



# Saint Alphonsus

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ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

MAY 21, 2023: ASCENSION OF THE LORD



*Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said,  
“Father, the hour has come.*

*Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you.” (Jn 17:1)*

## LITURGY SCHEDULE

### Mass Schedule

<b>Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri</b>	8:30 AM
<b>Wed</b>	6:00 PM
<b>Sunday</b>	9 AM, 11 AM, 12:30 (Spanish) and 5 PM
<b>Alphonsus Academy &amp; Center For the Arts</b>	
<b>Friday</b>	8:30 AM or as announced

### Eucharistic Adoration

**Wednesday** 6:30–7:30 PM

### Confessions

**Wednesday** 6:30–7:30 PM  
**Saturday** 11:00–12:00 PM

*\*Or call one of the priests for an appointment*

# Worship

## This Week's Readings

Sunday: Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 (6)/Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20  
 Monday: Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab/Jn 16:29-33  
 Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11, 20-21/Jn 17:1-11a  
 Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38/Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab/Jn 17:11b-19  
 Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/Jn 17:20-26  
 Friday: Acts 25:13b-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab/Jn 21:15-19  
 Saturday: Morning: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Ps 11:4, 5 and 7/Jn 21:20-25  
 Next Sunday: Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 (see 30)/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13/Jn 20:19-23

## Please Pray for the Sick

Dorothy Bonds  
 Jamie Wallett  
 Sandra Wilson  
 Monica Alexis Rios  
 Margaret Nichols  
 Tessa Sergent  
 Diane Mareci  
 Fidel Mercado Chavez

Emilia Hurtado  
 Bernard Zapp  
 David Birks  
 Celeste Soult  
 Carol Reckwerdt  
 Magdalena Gonzalez  
 Michael Aldape  
 William Ahearn  
 Janet Horvat  
 Frank G. Bauer

Al Corleone  
 Judy Fredrickson  
 Tracy Duda  
 Jacob Duda  
 Dorothy O'Brien  
 Ryan Meadow  
 Danny Browder  
 Carol Kania

## At Rest in the Peace of Christ



## Welcome Our Recently Baptized

Patrick Steven Nienaber  
 Luca Leon Jacobs  
 Blair Marie Jacobs  
 Charlotte Grace Lindquist  
 Dean Haggerty

PRAYERS FOR THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVE IN OUR ARMED FORCES.



## MASS INTENTIONS

### Sunday, May 21

9:00 AM +Fred Hilgart, Rose Hilgart Ward, Joan Hilgart Grahf, & Dennis Hilgart  
 11:00 AM +Arcadio Malcaldo & Family  
 12:30 PM +Juanita Ramirez  
 5:00 PM +John P. Huffman

### Monday, May 22

8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus Parish

### Tuesday, May 23

8:30 AM +Dr. Anthony Caruso

## Eucharistic Adoration: A Source for Peace:

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

## Men's Vespers— WED evening

Men of the parish are invited to attend our Communio prayer group each Wednesday at 8:15-9 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, share reflections on the upcoming Sunday gospel reading, followed by a social with refreshments, fellowship, and conversation. All men of the parish are invited. Questions or more info, contact James Morrow, [jemseoul@hotmail.com](mailto:jemseoul@hotmail.com)

## Giving Update

Weekly Budget Amount: \$15,218  
 Offertory for 5/14: \$13,309  
 Please remember to help the poor. Donations to the poor box in the narthex go to our St. Vincent DePaul Society.



### Wednesday, May 24

6:00 PM +Elizabeth Alaniz

### Thursday, May 25

8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus Parish

### Friday, May 26

8:30 AM +Colette Marie Morris

### Sunday, May 28

9:00 AM +Kathleen Schroedle  
 11:00 AM +Richard Meindl  
 12:30 PM +Esteban and Genaro Corral Casillas  
 5:00 PM +Adoracion C. Reyes

## Congratulations New Priests of the Archdiocese of Chicago!

*"The new priests join a brotherhood which enhances their ability to bring renewal, joy and comfort to those in need of guidance, healing and mercy."*

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich

Men become priests through the Sacrament of Holy Orders, a celebration rich in symbolism and tradition. At the center of ordination is the moment when Cardinal Cupich imposes his hands on the candidates' heads and prays over them, asking that God grant them an outpouring of the Holy Spirit for the ministry that they will undertake as priests. After the new priests are clothed in their vestments, Cardinal Cupich anoints their hands with oil, hand them the chalice and paten for the celebration of the Eucharist, and gives to each one the sign of peace.

By ordination, priests receive a wide variety of responsibilities, particularly celebrating the Mass and

granting forgiveness of sins through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Priests also preach the Gospel, and celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Matrimony, and Anointing of the Sick. Diocesan priests make promises of life-long celibacy, prayer for the People of God, and obedience to their bishop at their ordination.

May the Lord guide them in their faithful service to our local Church. (pictured in order, top to bottom, left to right)

Michael Mehringer

Kevin Gregus

Daniel Korenchan

Jesús Raya Custodio

Francisco Pagán Portalatín



## Gospel Reflection

### What Did Jesus Do in the 40 Days Between the Resurrection and the Ascension?? —from a sermon by Pope Saint Leo the Great (reigned 440-461)

Beloved, the days which passed between the Lord's resurrection and his ascension were by no means uneventful; during them great sacramental mysteries were confirmed, great truths revealed. In those days the fear of death with all its horrors was taken away, and the immortality of both body and soul affirmed. It was then that the Lord breathed on all his apostles and filled them with the Holy Spirit; and after giving the keys of the kingdom to blessed Peter, whom he had chosen and set above all the others, he entrusted him with the care of his flock.

During these days the Lord joined two of his disciples as their companion on the road, and by chiding them for their timidity and hesitant fears he swept away all the clouds of our uncertainty. Their lukewarm hearts were fired by the light of faith and began to burn within them as the Lord opened up the Scriptures. And as they shared their meal with him, their eyes were opened in the breaking of bread, opened far more happily to the sight of their own glorified humanity than were the eyes of our first parents to the shame of their sin.

Throughout the whole period between the resurrection and ascension, God's providence was at work to instill this one lesson into the hearts of the disciples, to set this one truth before

their eyes, that our Lord Jesus Christ, who was truly born, truly suffered and truly died, should be recognized as truly risen from the dead. The blessed apostles together with all the others had been intimidated by the catastrophe of the cross, and their faith in the resurrection had been uncertain; but now they were so strengthened by the evident truth that when their Lord ascended into heaven, far from feeling any sadness, they were filled with great joy.

Indeed that blessed company had a great and inexpressible cause for joy when it saw man's nature rising above the dignity of the whole heavenly creation, above the ranks of angels, above the exalted status of archangels. Nor would there be any limit to its upward course until humanity was admitted to a seat at the right hand of the eternal Father, to be enthroned at last in the glory of him to whose nature it was wedded in the person of the Son.



# Faith Formation

## Spring Your Kids Into Totus Tuus Summer Camp!



We are excited to again offer Totus Tuus Summer Camp here at St. Alphonsus! Totus Tuus is a week-long summer youth retreat for young people in 1st through 12th grade. Participants will grow in their faith through skits, games, songs, the celebration of the sacraments, and engaging interactive teaching.

Day Program: Grades 1-6 Monday July 24 – Friday July 28 9 AM-2:30 PM  
\$75 per child (yes, really!) Register on our parish GiveCentral page at [www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/32872](http://www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/32872)

Highlights include: 11:15 AM daily Mass (parents welcome to attend), outdoor recess, silly skits, Friday water fight. Sack lunches & water bottles required for students

Night Program: For middle school and high school students entering Grades 7-12

Sunday July 23 – Thursday July 27 7 PM-9 PM \$20 per student

Highlights include: New friends, fun games, an evening of Adoration with our Lord, conversations about how to live out faith in high school and college, Thursday night social. Register online at [www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/37193](http://www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/37193)

### What is Totus Tuus?

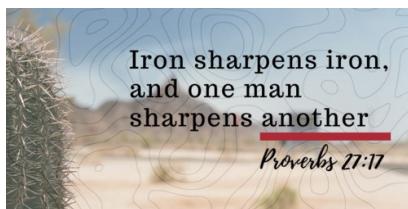
For more information, please visit

[vocations.archchicago.org/events/totus-tuus/what-is-totus-tuus](http://vocations.archchicago.org/events/totus-tuus/what-is-totus-tuus)

Any parent or parishioner interested in volunteering with Totus Tuus should contact Connie Del Toral, [cdeotoral@alphonsusacademy.org](mailto:cdeotoral@alphonsusacademy.org)

## 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 Men's Group at our new email, [divineofficers@gmail.com](mailto:divineofficers@gmail.com)**

# Safe Families for Children

## Safe Families 5K – June 24

Looking for a family-friendly event in a gorgeous forest preserve that also benefits one of our St. Alphonsus ministries? Then join our St. Al's 5k team this June to benefit Safe Families for Children Greater Chicago!!! Whether you run, walk, or stroll, you are guaranteed an amazing day complete with music, food, bounce house, face painting, medals for the 5K participants, & more!

Register here (& join team "St. Alphonsus Church"): [bit.ly/sffc5k](http://bit.ly/sffc5k)

5k run / 1 mile walk Saturday, June 24th 2023, 8:30AM-12:00PM

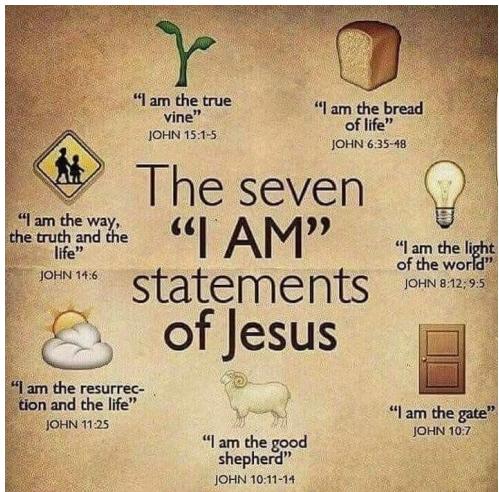
Busse Woods, Rolling Meadows, IL (~30min drive from St. Alphonsus)

Virtual Race also available

Questions about Safe Families? Please reach out to [safefamiliesstals@gmail.com](mailto:safefamiliesstals@gmail.com)



## Want to Get More Involved at St. Alphonsus? Time and Talent Survey



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*, stewardship, 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 [tinyurl.com/stalphonsusstt](http://tinyurl.com/stalphonsusstt) 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.

## News and Events

### Baptisms



Baptism is a fundamental sacrament for Christians. It is a sacrament of initiation that unites us to Christ's mystical body, incorporates us into the Church, and marks the beginning of the Christian journey. Without baptism we cannot participate in the full sacramental life of the Church.

In the sacraments we concretely and most visibly encounter God's grace—life reunited with life.

If you are interested in having your child baptized at St. Alphonsus, please contact Kaitlin Holyk at [weddings@stalphonsuschicago.church](mailto:weddings@stalphonsuschicago.church)

For adult baptisms contact Brooks Robinson at [brobinson@stalphonsuschicago.church](mailto:brobinson@stalphonsuschicago.church)

### Marriage 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 Kaitlin Holyk, [weddings@stalphonsuschicago.church](mailto:weddings@stalphonsuschicago.church)

### Upcoming Events at St. Alphonsus

We are planning a Farewell Reception for our departing Associate Pastor, Rev. Patrick Gorman on Sunday, June 18.

CircEsteem, a fun gymnastics exhibition will be here on Thursday June 29. More details TBA.

### Alphonsus Academy & Center for the Arts News

Recently, the Office of Catholic Schools held a donor event titled, Saints and Scholars. AACa was fortunate enough to be chosen and represented at the event. Both our 8th grade, Gifts of the Holy Spirit project, and our 4th-8th grade mosaic project were featured. Our students' talents were showcased for the whole Office of Catholic Schools and their guests to see. It was a great honor that they should all be proud of!



### Arts Together— Wednesday May 24 6:30-7:45 PM

All are invited to come check out our parish school's upcoming Arts Together Event- our celebration of all things art at AACa! The evening offers performances, artwork, examples of teacher's art integrated lessons, a bake sale- and a chance to celebrate the end of the year with friends and teachers. This event will be held in the AACa lower level. For more info, contact Director of Arts Integration, Rebecca Manuel, [rmanuel@alphonsusacademy.org](mailto:rmanuel@alphonsusacademy.org)

# Around the Archdiocese

## Calling All Golfers!



Catholic schools! Proceeds from Fore the Kids benefit emergency tuition assistance and academic innovation. These two vital areas provide scholarships to students in need and allow the Arch to engage in the diagnostic tools and academic coaching to better serve our students. This golf benefit takes place on Monday, June 26. Register at [giving.archchicago.org/ways-to-give/events/fore-the-kids](http://giving.archchicago.org/ways-to-give/events/fore-the-kids)

Little Sisters of the Poor will have their *Habits on the Green* golf outing on Monday, June 12. Midlothian Country Club, 5000 West 147th St., Midlothian. Register, donate, or learn more, [littlesistersofthepoorthicago.org](http://littlesistersofthepoorthicago.org)

All are invited on Monday July 17 for a wonderful day of golf benefitting Catholic Charities programs. In addition to hitting the links, guests are welcomed at lunch, skill contests (including a hole-in-one prize), and a wonderful dinner. [www.catholiccharities.net/events/catholic-charities-golf-classic/](http://www.catholiccharities.net/events/catholic-charities-golf-classic/)

## Laudato Si' Week May 21-28

In Pope Francis' *Evangelii Gaudium* (Joy of the Gospel), he reminds us, "Every human being is the object of God's infinite tenderness, and He is present in their lives." In an effort to be more mindful of Christ's

presence in others, and to be more active in the call to serve others, we are excited to promote different service opportunities and resources that will help our parish grow, learn, and love others.



## What is Laudato Si' ?

In light of today's ecological crisis, Laudato Si' teaches us that "everything is connected". As our relationship with our divine Creator has been neglected, human relationships also have faltered, our world has grown hotter, less stable, and more lifeless. As a result, we all suffer, and the poorest and most vulnerable suffer above all. We face a "complex crisis that is both social and environmental."

The Laudato Si' Action Platform (LSAP) is a unique collaboration between the Vatican, an international coalition of Catholic organizations and "all men and women of good will." Taking a truly ground-up approach, it is rooted in the strengths and realities of communities around the world, empowering all to take "decisive action, here and now" as we journey towards a better future together. The LSAP website, [laudatosiactionplatform.org](http://laudatosiactionplatform.org) serves as a vehicle to bring to life the teachings of Laudato Si'.

Visit [laudatosiweek.org](http://laudatosiweek.org)

There are ***Building A Better Future Together*** booklets in the narthex.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



# 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](http://www.givecentral.org/location/39)**



## 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

### Memorial Day Rooftop Social!



Come join St. Al's YAM on **Monday May 29th from 3-5 PM** as we have a fun Memorial Day party on St. Al's rectory

rooftop. Enjoy the great weather, fantastic views of the Chicago skyline and great time meeting new friends! This is a BYOB and food event, we are hoping to have a small grill set up to cook up some hot dogs or burgers. Feel free to bring any yard games as well.

Contact Matt or Reilly with any questions at [stalsyamsocial@gmail.com](mailto:stalsyamsocial@gmail.com)

### Explanatory Mass Tuesday June 6 at 6:30 PM

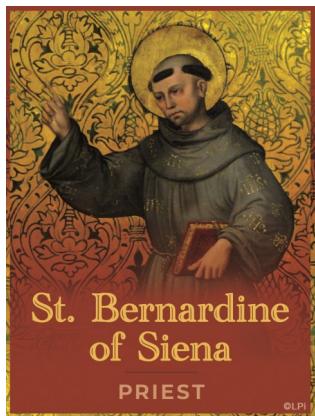
Join us on Tuesday, June 6 at 6:30 PM in the church for an Explanatory Mass presided by Fr. Steve Bauer. If you're unfamiliar with this kind of mass, here is a little about how it will go:

- Regular mass will be celebrated, but Fr. Steve will take some time at certain points of the mass to stop and go in depth as to the "why's" behind what's happening
- Q&A will be held directly after the mass in the church for Fr. Steve to answer any questions you may have
- If time allows, we will gather on the St. Al's rooftop for some light refreshments afterward

# Know Your Saints

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## St. Bernardine of Siena — Feast Day May 20



St. Bernardine  
of Siena

PRIEST

Saint Bernardine of Siena, Priest, 1380–1444

Patron Saint of Advertising, Public Relations, Italy, Gambling Addiction

Most of the saints suffer great personal opposition, even persecution. Bernardine, by contrast, seems more like a human dynamo who simply took on the needs of the world.

The Franciscan Bernardine of Siena, OFM, (sometimes Bernardine) was an Italian priest, missionary, and is a Catholic saint. He is most noted for his preaching and evangelizing the people of Italy during the 15th century, sometimes being called “the Apostle of Italy” for his efforts to revive the country’s Catholic faith. His great oratorical skills and persuasiveness are the reason he is the patron saint of advertisers and advertising.

St. Bernardine’s popular preaching and missions had their own banner, the letters “IHS” on the background of a blazing sun. The IHS Christogram is often interpreted as meaning Jesus Hominum Salvator (“Jesus, Savior of men” in Latin) and is associated with the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus. When on his preaching and conversion missions to the turbulent cities of Italy, he carried with him a copy of the monogram of the Holy Name, surrounded by rays, painted on a wooden tablet. They held the symbol aloft when they blessed the sick; many great miracles were reported from these blessings – all done in the Holy Name of Jesus. At the close of his sermons, he exhibited this emblem to the faithful and asked them to prostrate themselves in adoration of the Redeemer of humanity. He recommended the faithful to have the monogram of Jesus placed over the gates of their cities and above the doors of their dwellings to remind them always of the blessings of their Lord and Savior.

He was the greatest preacher of his time, journeying across Italy, calming strife-torn cities, attacking the paganism he found rampant, attracting crowds of 30,000, following Saint Francis of Assisi’s admonition to preach about “vice and virtue, punishment and glory.”

Compared with Saint Paul by the pope, Bernardine had a keen intuition of the needs of the time, along with solid holiness and boundless energy and joy. He accomplished all this despite having a very weak and hoarse voice, miraculously improved later because of his devotion to Mary.

When he was 20, the plague was at its height in his hometown of Siena. Sometimes as many as 20 people died in one day at the hospital. Bernardine offered to run the hospital and, with the help of other young men, nursed patients there for four months. He escaped the plague, but was so exhausted that a fever confined him for several months. He spent another year caring for a beloved aunt whose parents had died when he was a child, and at her death began to fast and pray to know God’s will for him.

At 22, he entered the Franciscan Order and was ordained two years later. For almost a dozen years he lived in solitude and prayer, but his gifts ultimately caused him to be sent to preach. He always traveled on foot, sometimes speaking for hours in one place, then doing the same in another town.

When other priests consulted him for advice, Bernardine gave them a simple rule: “In all your actions, seek in the first place the kingdom of God and his glory. Direct all you do purely to his honor. Persevere in brotherly charity, and practice first all that you desire to teach others.”

“By this means,” he said, “the Holy Spirit will be your master, and will give you such wisdom and such a tongue that no adversary will be able to stand against you.”

General of the Friars of the Strict Observance, a branch of the Franciscan Order, Bernardine strongly emphasized scholarship and further study of theology and canon law. When he started there were 300 friars in the community; when he died there were 4,000. He returned to preaching the last two years of his life, dying while traveling.

## Living a Merciful Life

Renewed by Divine Mercy and conformed to Christ through the Holy Spirit, Christians are called to live up to the gift they have received by serving our brothers and sisters—especially through works of mercy—and becoming apostles of the Father’s goodness.

### Understanding Mercy

In order to better understand the Works of Mercy, it is helpful to understand what we mean by God’s mercy. At Mass, during the Penitential Act, we pray, “Lord, have mercy!” Sometimes, when we think of the word mercy, we picture someone throwing themselves on their knees before a cruel villain, pleading to be spared some punishment. This is not our understanding of God’s mercy. We do not ask for God’s mercy because we are afraid of incurring his wrath as punishment for our sins. Rather, when we call on God to have mercy, we are calling on God in the only way we know him—as one who responds with compassion to those in need. When we show mercy to others, we are responding as God responds, with compassion. Simply put, Mercy is love in action when it encounters suffering.

### Experiencing Mercy

First and foremost, God communicates His grace of Mercy through the Sacrament of Reconciliation—so the easiest way to experience God’s Mercy is by regularly receiving this sacrament. It is through this sacrament that we are able to practice the ABC’s of the Divine Mercy Message which help us to grow as faithful followers of Christ:

**Ask for His Mercy.** God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

**Be merciful.** God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.

**Completely trust in Jesus.** God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more open we will be to receive all the gifts He desires to give us.

### Sharing Mercy

The Works of Mercy are acts of kindness toward our neighbor that we can perform which extend God’s compassion and mercy to those in need.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that “the works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities.” The Church teaches that those who are oppressed by poverty are the object of a preferential love on the part of the Church, and she will not cease to work for their defense and liberation. This work is to be done by all the members of Christ’s Church.

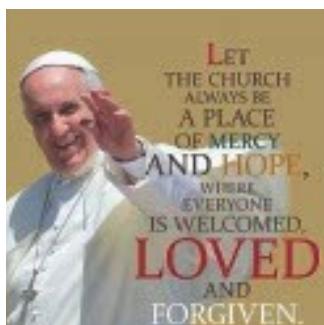
Jesus said to Sr. Faustina, “I demand from you deeds of mercy, which are to arise out of love for Me. You are to show mercy to your neighbors always and everywhere. You must not shrink from this or try to excuse or absolve yourself from it. (Diary, 742)

This message to Sr. Faustina is meant for us as well. It is our lifelong duty to practice the works of mercy as our way of living out the teachings of Jesus. As Matthew 25:32-46 reminds us, when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, take care of the sick, and visit the imprisoned, we care for Christ himself.

### Models of Merciful Living

Throughout the history of the church, there have been holy men and women who are recognized and admired for the way in which they have received God’s mercy and then followed the Gospel message to share that mercy with those in need. These holy men and women made divine mercy their mission in life, and their example inspires countless others to share God’s mercy as well.

#### Pope Francis



By announcing the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has recognized the need for mercy that we all possess. He believes that the whole Church will be able to find in this Jubilee the joy of rediscovering God’s mercy. The Pope often speaks of God’s mercy:

*Brothers and Sisters, God’s face is the face of a merciful father who is always patient. Have you thought about God’s patience, the patience He has with each one of us? That is His mercy. He always has patience, patience with us. He understands us. He waits for us. He does not tire of forgiving us if we are able to return to Him with a contrite heart. “Great is God’s mercy,” says the Psalm.” (excerpt from Pope Francis’ Angelus on March 17, 2013)*

## Models of Merciful Living



### Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta (1910-1997)

For more than 50 years, Mother Teresa compassionately cared for the poorest of the poor, sharing with them the hand of God's great mercy. So many people have been astounded by her care for those usually deemed of little value. In her own eyes she was *"God's pencil—a tiny bit of pencil with which he writes what he likes."* It was her dedication to prayer where she found the support, strength, and blessing from God for her ministry to the poorest of the poor.

### Saint Damien de Veuster of Molokai (1840-1889)

Father Damien voluntarily lived among roughly eight hundred lepers of the Island of Molokai in Hawaii. He arrived there with a missionary spirit; to proclaim the merciful Incarnation of the Son of God to the people of the leper colony. While on Molokai, Father Damien mercifully care for the people's physical, medical, and spiritual needs. Through his compassionate efforts of treating the lepers with dignity, the morale of the leper colony improved considerably. Father Damien eventually contracted the disease and died of its complications, though not in vain, as he tirelessly shared God's mercy with those banished to Molokai.



### Saint Maximilian Kolbe (1894-1941)

In 1941, Franciscan friar, Maximilian Kolbe, was arrested by the Nazis. During his time in prison, a fellow prisoner escaped, and it was announced that 10 men would die as the punishment. Father Kolbe stepped up and announced, "I would like to take that man's place. He has a wife and children. The guards accepted Father Kolbe's offer. The other man was allowed to live, and Father Kolbe was marched off to the starvation bunker. Father Kolbe offered the other prisoners hope and peace in the face of death, regularly leading them in song and prayer. Father Kolbe not only shared God's merciful love with the man he took the place of, but also with his fellow prisoners in the starvation bunker.



## Helpful Household Hints by Harvey Levin

Have you ever gone into a room at night and had to feel around to find the light switch? Here is the solution. You can buy glow-in-the-dark paint. Take off the switch plate and paint it with the paint. After you replace it, you will have a good target to hit.

# Theology of the Body

## Echo Retreat 2023

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



ECHO is a dynamic and immersive Catholic retreat experience of St. John Paul II's landmark teaching called the Theology of the Body. This year, ECHO Chicago is geared towards young adults. ECHO is not just an intellectual exercise, but a journey into the heart where we discover the "distant echo" of God's plan for life and love from the very beginning.

Focused on identity, prayer, vocation, relationships and the Catholic Church's teachings on human sexuality, participants are invited into a new level of freedom to be the gift that God has called them to be. ECHO Chicago will be an overnight retreat that begins on **Friday evening, June 23 and concludes on Sunday evening, June 25.** **St. Alphonsus pastor Rev. Steven Bauer will be chaplain of the ECHO retreat.**

WHEN: June 23-25, 2023

Where: Casa Iskali, Our Lady of Guadalupe Campus, 9430 W. Golf Rd. Des Plaines

For more info and to register, visit

<https://pvm.archchicago.org/human-dignity-solidarity/respect-life-chastity-education/events>

# 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,

You can **register in the parish** by coming to the rectory office or going online at [www.stalphonsuschicago.org](http://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](mailto:stalphonsusyam@gmail.com)

"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.

The **Knights of Columbus** are the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization. For more information, visit [www.stalphonsusknights.com](http://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](http://www.stalphonsuschicago.org/baptism) [www.stalphonsuschicago.org/marriage](http://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 |  
[www.stalphonsuschicago.org](http://www.stalphonsuschicago.org)  
[parish@stalphonsuschicago.church](mailto: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 |  
[www.alphonsusacademy.org](http://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  
**Kim Wallett**, Secretary  
**Connie Del Toral**, Administrative Assistant