# Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

JUNE 22, 2025: THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST



*In those days, Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought out bread and wine,*

*and being a priest of God Most High,*

*he blessed Abram with these words:*

*"Blessed be Abram by God Most High, the creator of heaven and earth;*

*and blessed be God Most High, who delivered your foes into your hand."*

*Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.*
*(Genesis 14:18-20)*

## 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*

### Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

| | |
|---|---|
| ***Wednesday*** | 5:45 PM |

# Worship

## This Week's Readings

Sunday: Gn 14:18-20/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4 (4b)/1 Cor 11:23-26/Lk 9:11b-17
Monday: Gn 12:1-9/Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20 and 22/Mt 7:1-5
Tuesday: Is 49:1-6/Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15/Acts 13:22-26/Lk 1:57-66, 80
Wednesday: Gn 15:1-12, 17-18/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 7:15-20
Thursday: Gn 16:1-12, 15-16 or 16:6b-12, 15-16/Ps 106:1b-2, 3-4a, 4b-5/Mt 7:21-29
Friday: Ez 34:11-16/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (1)/Rom 5:5b-11/Lk 15:3-7
Saturday: Gn 18:1-15/Lk 1:46-47, 48-49, 50 and 53, 54-55/Mt 8:5-17
Next Sunday: Acts 12:1-11/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18/Mt 16:13-19

## Please Pray for the Sick

Dorothy Bonds
Jamie Wallett
Monica Alexis Rios
Margaret Nichols
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
Kevin Combs
Dorothy O'Brien
Ryan Meadow
Danny Browder
Carol Kania
Leslie Salimi
Jason Jamero
Ramona Colon
Rosemarie Cordero
Michelle Renee Moya
Ernest Nora
Albert Meier
Eileen Koutnik

**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/info, contact James Morrow, jemseoul@hotmail.com

## Welcome Our Recently Baptized

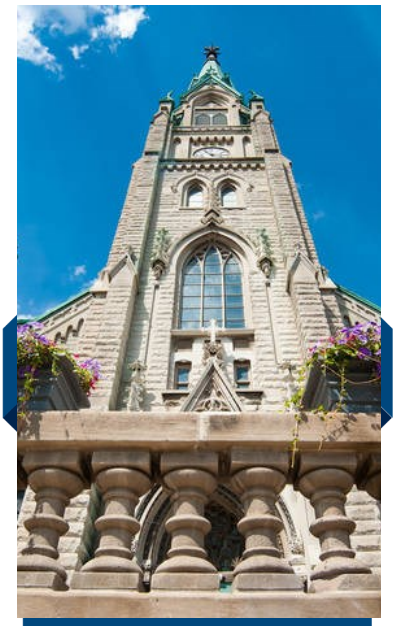
Michael Joseph Cornicelli
Keegan Michael Mullins
Cecilia Marie Smith

## At Rest in the Peace of Christ

Libia Prieto

## 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.



## WEDDINGS

**Courtney Nielsen and Robert Ljubic**

**Caitlin Foli and James Fisher**

## *Wedding Banns*

II. Audrey Moore and Blake Quarrie

## MASS INTENTIONS

***Sunday, June 22***
9:00 AM The People of Saint Alphonsus
11:00 AM Maske Family
+Edward Marsalek
5:00 PM +Jim Schaaf

***Monday, June 23***
8:30 AM +Wilfredo Capanaya Loyola and Consorcia Reodica Esperanza

***Tuesday, June 24***
8:30 AM The People of Saint Alphonsus

***Wednesday, June 25***
6:00 PM In Thanksgiving for RE Catechists

***Thursday, June 26***
8:30 AM The People of Saint Alphonsus

***Friday, June 27***
8:30 AM The People of Saint Alphonsus

***Saturday, June 28***
8:30 AM +Evelyn Norris

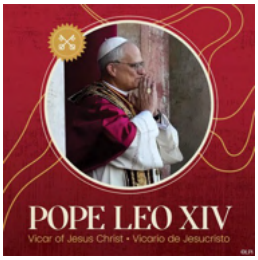
***Sunday, June 29***
9:00 AM +Ed & Mary Gobat
11:00 AM The People of Saint Alphonsus
12:30 PM The People of Saint Alphonsus
5:00 PM Holy Children's Liturgy Volunteers



# News and Events

## Rooftop Praise and Adoration— Friday, June 27 at 7:30 PM

Our Young Adult Ministry will lead Adoration this Friday, June 27 at 7:30 PM on the parish rooftop. We'll spend the first 30 minutes in silent adoration, and then our musicians will lead worship in song. Confession will also be available!




## Peter's Pence Collection— Sunday, June 29

Next week we will take up the Peter's Pence special collection to support the Universal Church and the Holy See, including the charitable works of Pope Leo XIV. These works benefit our sisters and brothers on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression, and disasters. For more information, visit www.obolodisanpietro.va/en.html

## 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 go to the Baptism page on our website, www.stalphonsuschicago.org/baptism, complete the form on there and our Sacraments Ministry coordinator will be in contact to secure a date.

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

## St. Vincent de Paul—Invitation to Serve

Are you looking for ways to experience God? Members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul invite you to share in our ministry of experiencing God in serving people living in poverty. We see Christ in our friends in need, and when we see Christ, we experience God. Please contact our parish chapter president Luis, Lusvdp@hotmail.com

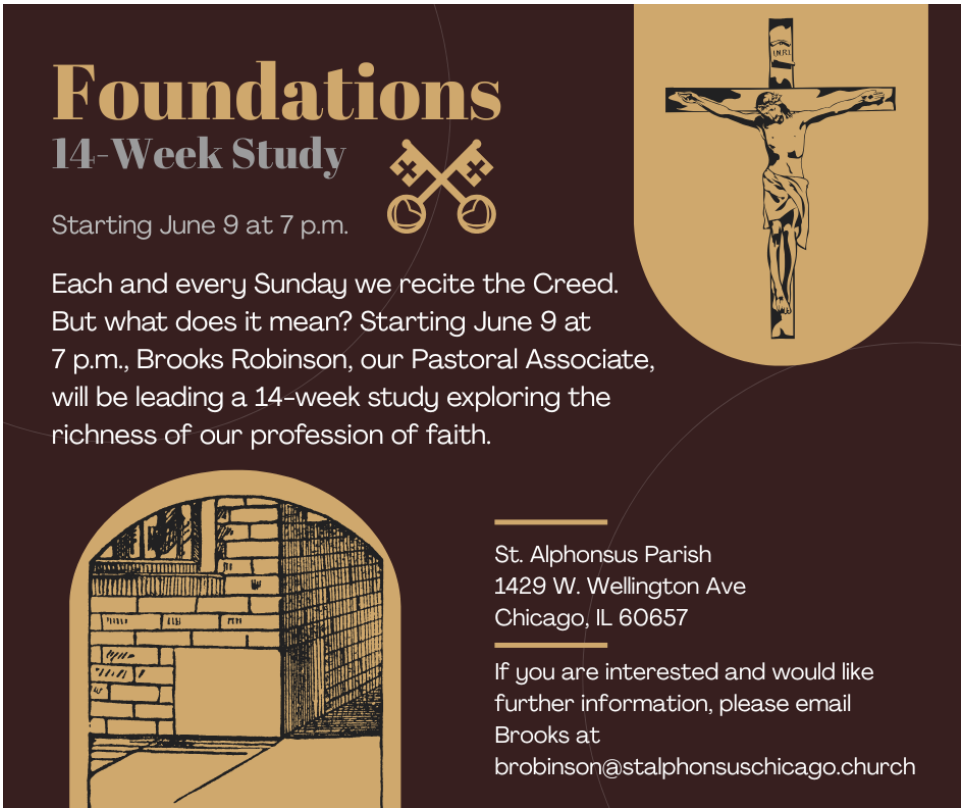
## *St. Alphonsus Knights Council Golf Outing—Saturday, Sept. 13*



Saturday, September 13, 2025
Willow Crest Golf Club, 3500 Midwest Rd.
Oakbrook, IL 60523
Round includes: Cart, goody bag, lunch (brat or dog), and a drink
1st tee time is at 8:15 AM, Scramble rule of play
$125/golfer
Register online here or scan the QR code: www.givecentral.org/otp/43526
For more information, contact: Ray C. San Agustin at: raysangustin15158@gmail.com or (904) 525-1488.

**Our next meeting is on Monday, July 14 at 7 PM.** We are always looking for new members, and we welcome practicing Catholic men of the parish and surrounding communities to join our ranks. Our council meetings are open to all prospective members and there is usually a social fellowship after the meeting. To find out more information about the Knights of Columbus at St. Alphonsus, or to apply for membership, feel free to contact parishioner and Grand Knight, Ray C. San Agustin or visit www.stalphonsusknights.com

# Faith Formation




## Legion of Mary



The Legion of Mary is now at St. Alphonsus! Legion of Mary is a lay apostolic association of Catholics who serve the Church and their neighbor on a voluntary basis. The Legion sees as its priority the spiritual and social welfare of each individual. Members participate in the life of the parish through volunteering and evangelizing activities sponsored by the parish.

***Interested in becoming a Legionary? Meetings in English take place on Fridays at 5 PM in the rectory. Meetings in Spanish are on Mondays at 6 PM. For more info, please contact Fr. Jesus Raya Custodio, jraya@stalphonsuschicago.church***

# Community News

## Keeping Lakeview Beautiful, Safe and Fun!

SSA 27 has funded critical services to West Lakeview for over 20 years since its formation in 2003. SSA 27's current term is set to expire on 12/31/2025, and must undergo a renewal process entitled Reconstitution to continue providing services. Should SSA 27's reconstitution process fail, West Lakeview will lose crucial SSA services & would take a major toll on taxpayers and property values in the area.

St. Alphonsus would be incredibly saddened to lose the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony or Ice Sculpting events that SSA 27 grants provide!

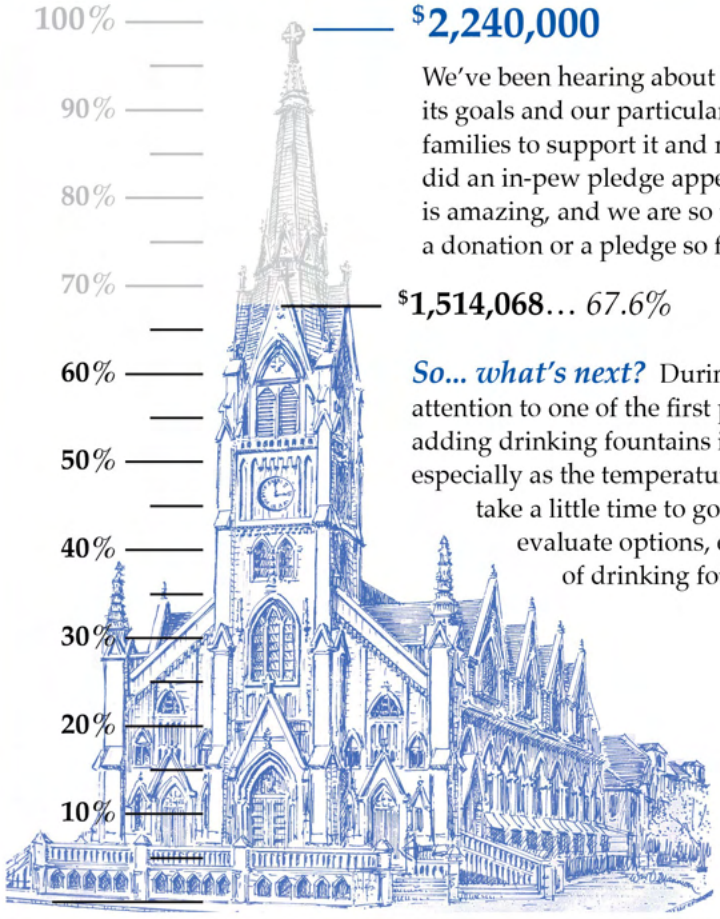
To renew our services, SSA 27 will require signatures representing 20% of all Property Index Numbers (PINs) in West Lakeview, a total of 530, by August 1st. As you can see, it's of great importance that we reach as many people as possible. Learn more by going to their website and contacting Robert at robert@lrvcc.org



# Generation To Generation

## CAMPAIGN PROGRESS

GENERATION TO GENERATION: ANSWER THE CALL




We've been hearing about the capital campaign for some time now, learning about its goals and our particular needs, and inviting groups of parishioners and school families to support it and make a pledge. We have had two Sundays on which we did an in-pew pledge appeal. We currently stand at 67.6% of our stretch goal, which is amazing, and we are so thankful to the 194 parishioners/families who have made a donation or a pledge so far!

***So... what's next?*** During the summer months, we will turn our attention to one of the first projects on our list of improvements… adding drinking fountains in the church. It's a welcome project, especially as the temperatures rise, but please be patient, as it will take a little time to go bid out the project, reroute plumbing, evaluate options, etc. And hopefully, the successful addition of drinking fountains will inspire more pledges.



**SCAN TO LEARN MORE & MAKE YOUR PLEDGE**

***or visit the parish website:***

***www.stalphonsuschicago.org***

- *Save Our Iconic Veranda*
- *Repair & Restore the Organ*
- *Upgrade the Common Rooms*
- *Drinking Fountains*
- *Re-Imagine the Courtyard as Outdoor Classroom & Prayer Garden*
- *Sharing with the Arch for Spiritual & Parish Renewal, Scholarships, and Priest Retirement & Health Care*

FIRST FRUITS
time talent treasure

We 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* or text *Sunday* to (773) 570-7600**

### Giving Update

Weekly Budget Amount: $15,192

Sunday Offertory for 6/15: $13,453

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

Left QR code for GiveCentral; Right QR code for Venmo




# Religious Education 2025-2026 Registration

Register your child today for RE! Classes are open for enrollment for Grades 1-8. Our program is held on Tuesday Evenings (Sept. thru May) from 6:15 PM— 7:30 PM.

*On the St. Alphonsus Website, click on the "Learn" tab, and then click "Religious Education." Scroll down to learn more about our program, register, and pay tuition.*

**Did you know that preparation for both First Communion and Confirmation is a 2 year process?**

First Communion preparation typically begins in 1st Grade and Confirmation preparation typically begins in 7th Grade.

If you have a child that is older than 2nd Grade and has not yet received First Communion or a child that is older than 7 years old and has not yet received Baptism, contact Brooks, brobinson@stalphonsuschicago.church




## 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***

# Young Adult Ministry

## *Theology on Tap— Wednesday evenings this summer!*




Look ahead to warmer days when we can sit out on the front veranda and listen to a great speaker series come July! We have four amazing speakers lined up for Theology on Tap, which will take place every Wednesday evening in July on the St. Alphonsus veranda. Fellowship and light refreshments at 7 PM; with the speaker's talk at 7:30 PM.

Starting Wednesday, July 9, our parish Young Adult Ministry (YAM) will host four weekly talks that will explore this year's theme, ***"The Four Portraits of Christ."*** Each session will illuminate the distinctive way one of the four evangelists portrays Jesus in their gospel narrative. More info in coming weeks!

| Date | Speaker | Bio | Gospel |
|---|---|---|---|
| July 9 | Fr. John Kartje | Rector of Mundelein Seminary | Matthew |
| July 16 | Fr. Richard Peddicord | Director of Catholic and Dominican Mission at Fenwick High School | Mark |
| July 23 | Emily Barnum | PhD candidate in New Testament at the University of Chicago | Luke |
| July 30 | Bishop Mark Bartosic | Episcopal Vicar of Vicariate VI for the Archdiocese of Chicago | John |

## Theology on Tap— Portrait of Christ According to Matthew




Fr. John Kartje is the Rector of Mundelein Seminary. Ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago in 2002, he has served in various parish assignments (including St. Ben's in Chicago) and as chaplain of the Sheil Catholic Center at Northwestern University. He holds doctorate degrees in both astrophysics (Univ of Chicago) and Biblical Studies (Catholic Univ. of America).

The general program for each session is shown below. All talks will be given on the church veranda – if inclement weather, the talk will be moved to the church basement (Festival Hall).
7:00 PM: doors open, food and drinks available
7:30 PM: talk begins
8:00 PM: speaker Q&A
8:30 PM: socializing
9:00 PM: end of program

## YAM 4th of July Rooftop Social




Come join St. Al's YAM on Friday, July 4th from 3 PM to 8 PM as we have a fun 4th of July party on St. Al's rectory rooftop! Enjoy the great weather, fantastic views of the Chicago skyline and great time meeting new friends. This event will be a "stock the bar" theme. To gain admittance, please bring a beverage you enjoy (alcoholic or not - beer, seltzers, wine, soda, or soda water) to enjoy and leave behind to help us stock our YAM drink supply for future events. We are also hoping to have a small grill to cook up some brats/burgers as well!
*no hard liquor or homemade liquor please!*
Contact Tammy Brasic and Nate Blanchette with any questions at stalsyamsocial@gmail.com

# Gospel Reflection

*While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take it; this is my body." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many." Mark 14:22–24 (Year B Gospel)*

## Wonder and Awe Before the Eucharist

At the holy Mass, as soon as the priest pronounces the words of the consecration, transforming the bread and wine into the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ our Lord, he genuflects, rises, and then says, "The mystery of faith." What is "the mystery of faith?" Oftentimes, when we say that something is a mystery, we mean that the conclusion is hidden but that there are certain clues to help solve the mystery. And once the mystery is solved, everything is clear and it is no longer a mystery.

"The mystery of faith" is much different. Those words are spoken at Mass immediately after the consecration as a way of drawing the faithful into a holy awe and amazement of what just took place. But this mystery can only produce wonder and awe if the reality of what just took place is understood through the gift of faith. Faith is knowing and believing without perceiving the reality before us with our five senses or through logical deduction. In other words, faith produces true knowledge of a spiritual reality that can only be known, understood and believed through spiritual insight. Therefore, if we attend the Mass and have been gifted with the knowledge of faith, then as soon as the consecration of the bread and wine takes place, we will cry out interiorly, "My Lord and my God!" We will know that God the Son is present before us in a veiled way. Our eyes do not perceive, nor do any of our senses reveal to us the great reality before us. We cannot rationally deduce what just took place. Instead, we come to know and believe that the Son of God, the Savior of the World, is now present before us in His fullness, under the veil of mere bread and wine.



In addition to the divine presence of our Lord and our God, the entire Mystery of our Redemption is made present. Saint Pope John Paul II tells us that in this moment there is a "oneness in time" that links the *Paschal Mystery*, that is, the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus, to every moment that the Eucharist is celebrated and made present through the words of consecration. And that unity between each Mass and the *Paschal Mystery* "leads us to profound amazement and gratitude" (*Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, #5). Do you sense and experience this profound amazement and gratitude each time you attend the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass? Do you realize as you attend the Mass and as the words of consecration are spoken that the entire Mystery of your redemption is made present before you, hidden from your eyes but visible to your soul by faith? Do you understand that it is God the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity who descends to us to dwell with us in that moment of time in this glorious Sacrament?

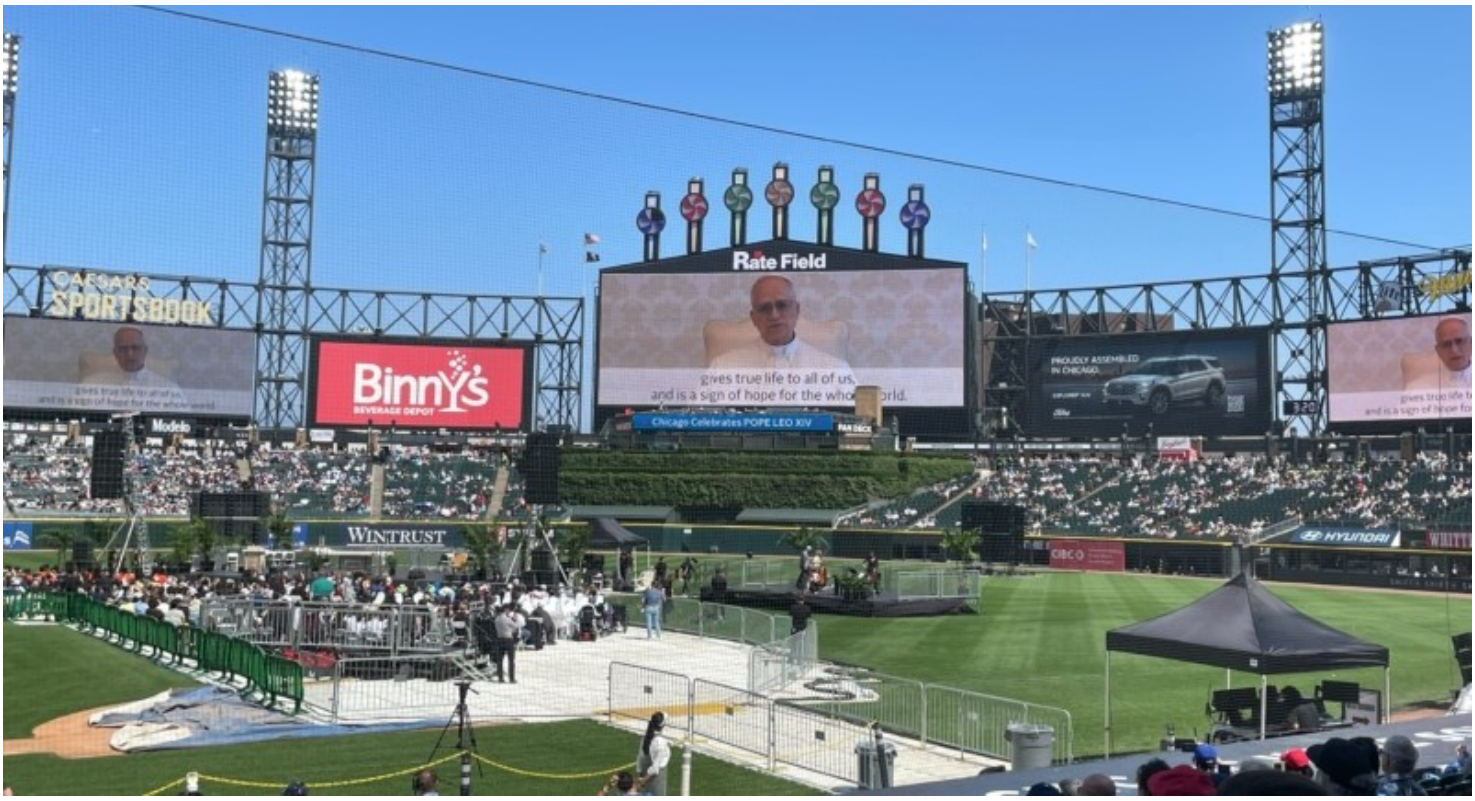
Reflect, today, upon the hidden but real Mystery of Faith. Allow yourself to be drawn into a wonder and awe at what you are privileged to attend. Let your faith in the Most Holy Eucharist grow by being open to a deepening of this gift of faith through spiritual insight and belief. Behold this great Gift of the Eucharist with the eyes of faith and you will be drawn into the wonder and awe that God wants to bestow upon you.

*My ever-glorious Eucharistic Lord, I do believe that You are here, made present in our world under the form of bread and wine, every time the Holy Mass is celebrated. Fill me with a deeper faith in this Holy Gift, dear Lord, so that I may be drawn into wonder and awe every time I witness this holy Consecration. Jesus, I trust in You.*

## 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.




# Pope Leo addresses young people, faithful at White Sox Park

Pope Leo XIV spoke about unity, hope, and community in his historic June 14 video address to the young people of the Church and to those gathered at White Sox Rate Field for the Archdiocese of Chicago's event celebrating the first American pontiff.

The event included Mass celebrated by Cardinal Blase Cupich, music, testimonies, and the special message from Pope Leo, who is a native of Chicago. In his address, the Pope encouraged the faithful and young people in particular to be beacons of hope to the world and, having noted how prevalent isolation and loneliness can be in the world, to continue coming together in community.

"In this Jubilee Year of Hope, Christ, Who is our hope, indeed calls all of us to come together, that we might be that true living example, the light of hope in the world today," Pope Leo said in the video address, which was live-streamed on the Archdiocese of Chicago's YouTube channel.

In coming together, Pope Leo later said, "you can discover that you, too, are indeed beacons of hope, that light that perhaps on the horizon is not very easy to see, and yet, as we grow in our unity … we can discover that that light will grow brighter and brighter, that light which is indeed our faith in Jesus Christ. And we can become that message of hope to promote peace and unity throughout our world."

The full event and address can be rewatched at www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymA4qt-DOBs
The full transcript of his address is below and on page 10.

My dear friends, it's a pleasure for me to greet all of you gathered together at White Sox Park on this great celebration, as a community of faith in the Archdiocese of Chicago. Special greeting to Cardinal Cupich, to the auxiliary bishops, to all my friends who are gathered today, on this the feast of the Most Holy Trinity.

And I begin with that because the Trinity is a model of God's love for us. God, Father, Son, and Spirit, three Persons in one God, live united in the depth of love, in community, sharing that communion with all of us. So as you gather today in this great celebration, I want to both express my gratitude to you and also an encouragement to continue to build up community, friendship — as brothers and sisters — in your daily lives, in your families, in your parishes, in the archdiocese and throughout our world.

I'd like to send a special word of greeting to all the young people, those of you gathered together today, and many of you who are perhaps watching this greeting through technological means on the internet.

As you grew up together, you may realize, especially having lived through the time of the pandemic, times of isolation, of great difficulty — sometimes even difficulties in your families — in our world today, sometimes it may be that the context of your life has not given you the opportunity to live the faith, to live as participants in a faith community.

And I'd like to take this opportunity to invite each one of you to look into your own hearts, to recognize that God is present, and that perhaps in many different ways, God is reaching out to you, calling you, inviting you to know His Son, Jesus Christ, through the Scriptures, perhaps through a friend or a relative, a grandparent, who might be a person of faith — but to discover how important it is for each one of us to pay attention to the presence of God in our hearts —to that longing for love in our lives, for searching, a true searching for finding the ways that we may be able to do something with our own lives to serve others. And in that service to others, we may find the coming together in friendship, building up community, we too can find true meaning in our lives.

Moments of anxiety, of loneliness, so many people who suffer from different experiences of depression or sadness, they can discover that the love of God is truly healing, that it brings hope, and that, actually, coming together as friends, as brothers and sisters, in community, in a parish, and in an experience of living our faith together, we can find that the Lord's grace, that the love of God can truly heal us, can give us the strength that we need, can be the source of that hope that we all need in our lives. To share that message of hope with one another, in outreach, in service, and looking for ways to make our world a better place, gives true life to all of us, and is a sign of hope for the whole world.

To, once again, the young people who are gathered here, I'd like to say that you are the promise of hope for so many of us.

The world looks to you, as you look around yourselves, and says, 'We need you.' We want you to come together, to share with us in this common mission as Church and in the society, of announcing a message of true hope, and of promoting peace, promoting harmony among all peoples.

We have to look beyond our own, if you will, our own egotistical ways. We have to look for ways of coming together and promoting a message of hope. Saint Augustine says to us that if we want the world to be a better place, we have to begin with ourselves.

We have to begin with our own lives, our own hearts. And so, in this sense, as you gather together as a faith community, as you celebrate in the Archdiocese of Chicago, as you offer your own experience of joy and of hope, you can find out, you can discover that you, too, are indeed beacons of hope, that light that perhaps on the horizon is not very easy to see, and yet, as we grow in our unity, as we come together in communion, we can discover that that light will grow brighter and brighter, that light which is indeed our faith in Jesus Christ. And we can become that message of hope to promote peace and unity throughout our world.

We all live with many questions in our hearts. Saint Augustine speaks so often of our restless hearts, and says, 'Our hearts are restless until they rest in you, oh God.'

That restlessness is not a bad thing, and we shouldn't look for ways to put out the fire, to eliminate or even numb ourselves, to the tensions that we feel, the difficulties that we experience.

We should, rather, get in touch with our own hearts and recognize that God can work in our lives, through our lives — and through us, reach out to other people.

And so I'd like to conclude this brief message to all of you with an invitation to be, indeed, that light of hope.

"Hope does not disappoint," Saint Paul tells us in his letter to the Romans.

When I see each and every one of you, when I see how people gather together to celebrate their faith, I discover myself how much hope there is in the world.

In this Jubilee Year of Hope, Christ, Who is our hope, indeed calls all of us to come together, that we might be that true living example, the light of hope in the world today.

So I would like to invite all of you to take a moment to open up your own hearts to God, to God's love, to that peace which only the Lord can give us, to feel how deeply beautiful, how strong, how meaningful, the love of God is in our lives – and to recognize that while we do nothing to earn God's love. God, in His own generosity, continues to pour out His love upon us.

And as He gives us His love, He only asks us to be generous and to share what He has given us with others.

May you indeed be blessed, as you gather together for this celebration, may the Lord's love and peace come upon each and every one of you, on your families, and may God bless all of you, so that you might always be beacons of hope, sign of hope and peace throughout the world.

And may the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit come upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

# Sacred Heart Devotion



Your heart pumps about 100,000 times a day to keep your lifeblood flowing through you. For this reason it has become a symbol for our very selves. We say, "I put my heart into it" and "I want that with all my heart." The heart also is a symbol for love, perhaps because it seems to beat faster when we are in love. The biblical image of the heart means the depth of our selves where we decide for or against God. God, who always speaks to us using our own experiences, has chosen our symbol of the heart to represent Jesus.

The heart of Jesus was a human heart like ours. It stopped beating the day Jesus was crucified. According to the Gospel of John, after Jesus had died a soldier made sure of his death by piercing his side with a lance. Blood and water ran out (19:34). Jesus' pierced heart became a sign of the completeness of his love for us, a love that compelled him to die for us and that prompted him to remain with us in the bread and wine of the Eucharist. The physical heart of Jesus is the symbol of the total love of Jesus, divine and human.

Jesus said that from within him would flow streams of living water (John 7:38), referring to the Holy Spirit. The water from the side of Christ on the cross was the water of salvation, the Holy Spirit.

In art the Sacred Heart is pierced, surmounted by a cross, and encircled with thorns. Light radiates from it to show that it is a burning furnace of love. The Heart of Christ summarizes the paschal mystery—the death and resurrection of Jesus that were prompted by divine love.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart began in the twelfth century. Saints such as Bonaventure, Gertrude, Catherine of Siena, and John Eudes were attracted to the Sacred Heart. It was St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, a sister in France, who promoted devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus (with the support of St. Claude de la Colombiere, S.J.). She had visions of the Sacred Heart from 1673 to 1675. For instance, in 1675 on the Feast of Corpus Christi (the Body and Blood of Christ) Christ showed her his wounded heart. He said, "Behold this heart burning with so great a love for men." In 1856 a feast in honor of the Sacred Heart was set for the Friday after the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. In 1899 Pope Leo XIII dedicated the world to the Sacred Heart.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart focuses not only on the love and mercy Jesus has for us but on reparation for sin. In St. Margaret Mary's visions, Christ requested that a Communion of reparation be made on the first Friday of every month. An organization called the Apostleship of Prayer furthers the devotion to the Sacred Heart through activities such as the enthronement of the Sacred Heart in homes. We pray that our hearts may become like the Heart of Christ.

***† Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place my trust in you! †***

## Helpful Household Hints by Harvey Levin

**Microwave Omelet**

This is the fluffiest omelet you can imagine. In a microwave safe bowl scramble two eggs, add anything else you want in the omelet (ham, cheese, mushrooms, chopped scallions) and put it in the microwave for one minute. It will cook from the outside in and you will have a donut of cooked eggs. Pull the cooked eggs from the outside in and add another minute. The omelet will cook into the fluffy omelet you desire.

## *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*

## What Does Pope Leo XIV Want Us to Know in Order to Live the Gospel More Faithfully?

### Evil Will Not Prevail

"Evil will not prevail". With these four words, Pope Leo XIV announced not only his conviction but also the foundation of his hope. In a time when many hearts are overwhelmed by war, injustice, cynicism, and fear, he reminds us that evil—however loud or violent—does not have the final word. This is not blind optimism or rhetorical comfort. It is gospel truth rooted in the resurrection: Christ is risen, and his victory is sure.

Leo XIV does not deny the reality of evil. On the contrary, he names it plainly: inequality, migration crises, polarization, technological manipulation, environmental destruction, spiritual confusion, and dehumanization. But he does this not from a place of fear but from a place of faith. His is a prophetic voice, echoing the apostle Paul: "Do not be conquered by evil but conquer evil with good" (Romans 12:21). For Leo XIV, evil is real—but it is not ultimate. God is.

When he chose the name "Leo", he intentionally placed himself in the lineage of Pope Leo XIII, a pioneer of Catholic Social Teaching who faced the moral upheavals of the Industrial Age with gospel clarity. Now, in our own era of artificial intelligence, global conflict, and cultural fragmentation, Leo XIV responds with the same pastoral boldness: a Church that proclaims justice, promotes peace, and walks beside the poor. Evil will not prevail—not because of political victories, but because the cross and resurrection have already broken its power.

His words are not disconnected from life. Leo XIV has lived through suffering—his own and others'. As bishop of Chiclayo, he stood beside people wounded by violence and poverty. In homilies and letters, he reminded them: "We are all in God's hands". Not in the hands of fate, not in the grip of fear, but in the firm, faithful, compassionate hands of the Father. This belief—anchored in prayer and pastoral experience—shapes his papacy.

He knows that faith is not a shield from pain but a light through it. In a homily recalling the prophet Elijah's despair, he said, "Even when we feel we can't go on, God comes and walks with us". Leo XIV constantly emphasizes the importance of community in facing evil. Alone, we may falter. But together, nourished by prayer and mutual support, we persevere. The Church, he says, is called to embody God's compassion—tenderness, not judgment, is our most urgent prophecy.

The phrase "do not be afraid", repeated often by Christ and echoed by Pope John Paul II, is central to Leo XIV's message. He repeats it now—not as a slogan but as an invitation. "Do not be afraid", he says to young people discerning their vocations, to families burdened by uncertainty, to communities facing persecution. God is with us. He never abandons his people.

To say "evil will not prevail" is not to minimize suffering. It is to remember the deeper truth: that Christ has overcome the world. This conviction empowers us to resist despair, to stand for truth, and to live with courage. It reminds us that perseverance is not naïve—it is an act of faith.

Pope Leo XIV invites us to live from that conviction. To believe, again, that love is stronger than hatred, that light is more enduring than darkness, and that grace is at work—quietly but surely—in the world. "We are in God's hands", he says. And because of that, we can move forward. Without fear.

### Jesus the Good Shepherd

"I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11). These words from John's Gospel were among the first that Pope Leo XIV proclaimed after his election. They were not chosen randomly. They express the core of his pastoral vision and spiritual identity. For Leo XIV, Jesus is not only the Teacher, not only the Savior—but, above all, the Good Shepherd: close, compassionate, faithful, and self-giving. And the Church, too, must be marked by this same heart.

From his early days as an Augustinian friar in Chicago to his missionary years in Peru, from seminary classrooms to remote mountain parishes, Pope Leo XIV has consistently lived this model of shepherding. He knows that to shepherd is not merely to lead. It is to accompany. It is to carry, to listen, to stay behind when someone is lost, and to move forward when others are afraid. The image of the shepherd is not sentimental for him—it is a rule of life.

This pastoral model shaped his entire episcopacy in Chiclayo. He visited isolated communities not for formality, but for friendship. He knew the names and stories of the people he served. He listened to catechists, walked with families, and ministered to priests with the same tenderness he had learned from the gospel. He reminded them that Jesus never abandons his flock, and we cannot abandon those entrusted to us.

For Pope Leo XIV, the bishop is not a distant figure but is a father and a brother. He sees the episcopal ministry not as authority over others but as responsibility for them. He has spoken movingly of the bishop's crosier—the curved staff that symbolizes the duty to guide, support, and sometimes gently bring back those who wander. The bishop, he says, must walk in three places: ahead to lead, among to accompany, and behind to gather the weak. This is not his theory—this is his witness.

Continued on page 13

# *Inspiration from Pope Leo XIV*

In Rome, when he served as prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops, Leo XIV brought this vision to a global scale. He looked for bishops who were not administrators but pastors. Men of communion, of humility, of gospel-centered leadership. Bishops who, as he said, "smell of the sheep", echoing Pope Francis. He resisted the temptation to see leadership as strategy, and he returned it to its roots: the image of Christ who lays down his life in love.

But this call is not only for clergy. Pope Leo XIV reminds all the baptized that we, too, are called to reflect the Good Shepherd. In our homes, workplaces, parishes, and neighborhoods, we are called to care for one another, to seek the lost, the carry burdens, and to love without counting the cost. Every Christian, in his or her own way, is invited to live with a shepherd's heart.

In a world that often feels leaderless, fragmented, and anxious, Leo XIV proposes a leadership of gentleness, courage, and proximity. Not power, but presence. Not control, but care. In this model, there is no room for arrogance, indifference, or harshness. There is only the steady rhythm of one who walks with others, guided by love.

The Church, he insists, must embody this shepherding spirit. It must be a home where the wounded are healed, where the fearful are consoled, and where all can hear the voice of the One Shepherd who knows them by name. This is the Church of Jesus. This is the Church Leo XIV seeks to lead.

### To Be Missionaries

"To proclaim the gospel, to be missionaries". These words, spoken by Pope Leo XIV at the beginning of his pontificate, are not a slogan or a program—they are his lived identity. From the moment he entered religious life as a young Augustinian, to the years he spent among the poor of Peru, to his current role as successor of Peter, Leo XIV has understood his vocation in one word: mission.

Mission, for him, is not something the Church *does*—it is who the Church *is*. Every baptized person, regardless of status or role, is called to be a missionary. That is not limited to far-off lands or dramatic gestures. It means bearing witness to the living Christ in one's everyday life—with courage, with compassion, and, above all, with joy. Pope Leo has said again and again: the Gospel is not an idea to be studied, but a person to be encountered and shared. Evangelization begins with relationship—with Christ and with others.

Leo XIV's own missionary journey began in earnest when, as a young friar, he was sent to the remote regions of northern Peru. There, in dusty towns and poor parishes, he learned the Gospel all over again. He saw it in the resilience of the communities, in their love of Scripture, in their generosity despite lack, and in their hunger for justice. He did not bring Christ to Peru—he met Christ there. And he insists that this type of encounter shapes how we proclaim the gospel: not from superiority but from solidarity.

For Pope Leo XIV, mission is never just preaching. It is listening, healing, walking with people in their concrete reality. In his own words: ***"The Church's mission is not only to proclaim Christ but also to defend life, care for the poor, and protect the vulnerable.*** His understanding of mission includes human rights, social justice, ecological concern, and the defense of every person. A Church that fails to speak up for the voiceless, he says, risks silencing the very gospel it preaches.

In a time when some prefer to retreat from the world, Leo XIV urges the Church to go out—to cross not only geographical borders but also the deeper boundaries of fear, indifference, and apathy. For him, the peripheries are not optional. They are privileged places of encounter. And those peripheries include not only the poor but also the forgotten, the doubting, the suffering, and the digitally isolated. Even the digital world, he notes, is a new mission territory—and one the Church must not fear to enter.

What drives this mission is not strategy, but love. Pope Leo echoes the early Church's kerygma: "Jesus Christ loves you, has given his life for you, and now lives at your side". That truth changes everything. And once one has experienced this live, one cannot help but share it.

Mission, then, is not a role for a few, but the task of all. To be missionary is to be Church. It is to live with eyes open to the needs of others, with hands ready to serve, and with hearts that burn with the desire for others to know Jesus. It is to say, as Pope Leo XIV does with quiet conviction, "Let us go forth. Without fear. With love".

### We Want to Be A Synodal Church

When Pope Leo XIV declares, "We want to be a synodal Church—a Church that walks together", he is not simply echoing a pastoral trend or repeating a catchphrase. He is articulating a vision of the Church that has shaped his entire ministry—from the remote parishes of Peru to the Vatican halls. For Leo XIV, synodality is not a project; it is a way of being. A way of listening to the Spirit, discerning together, and walking as one people of God.

The heart of synodality is communion. It is not about replacing hierarchy or structures but renewing them in the Spirit. Synodality invites every baptized person—lay, consecrated, or ordained—to take responsibility for the Church's life and mission. It calls us not to walk alone, nor to wait for someone else to speak, but to journey together in humility, listening deeply to God and to one another.

# *Inspiration from Pope Leo XIV*

Leo XIV's formation in Augustinian spirituality has made him particularly attuned to this ecclesial vision. Saint Augustine's community life was built on shared discernment and mutual charity. That legacy flows through Leo XIV's understanding of synodality: not as endless debate but as a movement of the heart toward truth, shaped by prayer and guided by the Spirit. He often emphasizes that the first task in synodality is not talking—but listening. Listening to God. Listening to each other. Listening to the signs of the times.

During the global Synod on Synodality, Leo XIV—then Cardinal Prevost—described synodality as a "living experience of dialogue and discernment". He was clear: this is not just a new method, it is a conversion. It requires a shift in posture—from issuing statements to asking questions, from control to co-responsibility, from fear to trust. The Spirit is not bound by the old ways. The Spirit, he says, "goes before us, overflows our expectations, and calls us to mutual listening".

In this synodal Church, bishops have a unique but not solitary role. They are not executives or judges; they are pastors who guide the people while remaining among them. Leo XIV has said that a bishop must be close to his people, not isolated. He must be a brother who listens, a servant who encourages, and a shepherd who walks alongside. This is the kind of leadership that heals wounds, builds trust, and allows the Church to love forward with integrity.

He also recognizes the temptations that threaten this journey—especially polarization. In the Church, as in society, it is easy to fall into camps, to label and dismiss, to reduce complexity to ideology. But Pope Leo is clear: the Church must resist this. Synodality is an antidote to polarization. It opens up space where people can be heard without being judged and where the Holy Spirit can surprise us with new paths of communion.

To live synodally is to journey with patience. It means allowing time for hearts to soften, for voices to be heard, for truths to emerge. It is not efficient—but it is faithful. It reflects the way Jesus walked with his disciples: asking questions, breaking bread, listening to fears, revealing the way forward gradually.

For Pope Leo XIV, this is not only a dream—it is a necessity. The Church of the 21st century cannot afford to work in silos or speak from pedestals. It must work—and walk—together, with the Spirit at the center. This is how the Church becomes what it is meant to be: a people on pilgrimage, united not by uniformity but by love.

Part 3 to be continued in 6/29 St. Alphonsus bulletin

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# 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
***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