Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

JANUARY 22, 2023: THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled. (Mt 4:13-14)

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Mass Schedule

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

Alphonsus Academy & Center For the Arts

Friday	8:30 AM or as announced

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday	6:30—7:30 PM

Confessions

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

**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: Is 8:23—9:3/Ps 27:1,4, 13-14 (1a)/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17
Monday: Heb 9:15, 24-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6/Mk 3:22-30 Tuesday: Heb 10:1-10/Ps 40:2 and 4ab, 7-8a, 10, 11/Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Mk 16:15-18
Thursday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Tit 1:1-5/12/Ps 132:1-2, 3-5, 11, 12, 13-14/Mk 4:21-25
Friday: Heb 10:32-39/Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 23-24, 39-40/Mk 4:26-34
Saturday: Heb 11:1-2, 8-19/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75/Mk 4:35-41
Next Sunday: Zep 2:3; 3:12-13/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 (Matthew 5:3)/1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 5:1-12a

Please Pray for the Sick

Dorothy Bonds
Jamie Wallett
Sandra Wilson
Monica Alexis Rios
Margaret Nichols
Maria Eisler
Tessa Sergent
Carolina Goldie
Diane Mareci
Fidel Mercado Chavez
Emilia Hurtado
Bernard Zapp
Rachel Schopp
Mike Madigan
David Birks
Celeste Soult
Carol Reckwerdt
Magdalena Gonzalez
Michael Aldape
Jane Christensen
William Ahearn
Janet Horvat
Frank G. Bauer
Al Corleone
Mary Perisin
Cheryl Nester-Detweiler
Marla Alicea
Leon Wink
Judy Fredrickson
Tracy Duda
Jacob Duda
Dorothy O'Brien

Giving Update

Weekly Budget Amount: $15,218

Offertory for 1/15: $13,080

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

At Rest in the Peace of Christ

Virginia Badillo

Welcome to the Parish!

Jacqueline Ulman Graham
Matthew Stevens and Nicole Zielinski
Alyssa and James Augustyn
Andrew and Alexis Coppens
Jackie and Mike Landuyt
Emily Wortman
Tim and Sara Dondanville
Andrew Kopfensteiner and Sarah McLaughlin
Virginia Vera
Elizabeth Whiteman
Michael Catalano
Mary Cavitt
Colleen Weber
Karissa Lam
John Nguyen

Eucharistic Adoration: A Source for Peace: Sometimes our weeks can be quite hectic, making it hard to find quiet time to pray. If this sounds familiar, join us for Mass on Wednesdays at 6 PM., followed by Eucharistic Adoration from 6:30-7:30. This can be a great way to re-center yourself in God and experience the peace that only Christ can give.

Wednesday Evening Men's Vespers All men in the parish are invited to pray with us every Wednesday evening from 8:00-9 PM in the sanctuary.



MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, January 22
9:00 AM +David A. Dufek
+Veronika Stankeviciene
11:00 AM +Marcus Verg
12:30 PM The People of St. Alphonsus
5:00 PM The People of St. Alphonsus

Monday, January 23
8:30 AM Levy and Carmen (Safe Travels)

Tuesday, January 24
8:30 AM +Melvin John Distel

Wednesday, January 25
6:00 PM +Alma Gobat

Thursday, January 26
8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus

Friday, January 27
8:30 AM +Gregory Duda

Sunday, January 29
9:00 AM +David A. Dufek
11:00 AM +Ceneca T. Perez
12:30 PM +Manuel and Maria Naula
5:00 PM Teresa Medina (Healing)

Parish News and Events

Friends Through Faith Brunch



Do you know the names of the familiar faces you see each week at Mass? Do you feel you're missing a sense of community after leaving Church?

The newly formed Friends Through Faith Adult Social Group hopes to foster these essential faith-filled connections and build the St. Alphonsus community through fellowship and fun starting with a gathering -- breakfast, cocktails, coffee, and tea--next **Sunday, January 29th following the 11 AM Mass**. Connecting with other parishioners can lead to lasting friendships, fruitful ministries, or even just a friendly wave and smile the next time you attend Mass.

Our Catholic tradition teaches that human beings grow and achieve fulfillment in *community*. Pope Francis says, "No one saves oneself. The *community* is essential."

For more information or to help with this event and to RSVP, contact Amy Keefner, amykeefner@gmail.com.

Praise and Adoration This Friday



On Friday, January 27th at 7:30 PM, spend time with our Lord in praise and adoration in the church. We'll spend the first 15 minutes in silent adoration, and then our musicians will lead worship in song. Confessions will also be available! The hour will conclude with benediction, and fellowship at Lincoln Tap after!

Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion



Our parish is in need of faithful Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion. EMHC's should be fully initiated and practicing Catholics having received baptism, confirmation, and first Eucharist. If you would like to volunteer for this important ministry at Mass, please contact Harvey Levin, harveylevin@rcn.com

Volunteer with Cleaning Angels!



All parishioners are invited to join us on **Saturday February 11 from 9 AM to 10:30 AM** as we help to clean and beautify our Saint Alphonsus Church! It is our duty as good Catholics to be of service to our faith community and our local parish! You can sign up at bit.ly/feb23stalsclean

Contact Coordinator Kelly Lovewell at kjlovewell@gmail.com for questions.

Catholic Schools Week/ Family Mass

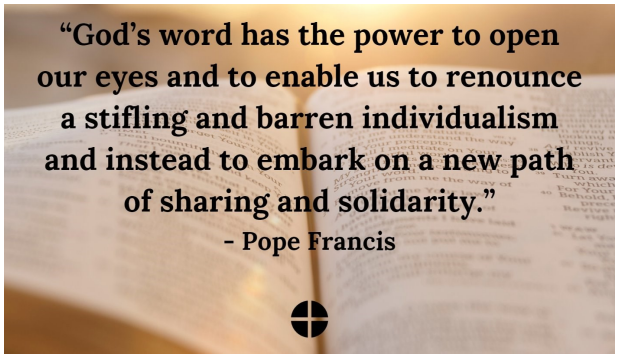
St. Alphonsus strongly supports our wonderful Alphonsus Academy & Center for the Arts school and our community families! Since 1974, National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. It starts the last Sunday in January and runs all week, which in 2023 is **January 29 – February 4**. The theme for National Catholic Schools Week is "Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service." Schools typically observe the annual celebration week with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members. Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation.

St. Alphonsus will be having a special "Family Mass" on Sunday, Jan. 29 at the 9 AM to kick-off Catholic schools week. AACA students will have the opportunity to sign up to read, bring up the gifts, and the children's choir will perform. If you have interest in AACA and would like a school tour, please contact Mary Bodlak, Director of Admissions at mbodlak@alphonsusacademy.org

Photo courtesy of Nate Johnson Studios



In addition **after the 11 AM Mass on Jan. 29**, thanks to our friends at Lakeview Roscoe Village Chamber of Commerce and an SSA 27 grant, worshippers will be treated to a special Ice Sculpting exhibition starting at 12:00 PM until 2:00 PM outside of church, in the area near the NW side of the veranda, where the Christmas tree currently stands. **The Ice Sculpting exhibition also will take place on Saturday, Jan. 28 from 2-4 PM**. You can learn more at www.lakeviewssa27.com/live-ice-sculpting



Faith Formation

Religious Education at St. Alphonsus



Our Religious Education program is a ministry to support children & families in deeper formation of our Catholic faith! We currently serve children in grades 1st - 8th. Two consecutive years of enrollment is required to participate in First Communion and Confirmation! Our program relies on the time & talents of volunteer parishioners to serve as catechists to our students. **We are currently looking for an additional 2nd grade catechist(s) to serve January - May 2023!** If you have any questions, please reach out to: ecook@stalphonsuschicago.church

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!

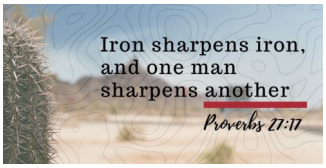
If you or someone you know is interested in taking the class, please contact our pastoral associate, Brooks Robinson at brobinson@stalphonsuschicago.church

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.

There are times when the burden of need and our own limitations might tempt us to become discouraged. But precisely then we are helped by the knowledge that, in the end, we are only instruments in the Lord's hands; and this knowledge frees us from the presumption of thinking that we alone are personally responsible for building a better world. In all humility we will do what we can, and in all humility we will entrust the rest to the Lord. It is God who governs the world, not we. We offer him our service only to the extent that we can, and for as long as he grants us the strength. To do all we can with what strength we have, however, is the task which keeps the good servant of Jesus Christ always at work: "The love of Christ urges us on" (2 Cor 5:14).



-Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*

Support the Collection for the Church in Latin America!



This weekend we take up the Collection for the Church in Latin America. Many people in Latin America and the Caribbean do not have access to church programs and ministries because of a rising secular culture, rugged rural terrain, and a shortage of ministers. Your generosity enables our brothers and sisters in Latin America and the Caribbean to share in the life of the Church and grow closer to Christ. Please be generous in the special collection! To learn more about how your gifts make a difference, visit www.usccb.org/latin-america

¡Este fin de semana realizaremos la Colecta para la Iglesia en América Latina! Muchas personas en América Latina y el Caribe no tienen acceso a los programas y ministerios de la Iglesia debido a una creciente cultura secular, unos terrenos rurales difíciles y una escasez de ministros. Su generosidad hace posible que nuestros hermanos y hermanas en América Latina y el Caribe participen en la vida de la Iglesia y se acerquen más a Cristo. ¡Por favor, sean generosos en esta colecta especial! Para informarse más sobre cómo sus donativos hacen una differenia, visiten www.usccb.org/latin-america

Stewardship—First Fruits

FIRST FRUITS
time talent treasure

We want to invite all parishioners who want to participate in online giving to do so by enrolling through GiveCentral and setting up your donation via the First Fruits campaign (weekly Mass offering).

A huge thank you to those that are already giving online. Please consider making St. Alphonsus an extension of your home and family when contributing.

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

More News and Events

Knights of Columbus News

THANK YOU, PARISHIONERS for many generous donations at the Blood Drive on JAN 8th! This was one of the very few drives that day, & the impact across the City was appreciated!!

FEB 24-25, - St. Alphonsus Parish Men's OVERNIGHT RETREAT led by Fr. Patrick Gorman at Joseph & Mary Retreat House, University St. Mary of the Lake Seminary, Mundelein, IL; retreat will begin about 8 PM FRI evening and finish mid-afternoon on SAT, permitting return back home by SAT evening; will include Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Confession, talk(s), rest, leisure time to walk around the lake. Fee of $128 includes dinner (available for late arrivals), one night's stay in individual room, breakfast & lunch. Please sign up at tinyurl.com/FEB-24-MENS-RETREAT
Open to Men's Club, Parishioners, YAM, AACA Dads & Friends-all men are welcome!

Recovery Programs at St. Alphonsus

If you or loved ones you know have a problem with alcohol/substance abuse, please seek help! Our parish hosts two AA programs. Daily Reflections meet on Monday mornings at 8:30 AM in the rectory Common Room. Contact Lauren Merrill Sammis, lauren.merrill@live.com for more information. There is also a Young People's Big Book AA group that meet Sunday evenings at 7 PM in the Festival Hall. You can contact one of the coordinators, Samuel, samuelaaronmosley@gmail.com for more info.

Tuesday Evening Philosophy Group



Join us on Tuesdays for weekly philosophy discussions and digging deeper into the greatest thinkers of all time. Get in touch with our Philosophy group coordinator Evan at esadasiv@alumni.nd.edu for more information.

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!

We live in a self-centered culture that all too often leaves us feeling empty and dissatisfied. A fuller view of God and His glory is the perfect antidote—find this during our journey through the **Beholding Your King** Bible study.

We'll study King David, select psalms, the temple, and many Old Testament prophets and see the ways in which they all point to the coming King of Kings, Jesus Christ. This Nine-Lesson Bible study is the second part of a two -part series and is ideally completed after *Beholding His Glory*.

**** Walking With Purpose is taking a break for winter. The new Beholding Your King bible studies will start up again on Tuesday February 7** Questions? Contact Susan Combes at suecombes@hotmail.com

St. Alphonsus Baptism

Choosing A Baptism Date - Most baptisms at St. Alphonsus are celebrated at 2:00 PM on Sundays. To request a date, please complete the Baptism Request form on our website (one form per child).

If your child is age 7 or older, please contact Erica Cook (ecook@stalphonsuschicago.church) for religious education classes.

Preparing For Baptism - First time parents are required to take our baptismal prep class. We hold this class once a month via Zoom, please rsvp in advance. Godparents are welcome to attend class at St. Alphonsus or at their local parish.

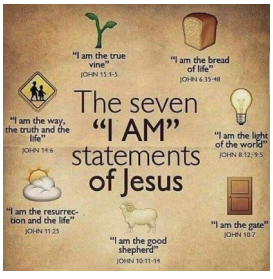
If you have already had a child baptized at St. Alphonsus, you need not attend the preparation session again, unless you would like to.

Godparent requirements - It is required to have at least one Catholic godparent who is confirmed and over the age of 16. Godparents are typically one male and one female. The maximum number of Godparents is two.

Contact **Kaitlin Holyk** for questions and inquiries.
weddings@stalphonsuschicago.church
773.525.0709

Time, Talent, Treasure

To carry out our mission that God has graciously invited us to participate in, we must be stewards of the temporal goods. By giving up our time, talent, and treasure, we are able to respond to the call of our why in our "whats" and "hows." This means, we baptize, we see others face-to-face, we draw in, we invite in, we create spaces of deep hospitality that we are able to accompany others as they seek to discover how God has been already present to them. In other words, as Henri J.M. Nouwen reminds us in, *A Spirituality of Fundraising*, steward-ship, fundraising, and generosity are all concrete ways we help the Kingdom of God come about. We invite you to join us in responding to the vocational call of our shared baptism. Please go to https://tinyurl.com/stalphonsusttt and consider the ways in which you may be generous with your time, talent, and treasure for the sake of the Kingdom of God and the mission with St. Alphonsus.



Young Adult Ministry (YAM)

Our Mission

As members of St. Alphonsus Young Adult Ministry, we walk alongside one another in faith. Our community is focused on:

- Meaningful worship, careful discernment, and prayerful reflection
- Curiosity and a thirst for the truth
- Service to one another, our church, and our city
- Lasting friendships and an invitation to fellowship and meaningful participation

Spirituality and Spirits: The Eucharist and Intimacy



This Tuesday January 24 from 6:30–8:30 PM in the Festival Hall, Sr. Jess Lambert, FE will help us dive into the profound intimacy that the Lord desires for us in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. It is an intimacy that can only be experienced when we let down our masks and walls such that Jesus in the Eucharist can truly speak to us and we can truly encounter Him.

Drinks and light appetizers provided. Freewill offerings accepted. We hope to see everyone for this engaging discussion!

Social Committee Meeting

Tuesday January 31

Are you interested in learning more about the social pillar and what we do? Do you have an idea for an event we could do? Are you looking to get involved with planning, volunteering and running some of our events? Social Committee is a great way to get plugged into the community, learn and have a voice in what we are going to do, and meet amazing fellow friends. All are welcome! We are looking forward to meeting you! Come join us to discuss and plan upcoming St. Alphonsus YAM social events for the community. We will meet at St. Al's Rectory Common Room at 7:00 PM:

- Frequency of YAM Social Committee meetings
- Recap past months events
- Finalize planning for current month, next big event
- Brainstorm next two months ideas

Upcoming Service Opportunities

Soup Kitchen at Missionaries of Charity—
Come serve with us at the soup kitchen operated by the Missionaries of Charity on January 28th! The soup kitchen starts at 9 AM here: 115 N Oakley Blvd. For those interested, we are also welcome to join the sisters for Mass at their convent (2325 W 24th Pl, Chicago, IL 60608) at 7 AM, followed by breakfast. Then we will drive to the soup kitchen by 9. You are welcome to join for Mass and breakfast, or meet us at the soup kitchen!

Nourishing Hope—
On February 4th, 11:30-3 PM, we will be volunteering at Nourishing Hope, formerly known as the Lakeview Pantry. We will sort through donations, take inventory, load the vans with items to be sent out, and other tasks as needed. Nourishing Hope requires all volunteers to submit proof of Covid vaccination.

Sign-ups for both events are on the St. Alphonsus Young Adult Ministry Facebook page, www.facebook.com/AlphonsusYoungAdult/

Reach out to stalsyamservice@gmail.com with any questions!

Lectio Divina is a common method of "sacred reading" which helps to guide one's thoughts and responses to God's Holy Word revealed in a specific scripture passage.

The Steps of Lectio Divina

- Choose a text of the Scriptures that you wish to pray.
- Place yourself in a quiet environment. Calm your anxieties and thoughts, and acknowledge God's presence.
- Offer a prayer to the Holy Spirit for inspiration and guidance: *Come, Holy Spirit, enlighten my heart and mind to listen to your Word.*

1. ***Lectio***: Read the text slowly and prayerfully, constantly listening for that word that God has prepared for you. You may want to re-read the same text multiple times to help quiet yourself interiorly and focus on God's voice. Listen and receive the Word that God speaks to you.

2. ***Meditatio***: When a word or phrase strikes you, stop and rest with it. Repeat the word or phrase to yourself. Allow it to speak to you in a personal way by pondering the word in your heart, reflecting on what it means to you. Memorize it and repeat it to yourself, allowing it to interact with your thoughts, hopes, memories, and desires.

3. ***Oratio***: Prayer is your response to God's word. It begins your dialogue with God that comes from your heart. Formulate a prayer, as a response to God. *What do you want to say to the Lord in response to the Word spoken to you?* Enter into this loving conversation with God.

4. ***Contemplatio***: Rest in God's presence and receive His transforming embrace. Sit still with God, realizing that in this deep and profound relationship, words are not necessary. Be content and at peace with a wordless, quiet rest in God, which brings joy to the heart. Remember that contemplation is not *your* action or doing, rather it is allowing God to act in you.

Around the Archdiocese



The Eucharist— the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ— is the source and summit of our lives as Catholics. Mary Mother of God Parish is hosting a Roundtable Discussion on Eucharistic Revival on Thursday January 26 at the Canterbury House (the rectory at 4827 N. Kenmore Ave) for the discussion on the 3 year initiative of the U.S bishops. Father Connor Danstrom and Sister Alicia Torres, F.F. will be the speakers. There will be a potluck dinner at 6 PM, followed by the discussion at 6:30 and concluding with Adoration at 7:45. Visit www.motherofgodchicago.org/events/january-26-roundtable-discussion-eucharistic-revival

Conversations That Matter: Addressing Mental Health

St. Joseph Catholic Church in Libertyville, Koenig Center, 121 E. Maple Ave. is hosting a panel discussion about mental health on Monday, January 23 at 6:30 PM. Join and learn more about managing anxiety, building resilience, coping strategies, and the power of prayer! No registration is required. The event will also be livestreamed at ow.ly/4WpU50MrQnt

"Conversations that Matter" Addressing Mental Health



What Are the Four Cardinal Virtues?

The cardinal virtues are the four principal moral virtues. The English word cardinal comes from the Latin word cardo, which means "hinge." All other virtues hinge on these four: prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance.

Plato first discussed the cardinal virtues in *The Republic*, and they entered into Christian teaching by way of Plato's disciple Aristotle. Unlike the theological virtues, which are the gifts of God through grace, the four cardinal virtues can be practiced by anyone; thus, they represent the foundation of natural morality.

Prudence: First Cardinal Virtue

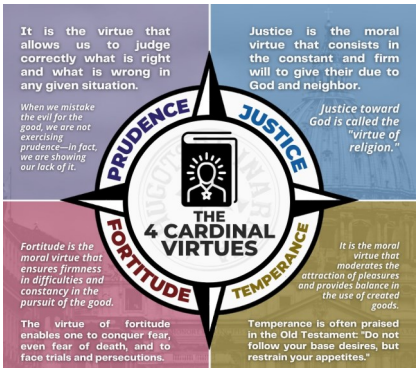
St. Thomas Aquinas ranked prudence as the first cardinal virtue because it is concerned with the intellect. Aristotle defined prudence as recta ratio agibilium, "right reason applied to practice." It is the virtue that allows us to judge correctly what is right and what is wrong in any given situation. When we mistake the evil for the good, we are not exercising prudence—in fact, we are showing our lack of it.

Because it is so easy to fall into error, prudence requires us to seek the counsel of others, particularly those we know to be sound judges of morality. Disregarding the advice or warnings of others whose judgment does not coincide with ours is a sign of imprudence.

Justice: Second Cardinal Virtue

Justice, according to Saint Thomas, is the second cardinal virtue, because it is concerned with the will. As Fr. John A. Hardon notes in his Modern Catholic Dictionary, it is "the constant and permanent determination to give everyone his or her rightful due." We say that "justice is blind," because it should not matter what we think of a particular person. If we owe him a debt, we must repay exactly what we owe.

Justice is connected to the idea of rights. While we often use justice in a negative sense ("He got what he deserved"), justice in its proper sense is positive. Injustice occurs when we as individuals or by law deprive someone of that which he is owed. Legal rights can never outweigh natural ones.



Fortitude: Third Cardinal Virtue

The third cardinal virtue, according to St. Thomas Aquinas, is fortitude. While this virtue is commonly called courage, it is different from what much of what we think of as courage today. Fortitude allows us to overcome fear and to remain steady in our will in the face of obstacles, but it is always reasoned and reasonable; the person exercising fortitude does not seek danger for danger's sake. Prudence and justice are the virtues through which we decide what needs to be done; fortitude gives us the strength to do it.

Fortitude is the only one of the cardinal virtues that is also a gift of the Holy Spirit, allowing us to rise above our natural fears in defense of the Christian faith.

Temperance: Fourth Cardinal Virtue

Temperance, Saint Thomas declared, is the fourth and final cardinal virtue. While fortitude is concerned with the restraint of fear so that we can act, temperance is the restraint of our desires or passions. Food, drink, and sex are all necessary for our survival, individually and as a species; yet a disordered desire for any of these goods can have disastrous consequences, physical and moral.

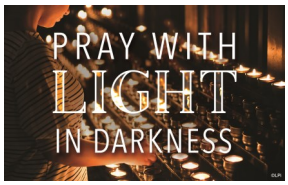
Temperance is the virtue that attempts to keep us from excess, and, as such, requires the balancing of legitimate goods against our inordinate desire for them. Our legitimate use of such goods may be different at different times; temperance is the "golden mean" that helps us determine how far we can act on our desires.

Stewardship Reflection

"He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed Him." Matthew 4:22

Just as Jesus called the first apostles, He calls each of us to follow Him, too. Not everyone is called to leave their business or family behind, but we are expected to put God first in everything. In gratitude to God, we should give our first and best of everything to Him: our time in daily prayer, our talent in participating in one of our parish ministries and our treasure to support the financial needs of our parish mission.

Gospel Meditation



When I was a young seminarian, I asked a wise old priest how to pray better. He said simply, "Don't lie when you pray." He helped me to see how much energy I waste in trying to appear acceptable to God when I pray. For me, prayer was showing off for God and hiding what was ugly.

It's stunning that the Gospel of Matthew tells us of Jesus, "He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulon and Naphtali…" This isn't just the Lord's relocation up north. It's his moving into places of shame and defeat. This region was where the enemy invasion of Israel began centuries before. Jesus left the comfortable confines of Nazareth and sought out a place of darkness, not to bring shame, but to announce the dawning of his light.

When we pray, we usually prefer Jesus to stay put in our little Nazareths — where we feel comfortable, successful, and in control. But he moves. He re-locates into the Zebulons and Naphtalis of our shame, embarrassment, fear, and sense of being defeated. The question for us is: will we allow him to take up residence in those places in our prayer time? Will we talk to him honestly about our places of darkness? If we do, we're no longer lying when we pray.

— Father John Muir

Helpful Household Hints by Harvey Levin

Fraud Defense

- Do not sign the back of your credit cards. Instead, put 'ASK FOR ID.' If you do that, the thief does not have an example of your signature and therefore cannot try to copy it. A fraudulent purchase will be very apparent.
- When you are writing checks to pay your credit card accounts, DO NOT put the complete account number on the 'For' line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number, and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through all the check processing channels won't have access to it.
- Put your work phone # on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a PO Box, use your work address. Never have your SS# printed on your checks. (DUH!) You can add it if it is necessary. But if it is printed, anyone who sees one of your checks will have it.
- Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine. Copy both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel. Keep the photocopy in a safe place.
- Carry a photocopy of your passport in each piece of luggage when you travel either here or abroad. Also, you have to put your name and address on your luggage when you travel. Put your work address and not your home address. Then the crook in Paris cannot contact his accomplice in your home city to tell him which house to burglarize.
- Also, when you travel (especially in foreign countries), call each of your credit card companies to let them know when and where you are traveling. In that way you will not have a credit card cancelled when you are out of town.
- We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed by stealing a Name, address, Social Security number, credit cards. We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately. But the key is having the toll-free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know who to call. Keep those where you can find them.
- File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit cards, etc., were stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and this is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).
- But here's what is perhaps most important of all. Call one of the 3 national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on you. (They share with each other so you do not have to contact all three.) The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen, and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit. Also call the SS fraud prevention hotline.
- Here are the numbers you always need to contact about your wallet, if it has been stolen:
  1.) Equifax: 1-800-525-6285
  2.) Experian (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742
  3.) Trans Union: 1-800-680 7289
  4.) Social Security Administration (fraud line): 1-800-269-0271

Contact

Sacramental Information

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

How to Offer a Mass Intention

Did you ever notice that every Mass said here at St. Alphonsus is offered for a special intention? The entire congregation prays for that intention during the petitions (Prayers of the Faithful) when we say,

"For those who have died, and for the intention of this Mass: (named intention)"

You can make a Mass Intention request here. Masses are often offered for family, friends and relatives that have died. Praying for the dead is a Spiritual Work of Mercy. Offering a Mass for someone that has died is an especially comforting gesture to the family. Mass can also be offered to commemorate joyful occasions and to give thanks to God for blessings received.

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

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

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

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

Our parish has received permission to once again host important sacraments. Please be patient as the pandemic created a scheduling backlog regarding Baptisms and Weddings. You can find more info at:

www.stalphonsuschicago.org/baptism

www.stalphonsuschicago.org/marriage

St. Alphonsus Social Media

Choose to participate in meaningful engagement! Having an attitude of engagement challenges us to love our digital neighbor as ourselves. You can find St. Alphonsus' Facebook and Twitter by going to the parish website and clicking the icons at the footer of the page.

Directory

Parish Office

1429 W Wellington Ave, Chicago, IL 60657-4121
(P): 773-525-0709 | (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 Wallett, Secretary
Connie Del Toral, Administrative Assistant