Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

AUGUST 18, 2024: TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"For my flesh is true food,
and my blood is true drink." (Jn 6:55)

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

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—12:00 PM

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

Worship

This Week's Readings

Sunday: Prv 9:1-6/Ps 34:2-3, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 (9a)/Eph 5:15-20/Jn 6:51-58
Monday: Ez 24:15-23/Dt 32:18-19, 20, 21/Mt 19:16-22
Tuesday: Ez 28:1-10/Dt 32:26-27ab, 27cd-28, 30, 35cd-36ab/Mt 19:23-30
Wednesday: Ez 34:1-11/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 20:1-16
Thursday: Ez 36:23-28/Ps 40:5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mt 22:1-14
Friday: Ez 37:1-14/Ps 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 22:34-40
Saturday: Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18/Jn 1:45-51
Next Sunday: Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b/Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23 (9a)/ Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32/Jn 6:60-69

Please Pray for the Sick

Dorothy Bonds
Jamie Wallett
Monica Alexis Rios
Margaret Nichols
Tessa Sergent
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
Gary Masterson
Ramona Colon

Giving Update

Weekly Budget Amount: $15,192

Offertory for 8/11: $14,628

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

Left QR code for GiveCentral; Right QR code for Venmo

For Mass donations via Zelle, please submit to general parish email account, parish@stalphonsuschicago.church

Welcome to the Parish!

Jillian Caputo & Michael Ward
Courtney Chaplin & Harry Kroll
Rose Kavanagh & David Iacoponi
Hope Ranly
Monica & John Giannoni
Katrina
Giovanni
Kristoff
Lucca
Brittany Taute
Andi
Jack Westner
Sarah Leganski
Brooke Langan & Robert Travers
Isaiah Camarillo
Benjamin Gnage & Annie Koza
Megan O'Brien
Alisa Carroll & Spencer Keck
Linda Fox

Welcome Our Recently Baptized

Hailey Evelyn DeMoney

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, August 18
9:00 AM The People of St. Alphonsus
11:00 AM Huffman Family
12:30 PM +Felipe Marcelina y Roberto Rodriguez
5:00 PM The People of St. Alphonsus

Monday, August 19
8:30 AM Holy Catechists & a Fruitful RE Year

Tuesday, August 20
8:30 AM +Michael P. Reif & Family

Wednesday, August 21
6:00 PM +Germaine & William Kovarik

Thursday, August 22
8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus

Friday, August 23
8:30 AM +Patrick J. Breen

Saturday, August 24
8:30 AM Pike Family

Sunday, August 25
9:00 AM +Edmund and Mary Gobat
11:00 AM +Gonzalo Gilana & Family
12:30 PM +Irene Jesus Ezperanza y Carmen Rodriguez
5:00 PM Jeanette Peterson (Health)

News and Events

Are You Ready to Become Catholic?

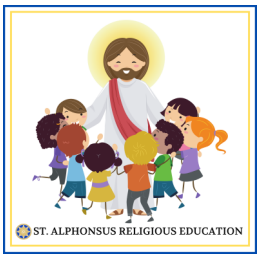
Registration is open for The Rite of Catholic Initiation for Adults (R.C.I.A.) Each year we are blessed with several individuals who desire to enter and learn more about the Catholic faith. The RCIA program is the study of the Catholic Faith and the process of introduction into the faith community.

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

Register Your Children for Religious Education!



Registration for our Religious Education program is now open for the 2024-2025 school year for grades 1st-8th on Tuesday nights at 6:15 PM. Parent orientation is September 10 and classes will begin on September 17. Please register at the link on our Religious Ed page, www.stalphonsuschicago.org/religious-education

Serve as a Eucharistic Minister 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 Father Bauer.

2024 St. Alphonsus Annual Oktoberfest!

September 27, 28, and 29

The St. Alphonsus Oktoberfest is held annually on the last full weekend in September. It is the primary fundraiser for the parish, but mostly it is a great deal of fun! We celebrate the parish's German heritage with beer, homemade brats, and a variety of bands which appeal to a range of musical tastes. There is also a Kinderfest with games, crafts, and entertainment for children, Craft Beer Nights Friday and Saturday in the Festival Hall, a jumbotron for the Sunday games, and other surprises! Be sure to keep tabs on stalsoktoberfest.org for more info closer to the event.

At the Athenaeum

Dante 360

November 8, 9 & 10



Back for its fourth year, we are pleased to remount the Athenaeum Center original. Every year we reimagine the show with new faces and design.

Dante 360 will take you on a journey through the Divine Comedy, from Inferno to Paradiso. This show explores the significance of the world's most famous epic poem and its author, the illustrious Dante Alighieri. Experience the depth and complexity of Dante's vision through a series of canto performances, displays of visual art, and music, which carry the soul alongside the pilgrim in his ascent to Paradise.

Get your tickets for this event and check out more coming to the Athenaeum at athenaeumcenter.org/events/

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*

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 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 or more info, contact James Morrow, jemseoul@hotmail.com

More News and Events

Wine Tasting Fundraiser

CHEZ STE. MARIE

The Little Sisters of the Poor invite you to join them for ***Chez Ste. Marie– A Taste of France***. This popular wine tasting event will take place on Thursday, September 12 from 6 PM to 8 PM, in their beautiful St. Mary's Garden. Sample select fine French wines, taste handcrafted hors d'oeuvres, and enjoy the dulcet sounds of our guest string quartet. All proceeds go to support St. Mary's Home and Jugan Terrace.

To purchase tickets or inquire about sponsorship opportunities for this special fundraiser, please visit online at www.littlesistersofthepoorchicago.org or call the Development Office at (773) 935-9600.

Misericordia Family Fest

MISERICORDIA
HEART OF MERCY

The 42nd annual Family Fest at 6300 N. Ridge. (just south of Devon Ave), takes place on Sunday, September 8 from 11 AM to 6 PM and offers food & drink, live entertainment, children's games, shopping and more for the whole family!

Misericordia offers exceptional programs for more than 600 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Volunteers needed! Sign up to help out or get tickets at www.misericordia.com/events/family-fest-2024

Helpful Household Hints by Harvey Levin

Ants

It is always nice to have your aunts over to your house but you do not want ants at your house. To get ride of them, buy a garden hose sprayer that holds a liquid and sprays it with the water from the hose. Put dishwashing detergent into the sprayer and then spray the outside of the house. Do not wash the detergent off of the house. The detergent tastes bad to you. It also tastes bad to the ants. They will find somewhere else to visit.

Faith Formation

What Is A Catechist?

A Catechist is more than a teacher, but is truly a witness of the faith. God has created each of us to be unique and irreplaceable. We each reveal a specific part of God's heart that no one else can reveal in the very same way. By becoming a Catechist, you have the opportunity to reveal the love of God and allow it to shine forth, inspiring little hearts to desire to become saints. Training, a curriculum, and ongoing support are given to Catechists. If you desire to spread the faith and bring the little children to Jesus, contact Emily at eember@stalphonsuschicago.church to discern if this role is for you.

BECOME A CATECHIST FOR ST. ALPHONSUS!



Why Be A Catechist?

- Inspire Joy and Love in Little Hearts
- Bring Christ to the Children
- Be a Role Model and Witness
- Increase in Knowledge of the Faith





Jesus said what you do to the least of these you do to me.



Spread the Faith **Inspire Hearts** **Make a Difference**

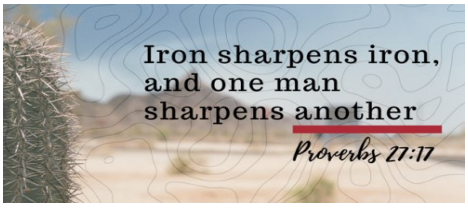
Contact Emily Ember, Coor. of Religious Education: eember@stalphonsuschicago.church

St. Alphonsus Men's Group

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

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

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



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

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

Our Narthex is Designed for Children and Parents

Did you know that we designed the narthex for the convenience of young families? We know that it can be difficult to take a young child to Mass. We applaud the effort you make! If you feel the need to take your child out of the church, please feel welcome to bring him or her to the narthex. The glass wall and speakers enable you to still see and hear the Mass while you soothe your child.

NATIONAL
Eucharistic Revival

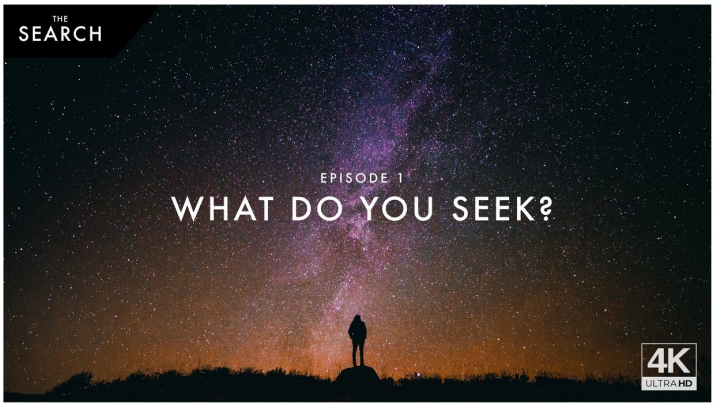
Three Years of Abundant Grace and Transformation



Evangelization can be complicated and messy, but the heart of it is so easy:
* Have a relationship with someone.
* Be their friend. Pray for them.
* Invite them to spend time with you.
* Do life with them.
* Win their trust.
* Share your faith with them when the Holy Spirit prompts you.
* Stand firm in your convictions in the way you live.
* Don't stop inviting them.

Our Church has asked us to intentionally practice the art of evangelization this year by walking with (at least) one other person. Please spend some time praying about who God is inviting you to walk with. The Lord wants you!

Walk with One is the key initiative of the Year of Mission, so you won't be doing this alone! Together as one Church, we will embrace our apostolic roots and show the world how beautiful it is to be Catholic. All are encouraged to learn more at www.eucharisticrevival.org/walk-with-one



FORMED® THE CATHOLIC FAITH. ON DEMAND.

What Do You Seek? | The Search | Episode 1

What is that deep longing in our hearts all about? We're all living for something, and we all strive for that something out there that is ultimately going to make us happy. But what is it? Watch Episode 1 of The Search to begin to answer this question.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription. Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish. Scan the QR code to download the FORMED app to your phone.

An offering from the Augustine Institute and ignatius press

Know Your Faith

Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Question:
I've heard that gratitude is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. What does that mean?

Answer:
In St. Paul's letter to the Galatians, he talks about the "fruits of the Holy Spirit." He is referencing an idea that Jesus talks about frequently in the Gospels. "By their fruits you will know them" (Matthew 7:16). He uses the example of a plant. If the plant is healthy, it will bear good fruit. If the plant is unhealthy, it will bear rotten fruit or none at all. Jesus echoes this idea at the Last Supper, when he says that if we remain close to him we will "bear much fruit" (John 15:8). If we allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives, we will bear the fruits of the Spirit!

Technically, gratitude is not one of the fruits St. Paul lists. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23). But doesn't that sound like the response of a grateful heart? When we're grateful, we experience a sense of joy and peace that makes it easier to love. We can be kind, patient, generous, and gentle with others rather than possessive or competitive. When we're grateful, we don't need to grasp at what we don't have. We practice self-control. Gratitude helps us to be faithful, knowing God will always be with us. Sounds like good fruit to me!

Young Adult Ministry

The Young Adult Ministry (YAM) is one of St. Alphonsus' most active parish groups! YAM is led by a volunteer board and is guided by Pastoral Associate, Brooks Robinson. Stated simply, the ministry's mission is to help one another participate in Christ's mission, that we, as young adult Catholics, may be effective disciples, evangelists, and agents of charity in all that we do. YAM provides many social, intellectual, service, and spiritual opportunities for growth. Members range in age from 21-39 years old. Our YAM group is made up of 4 main pillars, Spiritual, Intellectual, Service, and Social. Visit the St. Alphonsus YAM Facebook page, *www.facebook.com/AlphonsusYoungAdult* or contact the YAM board at *stalphonsusyam@gmail.com*

BE SOCIAL
BE SPIRITUAL
BE CHARITABLE
BE INTELLECTUAL
BE CATHOLIC



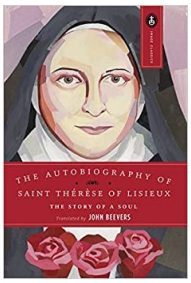
August Praise and Adoration Holy Hour

Our Young Adult Ministry is taking advantage of the glorious summer weather this month! On August 23 at 7:30 PM, spend time with our Lord in our monthly Praise and Adoration Holy Hour reverently **on the parish rooftop**, rather than the church. We'll spend the first 15 minutes in silent adoration, and then our musicians will lead worship in song. Confession will also be available! The hour will conclude with benediction, and we will gather for fellowship and drinks at a local bar after!
In instance of inclement weather, Adoration will take place in the Church.



Sippin Social— Sunday, Aug. 25 after 5 PM Mass

Join our Young Adult Ministry after the 5 PM mass on Sunday, August 25th for some drinks and socialization on the St. Al's rooftop! Invite some friends to come and stop by! Our group will meet at the back of church, then walk up to the rooftop together.



Book Club— Starting Wednesday, August 21!

Our parish has a group of intellectual avid readers who love our Catholic faith and learning more about life through the great works. They meet every Wednesday at 6:30 PM in the rectory and will be reading St. Therese of Lisieux's classic autobiography, "*Story of a Soul*". The writings of the Saint known as Little Flower reveals her deep love of God and draws the reader into the beautiful workings of grace within her soul. You can find this book for free online at mycatholic.life/books/story-soul-saint-therese-lisieux/

For more information, contact Book Club coordinator Leora at lwallac2@alumni.nd.edu.

YAM, The Year Ahead, and YOU! — Sunday, September 8



It's almost time to officially kick off another YAM year at St. Al's! Following the 5 PM Mass on Sept. 8, young adults (ages 21-39) are invited to attend the YAM kickoff in the church parking lot. This year's theme is *YAM, The Year Ahead, and YOU*! During the event, learn more about what YAM is, meet the new board and hear about our plans for the coming year, as well as find ways to get involved in the community! Throughout the year, we host numerous events but we can't do it ourselves which is why we need YOU to help us out. Whether it's planning events, assisting with setup, cleanup, or other event logistics all help is greatly appreciated. So come learn how to get involved in our Spiritual, Social, Service and Intellectual pillars as well as small groups. Plus, enjoy the food available for purchase, the free beer and wine, music, and great company! We look forward to seeing you! Whether you're a YAM regular or newcomer, all are welcome!

Gospel Reflection

"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me." — Jn 6:56-57

Changed by the Eucharist



It must have been somewhat shocking to the people who heard Jesus say this for the first time. Immediately after Jesus said this, we read that "The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?'" Jesus addressed their confusion even more directly by saying, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you." Those who were confused must have become even more confused, and those who believed must have deepened their faith as they heard Jesus teach so clearly and profoundly.

Of course, Jesus was speaking about the Eucharist. The Eucharist is truly His Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity. We know that. We believe it. But from time to time, it is a helpful spiritual practice to revisit our Lord's very direct and definitive teaching. On the deepest level, the Eucharist will always remain a profound mystery of faith. How can we eat His flesh and drink His blood? To someone without faith and without a basic understanding of the Eucharist, this teaching seems shocking and unbelievable. In fact, it's easy to understand how some of the first hearers of this teaching quarreled among themselves in confusion. For that reason, we must listen to Jesus' words with the spiritual gift of understanding so that we are not among those who are confused. Understanding is a gift of the Holy Spirit that opens our minds to the deep spiritual truths Jesus is revealing. If we attempt to listen to this teaching using our human reason alone, we will never understand.

When you consider Jesus' teaching on the Holy Eucharist, what do you understand and believe? Especially consider what goes through your mind when you attend the Holy Mass and go forward to receive Communion. What normally takes place within you at that moment? Some come forward distracted or even disinterested, paying more attention to the others around them than to the Eucharist. Others simply go forward out of habit because that's what they have always done. Some see the Eucharist more as a symbol of our sharing in God's banquet. But some come forward with a deep spiritual hunger and thirst for God, receive Him in faith, love Him deeply as they consume Him, and are filled with hopeful anticipation that their reception of this holy gift will transform them interiorly and set them more firmly on the path to holiness. Which person are you most like?

Believing in the Holy Eucharist and receiving it with the utmost faith and devotion will only happen when we believe. But believing doesn't come automatically. It first requires understanding. And understanding will only come when we allow our minds to engage the mystery and teaching of Jesus, ponder it, contemplate it, penetrate it and open ourselves to God's gentle and revealing voice. Words do not suffice to explain this mystery. Prayer that opens oneself to the voice of God alone suffices.

Reflect, today, upon how you approach Holy Communion each week. Start by thinking about the last few times you went forward to receive our Lord in this way. From there, think about how deeply you understand that moment. Is it transforming for you? Are you among those who hunger and thirst for Jesus? Do you notice the spiritual effects that take place within you as a result of your reception of the Eucharist? If so, then deepen your faith by committing yourself to a more prayerful participation in the Mass the next time you attend. If not, then try to step back and examine that which you actually believe, are confused about or do not believe. There is no greater gift we will ever receive in life than the Eucharist. Believe it with all your heart, and the Eucharist will change your life.

My Eucharistic Lord, I do believe; help my unbelief. I thank You for the very gift of Yourself, given to me in the reception of Holy Communion. Please continue to teach me about this Gift, dear Lord. Open my mind to understand so that I will always come forward to receive with the utmost faith, love and hope. Jesus, I trust in You.

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How to Take Young Children to Mass



"*Your three children are SO well behaved!"* A standard response is either, *"Thank you. We work at it"* or "*Thank you, some days are better than others."* The "better" days are the product of years of articles and brochures read on taking children to Mass. Here is the distilled wisdom relied upon.

Before Church

- Make sure children are well-fed right before Mass. They do not need to fast, nor will fasting help them to be on their best behavior during Mass. We personally do not think it is appropriate to take snacks into the pew. Our exception to this is a non-spill drink cup that bought us enough time to hear the homily once in a while.
- Beginning even with the smallest infants, dress them in some special clothing that they wear only for church or other special events. This does not have to be expensive and can be as simple as a nice pair of shoes. It helps them to identify what we do at Mass as different from everyday activity.
- Check your diaper bag to make sure it is stocked for any possible needs. Consider including a small toy or book that your child sees only on Sunday at Mass. These should be quiet and made of soft material so that they do not distract those around you from their prayer while they are being played with or in case they are dropped.
- Put on a fresh diaper or visit the bathroom right before walking out the door of your home or into the church.

For Toddlers or Older Children

- You might read the readings in the car on the way to church. This could even be the job of an older child. Then everyone hears them at least once in case someone has to step out during a portion of the Mass.
- Before going into the church take a moment to remind children what you are about to do. Make sure they know what their job is at Mass. For us, we say that their job is to be quiet/still, to participate by sharing their voices and to pray. Their job is also not to distract those around them from praying.

At Church

- Sit up front. Yes, sit even in the first pew if it is appropriate at your parish. It can feel scary and even a little out of control the first few times, but it makes a world of difference for little ones to be able to see the action. Over time it also helps them to understand what is most essential about Mass without the distraction of rows and rows of backsides between them and the altar.
- We physically hold our children in our arms during Mass. In fact, we adopted the position that our children's feet do not touch the ground during Mass until they are three years old. This helps in many ways. The children get a get a better view; as they grow and mature we can talk them through the stories and the actions; and we have a bit more control over their behavior. If an infant or toddler gets squirmy, often switching who is holding them is enough to calm them down. Otherwise we might play a quiet game of "point to the…candles, priest, altar, cross, etc."
- During their two-year-old year, we begin to let our children stand for a portion of Mass or try sitting next to us quietly, instead of on our laps. Then when they turn three it is a special milestone to be big enough to stand, sit and kneel all on their own (although if they can't see over the pew we have them stand during the kneeling portions of the Eucharistic Prayer).
- If an infant or toddler makes a little noise during Mass and settles down right away, try not to feel self-conscious. Most folks except for those closest to you do not even notice. And even if they do notice, give your fellow parishioners credit for being adults who can focus through a small distraction.
- If a child cries or makes continual noise, it is best to calmly step out of the pew and take the child out of the main assembly until they have calmed down or are quiet. However, it is important to return to the worship space as soon as they are quiet, so that children do not begin to associate poor or disruptive behavior with a pass to get out of Mass. Just stand against the wall until it is appropriate to return to the pew. Our experience is that stepping out and returning even a few times is not nearly as disruptive as a crying baby and parishioners appreciate your consideration of their attempt to pray. Those that are parents understand completely.

Continued on page 10

After Mass

- Praise your children abundantly for their good behavior.
- If they need some improvement, mention briefly how they might do better next week and explain why. Let them know that you will help them by trying to remind them before the next Mass.
- Answer questions children have about Mass and encourage them to understand the liturgy and its place in our lives.
- For older children consider taking time to discuss the readings and the homily.

In taking our children to Mass we operate on the principle that we need to teach our children how to be in church as long as it does not distract others around us from their prayer. Some days are better than others, but the gift of passing on how we pray as Catholics is worth all of the challenges.

As parents, and leaders of our domestic church, we are responsible for forming our children in our Catholic faith. There is no more important experience to Catholics than the Mass, so it is crucial to help children understand and participate in liturgy as much as they are able. At times, it has seemed as though the only thing we accomplished at Mass was the exercise of standing and walking with a grumpy baby. But we also know that children do not remain little for long and they rise to our expectations. We will have plenty of opportunities to experience transcendent prayer at Mass when our children are teenagers or out of the house. For now, though, our primary job is to make sure they "get" what happens at Mass. We find that God has found ways to feed us, even on the most difficult of days with a teething toddler.

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Living the Gospel of Life

How to Build a Culture of Life

Read the full version at respectlifeprogram.org/culture-of-life.

Watching the news and reading the headlines, we may feel helpless seeing the heartbreaking lack of respect for human life. *How do we respond?* Changing the culture is a process of conversion that begins in our own hearts. When we encounter Christ, experience His love, and deepen our relationship with Him, we become more aware of our own immeasurable worth and that of others. His unchanging love is the source of our God-given dignity, which, therefore, cannot be taken away. When someone is facing great trials, we need to walk with them on their journey, intercede for them, and be open to sharing Christ's love however He directs. We simply need to follow where He leads.

Our mission field is daily life.

This is a summary of a USCCB Respect Life Program article by the same name and is reprinted with permission. © 2019, USCCB, Washington, D.C. 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
Emily Ember, Coordinator of RE/Evangelization
Brian Bloye, Director of Music and Organist
Daniel Szymanski, Director of Operations
Mario Serrano, Parish Office Manager
Kathryn Kibler, Sacrament Ministry Coordinator/Parish Secretary

School Staff

Gerit McAllister, Principal
Angela Kladis, Assistant Principal
Madeleine Durkin, Director of Admissions
Kim Wallett, Secretary
Janin Silva, Administrative Assistant