Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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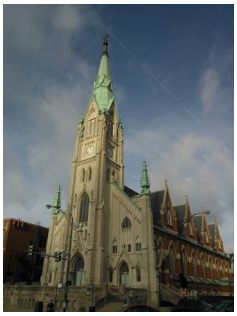
Ash Wednesday



"Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart."
— Joel 2:12

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, when we recall Christ's own 40 days of fasting and praying in the desert. Lent affords us the opportunity to purify our hearts, to simplify and reprioritize our spiritual lives as we journey towards the Cross and ultimately Easter Sunday. We engage the penitential practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in order to conform ourselves more closely to Christ and to follow the path of holiness. All who participate in this spiritual journey demonstrate a willingness to discipline their lives for the love of Jesus Christ we find in His passion, death and Resurrection.

Welcome to St. Alphonsus!



Whether you're a visitor from out of town, a new neighbor here for the first time, or an old friend reconnecting with your community of faith this Lent, you are part of our family. Please feel free to stop by the parish office during the day to introduce yourself. We'd love to get to know you better!

Is there a wedding or baptism in your future? We would be happy to explain the process and help you with the sacramental preparations. Or if you're interested in learning more about the Catholic faith, any of our priests or pastoral staff are happy to listen to your story or answer your questions.

If you have school-age children, Alphonsus Academy & Center for the Arts (pre-K to 8th grade) features academic excellence and development in faith rooted in a welcoming Catholic community. We invite you to arrange for a tour of the school or visit www.alphonsusacademy.org for more information.

Regular Mass & Liturgical Schedule

Sunday Mass: 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 12:30 PM (Spanish), 5:00 PM

Daily Mass: 8:30 AM; Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri; 6:00 PM Wed

Reconciliation: Confessions are heard on Wednesday evenings after Mass from 6:30 to 7:30 PM and on Saturdays from 11 AM to Noon

Eucharistic Adoration: Wednesday evenings 6:30– 7:30 PM

Help Fight Hunger with CRS

CRS RICE BOWL

St. Alphonsus Parish will be participating again this year in Catholic Relief Services' Lenten program, CRS Rice Bowl. Children will receive the iconic cardboard rice bowl to collect money for hunger relief and adults can go to www.crsricebowl.org to learn more about putting our faith in action through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. The site also has numerous meatless recipes for Lent. We invite everyone to bring your rice bowl boxes back to Mass by Palm Sunday, April 3.

Observing the Lenten Season

In addition to discerning their own penitential practices, Catholics are asked to observe the following practices of *fast* (eating less) and *abstinence* (doing without meat) during the 40 days of Lent:

- Everyone 14 years of age and older is bound to abstain from meat on *Ash Wednesday* and *all the Fridays of Lent.*
- Everyone 18-59 years old is bound to fast on *Ash Wednesday and Good Friday*. (The obligation ends after age 59.)

Fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday means eating only one full, meatless meal. Two other smaller, meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to one's needs; but together the two meals should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices, are allowed. When one's health or strength are affected, the guidelines *do not* oblige.

Lenten Calendar

March & April

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17				the Triduum		

Lenten Book Discussion

Wednesday evenings at 7 PM

Our Young Adult Book Discussion Group will be reading two books during Lent. The first will be Hugh Robert Benson's "***Lord of the World***", on March 9 and 16. The second book is TBD. For more information about Book Club, contact Leora Wallace, lwallac2@alumni.nd.edu

Spirituality and Spirits

Sunday March 27 at 6 PM

The incredible story on the life and faith of Fr. Walter Ciszek, S.J., a 20th century missionary to Russia who survived arrest, imprisonment, and Siberian labor camps. Presented by professor John DeJak. Drinks and refreshments will be served.

Made For More

Tuesday April 5 7-9:30 PM



Renowned Catholic author/ speaker Christopher West and musician Mike Mangione join St. Alphonsus for an evening of live music, visual beauty and reflection. Where do we come from? Where are we going? These questions are decisive in understanding what It means to be human and how to orient our lives and actions toward authentic fulfillment. Tickets are $25 and can be purchased at the rectory office.
A reception will follow in the Festival Hall

Stations of the Cross & Divine Mercy Chaplet



Each Friday during Lent, the Stations of the Cross are prayed at 7:00 PM.
This prayer allows us to meditate on Christ's Passion and death while walking the "Way of the Cross." It is a wonderful way to grow in one's knowledge of being a disciple of the Lord.

Please note: Stations will not be prayed on March 25 due to Confirmation.

The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed at 6:30 PM on Fridays before Stations.

Men's Evening of Reflection

Friday March 4; 7:00 to 8:30 PM

All men in the St. Alphonsus parish community are encouraged to join us on Friday, March 4. Our Knights of Columbus council will be hosting a night of reflection from 7:00-8:30 PM. The evening will begin with Stations of the Cross in church and then will be followed by a reflection and a social afterwards. Come kick off Lent with this time of prayer and fellowship. Sign up, www.bit.ly/stalsreflection22

Stations of the Cross Friday April 8 will be at 5:00 PM and led by AACA 7th graders.

Lenten Fish Fry

Friday April 8; 6:00 to 9:00 PM

Truly a highlight and staple of Lent, St. Alphonsus will be hosting one grand Lenten Fish Fry this year. This event is sponsored by our Knights to benefit charitable projects of the parish. Delicious dinners including homemade fried fish, mac-n-cheese, sides and dessert. BYOB. Games of chance and amusements for children.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!! Contact Paul Gillespie, pgillespie15158@gmail.com

Holy Week & Easter Schedule



Palm Sunday, April 10
Mass times: Sunday 9:00, 11:00 AM, 12:30 PM (Spanish) and 5:00 PM

Holy Thursday, April 14
8:30 AM Liturgy of the Hours
7:00 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday, April 15
8:30 AM Liturgy of the Hours
3:00 PM Stations of the Cross
7:00 PM Good Friday Liturgy

Holy Saturday, April 16
12:00 PM Blessing of Easter Baskets
8:00 PM Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY, April 17
9:00 AM
11:00 AM
12:30 PM

Divine Mercy Sunday, April 24
3:00 PM Holy Hour & Confessions

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For more info on any of our parish or school programs visit us at **www.stalphonsuschicago.org** or call the rectory at **773-525-0709**. To stay connected with us during the Lenten season, **like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/stalphonsuschgo/**