Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

JUNE 29, 2025: SAINTS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES



SAINTS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

"You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the nether-world shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." - Mt 16:18-19

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LITURGY SCHEDULE

Mass Schedule

Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri, Sat	8:30 AM
Wed	6:00 PM
Sunday	9 AM, 11 AM, 12:30 (Spanish) and 5 PM

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday	6:30—7:30 PM

Confessions

Wednesday	6:30—7:30 PM
Saturday	11:00—12:00 PM

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

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Wednesday	5:45 PM

Worship

This Week's Readings

Sunday: Acts 12:1-11/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18/Mt 16:13-19
Monday: Gn 18:16-33/Ps 103:1b-2, 3-4, 8-9, 10-11/Mt 8:18-22
Tuesday: Gn 19:15-29/Ps 26:2-3, 9-10, 11-12/Mt 8:23-27
Wednesday: Gn 21:5, 8-20a/Ps 34:7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Mt 8:28-34
Thursday: Eph 2:19-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Jn 20:24-29
Friday: Gn 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67/Ps 106:1b-2, 3-4a, 4b-5/Mt 9:9-13
Saturday: Gn 27:1-5, 15-29/Ps 135:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:14-17
Next Sunday: Is 66:10-14c/Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20 (1)/Gal 6:14-18/Lk 10:1-12, 17-20 or 10:1-9

Please Pray for the Sick

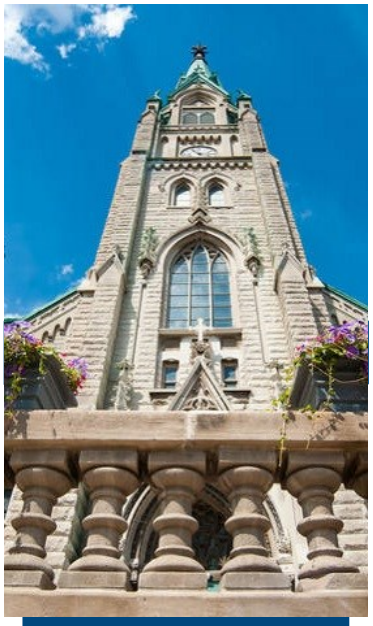
Dorothy Bonds
Jamie Wallett
Monica Alexis Rios
Diane Mareci
William Ahearn
Emilia Hurtado
Michael and Elizabeth Velten
Fidel Mercado Chavez
David Birks
Celeste Soult
Michael Aldape
Janet Horvat
Frank G. Bauer
Al Corleone
Tracy Duda
Jacob Duda
Dorothy O'Brien
Ryan Meadow
Danny Browder
Margaret Nichols
Leslie Salimi
Jason Jamero
Ramona Colon
Carol Kania
Rosemarie Cordero
Michelle Renee Moya
Ernest Nora
Albert Meier
Eileen Koutnik
Kevin Combs

At Rest in the Peace of Christ

Teresa Gonzalez
John Kinsella
Sister Rosemary Connelly, RSM
Emma Salazar

Welcome Our Recently Baptized

Zoe Renae Park



WEDDING

Audrey Moore and Blake Quarrie

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, June 29
9:00 AM +Ed & Mary Gobat
11:00 AM The People of Saint Alphonsus
12:30 PM The People of Saint Alphonsus
5:00 PM Holy Children's Liturgy Volunteers

Monday, June 30
8:30 AM Kevin Combs (Health)

Tuesday, July 1
8:30 AM The People of Saint Alphonsus

Wednesday, July 2
6:00 PM The People of Saint Alphonsus

Thursday, July 3
8:30 AM Evangelization Efforts of St. Alphonsus

Friday, July 4 — Independence Day
9:00 AM +Millie and Ed Dorsen

Saturday, July 5
8:30 AM Wasik Family

Sunday, July 6
9:00 AM +Robert Graham
11:00 AM +Zoila Espinosa & Marie Olszewski
12:30 PM The People of Saint Alphonsus
5:00 PM The People of Saint Alphonsus

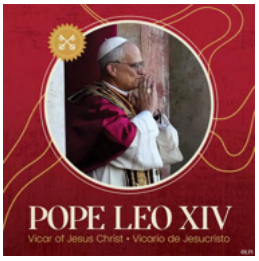
News and Events

Calling all Young Adults! Come join our parish Young Adult Ministry

YAM 4th of July Rooftop Social



Come join our parish Young Adult Ministry this Friday, July 4th from 3 PM to 8 PM as we have a fun 4th of July party on St. Al's rectory rooftop! Enjoy the great weather, fantastic views of the Chicago skyline and great time meeting new friends. This event will be a "stock the bar" theme. To gain admittance, please bring a beverage you enjoy (alcoholic or not - beer, seltzers, wine, soda, or soda water) to enjoy and leave behind to help us stock our YAM drink supply for future events. We are also hoping to have a small grill to cook up some brats/burgers as well! *no hard liquor or homemade liquor please!*
Contact Tammy Brasic and Nate Blanchette with any questions at stalsyamsocial@gmail.com



Peter's Pence Collection— Sunday, June 29

This Sunday, all parishes take up the Peter's Pence special collection to support the Universal Church and the Holy See, including the charitable works of Pope Leo XIV. Take this opportunity to be a sign of mercy to our suffering sisters and brothers. Thank you for your generosity. For more information, visit www.obolodisanpietro.va/en.html

Happy Independence Day!



St. Alphonsus Parish wishes everyone a fun and safe holiday with your loved ones! Please note that our daily Mass will be at 9 AM this Friday instead of the usual 8:30 AM. The rectory office will be closed.

Knights of Columbus

Our next meeting is on Monday, July 14 at 7 PM. We are always looking for new members, and we welcome practicing Catholic men of the parish and surrounding communities to join our ranks. Our council meetings are open to all prospective members and there is usually a social fellowship after the meeting. To find out more information about the Knights of Columbus at St. Alphonsus, or to apply for membership, feel free to contact parishioner and Grand Knight, Ray C. San Agustin or visit www.stalphonsusknights.com

Mama Meetup in July

-Park Outing: Join us for a park outing with your little ones on Saturday, July 12! We'll meet at Two Hearted Queen Coffee Shop (1201 W. Roscoe St.) at 8:30 AM and then walk over to Margaret Donahue Park for some socializing and play time! Spouses and older children are welcome to join!
-Mom's Brunch: Sunday, July 27th after the 11 AM Mass - Crosby's Kitchen (3455 N. Southport Ave.) - We will meet in the narthex after Mass and either walk over or drive. Please RSVP to Kathryn at kkibler@stalphonsuschicago.church no later than July 24th!

GENERATION TO GENERATION: ANSWER THE CALL



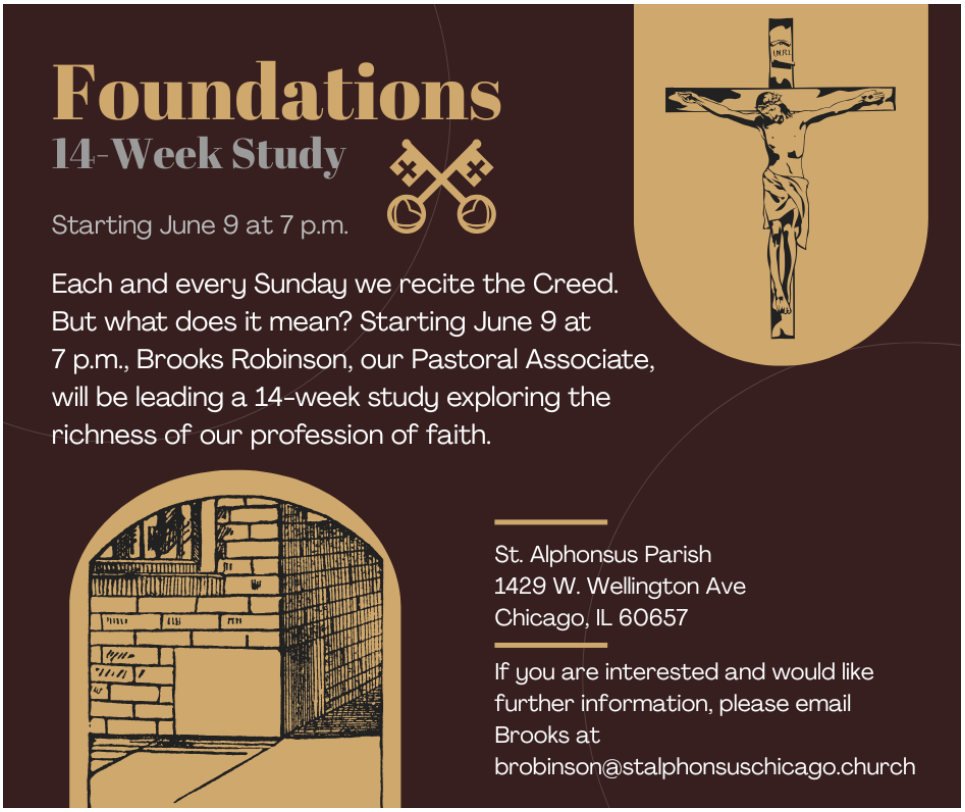
To learn more about our parish Gen-to-Gen campaign and its goals and timeline, or to make a pledge to help restore our organ, visit:

www.stalphonsuschicago.org/generation-to-generation

• Save Our Iconic Veranda • Repair & Restore the Organ • Upgrade the Common Rooms •
• Drinking Fountains • Re-Imagine the Courtyard as Outdoor Classroom & Prayer Garden •
• Sharing with the Arch for Spiritual & Parish Renewal, Scholarships, and Priest Retirement & Health Care

Faith Formation

walking with purpose



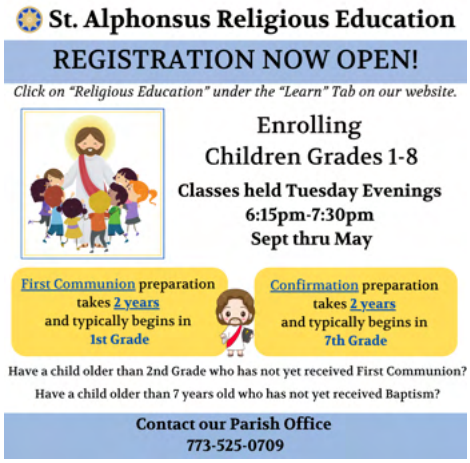
Walking With Purpose

Our Walking w/ Purpose women's group covers basic teachings of the church, contemporary issues, scripture study, and spiritual reflection!

Our summer series continues on Tuesdays. There are two sessions in the rectory 2nd Fl. Common Room on Tuesday mornings and evenings 9:30-11 AM or 6:30-8 PM.

Come as you are. You are welcome here. WwP Bible studies combine personal study with small group discussion, linking our everyday challenges to solutions given through Scripture. If you desire to grow in your faith- in a supportive community of Catholic women- JOIN US! Please contact Marianne, mariannek36@yahoo.com

Religious Education 2025-2026 Registration



Register your child today for RE! Classes are open for enrollment for Grades 1-8. Our program is held on Tuesday Evenings (Sept. thru May) from 6:15 PM— 7:30 PM.

On the St. Alphonsus Website, click on the "Learn" tab, and then click "Religious Education." Scroll down to learn more about our program, register, and pay tuition.

Did you know that preparation for both First Communion and Confirmation is a 2 year process?

First Communion preparation typically begins in 1st Grade and Confirmation preparation typically begins in 7th Grade.

If you have a child that is older than 2nd Grade and has not yet received First Communion or a child that is older than 7 years old and has not yet received Baptism, contact Brooks, brobinson@stalphonsuschicago.church

St. Alphonsus Men's Group

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

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

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



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

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

Young Adult Ministry

Theology on Tap— Wednesday evenings this summer!



We have four amazing speakers lined up for Theology on Tap, which will take place every Wednesday evening in July on the St. Alphonsus veranda. Fellowship and light refreshments at 7 PM; with the speaker's talk at 7:30 PM.

Starting Wednesday, July 9, our parish Young Adult Ministry (YAM) will host four weekly talks that will explore this year's theme, ***"The Four Portraits of Christ."*** Each session will illuminate the distinctive way one of the four evangelists portrays Jesus in their gospel narrative.

Theology on Tap— Portrait of Christ According to Matthew



Fr. John Kartje is the Rector of Mundelein Seminary. Ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago in 2002, he has served in various parish assignments (including St. Ben's in Chicago) and as chaplain of the Sheil Catholic Center at Northwestern University. He holds doctorate degrees in both astrophysics (Univ. of Chicago) and Biblical Studies (Catholic Univ. of America).

The general program for each session is shown here. All talks will be given on the church veranda – if inclement weather, the talk will be moved to the church basement (Festival Hall).
7:00 PM: doors open, food and drinks available
7:30 PM: talk begins
8:00 PM: speaker Q&A
8:30 PM: socializing
9:00 PM: end of program

Upcoming Theology on Tap speakers:
July 16, Fr. Richard Peddicord, Director of Catholic & Dominican Mission at Fenwick High School, Gospel of Mark

July 23, Emily Barnum, PhD candidate in New Testament at the University of Chicago, Gospel of Luke

July 30, Bishop Mark Bartosic, Episcopal Vicar of Vicariate VI for the Archdiocese of Chicago, Gospel of John

Stewardship—First Fruits

FIRST FRUITS
time talent treasure

We invite all parishioners who want to participate in online giving to do so by enrolling through GiveCentral and setting up your donation via the First Fruits campaign (weekly Mass offering).

A huge thank you to those that are already giving online. Please consider making St. Alphonsus an extension of your home and family when contributing.

Sign up at *www.givecentral.org/location/39*
You can also text *Sunday* to (773) 570-7600

Giving Update

Weekly Budget Amount: $15,192

Sunday Offertory for 6/22: $14,275

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



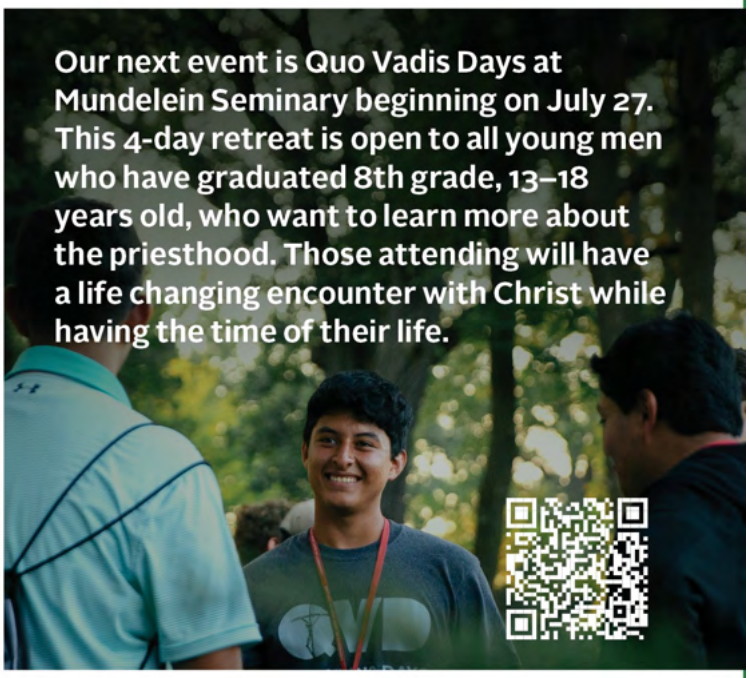
ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

VOCATION OFFICE UPDATE

The Archdiocese of Chicago welcomes these priests ordained on May 17, 2025 who begin their parish assignments on July 1:

Fr. Cristian García
St. Clare of Assisi Parish, Mount Prospect and Rolling Meadows

Fr. Kevin Menard, SJC
St. John Cantius Parish, Chicago



Father Tim and the Vocation Office want to share some information on our work to grow the number of future priests:

I. **Strengths (Good News)**
   a. Quality candidates, stability with numbers of new seminarians over the past seven years, retention is strong
   b. Strong number of Latino discerners attending events
   c. Projected new seminarians for 2025: Seven
   d. Growth in lay supporters
   e. One new seminarian from Asian/Pacific Islander community and one new seminarian from the Black Catholic community
   f. Over the past 10 years, Vicariate I has given the most seminarians

II. **Weaknesses (areas for growth)**
   a. Overall number remains low: 31 seminarians
   b. No new candidates from Polonia in over 10 years
   c. No new Latino candidates since 2022

III. **Opportunities**
   a. Growth with candidates for college seminary
   b. Increased mentoring of the discerners at parish level
   c. More consistent promotion vocation at the parish level

IV. **Threats**
   a. Pace of life for priests and discerners
   b. Fear of commitment for candidates
   c. Lack of parental support, either for seminary or Totus Tuus

RECENT VOCATION OFFICE NUMBERS

Archdiocese of Chicago: 216 Parishes

	Participants 2023	2024
New Seminarians	5	7
Insearch	5	5
Samuel Group	39	33
Totus Tuus Missionaries	20	16
Quigley Discerners	27	28
Quo Vadis	65	70
Who Will Fill These Shoes?	82	80

Gospel Reflection

"And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Matthew 16:17–19

Pillars of the Church

Saints Peter and Paul are often referred to as two of the great "Pillars of the Church." They each played an incredibly essential role in the establishment of the early Church. And though each of their roles was essential and foundational, their roles were as different as they were different as persons.

Peter was a family man, a local fisherman, uneducated and quite ordinary. From what we know about him prior to being called by Jesus, there was nothing that made him uniquely qualified to become one of the pillars of the new Church to be established by the Son of God. Jesus simply called him, and he responded. Jesus got into Peter's boat, ordered him to lower the nets, and produced a huge catch of fish. When Peter saw this miracle, he fell down at Jesus' feet and acknowledged that he was "a sinful man" who was unworthy of being in Jesus' presence (See Luke 5:8). But Jesus informed Peter that he would from now on be catching men. Peter immediately left everything behind and followed Jesus.

Paul describes himself as "a Jew, born at Tarsus in Cili′cia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gama′li-el, educated according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as you all are this day" (Acts 22:3). Paul was well educated in the strictest interpretation of the Jewish law, understood philosophy and was quite zealous as a young man. Recall, also, that prior to becoming a convert to Christianity, he "persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it" (Galatians 1:13). In many ways, Paul would have been seen as the most unlikely person to be chosen to be a pillar of the Church, because he so vigorously opposed it at first. He even supported the killing of Saint Stephen, the first Christian martyr.

Though each of these men would have been considered by many as very unlikely founders of the Christian Church, this is exactly what they became. Paul, after his conversion, traveled far and wide to preach the Gospel, founding several new Churches throughout Asia Minor and Europe. Eventually he was arrested in Jerusalem, brought to Rome for trial and was beheaded. Over half of the New Testament books are attributed to Paul and half of the Acts of the Apostles detail Paul's missionary journeys. Paul is especially known for his missionary activity to the Gentiles, those who were not Jews.



Peter's role was truly a unique one. His name was changed from "Simon" to "Peter" by Jesus. Recall Jesus saying, "And I tell you, you are Peter (*Petros*), and on this rock (*petra*) I will build my church...(Matthew 16:18). "Peter" in Greek is *Petros*. However, the Greek word *petra* means a rock as a solid formation that is fixed, immovable, and enduring. Therefore, Jesus chose to make Peter a solid foundation of immovable rock on which the Church was to be built.

You, too, have been called by our Lord to a unique mission within the Church that has not been entrusted to another. In your own way, God wants to use you to reach certain people with the Gospel as He did with Saint Paul. And like Saint Peter, God wants to continue to establish His Church upon you and your faith.

Reflect, today, upon these two holy and unique pillars of our Church. As you do, ponder how God may want to use you to continue their mission in this world. Though Saints Peter and Paul are among the greatest and most consequential Christians within our world, their mission must continue, and you are among the instruments that God wants to use. Commit yourself to this mission so that the preaching of the Gospel and the rock foundation of our Church will remain strong within our day and age just as it was of old.

Saint Peter, you were uniquely chosen to be a rock foundation of faith upon which the Church was established. Saint Paul, you went forth to preach this faith far and wide, establishing many new communities of faith. Please use me, dear Lord, to continue the mission of Your Church so that the faith may be firmly planted in the minds and hearts of all Your people throughout the world. Jesus, I trust in You.

Inspiration from Pope Leo XIV

A United Church

"To walk with you, as a united Church". This phrase, spoken by Pope Leo XIV early in his pontificate, is more than a pastoral sentiment—it is a profound expression of his vision for the Church. In an age marked by fragmentation, ideological divisions, and ecclesial polarization, he offers a different path: unity rooted in Christ, nurtured in humility, and expressed in communion.

Unity is not about erasing difference, nor is it about blind agreement. For Pope Leo XIV, unity is the fruit of love—a love that embraces diversity without fear. Drawing from his Augustinian roots, he reminds the Church that unity is both gift and task. It is something we receive in Christ—"In the One, we are one"—but also something we must build every day through dialogue, forgiveness, and shared purpose.

His episcopal motto, *In Illo uno unum* ("In the One, we are one"), taken from St. Augustine's commentary on the Psalms, has guided his ministry for decades. It is not merely decorative; it is a theological and pastoral commitment. He believes that communion is the deepest sign of the Church's credibility in the world. When Christians walk together, eat together, pray together, and discern together, they reveal the presence of Christ in their midst.

As bishop of Chiclayo, Leo XIV made unity the cornerstone of his ministry. He promoted participation among the laity, supported priests as brothers and co-workers, and encouraged synodal practices long before they became institutional priorities. He believed that the Eucharist was not just the "source and summit" of the Christian life, but also the beating heart of ecclesial unity. "Without the Eucharist", he once said, "there is no Church. And without communion, there is no credible gospel".

Unity, he teaches, is not uniformity. It is not about everyone thinking alike, but about everyone being rooted in the same Spirit. It is a harmony born of shared faith and mutual love. In Rome, as prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops, he looked for leaders who could embody this unity—bishops who would not polarize but reconcile, not dominate but serve.

As Pope, Leo XIV continues this work with quiet determination. He calls the Church to reject divisive rhetoric and to heal the wounds of factionalism. He urges Catholics across the spectrum—traditional and progressive, conservative and reformist—to see each other not as enemies, but as brothers and sisters. Unity, he insists, does not weaken the Church. It is her strength.

He understands the cost of unity. It requires patience, forgiveness, and sometimes the humility to let go of being right. But the reward is great: a Church that breathes with both lungs, speaks with many voices, and walks with one heart.

In a world where difference so often leads to division, Pope Leo XIV offers a counter-witness. He shows us that unity is possible—not by force, but by grace. Not by silencing disagreement, but by listening through it. In a Church built on communion, the Spirit finds room to move, to surprise, and to renew.

And so, he invites us—bishops, priests, religious, and laypeople—to walk with him. Not behind him. With him. As a united Church. Rooted in Christ. Open to one another. Sent forth to the world as a sign of healing and hope.

A Church That Builds Bridges

From the very beginning of his pontificate, Pope Leo XIV has been clear: the Church is not called to build walls but to build bridges. This conviction lies at the heart of his understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Christ in today's world. It's not about withdrawing into safe spaces or fortifying ecclesial identity against the modern age. Rather, it's about courageously stepping into the complexity of the world, encountering others, and forging paths of dialogue, reconciliation, and peace.

In his first public message, he spoke these words: "May you help us, and then help one another, to build bridges—through dialogue, through encounters—uniting all to be one people, always in peace". These were not diplomatic remarks. They were a roadmap for his pontificate. He envisions a Church that serves as a living bridge—between generations, between cultures, between those inside the Church and those far outside of it. A Church that is not afraid of questions, tensions, or wounds, but that steps into them with love.

Pope Leo XIV has seen the power of such bridge-building firsthand. As bishop of Chiclayo, he ministered in contexts marked by social unrest, economic hardship, and historical divisions. He witnessed how the Church can become a space of encounter—where political enemies speak to one another, where the poor are heard, where the suffering find comfort, and where the gospel opens space for healing. This vision grew not in theory, but in real streets and real communities.

To build bridges is not to compromise truth. On the contrary, it is to allow truth to do what it was always meant to do: bring people together. Pope Leo insists that the gospel cannot be preached in a spirit of antagonism. Truth is not a weapon—it is a gift. And the Christian does not impose it; he proposes it, shares it, lives it.

Continued on pages 9- 10

This bridge-building includes ecumenical and interreligious dialogue. For Leo XIV, these are not political gestures or superficial pleasantries. They are expressions of the gospel's universal reach. All people are created in the image of God. All long for dignity, meaning, and peace. The Church, he says, must be the first to take the risk of crossing lines, meeting the other, and embracing shared humanity.

To build bridges also means healing divisions within the Church. Pope Leo knows the pain caused by polarization—where Catholics talk past each other or treat one another as threats. He refuses to reduce people to labels. Instead, he calls for a Church where different sensibilities can live together, not in conflict, but in communion. "Recognize one another as brothers and sisters", he says, not as opponents.

He often returns to the image of Jesus—whose entire mission was bridge-building: between heaven and earth, between God and humanity, between sinner and grace. The Cross itself is the ultimate bridge: vertical in its communion with the Father, horizontal in its embrace of humanity. That is the model Leo XIV offers to the Church today.

This is not easy work. Bridge-building requires humility, patience, and the willingness to be misunderstood. But it is the most urgent task of the Church in a divided world. Pope Leo XIV calls the Church to be what it truly is: a sign of God's desire to draw all people to himself, across every divide. And he calls each of us to take up the mission—not with fear, but with open hearts.

Mary Walks With Us

In the early moments of his pontificate, Pope Leo XIV knelt before an image of the Virgin Mary in silent prayer. There were no microphones, no announcements—only a gesture. Yet that quiet act spoke volumes. It revealed something profoundly personal and deeply theological: Mary is not just a figure in the background of the Church's story—she walks with us. For Pope Leo XIV, Mary is not distant, idealized, or inaccessible. She is close. She is Mother.

From his Augustinian formation, Leo XIV inherited a Marian spirituality that emphasizes both contemplation and action. Mary is the woman who listens, who ponders, and who acts. She is not passive. She is attentive. And she is deeply present in the life of every believer and every community. "Our Mother Mary", he says, "always wants to walk with us". This is not poetry—it is conviction. It is experience. Mary accompanies the Church as she accompanied her Son: silently, faithfully, and with courage.

As bishop of Chiclayo, Pope Leo was profoundly influenced by the popular Marian devotion of the Peruvian people. In the remote villages where he served, Mary was not merely a doctrinal figure—she was family. She was called upon in times of joy and distress, honored in feast days and processions, invoked in every prayer. He saw in their devotion something that theology alone could not teach: Mary is not an abstract ideal, but a real companion.

In his pastoral letters and messages, he often spoke of Mary as the first disciple—the one who teaches us how to listen to God's voice, how to say "yes" to his call, how to remain faithful even in darkness. He described her not as a queen on a pedestal, but as a woman who walks beside us, who takes us by the hand when the road is hard, and who shows us how to follow Christ with trust.

For Pope Leo XIV, Mary also embodies the Church's synodal spirit. She is the one who listens before she speaks, who treasures words in her heart before acting. She does not impose, but accompanies. She is present at every key moment in salvation history—from the Annunciation to Pentecost—not as a spectator, but as a protagonist. This Marian style is what Pope Leo desires for the Church: a community that discerns, listens, walks together, and remains close to the suffering.

Mary is also the model of missionary discipleship, After the Annunciation, she does not stay in Nazareth to contemplate her privilege. She sets out "in haste" to visit Elizabeth. She brings Christ with her. Pope Leo frequently draws on this image to remind the Church that true devotion leads to action. Marian spirituality is not retreat—it is readiness. To walk with Mary is to walk toward others, bearing Christ.

He also sees Mary as a source of comfort and strength in turbulent times. When the world trembles under the weight of conflict and uncertainty, Mary stands at the foot of the Cross and teaches us how to hope. In his own personal journey—from his calling in Chicago to his missionary work in Peru to the Chair of Peter—Leo XIV has found in her a companion, an intercessor, and a model.

To entrust ourselves to Mary, he says, is not to escape reality—it is to enter it with grace. In her presence, we find room to breathe, space to trust, and strength to begin again. And so, Pope Leo XIV places his pontificate under her mantle—not as ornament, but as protection. Not as symbol, but as direction. Mary walks with us. And where she walks, Christ in never far.

Conclusion— A Pontificate With Roots and a Future

Pope Leo XIV has not come to inaugurate a new ideology or to dismantle tradition. Rather, his pontificate emerges as a continuation of the gospel—lived faithfully in the footsteps of the Church's rich heritage, yet deeply attuned to the signs of our time.

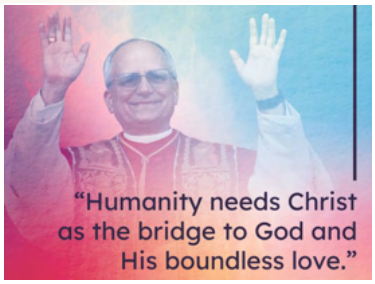
Inspiration from Pope Leo XIV

With the humility of a servant and the heart of a missionary, Leo XIV offers the Church a style of leadership that is pastoral, synodal, and profoundly evangelical. He leads not by command, but by communion. Not from above, but from within.

In these opening days of his papacy, the themes that have already surfaced reveal the contours of a Church that is both rooted and forward-looking. From this first message—"peace be with you"— to his firm assurance that "Evil will not prevail", to his quiet gesture of entrusting everything to Mary, Leo XIV has begun his mission not with force, but with faith. A faith shaped by the dusty roads of northern Peru, by the spiritual discipline of Augustinian community life, and by years of listening, discerning, and accompanying.

This is a pope who embodies what he preaches. He is not a distant theologian or a detached bureaucrat. He is a shepherd who has walked among his people, who knows what it means to lead with tears, to celebrate with the poor, and to break bread with those at the margins. His authority is not built on image or strategy, but on experience—deeply human, deeply spiritual.

Throughout these book excerpts, we've traced 10 essential things Pope Leo XIV wants the Church to know. Each one reflects not just his theology, but his lived conviction. **That God's love is the beginning of everything. That peace is the fruit of courage and humility. That the Church must build bridges, not walls. That the path forward is synodal—walked together, guided by the Spirit. That Mary walks with us still.**



He does not shy away from the challenges the Church faces, polarization, secularization, ecological crisis, technological upheaval, and global inequality. But neither does he meet these challenges with fear. His is a steady, hopeful voice—a voice that reminds us that Christ remains at the center, and that the gospel is still good news.

In many ways, Pope Leo XIV represents the convergence of two great traditions: the intellectual and communal depth of the Augustinian heritage, and the missionary and pastoral energy of the Latin American Church. He brings both to bear on the global stage with gentle clarity. He does not offer spectacle—but depth. He does not seek applause—but transformation.

And he calls each of us—not just leaders and theologians, but all the baptized—to walk with him. To live our faith not as ritual obligation, but as joyful witness. To return to Christ. To seek the face of God in the face of the poor. To be the Church the world longs to see: merciful, just, united, and brave.

With roots firmly planted in the tradition and eyes fixed on Christ, Pope Leo XIV is a pope for this moment—and for the journey ahead. His words echo the wisdom of his spiritual father, Saint Augustine: "Let love be rooted in you, and from that root, nothing but good can grow". That is his hope. That is his promise. That is the path he invites us to follow.

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Low Gluten Hosts Available



If you are allergic to wheat or have celiac disease, or for any reason can't tolerate gluten, we have hosts available for you. Low gluten hosts are available at every Mass, even daily Masses. To receive a low gluten host at Mass, all you have to do is get in the Communion line for the celebrant, and then just point to the little ciborium that the priest sets on the communion rail. These hosts have 0.01% gluten. We can provide further information about their content upon request.

Helpful Household Hints by Harvey Levin

Vinegar Cleaning

Vinegar is a weak acid and it is great for cleaning hard water deposits on faucets and coffee makers. It also leaves windows streak-free. But do not use it everywhere. It will damage stone countertops like marble or limestone. Vinegar can break down sealers on the surface of granite. Do not use vinegar on your hardwood floor. It will dissolve the finish on the floor. Vinegar does not remove grease. Use soap. Also avoid vinegar on any rubber parts because it will cause leaks.

Living Peace & Justice

Catholic Social Teaching



The Senate is currently deliberating on the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, a budget reconciliation bill that allows for changes to federal spending, revenue, and the debt limit. The Senate could vote on the bill shortly.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) supports certain provisions of the bill as it stands; however , the bishops are greatly concerned with other inclusions that will negatively impact millions of people, especially the most vulnerable. **Here are the USCCB's key positions.**

- *Raising Taxes on the Poor*

The bill proposes a series of tax and budget changes that will raise income taxes on the working poor while simultaneously providing a large tax cut for the wealthy. The bill also makes changes to the Child Tax Credit that will benefit middle & high-income families, leaving behind the lowest-income children. *USCCB's position*: Do not raise income taxes on the poor; expand the Child Tax Credit to cover the lowest-income children.

- *Unsustainable Immigration Enforcement*

The bill proposes unprecedented levels of mandatory funding that would escalate immigration enforcement far beyond the legitimate goals of promoting public safety and bringing to justice those who commit crimes. The bill would also penalize families who comply with the law, including those fleeing persecution, by imposing steep fees that could not be waived for any reason. *USCCB's position*: Remove funding for family detention and unmitigated enforcement efforts; preserve access to family reunification and life-saving protections beyond someone's ability to pay.

- *Parental Choice in Education*

The bill includes provisions like the Educational Choice for Children Act that could benefit millions of children and parents across the country. The ECCA will empower parents to choose an education that aligns with their values and works best for their children. *USCCB's position*: Retain school choice in the bill so parents can choose the education for their children.

- *Cuts to Environment and Energy Budget*

The bill proposes a $500+ billion cut to clean energy incentives and clean air, water, and climate programs. These cuts harm children's health and our common home, and access to affordable clean energy, especially for rural and urban poor, middle-income families, churches and other non-profits. *USCCB's position*: Do not cut environmental and clean energy funding.

- *Cutting Medicaid and SNAP*

The bill proposes cutting aspects of Medicaid and food assistance (SNAP) to help pay for tax cuts. Combined, these changes will cause more than 16 million people to lose their health insurance. The changes to SNAP will mean that millions will go hungry. *USCCB's position*: Remove cuts to Medicaid and SNAP that result in the loss of health coverage and nutrition assistance for many people.

- *Defunding Abortion Providers and "Gender Transition" Procedures*

The bill proposes ending taxpayer subsidization of major abortion and "gender transition" providers such as Planned Parenthood in Medicaid. *USCCB's position*: Defund Planned Parenthood and similar organizations.

The lives of millions of peoples depend on what is included in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. You can make an impact on the outcome. Contact your Senator by visiting the USCCB's Action Center: www.votervoice.net/USCCB/home

Joining St. Alphonsus Parish

St. Alphonsus welcomes all community members on their faith journey! Just moved in the area? Coming back to practicing our Catholic faith? You will want to learn about all the events going on at our parish. If you are not receiving our weekly parish newsletter in your email, contact Mario Serrano at mserrano@stalphonsuschicago.church

You can officially register to join the parish at www.stalphonsuschicago.org/visitors

Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. ~ John 19:34

GOD HAS ALWAYS LOVED mankind with a deep and abiding love. In the beginning, when Adam and Eve rejected God and doomed the human race to sin and death, we were not abandoned. God continued to call us back into a relationship with him. In the Old Testament, God's love was made manifest in his unique, covenant relationship with the People of Israel. In Deuteronomy, we read of God's love for his Chosen People:

"For you are a people holy to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his own possession, out of all the peoples that are on the face of the earth. It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord has set his love upon you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples; but it is because the Lord loves you, and is keeping the oath which he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt. Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations" (Dt 7:6-9).

The greatest act of love on the part of God the Father for humanity is the sending of his Son Jesus Christ into the world. He assumed human nature and physically entered human history. In contemplating the life of Christ, we cannot help but realize how much we are loved. Indeed, as true God and true man, Jesus has a profoundly personal interest in every human being. His love for each of us is ultimately realized in his Passion and death. After he was crucified and died, a spear was thrust into his side, which pierced his very heart, causing blood and water to flow forth. It is from this sacred event that the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus springs.

"The heart of Jesus symbolizes Christ's love for us in a humanly understandable and appealing way."



DAVID CHARLES PHOTOGRAPHY

The most significant prophecy concerning the Sacred Heart comes to us from the prophet Zechariah. He prophesied first that the citizens of Jerusalem would *"look on him whom they have pierced"* and *"weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a first-born"* (Zec 12:10). Zechariah then continues, *"[o]n that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness"* (Zec 13:1). This prophecy was fulfilled as Christ's side was opened, his heart was pierced, and the cleansing waters of forgiveness and blood of redemption poured forth.

The Church renders constant worship to the pierced heart of Jesus, which is an inexhaustible source of God's love and mercy for mankind. The heart of Jesus symbolizes Christ's love for us in a humanly understandable and appealing way. In the biblical sense, the heart represents the whole domain of our spiritual life. There is a connection between the physical heart and our deepest aspirations and affections. The heart of Christ, then, wonderfully signifies the fullness of his boundless love.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus focuses on the love of Christ for humanity, as evidenced in his sufferings and death on the cross. Jesus himself said, *"Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends"* (Jn 15:13). Jesus loved each of us so immeasurably that he suffered and died in order to restore

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"The Popes have spoken of devotion to the Sacred Heart as the 'extraordinary remedy for the extraordinary needs of our time.'"



DAVID CHARLES PHOTOGRAPHY

At prayer: a sister of the Missionary Catechists of St. Thérèse of the Infant Jesus (MCST), founded in the Philippines in 1958

us back to grace and friendship with God. Devotion to the Sacred Heart is a marvelous way that we sinners can respond to the unfathomable love of Christ.

What are the essential elements of the devotion? We must first offer a generous return of love to Jesus by making wholehearted acts of love to him. Second, the world has responded to the love of God with such indifference and cruelty that it is also important to beg pardon for humanity's rejection of the Lord. By frequent prayer and acts of penance and charity, we can help redress the harm done by the outrages that have been committed by ourselves and all people against divine love.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart has been lovingly offered by Catholics for almost a thousand years. With the help of divine grace, the devotion developed from its foundations in Scripture and Catholic teaching. The devotion is so intimately united with the Catholic faith that popes have referred to it as "the summary of the whole mystery of redemption" and as "the highest expression of the Catholic religion." The Feast of the Sacred Heart is celebrated on the Friday after the second Sunday after Pentecost.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart has special primacy over all other devotions. The Church has given it her most exalted seal of approval, referring to it as a divine gift to the Church from the Lord himself. In fact, the devotion so perfectly illustrates the truths of the Catholic faith that it must be cherished by all the Catholic faithful. The Church warns the faithful against indifference toward such a "priceless gift."

The devotion to the Sacred Heart has enriched and strengthened the faith of many Christians over the centuries. But it is clear that humanity has forgotten the suffering love of the Savior and is in danger of losing its very soul. With a sense of urgency, the successors of St. Peter, the popes, have spoken of the devotion to the Sacred Heart as the "extraordinary remedy for the extraordinary needs of our time." We must turn to Christ and consider once more the fountain of mercy and forgiveness that flows from his Sacred Heart. We must realize again how intensely our Savior loves us. Only then will society be transformed into a civilization of love, resting on the solid foundation of the peace and justice of Christ. The Church heralds the Sacred Heart as the source of the fire of divine love which alone can save the human race and secure the victory of charity.

(CCC 478, 2669)

July Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 **9:30 AM** Walking w/ Purpose Summer Bible Study **7:00 PM** Philosophy Forum **6:30 PM** Walking w/ Purpose Summer Bible Study	**2** **6:30 PM** Young Adult Book Club **8:00 PM** Men's Vespers	**3** **6:30 PM** Women's Faith Group **7:00 PM** Men's Faith Group	**4** ***Independence Day Holiday— Rectory Closed*** **3:00 PM** YAM 4th of July Rooftop Party	**5**
6 **7:00 PM** Big Book AA Meeting	**7** **8:30 AM** AA Daily Reflections Group **7:00 PM** Foundations Study **7:00 PM** Baptismal Prep Class	**8** **9:30 AM** Walking w/ Purpose Summer Bible Study **7:00 PM** Philosophy Forum **6:30 PM** Walking w/ Purpose Summer Bible Study	**9** **7:00 PM** Theology on Tap **8:00 PM** Men's Vespers	**10** **6:30 PM** Women's Faith Group **7:00 PM** Men's Faith Group **7:00 PM** Marriage Information Meeting	**11** **7:30 PM** Men's Group Adoration	**12** **8:30 AM** Mama Meetup—Park
13 ***St. Vincent de Paul Invitation to Serve at all Masses*** **7:00 PM** Big Book AA Meeting	**14** **8:30 AM** AA Daily Reflections Group **7:00 PM** Foundations Study **7:00 PM** Knights of Columbus Meeting	**15** **9:30 AM** Walking w/ Purpose Summer Bible Study **7:00 PM** Philosophy Forum **6:30 PM** Walking w/ Purpose Summer Bible Study	**16** **6:00 PM** St. Vincent de Paul Meeting **7:00 PM** Theology on Tap **8:00 PM** Men's Vespers	**17** **6:30 PM** Women's Faith Group **7:00 PM** Men's Faith Group	**18**	**19** **10:00 AM** AA District Sponsorship Event
20 **7:00 PM** Big Book AA Meeting	**21** **8:30 AM** AA Daily Reflections Group **7:00 PM** Foundations Study	**22** **9:30 AM** Walking w/ Purpose Summer Bible Study **7:00 PM** Philosophy Forum **6:30 PM** Walking w/ Purpose Summer Bible Study	**23** **7:00 PM** Theology on Tap **8:00 PM** Men's Vespers	**24** **6:30 PM** Women's Faith Group **7:00 PM** Men's Faith Group	**25** **7:30 PM** Praise and Adoration	**26**
	National NFP Awareness Week					
27 ***World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly*** **12:00 PM** Mama Meetup—Brunch **6:00 PM** YAM Board Meeting	**28** **8:30 AM** AA Daily Reflections Group **7:00 PM** Foundations Study	**29** **7:00 PM** Philosophy Forum	**30** **7:00 PM** Theology on Tap **8:00 PM** Men's Vespers	**31** **6:30 PM** Women's Faith Group **7:00 PM** Men's Faith Group	**1** ***Feast Day of Saint Alphonsus Mass at 7 PM***	

Contact

Sacramental Information

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

How to Offer a Mass Intention

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

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

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

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

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

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

St. Alphonsus Social Media

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

Directory

Parish Office

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

Parish Office Hours:

9:00 AM– 5:00 PM Mon, Wed, Fri
9:00 AM– 7:30 PM Tues, Thur

School Office

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

School Office Hours:

8:00 AM– 3:00 PM

Staff

Parish Staff

Rev. Steven Bauer, Pastor
Rev. Jesús (Chuy) Raya, Associate Pastor
Brooks Robinson, Pastoral Associate
Brian Bloye, Director of Music and Organist
Daniel Szymanski, Director of Operations
Mario Serrano, Parish Office Manager
Kathryn Kibler, Sacrament Ministry Coordinator
Margaret Piery, Parish Secretary/Sacristan

School Staff

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