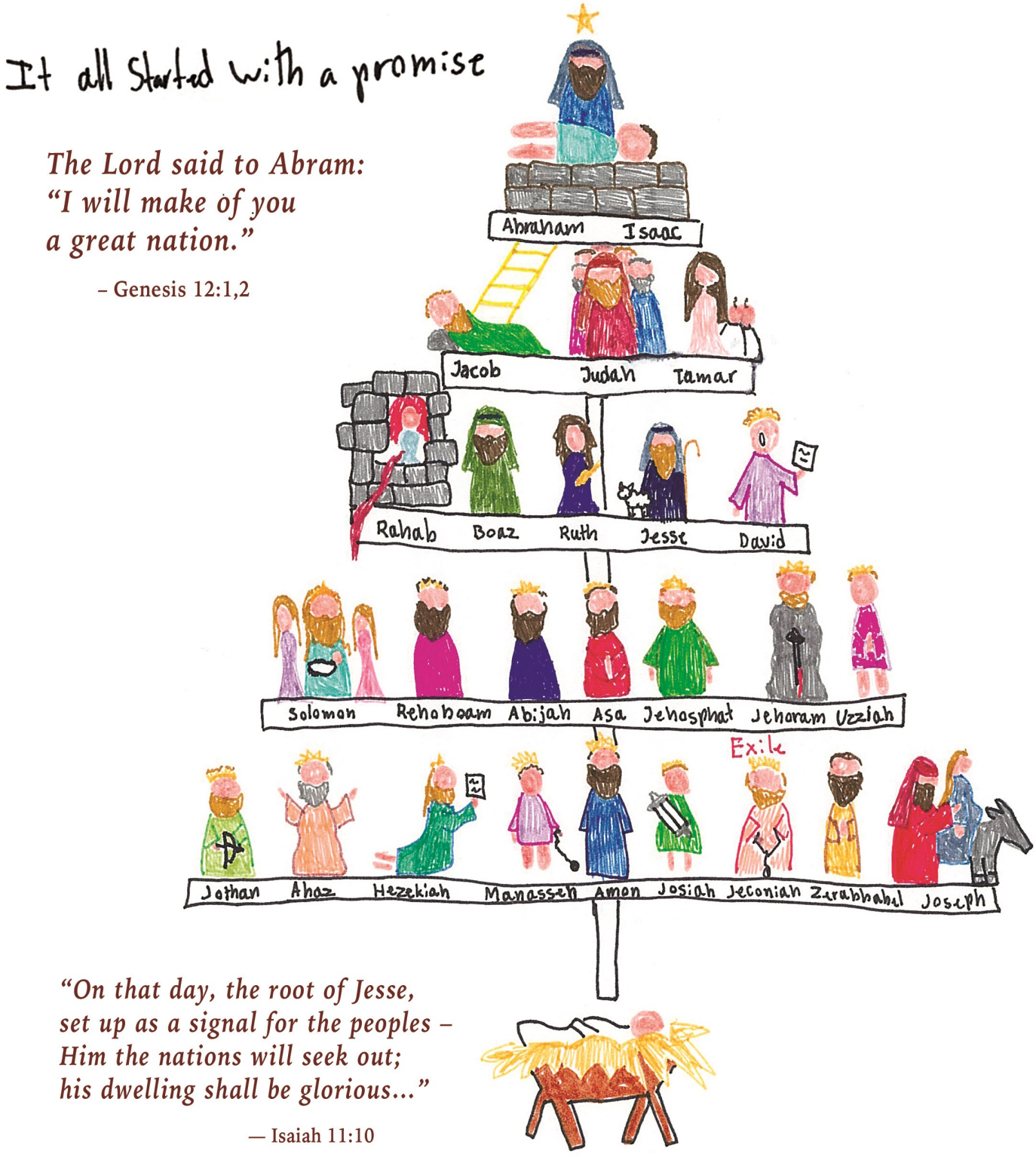
Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

DECEMBER 25, 2021: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



Cover Credit on page 2

Worship

This Week's Readings

Saturday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/ Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52
Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35
Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40
Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18
Saturday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Cover artwork by Ally S., a 6th grader at Alphonsus Academy & Center for the Arts, is an illustration of a Jesse Tree, which is an illustration of salvation history – and the genealogy of Jesus – beginning with the promise God made to Abraham, to King David, through the period of the Babylonian Exile, down to "Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Of her was born Jesus, who is called the Christ" (Matthew 1:16).

Please Pray for the Sick

Dorothy Bonds
Joanna Ravelingeen
Jamie Wallett
Sandra Wilson
Monica Alexis Rios
Margaret Nichols
Maria Eisler
Rita Gerich
Tessa Sergent
Carolina Goldie
Diane Mareci
William Ahearn
Emilia Hurtado
Bernard Zapp
Rachel Schopp
Mike Madigan
David Birks
Lorik Oppland
Celeste Soult
Carol Reckwerdt
Doug Tally
Jeff De La Cruz
Stacy Strickland
Tim Dooling
Spencer Lyles
Magdalena Gonzalez
Christopher Bibat
Michael Aldape
Fidel Mercado Chavez
J.J Keils

Giving Update

The bulletin went to press before the December 19 collection could be counted.
The January 2 bulletin will have the 12/19 Sunday Offertory total.

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

Welcome Our Recently Baptized

Beau Richard Brennan
Eleanor Ann Reyes
Marcella Ann Montgomery

For more info about having your child baptized at St Alphonsus, contact Kaitlin Holyk at stalsweddings@gmail.com

Find Peace in the Middle of the Week: 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 Wednesday at 6 PM., followed by Eucharistic Adoration from 6:30 – 7:30. That can be a great way to experience re-center yourself in God and experience the peace that only Christ can give.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 25 (Christmas Day)
9:00 AM +Alfonsas Venckus
11:00 AM +Thomas Lynch

Sunday, December 26
9:00 AM +Richard Monteleone
11:00 AM Nick and Grace Gilana (Anniversary Blessings
12:30 PM The People of Saint Alphonsus
5:00 PM +Helen Kam Kin Hui

Monday, December 27
8:30 AM +Helen Kam Kin Hui

Tuesday, December 28
8:30 AM +Mr & Mrs George Schwengler

Wednesday, December 29
6:00 PM +Donna Anderson

Thursday, December 30
8:30 AM +Joan Ginebra

Friday, December 31 (New Year's Eve)
8:30 AM The People of Saint Alphonsus
4:00 PM The People of Saint Alphonsus

Saturday, January 1 (New Year's Day)
10:00 AM +James Moriarity

Sunday, January 2
9:00 AM +Lawrence and Jeanette Doyle
11:00 AM +Deborah Blake
12:30 PM The People of Saint Alphonsus
5:00 PM Mary Ziko & Her Children/Grandchildren

It all Started with a promise

Everyone seems to love Christmas music (except before Thanksgiving!). The popular songs can make us feel warm and cheerful, and the religious ones stir the soul and move the heart, especially as they illustrate the real beauty of the Incarnation and the birth of Jesus Christ.

It saddens me a bit, though, that the music and heavenly harmonies often seems to evaporate as quickly as one day after, before the egg nog has even turned – except in the Church, where the liturgical calendar distinguishes between the Advent and Christmas season. That's because the glorious wonder of the Incarnation ripples through time into eternity. The first lines of the Gloria we sing on Sundays at Mass echoes the multitude of angels singing above Bethlehem on that winter's night: "Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace to people of good will" (Luke 2:14). The power of Christmas lasts forever because the Word became flesh and has made His dwelling amongst us (Jn 1:14), and in the person of Jesus, Heaven and earth are united. After the Fall in the Garden of Eden, the heavenly paradise and humanity were separated. When the Archangel Gabriel came to the Virgin Mary and she said *yes* to God's plan, it began the fulfilment of His divine plan and promise. And those do not end on December 26th.

When music ceases and decorations are taken down so quickly, it gives the impression that the birth of Jesus was merely a moment in time – a special moment, yes, but still just a singular event. Nothing could be further from the truth.

When Jesus is born all of creation is forever changed. Going forward, humanity will ever more have direct access to the grace of God through the Sacraments that Jesus instituted for the Church. But looking backwards in time, Jesus Christ is the fulfilment of God's promise. And with all of humanity afflicted by sin and death, the people of God needed a savior, because no human person could by themselves undo the spiritual damage inflicted upon creation.

Roughly 2,000 years before the first Christmas, God chose Abram – who later became known as Abraham – to be the father and patriarch of a great nation, that his descendants would number as the stars. Thus began the nation of Israel. And from that nation's royal lineage, "a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse" (Isaiah 11:1). This is a prophecy about the lineage that leads to Jesus – sometimes depicted in what is called a Jesse Tree… which adorns the cover of this bulletin.

Jesus fulfills God's promise to create from His chosen people a great nation with many descendants. Far greater still, in Christ all of humanity is invited to gather around the newborn King of Kings, and in the cave of the Nativity, discover the reunification of Heaven and earth, and therefore realize that all peoples and nations are meant to become brothers and sisters – one family – because of the providential promise and plan of the God of Abraham.

Rev. Steven Bauer
Pastor

Support St. Alphonsus This Christmas!

This Christmas season, we express our gratitude for the generous gifts received this time of year. We are overjoyed at how our parish and school families have come together to help each other during this difficult year. While you are planning your seasonal giving, show your gratitude for God's blessings in your life by making a special donation to our annual Christmas Collection. Your spirit of giving demonstrates a deep understanding of our mission, as we witness together, the miracle of incarnation.

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.

www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/526

You can also text Joyful to (773) 570-7600

Faith Formation

Women's Bible Study Meetings– Tuesdays at St. Alphonsus



Are you looking for a way to refuel and be refreshed, make authentic connections with other women, and learn more about God? It's time to come back to community! Our mission at Walking With Purpose is to help every Catholic woman and girl in America encounter Jesus Christ through our Bible studies.

Women of the Old and New Testaments were as flawed and broken as we can be, yet the power of God worked in their lives. Learn from their experiences in *Discovering Our Dignity*, a 22 lesson Bible Study.

Through their stories recorded in Scripture, women of the Bible reach out to touch our "present" in a tender, honest and loving way— woman to woman— with ancient wisdom, sage advice, and insights from sorrowful failures and emotional wounds.

Walking With Purpose meet on Tuesdays at the St. Alphonsus Common Room in the rectory.
Meetings are from 9:30 AM to 11 AM or 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. **Walking With Purpose will be taking a short break during the holidays and will reconvene in-person meetings on January 18, 2022.**
For more info, contact suecombes@hotmail.com

Sacraments at St. Alphonsus

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. This Christmas season, as we celebrate the Word of God made flesh, remember your baptism and God's presence in your life. If you are interested in having your child baptized contact Kaitlin Holyk at weddings@stalphonsuschicago.com. For adult baptisms contact Brooks Robinson at brobinson@stalphonsuschicago.com

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 at weddings@stalphonsuschicago.com.

Made For More



Save the Date! April 5, 2022
An evening of live music, visual beauty, and reflection

Where do we come from and where are we going? These questions are DECISIVE for understanding what it means to be human and how to orient our lives and our actions toward authentic fulfillment. Join Christopher West and Mike Mangione as they creatively weave together dynamic presentations with live music, movie clips, YouTube videos, and sacred art for an evening of beauty and reflection on the meaning of life, love, and human destiny. You will come away with a faith-filled vision of hope that will instill in you the sheer wonder and joy of being alive... For more info, contact Dawn Fitzpatrick, dfitzpatrick@archchicago.org or (312) 534-5355 **Ticket sales are now live.**

Cardinal Christmas Letter

Christmas 2021



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We joyfully celebrate the birth of the Lord. As we do so, we are also very much aware the challenges that we face—moving beyond the pandemic, building social peace in our society, and finding economic stability in uncertain times. In all of this, we reaffirm our faith that Jesus truly is Emmanuel, God-with-us. He accompanies us and walks with us. And that gives us great confidence and sure hope.

This year, Pope Francis has called the entire Church to reflect on synodality, a word that means "being on the road together," as we make our life journey. We believe that Jesus is on the road with us. And our faith also leads us to commit ourselves to be on the road with each other. In this season, we take inspiration from the Christmas gospel stories of Mary and Joseph journeying on the road together to Bethlehem and the Magi on the road together to find Jesus.

I pray that, accompanied by the Lord, we may learn to be sources of encouragement for each other on the journey.

During this holy season, I will bring you, your loved ones, and your special intentions to the altar. As I pray for you, I also ask you to pray for me, so that together all of us may find renewal in the Lord.

God bless you and keep you,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Blase J. Cupich

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago

Christmas Music at St. Alphonsus

This Christmas, we are thrilled to welcome our choir and instruments back. What's more, we're happy to welcome YOUR singing voice back!

Our St. Alphonsus chamber choir will be joined by harp [Christmas Eve] in four carol arrangements by master composer John Rutter. We will also sing two stunning motets from the Renaissance by lesser-known composers Antonio Scandello and Robert Parsons. Trumpet, timpani, and organ will support you as you sing glorious arrangements of the essential carols of Christmas!

Christmas Eve services are at 4, 6, and 11 PM., *with a half-hour prelude of music that is not to be missed!* Christmas Day services are at 9 and 11 AM. The program is repeated on January 2nd [Epiphany] at 9 and 11 AM. The men's schola will sing carol arrangements by Ralph Vaughan-Williams and other selections at the 5 PM. liturgy on January 2nd.

If you enjoy the music at St. Alphonsus, won't you consider an extra donation to help us with the costs? www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/32493 The parish makes a significant investment by having a choir at every liturgy of Christmas, and at Epiphany. Adding high-quality instrumentalists is another significant expense. Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration and support!

New Year's Eve and New Year's Day

Masses to celebrate the **Feast of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

Friday, December 31 at 8:30 AM and 4:00 PM

Saturday, January 1 at 10:00 AM

If you are traveling to be with family or friends over Christmas, join us on January 2, the Feast of the Epiphany. The Midnight Mass program will be repeated at the 9 and 11 AM Masses.



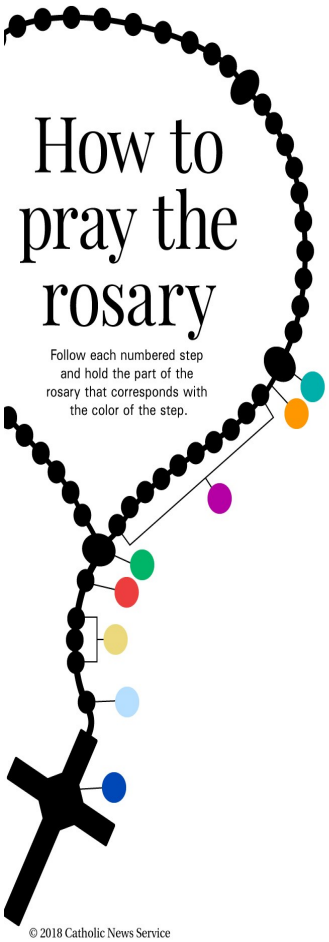
Gospel Meditation

"He so loved us that for our sake He was made man in time, through Whom all times were made; was in the world less in years than His servants, though older than the world itself in His eternity; was made man, Who made man; was created of a mother, whom He created; was carried by hands which He formed; nursed at the breasts which He had filled; cried in the manger in wordless infancy, He the Word without Whom all human eloquence is mute (St. Augustine, Sermon 188)." The miracle of what happens at Christmas is truly an awesome mystery. Revealed in the silent ordinariness of life is God's intimate love for humanity and all that he made. The Word, existing for all time, comes and dwells among us. God kisses us. We can seek and soar with playful delight as a joy never known before fills our heart.

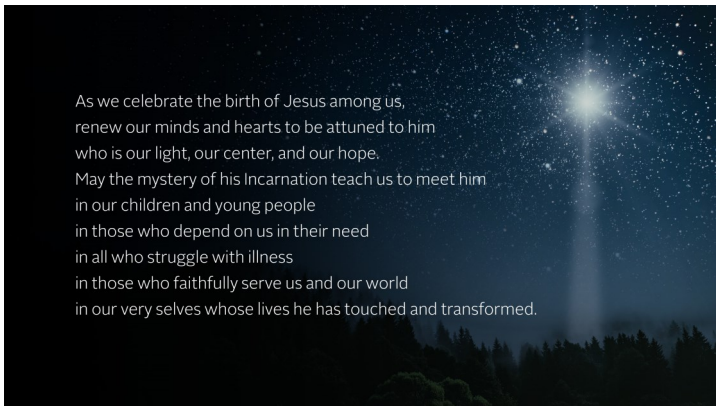
Joy is best expressed through dance. There is just something truly wonderful about the self-abandon a beautiful melodic dance reveals. If we are able to let go and really be free, it celebrates life in a way few other experiences really can. With the birth of Jesus Christ, God takes the Divine Dance to a deeper and more tangible level. We can now not only see what we believe but believe what we see! This most perfect dance is a call to beauty, innocence, truth, purpose, hope, faith, and love. Today we know, beyond doubt, that we are a necessary part of God's beautifully choreographed masterpiece of life and not just a random happening without real intent or purpose. We are loved, treasured, and blessed.

Accepting the truth of God's birth in time we also accept an invitation to dance with God. We can let go of what tethers us to anxious concerns and superficial securities. Throw caution to the wind and go with God. We have been blessed with talents, gifts, and life eternal. Follow the rhythm of the dance with joy and listen to what the Word who became flesh tells us about what the next steps can be. Today, heaven remains the same, but earth has been profoundly changed.

Live the Liturgy— Inspiration



Merry Christmas! There is something sacred about sun when it dances upon a field of newly iced snow. Lights and colors bounce around in myriad ways flashing prisms of beauty as if in tune with the rhythm of a melodic dance. The Word became flesh and now dwells among us. Humanity can now dance. We sparkle with the beauty and radiance of God and can now walk through life with confidence knowing that we have been divinely kissed. It is a sacred moment, a holy marriage between God and His sons and daughters. All is bright and all is well. Today we celebrate who we are in Christ and rest safely in God's care. God's presence, revealed in the humble birth of His Son, dances in our hearts, calling us to beauty, truth, purpose, and love. Today we know, without doubt, that we are not the product of the rambling offerings of a universe that created itself. We are loved, treasured, and blessed. We have a Savior who can show us the way. Accept him.



Young Adult Ministry

BE SOCIAL
BE SPIRITUAL
BE CHARITABLE
BE INTELLECTUAL
BE CATHOLIC

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*

More Young Adult Activities

These are events not necessarily affiliated with St. Alphonsus YAM, but may be of interest to young adults.

Young Catholic Professionals Chicago—Executive Speaker Series



Join YCP Chicago on Tuesday, January 11th for an Executive Speaker Series event, featuring Julia Hogan-Werner, Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor and owner of Vita Optimum Counseling & Consulting, LLC., who will speak on ***"Living Your True Identity Beyond Work."*** This event will take place at the Athenaeum Center for Thought and Culture, 2936 N. Southport Ave, next door to St. Alphonsus.

Young adults in their 20s and 30s from ALL industries are invited to this free event, where you will learn insights about the integration of faith and work and network with other young Catholic professionals from the Chicagoland area over complimentary beer, wine, and appetizers.

Mass will be at 6:15 PM (confession will be available starting at 5:30 PM), networking and the speaker's presentation will take place from 7 PM-9 PM. Free parking will be available in either of the St. Alphonsus parking lots (next to or behind the theater). Register at bit.ly/ycpjan22

Catholic Sports League Bowling

Start off the new year with CSL's Bowling League! We will be bowling for 4 consecutive Mondays, beginning on January 10th. The price is just $55 for all 4 weeks, including shoes! Feel free to sign up individually or with a friend, and we will organize teams! https://www.catholicsportsleagues.com/

SEEK 22— Feb. 4-6

Join college students and young adults from all across the Chicagoland area for FOCUS's SEEK22 Conference! This conference will give you a chance to encounter the Source of all your heart's desires and find the true place of the Gospel in your everyday life. SEEK22 is a multi-day event centered on the heart of the Gospel and includes exciting talks from some of today's best Catholic speakers, deep discussions, prayer, fun, community fellowship, and entertainment. Register at https://bit.ly/seek22

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Fund a Child's Future



Donate now, reduce your state income tax and invest in our children's future! Take advantage of a limited time 2-for-1 matching gift.

Looking for a way to decrease your Illinois state income tax liability? What if you could decrease what you owe to the state and potentially increase your state tax refund, while also helping fund scholarships for low-income students to attend the Catholic school of their choice?

The Illinois Invest in Kids tax credit scholarship program awarded scholarships to more than 9,300 students in the first four years. This year, as a global pandemic has created so many uncertainties in our society, you can still invest in a brighter future for children from our most vulnerable communities. By contributing through the Illinois **Invest in Kids** program you can make the lifelong advantage of a Catholic school education possible.

Thanks to the generosity of several donors, between Dec. 1, 2021 and Feb. 28, 2022, you can take advantage of a 2-for-1 matching gift program that will triple the impact of your gift! Limitations apply. A donation can be made using cash, check, appreciated stock or credit card.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

The Garcia family makes $50,000/year and pays $2,475 in Illinois state income taxes.

Family Income $50,000/year	Option A	Option B	Option C
Illinois state taxes at 4.95%	$2,475	$2,475	$2,475
Invest in Kids donation	**$500**	**$1,000**	**$3,300**
Tax refund	$375	$750	$2,475
Total taxes paid to Illinois (after refund)	**$2,100**	**$1,725**	**$0**
Cost of donation to family after refund	$125	$250	$825
2-for-1 matching gift program triples impact and provides three times the scholarships	**$1,500**	**$3,000**	**$9,900**

Each option provides a refund to the family; however, **Option C** completely eliminates the family's tax burden and provides nearly $10,000 in scholarships for students to attend Catholic schools.

For more information please contact the TCS hotline at **312.534.2617** or **tcs@archchicago.org**, or visit **archchicago.org/tcs**.

Please consider donating and designating Alphonsus Academy & Center for the Arts for your funds. Last year there was funding for only 6 out of 10 qualifying students. We need your help to give everyone an opportunity!

Knights of Columbus



The Knights of Columbus are the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization. Founded in the United States in 1882 by Father Michael J. McGivney, there are more than 1.8 million members in over 15,000 councils across the globe. Dedicated to the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism, the Knights of Columbus organize and participate in numerous charitable activities each year that are designed to benefit their parish communities, to help their brother Knights grow deeper in their faith as Catholic men, and to serve the needy and less fortunate in the world.

Our St Alphonsus Council of the Knights of Columbus is part of a collection of nearly 500 KofC councils in the State of Illinois, and over 75 councils in the Chicago Archdiocese. For more information on our order and their activities worldwide, please visit: *www.kofc.org*

Our council is named after the parish's namesake, St. Alphonsus. We were formed in October 2010, and spearheaded by then Pastor, Fr. James Hurlbert. The St. Alphonsus Council has a strong group of motivated Knights from all ages and walks of life, with our numbers now 100 strong and growing. Our council's main goals are: to rally the Catholic men in our community to a common and noble cause, to assist and defend our church, to serve our community, to encourage growth in faith and prayer in ourselves and in our friends and families, to become better men and fathers, and finally to meet like-minded men that share our same values and belief that you can be a man of the world while still having Christ at the center of your life.

We are always looking for new members, and would welcome the practicing Catholic men of the parish and surrounding community to join our ranks. There is usually a social following our meetings, which is open to all prospective members. To find out more information about the Knights of Columbus at St. Alphonsus, or to apply for membership, feel free to contact parishioner**, Paul Gillespie** at pgillespie15158@gmail.com or visit *www.stalphonsusknights.com*

St. Alphonsus Vitalant Blood Drive— Sunday January 30, 2022

Please consider giving blood next month at St. Alphonsus! The blood drive will take place Sunday, Jan. 30 from 9 AM to 3 PM in the Festival Hall. Giving blood greatly benefits local patients and saves lives! There is a severe blood shortage in our area. Appointments are recommended but walk-ins are welcome. You can visit vitalant.org to make an appointment. Use the Group Code **ORD00581** to bring up the drive at St. Alphonsus. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact parishioner Paul Gillespie.

Alphonsus Academy

Christmas Celebration Concerts

After being unable to last year, our AACA school joyfully celebrated the season with their annual Christmas concerts on Thursday, December 16! Due to safety precautions related to the pandemic, things were switched up this year and four separate celebrations were spread throughout the day rather than one big customary one. Our 1/2 day preschoolers celebrated in the Festival Hall starting at 10:30 AM, full day PK and Kindergarten at 2 PM, 5th through 8th graders caroled outside from 5:15 to 5:50 PM, w/ hot cocoa for the crowd generously donated from our neighbor restaurant S&G, 3000 N. Lincoln, and finally our AACA Student Council, intermediate and advanced band, and our 1st through 4th grade classes performed at 6 PM in the Church. It was a great show! Big thank you to all our caring AACA teachers who helped with the production. A special thanks to our Director of Arts Integration, Rebecca Manuel for all her behind the scenes work to make this event a success! We even forgive Fr. Bauer for his corny "Elfis Presley" joke… ha ha! You can watch the recording on our parish YouTube channel https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CTNNsSlurUg



Our preschool acts out the Nativity story, complete with angels, shepherds, and stable animals that sang Silent Night as a lullaby to help the Baby Jesus sleep.

Around the Archdiocese

Youth Rally and Mass For Life

Witness to the sanctity of life at the youth rally where Junior High and High School teens will be inspired by powerful testimonies, receive pro-life training, hear from educational pro-life speakers, and pray for life with praise and worship. Held at the site of the March for Life Chicago Convention (Hilton Hotel — 720 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago), doors will open January 8, 2022 at 8 AM. The youth rally is 9 – 11:30 AM followed by time for lunch, the march in downtown Chicago and then Mass for Life at 4 PM. Cost for the youth rally is $15 per person; the Convention and Mass are free.
To pre-register for the youth rally, email Dawn Fitzpatrick at dfitzpatrick@archchicago.org.
Visit marchforlifechicago.org for more information.

Big Questions and Catholic Scientists

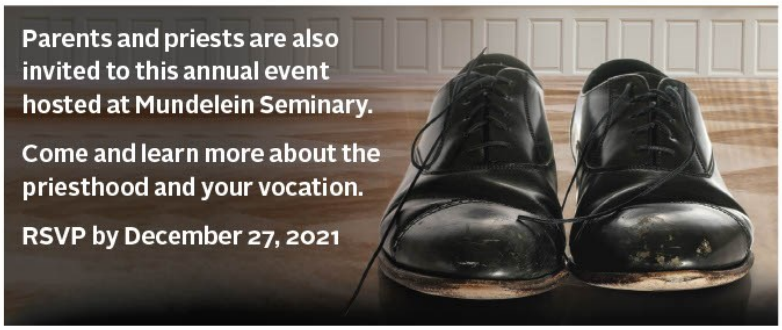
The Lumen Christi Institute's Newman Forum for High School Students presents "Big Questions and Catholic Scientists: A Science-and-Religion Fair for High School Students" February 5, 2022 at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary. Join us at beautiful Mundelein Seminary for a day full of scientific presentations from the country's premier Catholic scientists. We'll hear a keynote lecture, and then have three "lightning rounds," where students will choose from four mini-lectures each round, whichever sparks their interest most. Then we'll gather for our "reverse science fair," and students will have the chance to ask scientists questions one-on-one. There will also be opportunities for prayer. Learn more and register at https://newmanforum.org/2021/08/06/science-and-religion/

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

WHO WILL FILL THESE SHOES?

December 28, 2021

Inviting young men in the Archdiocese of Chicago, ages 13–20.



December 28, 2021
5 – 8:30 p.m.

University of St. Mary of the Lake
1000 East Maple Avenue
Mundelein, IL 60060

Please register at **this link** by December 27. For further information contact Sharon Porter at **shporter@archchicago.org**.

Who Will Fill These Shoes?

Young men in the Archdiocese of Chicago, ages 13-20, are invited with their parents and parish priests to attend this exciting event at Mundelein Seminary on the campus of University of St. Mary of the Lake, 1000 E. Maple Ave in Mundelein. Come and learn more about the priesthood and your vocation.
Highlights include:

- Listen to vocation talks from priests and seminarians.
- Witness young men who are also open and courageous to listen to Jesus' calling.
- Opportunity to visit the major seminary grounds with a personalized tour.
- Receive vocation resources as steps to help provide guidance to your discernment path.
- Attend Holy Mass, participate in prayers and small group discussions.
- Freely and openly ask questions to priests or seminarians of doubts, concerns, or ideas.
- Feast in thanksgiving for taking one step towards discovering where Jesus is calling you to serve and your openness to become a great man no matter what vocation you choose.

Stewardship: Sharing in Parish Ministry

By Brooks Robinson

Conversations around stewardship can some- times be unpleasant or uncomfortable—especially financial stewardship. But what if we thought about financial stewardship differently? Instead, what if we viewed financial stewardship as a way that we par- ticipate with the vision and mission Jesus calls his Church to? This way of thinking about stewardship is the understanding that was instilled – frequently – in my upbringing as an Evangelical Christian.

Some parishioners may be surprised to learn that I am a convert to the Catholic Church. I began seminary studies at an Evangelical Christian seminary, but gradually came to recognize the historical and theological truth present in Catholicism. I entered full communion with the Catholic Church nearly five years ago. At the time I was in my final year of Divinity School, working part-time as a Protestant chaplain at a major university, and thinking about the future of ministry, vocation, and my own contributions to Christ's Church. A year and a half after being received into the Church I started working here, at St. Alphonsus, as a lay minister. Almost immediately I was struck by the vibrancy of our community, its many ministries and the volunteers that make them possible. However, at the same time I noticed the small staff for a parish of our size, the aging buildings, and the shoe-string operating and ministry budget.

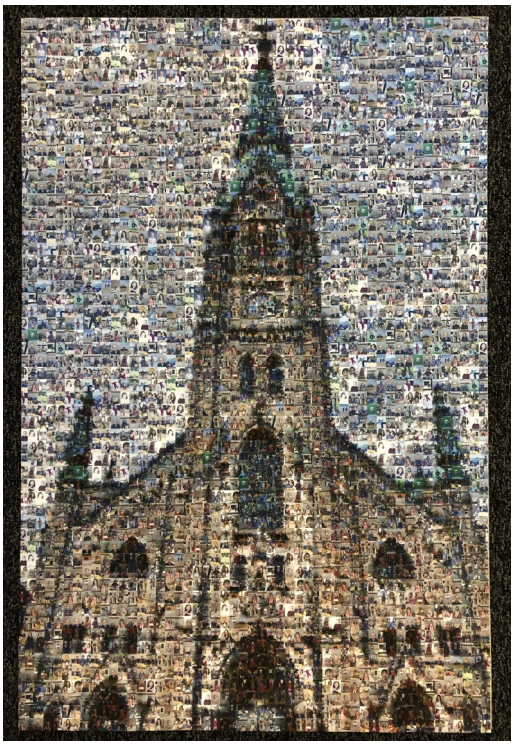
Growing up in the evangelical world, a vibrant church of our size could financially support dedicated and full-time ministers and staff for its various demographic needs (adult, young adult/college, youth, and children), funds for building upgrades and repairs, and money dedicated for various ministries. Evangelical communities roughly our size have double, if not triple, what we bring in for our weekly offertory collections. This is not because Evangelicals are somehow more generous than Catholics. Instead, in many Evangelical communities there is an emphasis placed on offertory as a form of ministry, as a way to participate in Jesus' mission here on earth, and as a way to honor God's benevolence to us by offering back at least 10% of what God has provided.

Some research suggests that of the 77% of people that contribute to evangelical churches, they contribute between 10-20% of their gross annual income. This research also indicates that Evangelicals tend to give a yearly average of $1,705, while Catholics a yearly average of $984. For our parish, that means that if every registered member (2,267 parishioners) gave, even at a minimum, $20 a week, St. Alphonsus would close that denominational gap. More importantly, it would mean that we would have the necessary finances to support an appropriately sized staff to minister to our community, the needed funding for building repairs/upgrades, and the finances to cover most ministry costs.

This comparison is not meant to be critical – rather, it is an invitation to join us in ministry. To join us in furthering the Kingdom of God in the Lakeview neighborhood, in Chicago, and in the world!

Brooks is the Pastoral Associate for the parish, leading RCIA, and serving as a liaison with many parish groups.

This collage, comprised of pictures of school children, was an auction item at the 2020 Art & Soul gala.



Helpful Household Hints by Harvey Levin

Slice Your Onions Easily

When you don't have the right technique, cutting an onion can be a rather difficult task. If you're also the type of person who can't cut an onion without getting burning and sagging eyes, it's certainly a task you want to finish quickly, right?

Two efficient and simple ways to cut an onion. Use a potato peeler or a mandoline. You will obtain thin and even onion slices that are perfect for your recipes or to add to your hamburger—effortlessly and in record time!

January Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 **New Year's Day, Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God— Mass at 10:00 AM**
2 **6:00 PM** YAM Board Meeting **7:00 PM** Big Book AA Meeting	**3** **Archdiocese Holiday— Rectory Closed** **AACA Resumes Classes** **8:30 AM** AA Daily Reflections Group	**4** **6:15 PM** Religious Education Epiphany Service **7:00 PM** Parish Council Meeting **7:00 PM** Boy Scouts Troop 889 Meeting **7:00 PM** YAM Philosophy Forum	**5** **1:45 PM** Daisy Scouts—1st **6:00 PM** RCIA **7:00 PM** YAM Book Club	**6** **7:00 PM** Men's Faith Sharing Group **8:30 PM** CL School of Community	**7**	**8** **9:00 AM** Pro-Life March, Youth Rally, Mass for Life
9 **7:00 PM** Big Book AA Meeting	**10** **8:30 AM** AA Daily Reflections Group	**11** **3:00 PM** Brownie Scouts—3rd **6:15 PM** Religious Education **7:00 PM** Parish Finance Council Meeting **7:00 PM** Young Catholic Professionals at Athenaeum **7:00 PM** Boy Scouts Troop 889 Meeting **7:00 PM** YAM Philosophy Forum	**12** **6:00 PM** RCIA **7:00 PM** YAM Book Club	**13** **7:00 PM** Marriage Information Meeting **7:00 PM** Men's Faith Sharing Group **8:30 PM** CL School of Community	**14** **3:30 PM** Brownie Scouts—2nd **5:00 PM** Webelos/ AOL Scouts— 4th and 5th	**15**
16 **Señor de Esquipulas Mass at 12:30 PM** **1:00 PM** Samuel Group Meeting **6:00 PM** Young Adult Cocktails After Mass **7:00 PM** Big Book AA Meeting	**17** **8:30 AM** AA Daily Reflections Group	**18** **9:30 AM** Walking With Purpose **4:00 PM** Brownie Scouts **6:15 PM** Religious Education **6:30 PM** Walking With Purpose **7:00 PM** Boy Scouts Troop 889 Meeting **7:00 PM** YAM Philosophy Forum	**19** **6:00 PM** RCIA **7:00 PM** YAM Book Club	**20** **7:00 PM** Men's Faith Sharing Group **8:30 PM** CL School of Community	**21** **5:00 PM** Webelos/ AOL Scouts— 4th and 5th **7:30 PM** Praise and Adoration	**22**

January Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23 **Special Collection for Church in Latin America** **7:00 PM** Big Book AA Meeting	**24** **8:30 AM** AA Daily Reflections Group	**25** **9:30 AM** Walking With Purpose **4:00 PM** Boy Scouts **6:30 PM** Walking With Purpose **7:00 PM** Boy Scouts Troop 889 Meeting **7:00 PM** YAM Philosophy Forum	**26** **6:00 PM** RCIA **7:00 PM** YAM Book Club	**27** **7:00 PM** Men's Faith Sharing Group **8:30 PM** CL School of Community	**28** **TBD** YAM Karaoke Night	**29** **1:00 PM** RE First Reconciliation **4:00 PM** Lakeview Roscoe Village Chamber of Commerce Ice Sculpting Event
30 **9:00 AM KoC** Vitalant Blood Drive **TBD** Family Mass **TBD** Lakeview Roscoe Village Chamber of Commerce Ice Sculpting Event **7:00 PM** Big Book AA Meeting	**31** **8:30 AM** AA Daily Reflections Group	*Catholic Schools Week Jan. 30— Feb.5*				

Scheduling at St. Alphonsus

The monthly calendar in the bulletin only shows all current parish events/activities. It does not indicate all sacraments such as weddings and baptisms. You can view the entire parish calendar on our website at www.stalphonsuschicago.org/calendar If your group's events are not listed in our calendar, please contact Mario Serrano at mserranostals@gmail.com

Parish News and Events

Book Club at St. Alphonsus

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 PM, often in-person in the rectory but occasionally on Zoom. After taking a few weeks off for the holidays, their next meeting will take place January 5. For more info, contact the book club coordinator Leora at lwallac2@alumni.nd.edu

Tuesday Evening Philosophy Group



Join us on Tuesdays in the St. Alphonsus rectory for weekly philosophy discussions and digging deeper into the greatest thinkers of all time. Get in touch with our YAM Intellectual chair, Ephrem at ephrem.shaffer@gmail.com for more information.

St. Alphonsus Annual Report

The annual report from St. Alphonsus parish which include the breakdown of all parish and our AACA school's financials as well as previous year's recap/ amusing anecdotes are now available online at the parish website, www.stalphonsuschicago.org. This report was also available in the Dec. 19 bulletin.

Recovery Programs at St. Alphonsus

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

Contact

Sacramental Information

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

How to Offer a Mass Intention

Did you ever notice that every Mass said here at St. Alphonsus is offered for a special intention? The entire congregation prays for that intention during the petitions (Prayers of the Faithful) when we say, "For those who have died, and for the intention of this Mass: (named intention)"

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

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

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

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

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

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

www.stalphonsuschicago.org/baptism

www.stalphonsuschicago.org/marriage

St. Alphonsus Social Media

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

Directory

Parish Office

1429 W Wellington Ave, Chicago, IL 60657-4121
(P): 773-525-0709 | (F): 773-525-3238
www.stalphonsuschicago.org

Parish Office Hours:

9:00 AM— 4:00 PM Mon, Wed, Fri
9:00 AM— 1:00 PM Tue, Thurs

School Office

1439 W Wellington Ave, Chicago, IL 60657-4121
(P): 773-892-1397 | (F): 773-348-4829
www.alphonsusacademy.org

School Office Hours:

8:00 AM– 3:00 PM

Staff

Parish Staff

Rev. Steven Bauer, Pastor
Rev. Patrick Gorman, Associate Pastor
Brooks Robinson, Pastoral Associate
Brian Bloye, Director of Music and Organist
Erica Cook, Coordinator of Religious Education
Daniel Szymanski, Director of Operations
Mario Serrano, Parish Office Manager
Kaitlin Holyk, Sacrament Ministry Coordinator

School Staff

Gerit McAllister, Principal
Matt Gunsaulus, Assistant Principal
Mary Bodlak, Director of Admissions
Caroline Jordan, Advancement Director
Kim Wallett, Secretary
Connie Del Toral, Administrative Assistant