# Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

JUNE 15, 2025: THE MOST HOLY TRINITY




*Everything that the Father has is mine;*
*for this reason I told you that he will take from what*
*is mine and declare it to you." (Jn 16:15)*

## 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: Prv 8:22-31/Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (2a)/Rom 5:1-5/Jn 16:12-15
Monday: 2 Cor 6:1-10/Ps 98:1, 2b, 3ab, 3cd-4/Mt 5:38-42
Tuesday: 2 Cor 8:1-9/Ps 146:2, 5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a/Mt 5:43-48
Wednesday: 2 Cor 9:6-11/Ps 112:1bc-2, 3-4, 9/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday: 2 Cor 11:1-11/Ps 111:1b-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mt 6:7-15
Friday: 2 Cor 11:18, 21-30/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mt 6:19-23
Saturday: 2 Cor 12:1-10/Ps 34:8-9, 10-11, 12-13/Mt 6:24-34
Next Sunday: Gn 14:18-20/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4 (4b)/1 Cor 11:23-26/Lk 9:11b-17

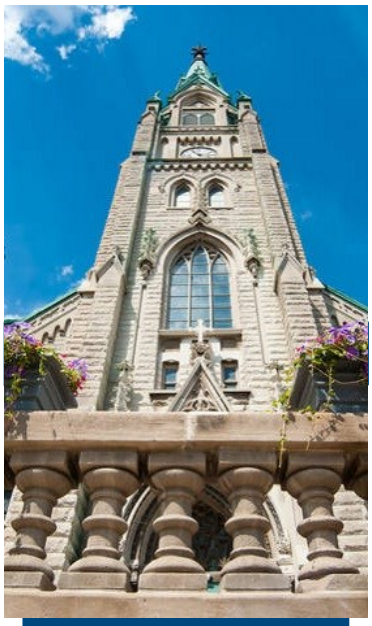
## Please Pray for the Sick

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
Dorothy O'Brien
Ryan Meadow
Danny Browder
Carol Kania
Leslie Salimi
Jason Jamero
Rosemarie Cordero
Ramona Colon
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

Ada Jane Grip
Jude Thomas O'Neill
Arthur Tallman Connolly



## WEDDING

**Haley El Mahassni**
**and**
**Riley Drexler**

## *Wedding Banns*

II. Courtney Nielsen and Robert Ljubic
II. Caitlin Foli and James Fisher
I. Audrey Moore and Blake Quarrie

## At Rest in the Peace of Christ

Krystal Rivera, CPD Officer

## MASS INTENTIONS

***Sunday, June 15***
9:00 AM +Irene Graham
Juliana Pellino (Birthday Blessings)
11:00 AM +Richard Meindl
+Edward Marsalek
12:30 PM The People of St. Alphonsus
5:00 PM +Rosario Anzelmo

***Monday, June 16***
8:30 AM The People of Saint Alphonsus

***Tuesday, June 17***
8:30 AM The People of Saint Alphonsus

***Wednesday, June 18***
6:00 PM The People of Saint Alphonsus

***Thursday, June 19***
8:30 AM The People of Saint Alphonsus

***Friday, June 20***
8:30 AM The People of Saint Alphonsus

***Saturday, June 21***
8:30 AM The People of Saint Alphonsus

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

# News and Events

## Sacramental Record Requests

If you are in need of yours or your child(ren) sacrament record/certificate, St. Alphonsus has now streamlined the process. There is a tab on our parish website, www.stalphonsuschicago.org under the Sacraments header. Simply click on this and complete the form and our Sacraments Ministry coordinator will respond in a timely fashion.



## June 22—Solemnity of Corpus Christi— Special Mass & Procession

Next Sunday, June 22 is the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi). Because the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life, in order to celebrate this great feast, the Mass at 11 AM will be combined with the Spanish Mass community and celebrated bilingually with an enhanced choir.

Immediately following the Mass we will have a Eucharistic procession around the block of the Alphonsus campus, before returning to the church for a final benediction. There will not be a 12:30 PM Mass that Sunday.



## Praise and Adoration in June

Our Young Adult Ministry will lead Adoration on 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!

## Mama Meetup Ministry

Moms of the parish are invited to join other moms for a Coffee Social on Sunday, June 22, in the Festival Hall after the 9 AM Mass.

This group is geared towards new and first time moms with kids under 18 months, but any mother looking for community and a safe space to discuss the joys and difficulties of motherhood is welcome. We look forward to seeing you!

For questions, email Kathryn Kibler at kkibler@stalphonsuschicago.church

## 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.

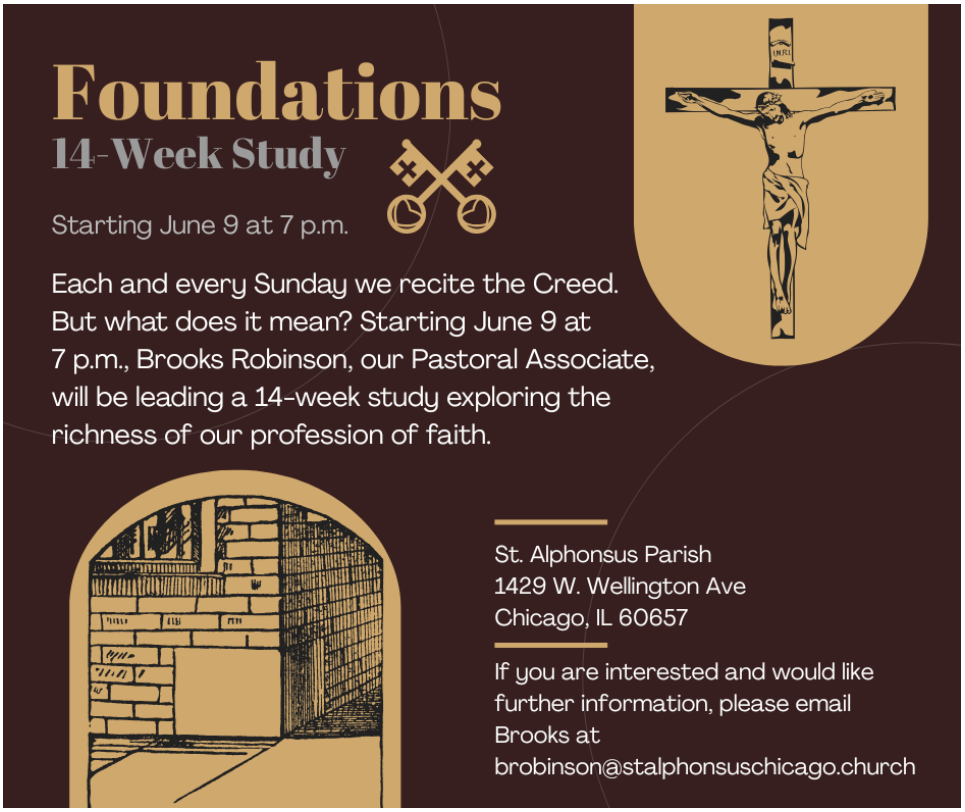
For adult baptisms, contact Brooks Robinson at brobinson@stalphonsuschicago.church

## 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

# 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**

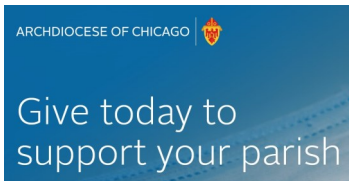
We've been hearing about the capital campaign for some time now, learning about its goals and our particular needs, and inviting groups of parishioners and school families to support it and make a pledge. On each of the previous two Sundays we had an in-pew pledge appeal. Here's how we responded, week-over-week, showing our current status:

| | Totals through May 30 | After the June 1st pledge appeal | After June 8th pledge appeal |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Total pledged** | $1,146,409 | $1,308,935 | **$1,514,068** |
| **Percent of stretch goal of $2.24M** | 51.2% | 58.4% | **67.6%** |
| **Number of pledges** | 107 | 147 | **190** |
| **Parish Households** | 2,100 | 2,100 | **2,100** |
| **Participation Rate** | 5.1% | 7.0% | **9.0%** |

*These results are amazing!* We are so thankful to all those who have responded and have made a pledge. Our pastor and campaign committee thank you wholeheartedly! We look forward to continued campaign success, which is bound to happen as we work to double, triple, or quadruple the parishioner engagement and participate rate.

- *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*

Left QR code for Gen to Gen; Right QR code for Mass Offertory




### Giving Update

Weekly Budget Amount: $15,192

Sunday Offertory for 6/8: $16,036

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

# Stewardship—First Fruits

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

## St. Alphonsus Religious Education

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!**

*Click on "Religious Education" under the "Learn" Tab on our website.*



**Enrolling**
**Children Grades 1-8**

**Classes held Tuesday Evenings**
**6:15pm-7:30pm**
**Sept thru May**

First Communion preparation takes 2 years and typically begins in 1st Grade



Confirmation preparation takes 2 years and typically begins in 7th Grade

Have a child older than 2nd Grade who has not yet received First Communion?

Have a child older than 7 years old who has not yet received Baptism?

**Contact our Parish Office**
**773-525-0709**

# 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

walking with purpose

## Come as you are.

**YOU ARE WELCOME HERE**

WWP Bible studies combine personal study with small group discussion, linking our everyday challenges to solutions given through Scripture. If you desire to grow in your faith—in a supportive community of Catholic women—join us!

***Summer Speaker Series: Prayer***
***Tuesdays, June 17th Start***
***6 Weeks @ Rectory***
***9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. OR***
***6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.***
***Contact Marianne (773) 544-1841***

www.walkingwithpurpose.com

## St. Alphonsus Men's Group




St. Alphonsus Men's Group meets Thursday nights to pray the liturgy of the hours, have fellowship, and to propose challenging topics to discuss.

When great conversations happen, synergy that creates connections and helps values be shared develops. *Proverbs 27:17* describes this as two iron tools being sharpened and made more effective. The same applies with friends coming into contact, sharpening and encouraging each other to greater service.

We meet every Thursday night at 7 PM in the rectory. Food and drinks provided. All men are welcome, with most men being in their 20s and 30s. Access can be gained at the west facing rectory door in the parking lot.

For questions or more information, contact Men's Group at our email, divineofficers@gmail.com

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

# 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 can be found on the YAM Facebook page.

| 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 |

## 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

## More Faith Events for Young Adults Around Chicago



***Volunteer with Mission of Our Lady of the Angels annual Block Party!***
Mission OLA, 3808 W. Iowa St., establishes a Catholic presence in the Humboldt Park area, assisting and sharing our Catholic Faith with those less fortunate. All the faithful are invited to please help out and volunteer on Saturday, June 21 from 10 AM to 2 PM. Activities may include helping cook, set up, eat with neighbors, play with kids, and/or help at the evangelization table! There is a SignUp Genius on their site or visit www.signupgenius.com/go/508094ba4a82aa6f85-mission#/

St. Teresa of Avila is hosting their Summer Young Adult series for monthly conversations this summer on faith, life and being a young person in today's world. Each session will be 7-9 PM at Beermiscuous (2812 N. Lincoln Ave., which is just down the street from St. Alphonsus. Their first speaker this Wednesday, June 18 is Fr. Paul Shelton, SJ. Father Paul is the provincial assistant for vocations for the Midwest Jesuits. For the past two years he has served as a Eucharistic preacher for the National Eucharistic Revival.
Register online at https://teresa.church/summer-young-adult-series-2025/

# Gospel Reflection

*"All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." Matthew 28:19–20 (Year B Gospel)*

## The Essence of the Most Holy Trinity

Of all the great feasts we celebrate within the Church throughout the year, today's Solemnity presents us with a Mystery that is so deep and transcendent that our eternity will be spent in perpetual contemplation. The Trinity, the life of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, will never get old, never be fully understood, and will be the cause of our everlasting adoration and joy. Though the Church has used philosophical concepts to explain the Trinity, no human concept or description will ever fully explain Who God is. Though we can point to some general truths about God, we will never be able to fully depict the inner essence, depth, beauty and omnipotence of the Trinity.

As we consider that fact, it's important to understand that the Trinity is not first a theological mystery we try to define. Rather, the Trinity is first a communion of Persons we are invited to know. We do not primarily come to know God through intellectual deduction. We come to know God through prayerful union with Him. Though theology is exceptionally useful and important, the essence of God is beyond any and every philosophical concept we can define.

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are Persons. And as Persons, they want to be known. And they want to be known primarily through a life of deep and intimate prayer. Praying to One Person, of course, is praying to all, since they are One God. But we are, nonetheless, called to a relationship of love with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. And though our feeble minds may not be able to fully comprehend the essence of God, He will draw us deeper and deeper into a knowledge of Him if we let Him.



Prayer often begins by saying prayers, by meditating upon Scripture, and by listening. But true prayer is something much deeper. True prayer is contemplative prayer that ultimately leads to divine union. Only God can initiate this form of prayer in our lives, and only God, through this deep form of prayer, can communicate Himself to us as He is. Some of the greatest mystics of our Church, such as Saint John of the Cross and Saint Teresa of Ávila, explain in their mystical theology that the deepest knowledge of God does not come through concepts or images. In fact, if we wish to obtain a knowledge of God in His essence, we must allow Him to purge every concept of Who He is so that the pure light of His essence can be poured forth upon our minds. This knowledge, they say, is beyond knowing "about" God. It's the beginning of a knowledge "of" God.

Reflect, today, upon the Most Holy Trinity. As you do, say a prayer to God asking for a deeper and more intimate knowledge of Him. Ask Him to communicate to you His divine love and to open your mind and heart to a deeper understanding of Who He is. Try to humble yourself before the great Mystery of the inner life of God. Humility before the Mystery of God means that we know how little we know about Him and how little we know of Him. But that humble truth will help you move closer to the deeper relationship of love to which you are called.

*Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, please draw me into a relationship of love with You Who are one God and three divine Persons. May the mystery and beauty of Your life become more known and loved by me each day through the gift of transforming mystical prayer. 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.

# *Inspiration from Pope Leo XIV*

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

### Seek God With A Restless Heart

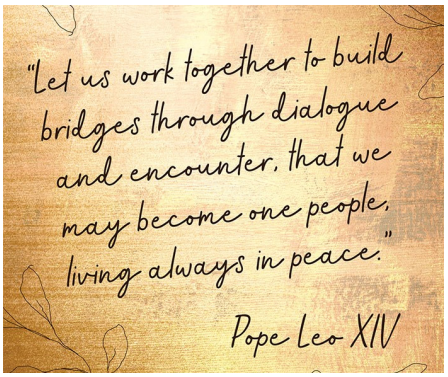
At the core of Pope Leo XIV's spirituality is a profound restlessness—a yearning for God that echoes the famous words of St. Augustine: *"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you"*. This phrase is not simply theological poetry for Pope Leo; it is the rhythm of his life and ministry. His journey, from his early days in the minor seminary to the papacy, has been one of continual searching, listening, and responding to God's call, not in isolation but in communion.

Leo XIV is shaped by the Augustinian vision of a communal life in which the search for God is shared, not solitary. From the very beginning, he understood that truth is not reached alone, but in the embrace of fraternity, mutual care, and shared prayer. His formation in the Order of Saint Augustine taught him that contemplation and mission are not separate callings, but two aspects of the same pursuit—an interior life open to God and an outward life poured out in service.

As an Augustinian, Leo XIV does not seek God in abstract doctrines but in lived relationships. He believes that the Christian cannot claim to follow Christ without belonging to the Church. Just as Augustine taught that Christ is the Head of the Church and we are his body, **Pope Leo insists that community is not optional for discipleship—it is essential**. His life has been shaped by this conviction, leading him to roles that have formed communities of discernment, prayer, and action— from novice master to seminary rector to prior general of his Order.

This restlessness is not a burden but a gift. It has driven Pope Leo to the mission fields of Peru, to the dusty roads of Trujillo, and later to the leadership of the global Augustinian Order. It is a restlessness that seeks to serve rather than to dominate, to listen rather than to declare. In the poor communities of Peru, he found the Gospel lived with joy amid suffering, and in the governance of his Order, he learned that authority, when shaped by love, creates communion.

What distinguishes Pope Leo's restlessness is that it does not seek answers for the sake of certainty but for the sake of love. It is a restlessness that pushes the Church beyond complacency and into deeper intimacy with God and solidarity with others. It is not about intellectual control but about humble openness. Like Augustine, Pope Leo believe that God is not a distant reality but the One who is found in shared bread, common questions, and the cry of the poor.




To seek God with a restless heart is to live with longing, humility, and hope. It means refusing to settle for mediocrity and choosing instead the path of inner transformation and outward service. This is the journey Pope Leo invites us to take with hum—not toward comfort but toward communion. And it begins, as it did for him, with a restless heart that dares to believe that God is near.

### Be Artisans of Peace

When Pope Leo XIV stepped onto the central balcony of Saint Peter's Basilica for his first public appearance, the words he chose were not political, nor poetic, nor strategic. They were Gospel: *"Peace be with you"*. These same words were spoken by the risen Christ to a fearful and disoriented group of disciples, locked away in an upper room. Pope Leo XIV knew exactly what he was doing. He was inviting the Church—and the world—into the heart of Christ's message: peace, not as comfort but as a calling.

This peace, he emphasized, is not a fragile cease-fire or a temporary truce. It is the disarming peace of Christ—humble, persevering, unconditional. It is not imposed from above but sown from below. It does not begin in structures or speeches but in the heart of every person willing to live with open hands and an unguarded heart. For Pope Leo, peace is not merely a social value or political goal— it is the fruit of deep conversion, personal and communal.

Throughout his pastoral ministry, particularly as bishop of Chiclayo in Peru, Leo XIV lived this peace daily. In his diocesan writings, especially his reflections on Pope Francis' encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, "On Fraternity and Social Friendship (2020), he laid out a vision of the Church as a field hospital and a bridge-builder in a fractured world. He invited people to rediscover fraternity as the pathway to peace, and listening as the method by which that peace is built. To speak of peace, he said, is to speak of transformation, reconciliation, and justice woven into daily life.

In a world wounded by war, division, and indifference, Pope Leo's approach to peace is radically evangelical. He does not deny conflict; he embraces it with the tools of the Gospel. He rejects the language of "us versus them", instead calling for encounter, respect, and shared responsibility for the common good. His voice is calm but unwavering: "Evil will not prevail. We are all in God's hands".

Continued on page 10

# *Inspiration from Pope Leo XIV cont….*

For Leo XIV, *Fratelli Tutti* is not a text to be quoted but a path to be walked. He reads it not as a manifesto but as a spiritual itinerary. Peace is built not by policy alone but by the daily conversion of hearts. By seeking the suffering, welcoming the excluded, and healing the wounded, the Church becomes the living instrument of Christ's peace.

In his first blessing, *Urbi et Orbi*, Pope Leo XIV returned to this theme with piercing clarity. "The world needs his light. Humanity needs him as a bridge to be reached by God and his live". It is not enough, he insists, for the Church to speak of peace, it must live it, embody it, risk it. Peace is not soft. It is scandalous. It strips us of weapons—literal and emotional. It disarms our pride and prepares our hands for service.

And so, Pope Leo invites all—not just leaders or diplomats—to become artisans of peace. To begin in our families, our churches, and to believe, against all odds, that Christ's peace is possible. Because it is not our invention. It is his gift. And it is ours to give.

### God Loves Us Unconditionally

In a world shaped by performance, division, and worthiness, Pope Leo XIV's proclamation cuts through like light: "God loves us. God loves you all". These simple words, spoken in his first public message as Pope, are not sentimental. They are foundational. They echo the heart of the Gospel and reflect the deepest truth of Christian faith: that everything begins in the love of God.

For Pope Leo XIV, this is not only doctrine but also the starting point of everything the Church believes and does. Rooted in the teaching of St. Augustine, the Pope reminds us that love is not something we manufacture; it is something we receive. "We love," Augustine said, "because he first loved us". God does not wait for us to be good before he loves us. He loves us into goodness. He embraces us while we are still far off. His love is freely given, faithful, and unconditional.

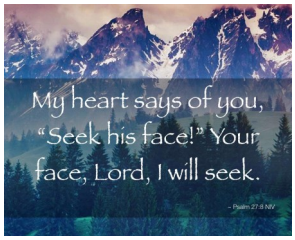
Leo XIV has lived this truth in the most pastoral of ways. During his years spent in Peru—especially through the trials of the pandemic—he wrote tenderly to his people. In a letter titled *Come and See…Let Us Come to Know Jesus Christ*, he insisted that faith is not about maintaining routines or sustaining structures. It is about returning to the heart of it all: the person of Jesus. We cannot proclaim what we have not encountered. And we cannot encounter Christ without being transformed by his love.

That encounter is not only for mystics or saints. It is for all. Christ comes to us personally, persistently, through his word, his presence, and his people. And for Pope Leo, this truth demands a response—not of fear, but of joy. **The Church must not merely teach doctrine; it must communicate beauty. People are drawn not by obligation, but by attraction—by the radiant joy of knowing they are loved and welcomed by God.**

Augustinian spirituality, which shaped Leo XIV from adolescence, emphasizes that truth is never imposed; it is discovered in community, in shared questions, in fraternal charity. That is why he insists that Christianity is not a private escape but a call to communion. God's love cannot be hoarded—it must be shared. "No one is disposable," he often repeats. "No one is a stranger in the eyes of Christ."

He invites the Church to become a space of encounter—a place where love is not just spoken; it is embodied. During his ministry, he urged communities to be "sowers of communion", especially during difficult times. The Christian life, he insists, is not an insurance policy for suffering but a mission born from love. To know we are loved is to be sent. The Gospel is not preserved; it is proclaimed through lives that radiate this love.

Pope Leo is clear: this love does not exempt us from pain, but it transforms pain into revelation. Even in suffering, God draws near. Even in silence, God speaks. For Leo XIV, the Christian response to any crisis—whether global or personal—is to begin again in love. In the words of the psalm he often cites: "Your face, Lord, do I seek!" (Psalm 27:8)




This part of his message is not merely theological. It is deeply human. God's love is not a reward; it is the source. And once received, it sends us out to love without fear, to build community without judgment, and to walk with others in the joy of being loved first.

Part 2 to be continued in 6/22 St. Alphonsus bulletin

Copyright © 2025 Ligouri Publications *10 Things Pope Leo XIV Wants You to Know* by Sr. Gemma Morató Sendra, OP; All rights reserved.

# 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