close** so that s/he can see the action at the altar. Second, if your child is beginning to read, or is a more secure reader, find the passages in the missalette and, using your finger, **help him or her to follow along**. Third, **use this technique for songs**, too. It is often difficult for a child to keep up with the verses, but with your guiding hand, they will enjoy singing along. On the short refrains or Alleluias, it is possible to sing without knowing how to read. Fourth, **help your child to begin to internalize the prayers.** Even holding your child and saying the Creed into her or her ear helps a young child to know the rhythm and recognize the words as s/he grows. One last tip: **Have your child kneel beside you, and quietly explain the action** during the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Your gentle commentary can help develop both faith and participation.

# Young Adult Ministry




## Faith & Fellowship Prayer Night— Wednesday, February 19

Join us in the St. Alphonsus Rectory's 2nd floor Common Room as we gather for prayer and fellowship!

This is a new series delving into a type of prayer together each month. This month we are going to reflect with the Examen and pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet together.

After prayer, stick around for some homemade goodies and we encourage you to bring some snacks to share.

Doors open at 7 PM and we will start at 7:30 PM. Hope to see you here!

## YAM Game Night— Saturday, February 22 at 6 PM




On Saturday, February 22, our Young Adult Ministry will be hosting a game night for the community! Come enjoy a fun evening playing classic such as Euchre, Sorry!, and Monopoly or bring your own favorite game to introduce the community to. This event will be "stock the bar" style in which attendees will be asked to bring a beverage you enjoy, alcoholic or not, to share and stock up the YAM fridge for future events such as Speed Dating!

We will have multiple tables set up in Festival Hall to accommodate the group and we encourage everyone to invite a friend and have a great time with YAM! For questions, please contact us at stalsyamsocial@gmail.com

## *YAM 3x3 Basketball— Saturday, March 8*




3-on-3 Basketball is back! Come join St. Alphonsus' Young Adult Ministry (YAM) for its annual 3-on-3 basketball tournament. Grab some friends and join us for one of our most exciting events of the year!

The tournament will be a round-robin group play followed by a single elimination tournament for the top 6 teams. Each team is guaranteed 3 games in the group play. There is not a separate tournament for men and women so teams can be co-ed. There will be a limit of 16 teams, so sign up before all of the spots are full. Teams are limited to 5 players. If you do not have a team and want to sign up individually without a team, we will place you with other individual sign ups to create a team. Please specify "Individual" in the team category at the registration link.

Sign up here: www.givecentral.org/location/39/33436

As part of the event, we will provide snacks and drinks. All are welcome to come and watch the event for free if not part of a team. For those watching the event who are not part of a team but would still like to partake in the food and drink we ask that you make a $5 donation.

Date: Saturday March 8th; Location: St. Alphonsus Gymnasium
Time: Starts at 10:00 AM ; Cost: $15 per person; each player must sign-up individually.

# Cultural Trends That Challenge The Modern Evangelizer

It is critical for us who would preach the Gospel to ponder what sorts of presuppositions our listeners bring to the conversation. Today, sadly, there are many trends that have poisoned the culture and thus make our task much more difficult.

But difficult does not mean impossible. It helps to describe modern mindsets, not to despair of them, but rather to look at them with some insight rather than being only vaguely aware of them. If we are more clear on the presuppositions that people bring to the table, we can better direct our message to them and ask them to consider whether or not these notions are helpful or even right. For indeed, most people carry their preconceptions subconsciously. Bringing them to light can act as a kind of medicine or solvent, which will assist us in clearing the thorns so that the seeds of truth can be sown.

## Secularism

The word "secular" comes from the Latin *saecula*, which is translated as "world," but can also be understood to refer to the age or times in which we live. Secularism is excessive concern about the things of this world and the times in which we live to the exclusion of the values and virtues of Heaven and the Kingdom of God.

*Hostile* – It is not merely a matter of preoccupation with the world, but often of outright hostility to things outside the saecula (world or age). Spiritual matters are often dismissed by the worldly as irrelevant, naïve, hostile, and divisive. Secularism is an attitude that demands all attention be devoted to the world and its priorities.

*Misplaced Priorities* – Secularism also causes those who adopt it to put their faith beneath worldly priorities and views. In this climate, many are far more passionate about and dedicated to their politics than to their faith. Their faith is "tucked under" their political views and made to conform to them. It should be the opposite—political views should be subordinate to faith. The Gospel should trump our politics, our worldview, our opinions, and all worldly influences. Faith should be the doorkeeper. Everything should be seen in the light of faith. Secularism reverses all this and demands to trump the truths of faith.

**Secularism is the error through which one insists that faith give way when it opposes worldly ways of thinking** or worldly priorities. If faith gets in the way of career, guess which one gives? If faith forbids me from doing what I please and what the world affirms, guess which one gives way? The spirit of the world often sees the truths of faith as unreasonable and unrealistic, and demands that they give way, either by compromise or a complete setting aside of faith.

As people of faith, we should put the world and its values on trial. Secularism instead puts the faith on trial and demands it conform to worldly thinking and priorities.

**Secularism also increasingly demands that faith be privatized**. Faith is to have no place in the public square of ideas or values. If Karl Marx said it, that's fine, but if Jesus said it, it has to go. Every other interest group can claim a place in the public square, in the public schools, etc. But the Christian faith has no place. Yes, God has to go. Secularism in its "purest" form demands a faith-free, God-free world. Jesus promised that the world would hate us as it hated Him. This remains true, and secularism describes the rising tendency for the world to get its way.

To make this world our priority and to let it overrule our faith is to board a sinking ship with no lifeboats. With secularism, our loyalty is primarily to the world. This amounts to "rearranging deck chairs on the Titanic." If the world is really all that matters then we are the most pitiable of men, for everything we value is doomed and already passing away.

## Materialism

Most people think of materialism as the tendency to acquire and need lots of material things. It includes this, but true materialism goes far deeper. In effect, materialism is the error that insists that physical matter is the only thing that is real. Materialism holds that only those things that can be weighed on a scale, seen in a microscope, or empirically experienced (through the five senses) are real. The modern error of scientism, which insists that nothing outside the world of the physical sciences exists, flows from materialism.

**In effect, materialism says that matter is all that "matters**." **The spiritual is either non-existent or irrelevant to the materialist**. This of course leads to the tendency to acquire things and neglect the spiritual. If matter is all that really matters, then we will tend to want large amounts of it. Bigger houses, more things, and more creature comforts are amassed in order to give meaning and satisfaction.

In the end, however, it is a cruel joke, because *All things are wearisome, more than one can say. The eye never has enough of seeing, nor the ear its fill of hearing (Eccles 1:7). Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. [It] is meaningless ... The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether they eat little or much, but as for the rich, their abundance permits them no sleep (Eccles 5:10-12).* But never mind that; the materialist will still insist it is the only thing real or relevant.

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https://blog.adw.org/2016/10/six-cultural-trends-challenge-modern-evangelizer/

# Youth Free Throw Competition

All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level for the 8th annual Free Throw Championship sponsored by the St. Alphonsus Knights of Columbus. The local competition will be held on **Saturday, February 22, 2025 in the St. Alphonsus parish gym starting at 10:00 AM**.

Sign-up at stalphonsusknights.com/freethrow/

Volunteers Needed! To volunteer, please contact Logan at lcobell@gmail.com

**COMPETITION FORMAT:**

Each contestant receives three warm-up tosses followed by 15 consecutive Free Throw attempts from the appropriate age-designated foul line. To break a tie, contestants take a second round of five free throws. No warm-up tosses are permitted for the tie-breaker rounds. Successive rounds of five free throws each continue until a winner emerges.

The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship is sponsored annually, with winners progressing through local, district and state competitions. All boys and girls 9 to 14 years old are eligible to participate and will compete in their respective age divisions.

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

**RULES:**

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

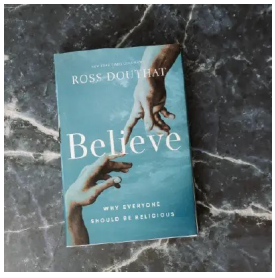
## *Save the Dates! Lenten Fish Fries!*

Our parish Knights of Columbus council are planning TWO Fish Fry events this year, on March 14 and March 28 respectively. More details to come!

# At the Athenaeum

## *Ross Douthat | Believe: Why Everyone Should Be Religious*

### *Thursday, February 13 at 7 PM*




An evening celebrating New York Times opinion columnist Ross Douthat's new book *Believe: Why Everyone Should Be Religious*.

Do you ever wish you had more faith, but struggle to make religious belief fit with modern assumptions about the world and human life? With a rare combination of empathy, open-mindedness, and persuasive argument, Ross Douthat offers a blueprint for thinking one's way from doubt to belief.

As a columnist for the New York Times who writes often about spiritual topics for a skeptical audience, Ross Douthat understands that many of us–whether we are agnostic, somewhat religious, or longtime believers–want to have more faith than we do. But we think we can't believe the way our ancestors did, knowing what we know now–can we?

With clear and straightforward arguments, *Believe* shows how religious belief makes sense of the order of the cosmos and our place within it, illuminates the mystery of consciousness, and explains the persistent reality of encounters with the supernatural.

***Get your tickets for this event and check out more coming to the Athenaeum at* athenaeumcenter.org/events/**

# Stewardship— First Fruits

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.

FIRST FRUITS
time talent treasure

**Sign up at *www.givecentral.org/location/39***

## Giving Update

Weekly Budget Amount: $15,192

Offertory for 2/2: $14,506

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

Left QR code for GiveCentral; Right QR code for Venmo

For Mass donations via Zelle, please submit to general parish email account, parish@stalphonsuschicago.church

## Stewardship Reflection

*"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?' 'Here I am,' I said, 'send me!'" - Isaiah 6:8*

Every day, in little ways and in big ways, God asks, "Whom shall I send?" Whether it is someone to take on a new ministry, to give a friendly smile to a stranger or to say a word of encouragement to a friend, God constantly provides opportunities to help someone in need. God is always talking to us; we just need to pay more attention. When you hear God calling have the courage to walk through the door and say, "Here I am, Lord."

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

**Together we bring hope**

**2025 Annual Catholic Appeal**

**Please consider supporting this year's Appeal. Your generous contribution will be a source of blessing for many people, for yourself and for your loved ones.**



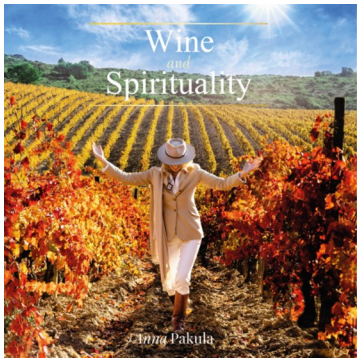
To make a gift by phone:
312.534.7959

To mail: 835 North Rush Street
Chicago, IL 60611

To give online:
**annualcatholicappeal.com**

## Wine and Spirituality

Whether you are a wine aficionado or not, we are sure you would like the book, ***Wine and Spirituality***, by Anna Pakula, an international wine consultant and parishioner of St. Alphonsus. Anna finds herself recovering from an unexpected life-saving surgery and your purchase would help cover her medical expenses. You would not only help Anna; our parish would receive a donation from the proceed as well. We have a book on display in the narthex. For more details, take a flyer from the table in the narthex or talk to Fr. Jesus Ray or Fr. Steven Bauer after Mass.



# 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

Have you ever noticed 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 Instagram 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 Tues, Thur***

### School Office

1439 W Wellington Ave, Chicago, IL 60657-4121
(P): 773-892-1397 |
www.alphonsusacademy.org
info@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
***Margaret Piery***, Parish Secretary/Sacristan

### School Staff

***Gerit McAllister,*** Principal
***Angela Kladis***, Assistant Principal
***Madeleine Durkin,*** Director of Admissions
***Kim Wallett,*** Secretary
***Janin Silva,*** Administrative Assistant