Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

APRIL 27, 2025: SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY



LITURGY SCHEDULE

Mass Schedule

Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri, Sat
8:30 AM
Wednesday 6:00 PM
Sunday 9 AM, 11 AM,
12:30 PM (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*

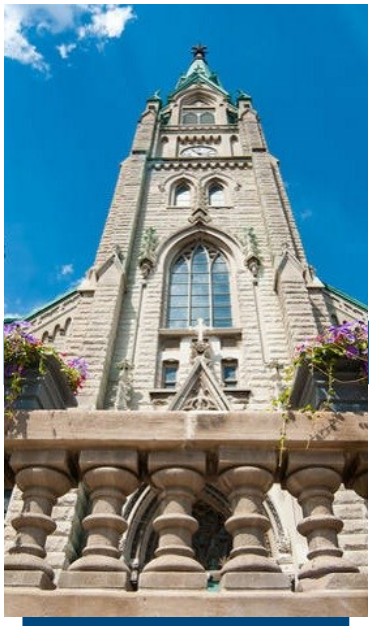
"In his compassion, God does not love us with words; he comes forth to meet us and, by his closeness, he shows us the depth of his tender love"

from Dilexit Nos, his encyclical letter on the human and divine love of the heart of Jesus Christ

Date of Birth: December 17, 1936
Country of Origin: Buenos Aires, Argentina
Area of Study: Humanities
Priesthood Ordination: December 13, 1969
Episcopal Ordination: February 28, 1998

Pontificate Election Date: March 13, 2013
Personal Motto: *Miserando atque eligendo* (roughly translates to *having mercy, he called him*)

Worship



This Week's Readings

Sunday: Acts 5:12-16/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 (1)/Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19/Jn 20:19-31
Monday: Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9/Jn 3:1-8
Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Jn 3:7b-15
Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 3:16-21
Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20/Jn 3:31-36
Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Jn 6:1-15
Saturday: 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Jn 14:6-14
Next Sunday: Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 (2a)/Rv 5:11-14/ Jn 21:1-19 or 21:1-14

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
Ramona Colon
Michelle Renee Moya
Ernest Nora
Albert Meier
Daniel Kathrein

WEDDING

Therese Madison and Daniel Snow

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

At Rest in the Peace of Christ

Jorge Mario Bergoglio
Carlos Ledesma

Wedding Banns

II. Grace Gorman and Paul Porcaro
I. Rachael White and Daniel Dever
I. Amy Clapp and Patrick Ward

Welcome Our Recently Baptized

Luna Sol "Galilea" Estrella
Wyatt Steven Lundberg

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, April 27
9:00 AM Keaton Pellino
11:00 AM +Alina Lipniewski
+Jack Jud Mattis
12:30 PM +Irene Jesus Esperanza y Carmen Rodriguez
5:00 PM +Carol Pelster

Monday, April 28
8:30 AM NET Missionary Host Families & Donors

Tuesday, April 29
8:30 AM The People of Saint Alphonsus

Wednesday, April 30
6:00 PM The People of Saint Alphonsus

Thursday, May 1
8:30 AM +Raymond Wagner

Friday, May 2
8:30 AM AACA & RE First Communion Students & Families

Saturday, May 3
8:30 AM First Communion Retreat Volunteers

Sunday, May 4
9:00 AM +Irene Graham
11:00 AM +Natividad Velasco
12:30 PM +Juan Gonzales
5:00 PM +Charlotte Macha

Remembering Pope Francis

Global pastor: In word and deed, Pope preached mercy, outreach



Pope Francis, who died April 21 at the age of 88, gave new energy to millions of Catholics — and caused concern for some — as he transformed the image of the papacy into a pastoral ministry based on personal encounters and strong convictions about poverty, mission and dialogue.

U.S. Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell, chamberlain of the Holy Roman Church, announced that Pope Francis had died at 7:35 AM.

"His whole life was dedicated to the service of the Lord and his church," Cardinal Farrell said in a video announcement broadcast from the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae, where Pope Francis lived.

His gestures — from tenderly embracing the sick to repeatedly visiting prisoners — touched millions of hearts. But controversy raged over his denunciations of the excesses of unbridled capitalism, his warnings about the human contributions to climate change and his insistence on accompanying, not judging, gay people.

With bronchitis and difficulty breathing, Pope Francis was admitted to Rome's Gemelli hospital Feb. 14. He was diagnosed with double pneumonia and a complex infection. He had returned to the Vatican March 23 to continue his convalescence.

God's mercy was a constant theme in Pope Francis' preaching and was so central to his vision of what the church's ministry must embody that he proclaimed an extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy for Dec. 8, 2015-Nov. 20, 2016.

Elected March 13, 2013, Pope Francis was the first pope in history to come from the Southern Hemisphere, the first non-European to be elected in almost 1,300 years and the first Jesuit to serve as successor to St. Peter.

In the first three years of his papacy, he published three major documents: *"Evangelii Gaudium"* ("The Joy of the Gospel"), a detailed vision of the program for his papacy and his vision for the church -- particularly the church's outreach and its response to challenges posed by secular culture; *"Laudato Si'*, on Care for Our Common Home," on the environment; and "*Amoris Laetitia"* ("The Joy of Love"), his reflections on the discussions of the synods of bishops on the family in 2014 and 2015.

Holiness was the topic of his March 2018 apostolic exhortation, *"Gaudete et Exsultate"* ("Rejoice and Be Glad") in which he insisted being holy is not boring or impossible, and that it grows through small, daily gestures and acts of loving kindness.

Following in the footsteps of his predecessors, Pope Francis was an untiring voice for peace, urging an end to armed conflict, supporting dialogue and encouraging reconciliation. The pope described Russia's invasion of Ukraine as "madness" and called on the world's bishops to join him in consecrating Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. When Hamas militants attacked communities in Israel, killing scores of people and taking more than 200 people hostage in late 2023, and Israel retaliated by attacking Gaza, Pope Francis made repeated appeals for the return of hostages, a ceasefire to deliver humanitarian aid, and a real commitment to a negotiated peace.

Promoting peace, solidarity and respect for the Earth, the pope insisted people needed to recognize each other as brothers and sisters and issued an encyclical about that, "Fratelli Tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship." He signed the text at the tomb of St. Francis of Assisi on the saint's feast day, Oct. 4, 2020.

Pope Francis spent much of the first nine years of his pontificate pursuing two ambitious projects: revitalizing the church's efforts at evangelization -- constantly urging outreach rather than a preoccupation with internal church affairs -- and reforming the central administration of the Vatican, emphasizing its role of assisting bishops around the world rather than dictating policy to them.

On March 19, 2022, the ninth anniversary of the inauguration of his papacy, he finally promulgated *"Praedicate Evangelium"* ("Preach the Gospel"), his complete restructuring of the Roma Curia, highlighting its mission to serve the church's evangelization efforts at all levels.

His simple lifestyle, which included his decision not to live in the Apostolic Palace and his choice of riding around Rome in a small Fiat or Ford instead of a Mercedes sedan, sent a message of austerity to Vatican officials and clergy throughout the church. He reinforced the message with frequent admonitions about the Gospel demands and evangelical witness of poverty and simplicity.

Although he repeatedly said he did not like to travel, he made 47 foreign trips, taking his message of Gospel joy to North and South America, Europe, Africa and Asia.

Continued on page 4

Pope Francis cont...



Pope Francis greets people from the popemobile after appearing on the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican after Easter Mass April 20, 2025. (CNS photo/Lola Gomez)

Jorge Mario Bergoglio was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina's capital city, Dec. 17, 1936. He earned a chemical technician's diploma from his high school and entered the Jesuit novitiate in March 1958. After studying liberal arts in Santiago, Chile, he returned to Argentina and earned his licentiate in philosophy from the Colegio San Jose in San Miguel.

He was ordained a priest Dec. 13, 1969, and after his perpetual profession as a Jesuit in 1973, he became master of novices at the Seminary of Villa Barilari in San Miguel. Later that same year, he was appointed superior of the Jesuit province of Argentina, a role in which by his own account he proved a divisive figure because of an "authoritarian and quick manner of making decisions."

In May 1992, Father Bergoglio was named an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Buenos Aires. He was appointed coadjutor archbishop five years later and became archbishop of Buenos Aires in 1998; Pope John Paul II named him to the College of Cardinals in 2001.

As leader of an archdiocese with more than 2.5 million Catholics, Cardinal Bergoglio strove to be close to the people. He rode the bus, visited the poor, lived in a simple apartment and cooked his own meals.

His international reputation was enhanced by his work at the 2007 assembly of the Latin American bishops' council, CELAM, and particularly by his role as head of the committee that drafted the gathering's final document on reforming and reinvigorating the church's evangelizing efforts on the continent.

Cardinal Bergoglio was a known and respected figure within the College of Cardinals, so much so that no one disputed a respected Italian journal's report that he received the second-highest number of votes on all four ballots cast in the 2005 conclave that elected Pope Benedict XVI.

Eight years later, Pope Benedict retired. At the cardinals' meetings prior to the 2013 conclave to elect his successor, the need to reform the Vatican bureaucracy was a common theme of concern.

Addressing the gathering, Cardinal Bergoglio warned against "self-referentiality and a kind of theological narcissism" in the church and argued the next pope "must be a man who, from the contemplation and adoration of Jesus Christ, helps the church to go out to the existential peripheries" to spread the Gospel.

His election March 13 came on the second day of the conclave, on its fifth ballot. He chose the name Francis to honor St. Francis of Assisi, "the man of poverty, the man of peace, the man who loves and protects creation," he said.

"Go out" was Pope Francis' constant plea to every Catholic, from curial cardinals to the people in the pews. More than once, he told people that while the Bible presents Jesus as knocking at the door of people's hearts to get in, today Jesus is knocking at the doors of parish churches trying to get out and among the people.

But he faced criticism for what many saw as a lack of consistency in dealing forcefully with the clerical sexual abuse crisis, especially when it came to holding bishops accountable for handling allegations and removing priests credibly accused of abuse.

And while his pontificate marked major progress in the Vatican's attempts to reach an agreement with China's communist government on the appointment of Catholic bishops, a provisional accord signed in September 2018, and renewed in 2020, 2022 and 2024, was denounced by critics as a betrayal of Catholics who risked their lives for refusing any cooperation with the communists.

Like his predecessors, Pope Francis was a strong defender of the sacredness of human life. Meeting Catholic physicians in November 2014, for example, he insisted that in "the light of faith and the light of correct reason, human life is always sacred and always of 'quality.' There is no human life that is more sacred than another" and no "human life qualitatively more significant than another."

For Pope Francis, helping the defenseless also meant paying special attention to prisoners, victims of war and, particularly, Christians and other religious minorities persecuted for their faith.

When Islamic State forces and other terrorist groups began specifically targeting Christians and other religious minorities in Syria and Iraq, and later in North Africa, Pope Francis demanded the international community act.

He frequently cited figures that the number of Christian martyrs is greater today than in the first centuries of Christianity, and he insisted the international community cannot "look the other way."

Homily for the Memorial Mass on the Death of Pope Francis by Cardinal Blase Cupich

You may recall that I mentioned on the occasion of the ordination of our new auxiliaries that someone early on in the papacy of Francis asked me what makes him tick. I said, as I believe even more now, the answer is simple. Francis not only believed but had a palpable experience of the Risen Lord; not only did he believe Jesus rose from the dead 2000 years ago, but he was deeply in touch with the reality that the Risen Lord is acting now and leading the Church. And so he saw that his task as the Successor of Peter was to be attuned to the Lord and manifest his presence in the world today.

The scriptures for this memorial are the ones the universal Church will hear on this Wednesday in the Octave of Easter. How providential they are. Peter with John makes it clear that he has nothing to bring to the sufferings of the world but Jesus. Francis, as his Successor, was true to that vision and mission.

Who is this Jesus, this Risen Lord? How do we recognize him in the Church's ministry? The Gospel from Luke is informative.

Notice that first of all, Jesus does not interrupt the conversation of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus with his own message or reveal himself as risen from the dead. Rather, he listens to them. He wants to know the depth of their sorrow, their concerns. Francis reminded us that when we do that we act like Jesus. The church is true to her mission when she is both a teaching and a listening church. This pastoral approach begins by understanding that realities are greater than ideas, and as pastors we must be in touch with the lived experience of people's everyday life. This means that pastoral theology is on an equal footing with all other branches of theology, dogma, scriptural studies, moral theology, ecclesiology, liturgical and spiritual theology. Pastoral theology is not derivative but must call all of these other branches to pay attention to the concrete reality of human life and human suffering in a much more substantial way if we are to be authentically faithful to the teachings of Christ.

The second thing we notice is that when Jesus does speak, he draws them into an encounter that interprets, that transforms their lives. He helps them see the bigger picture, calling them out of a self-absorbed approach to their lives. The opening line of the late pope's magna carta says it so well "The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew." Up to this point on their journey to Emmaus they were absorbed in their suffering and disappointment, but the encounter with Him changes them, to the point that they begin to care about Him. He looks as if he will go off on his way alone as night falls. They are sensitive to Him, stay with us, they did not just want Him to go away, they cared for Him – a remarkable transformation from their self-absorption. That is true conversion, not just having a change of mind, a cerebral acceptance of a particular teaching but one that makes us more human, move loving, less self-centered.



But the full conversion comes in the breaking of the bread, where they recognize Him. He vanishes just at that moment, because now they have all they need to take up the mission and return on the path they came, but return differently. They now are empowered to allow their lives to be broken and shared, celebrating this first Eucharist in the life of the Church in a way that defines what we do each time we gather around this altar. We call this Mass, ite missa est. What we do here sends us out to be broken for the life of the world. Much ink is spent talking of the need for a "new evangelization". But the emphasis cannot be about making evangelization new, a repackaging of it. No, we are the ones who need to be made new. We cannot talk about evangelization, of proclaiming the good news if our hearts are not left burning from this encounter with the Lord and filled with the joy to overflowing.

This is the Jesus who always walked alongside and even ahead of Francis. And now that Francis is no longer with us, he would want us to take up this same mission with a palpable sense that Jesus continues to abide with us and invites us to make Him present in the world, by being in touch with the realities of peoples' lives, by drawing them into an encounter with Him that re-interprets and transforms their lives and to send them out on mission, taking the next step forward as individuals and as a church by sharing the joy of the Gospel with the world.

Francis, like Peter, offered the world the goodness and truth of the Risen Lord. This is his legacy, which we can be confident will continue, no matter what others may say, for in the words of St. Thomas Aquinas, he reminds us: *Bonum diffusivum sui*. "Goodness always tends to spread." And he continued. "Every authentic experience of truth and goodness seeks by its very nature to grow within us, and any person who has experienced a profound liberation becomes more sensitive to the needs of others. As it expands, goodness takes root and develops. If we wish to lead a dignified and fulfilling life, we have to reach out to others and seek their good." The Joy of the Gospel, 9.

May he rest in peace, AMEN

Easter Stewardship

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

Make your Easter offering if you have not yet done so!

Throughout the year, many already support St. Alphonsus with your time, talent and treasure. Thank you again for your continued support of our church! Your spirited generosity ensures our parish continues our mission and good works throughout our community and beyond for years to come!

Sign up at *www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/527*
You can also text *Risen* to (773) 570-7600

Our parish now offers a donation option for Zelle users as well!
parish@stalphonsuschicago.church

Giving Update

Weekly Budget Amount: $15,192

Easter Offertory for 4/20: $36,013

It's not too late to add your donation. Prayerfully consider support for your St. Alphonsus Parish this Easter season!

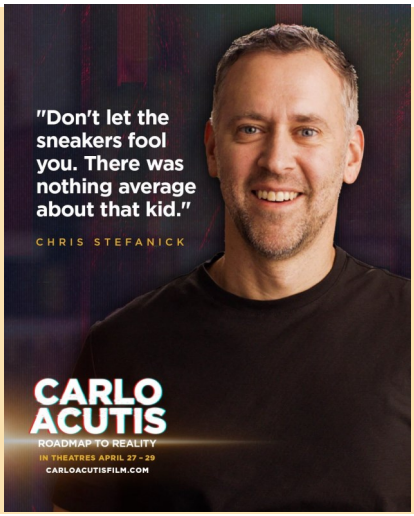
Left QR code for GiveCentral; Right QR code for Venmo

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

Stewardship Reflection

"Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'" (John 20:21)

Peace – the first gift of the risen Lord. Just as Jesus sent the apostles out into the world, so too, He sends us. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to be compassionate and merciful; and not with just those who are our friends, but also with our "enemies." Think of someone in your life who you need to reconcile with. Call them right now or better yet, go visit them.



Faith at the Movies

Carlo Acutis: Roadmap to Reality in theatres April 27 - 29 ONLY. Don't miss out! Get your tickets NOW at http://CarloAcutisFilm.com/Tickets



Capital Campaign at St. Alphonsus

Our Campaign Priorities:

.....GENERATION
TO GENERATION:
ANSWER THE CALL .....

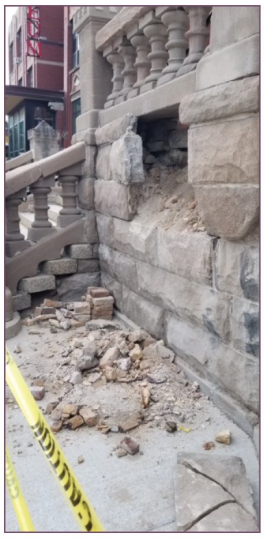
St. Alphonsus is participating in the *Generation to Generation: Answer the Call* campaign, along with every parish within the Archdiocese of Chicago, for parishioners to pledge support over a five-year time period to help with specific parish priorities (just a few highlighted here).

We have an ambitious stretch goal to raise $2.24M our projects, and to date we have raised **36%** of that goal. To achieve our goals, especially to save our veranda, we need the support and backing of all of our parish families. Scan the QR code to learn more, or contact the parish office to request a meeting with a campaign committee member.

Thanks & God bless you all!

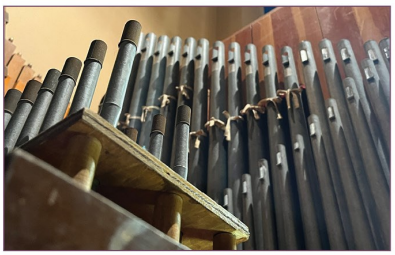
Save Our Iconic Veranda

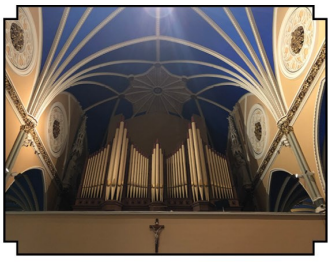
Dating back to 1894, the aging veranda has suffered from erosion and decay. The facade needs to be tuckpointed, and the stairs need to be rebuilt.



Repair and Restore the Organ

The windchests and leather pouches that push air through the pipes are cracked, making some notes off key, and some that have fallen mute without air flow.





LEARN MORE AND MAKE A PLEDGE TODAY

Re-imagine the Rectory's Side Courtyard

Turn the empty and vacant courtyard into an outdoor classroom and meeting space for school and church groups.



Drinking Fountains & Campus Upgrades



Drinking fountains in the church basement!

Upgrade the most commonly used spaces in the rectory with new carpeting, furniture, and repair windows so they can actually open and close properly.





Divine Mercy Sunday

Divine Mercy Sunday, April 27, 2025

Each year, the Sunday following Easter marks Divine Mercy Sunday. As we begin our Journey through the Easter Season, the Church draws our attention to a special devotion which began after Jesus' appearances to St. Faustina Kowalska early in the 20th century. So, what is Divine Mercy anyways?

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says, "the Gospel is the revelation in Jesus Christ of God's mercy to sinners." This is what Divine Mercy is all about. Lent calls us to take a look at our spiritual lives and see where pruning is needed, see where watering is needed. Then we celebrate Easter, and we are filled with the joy of the Risen Christ. Divine Mercy Sunday encompasses this whole drama, the whole drama of the Gospels. While Jesus is risen, we are still here on Earth, full of suffering, poverty, brokenness and sin. As such, we are constantly in need of God's mercy and love. Jesus told St. Faustina, *"I am love and Mercy Itself. There is no misery that could be a match for My mercy, neither will misery exhaust it, because as it is being granted – it increases. The soul that trusts in My mercy is most fortunate, because I Myself take care of it."*

Divine Mercy means saying to Jesus, "I trust in you." Indeed, all images of Jesus's Divine Mercy bear these words. On Divine Mercy Sunday, the Sanctuary is adorned with this image as a reminder for each of us to utter this simple but beautiful prayer, "Jesus, I trust in you." Besides an important devotion for ourselves as sinners, Divine Mercy Sunday also offers us a great time for those all around the world who are in need of God's Love and Mercy. We pray for all the ills that plague our society, from addiction to mental illness, to war and greed, to hatred and envy. And of course, we continue to pray for the legal protection of the unborn and for healing love and mercy for all those whose lives have been touched by this evil. Along with the typical Mass schedule, **we will have an hour of Eucharistic Adoration accompanied with the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00 PM in the Church.** What a great way to come to the Lord in thanksgiving for all He has done and has in store for us!





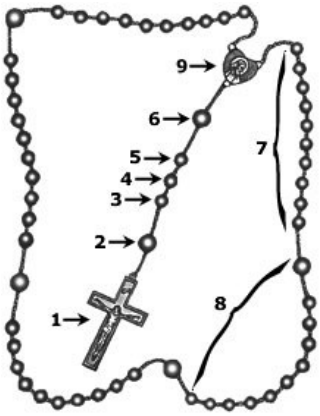
Confessions will also be heard from 3-4 PM. We must be signs of God's mercy in the world. We must not hold back this mercy, for we ourselves have been forgiven. Some reflection questions to consider:

What are some times in my life when I have received God's mercy?

Who do I need to show mercy to right now?

How can mercy bring healing to the wounds of our world?

Praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet



1. Make the Sign of the Cross In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
2. Optional Opening Prayers You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us. (Repeat 3X) O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You!
3. Our Father prayer; on 1st small bead
4. Hail Mary prayer; on 2nd small bead
5. The Apostle's Creed; on 3rd small bead
6. The Eternal Father; large bead
7. "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world"
8. Repeat for the remaining decades; saying the Eternal Father (6) on the "Our Father" bead, and then 10 "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion (7) on the following "Hail Mary" beads
9. Conclude w/ Holy God (repeat 3X) "Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world"
10. Optional Closing Prayer; you can find all at www.ascensionpress.com/pages/divine-mercy-chaplet

News and Events

Mozart Requiem Concert— Friday, May 16 at 7:30 PM



Family friendly performance of Mozart's iconic masterpiece. Don't miss this exciting and delightful concert experience with world-class soloists!

Use coupon code SACC for a 25% DISCOUNT
www.cameratachicago.org/category/concerts/

Enjoy the outstanding musical artistry of Camerata Chicago and its choir performing the famous *Requiem* by Mozart!

- Four wonderful soloists conducted by Maestro Drostan Hall including Robin Wiper, Lauren Decker, Martin Luther Clark and Wm. Clay Thompson.
- Elite orchestra and choir with top Chicago area musicians.
- Entertaining and educational musical anecdotes about the music and its vivacious composer.
- Generously supported by Deby and Jamie Fellowes.

Baptisms at St. Alphonsus



Baptism is a fundamental sacrament for Christians. It is a sacrament of initiation that unites us to Christ's mystical body, incorporates us into the Church, and marks the beginning of the Christian journey. Without baptism we cannot participate in the full sacramental life of the Church. In the sacraments we concretely and most visibly encounter God's grace—life reunited with life.

If you are interested in having your child baptized at St. Alphonsus, please go to the Baptism page on our website, www.stalphonsuschicago.org/baptism, complete the form on there and our Sacraments Ministry coordinator will be in contact to secure a date.

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

Weddings at St. Alphonsus



The love between two people is a gift from God. The commitment you make to be together for the rest of your lives is sealed before the community and God during the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage. If you are recently engaged and planning to get married (either at St. Alphonsus Church or out of town) please review the Marriage page on our website and reach out to Kathryn at kkibler@stalphonsuschicago.church

Holy Land Artifacts Sale



Next Sunday, May 4, our parish will host representatives of the Catholic Christian Community from Jerusalem and Bethlehem in the Holy Land who will be displaying handcrafted olive wood religious figurines and articles. Due to the political conflict and the reduction of tourism, the Catholic Community has come to depend more on the sale of these articles abroad to survive and to keep their faith and Christian presence in the holy land. The woodcarvings are beautiful and reflect faith and love for the Lord. Please consider purchasing a gift that will be remembered and cherished for yourself or someone dear to you. The handcrafted olive wood religious figurines and articles will be available for purchase after all Sunday Masses.

Legion of Mary



The Legion of Mary is now at St. Alphonsus! Legion of Mary is a lay apostolic association of Catholics who serve the Church and their neighbor on a voluntary basis. The Legion sees as its priority the spiritual and social welfare of each individual. Members participate in the life of the parish through volunteering and evangelizing activities sponsored by the parish. Interested in becoming a Legionary? Meetings in English take place on Fridays at 5 PM in the Rectory. For more information, please contact Fr. Jesus at jraya@stalphonsuschicago.church.

The Divine Mercy

Today is the Feast of all Feasts! It is the Feast of Mercy! This Feast originated from the private revelations given to Sr. Maria Faustina Kowolska, a Polish cloistered nun who died in 1938. In the year 2000, she was canonized by Saint Pope John Paul II, and the Feast of Mercy was instituted as a universal Feast of the Church. To better understand this Feast, let's read some of the private revelations Jesus gave to Saint Faustina:

"Whoever approaches the Fountain of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment" (*Diary* #300).

"This Feast emerged from the very depths of My mercy, and it is confirmed in the vast depths of my tender mercies" (*Diary* #420).

"On one occasion, I heard these words: My daughter, tell the whole world about My Inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flows are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. Everything that exists has come forth from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate My love and mercy throughout eternity. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy" (*Diary* #699).

"Yes, the first Sunday after Easter is the Feast of Mercy, but there must also be deeds of mercy, which are to arise out of love for Me. You are to show mercy to our neighbors always and everywhere. You must not shrink from this or try to absolve yourself from it" (Diary #742).

"Souls perish in spite of My bitter Passion. I am giving them the last hope of salvation; that is, the Feast of My Mercy. If they will not adore My mercy, they will perish for all eternity" (*Diary* #965).

"I want to grant complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My mercy" (*Diary* #1109).



In addition to the above quotes about the celebration of the Feast of Mercy, below are some quotes revealing more about The Divine Mercy itself:

"Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My Mercy" (*Diary* #300).

"My Heart overflows with great mercy for souls, and especially for poor sinners. If only they could understand that I am the best of Fathers to them and that it is for them that the Blood and Water flowed from My Heart as from a fount overflowing with mercy" (*Diary* #367).

"I desire trust from My creatures. Encourage souls to place great trust in My fathomless mercy. Let the weak, sinful soul have no fear to approach Me, for even if it had more sins than there are grains of sand in the world, all would be drowned in the unmeasurable depths of My mercy" (*Diary* #1059).

"Tell all people, My daughter, that I am Love and Mercy itself. When a soul approaches Me with trust, I fill it with such an abundance of graces that it cannot contain them within itself, but radiates them to other souls" (*Diary* #1074).

"My daughter, write that the greater the misery of a soul, the greater its right to My mercy; urge all souls to trust in the unfathomable abyss of My mercy, because I want to save them all" (*Diary* #1182).

Reflect, today, upon God's infinite and unfathomable Mercy. The Divine Mercy is especially for those who struggle with sin. Jesus says, "The greater the sinner, the greater the right he has to My mercy" (*Diary* #723). The Divine Mercy is the very tenderness and compassion of God. Run to Him, trust in Him, open your soul to Him and allow Him to pour forth an ocean of Mercy on this holy day.

Most Merciful Lord, I desire to receive the superabundance of Your Mercy poured forth from Heaven today. Please open my heart so that I will turn to You in my need. I am a sinner, dear Lord, but for that reason I am in most need of You in my life. Help me to trust in You with all my might. Jesus, I do trust in You!

Faith Formation

Walking With Purpose—Women's Bible Study

Tuesday Mornings at 9:30 AM; Evenings at 6:30 PM

Come as you are. You are welcome here. Make authentic connections with other women. Refuel and refresh. Learn more about God!

Become a true , dynamic disciple of Jesus Christ.

Passionate Discipleship is a Bible study focused on equipping women to know Christ and to make Him known. Study 2 Timothy verse by verse as we immerse ourselves in Paul's last and deeply personal letter to his beloved friend and mentee, Timothy.

walking with purpose

Come learn how to live as disciples of Christ, living with Him as the center of our lives and entrusting this message to others who can pass it on as well.

Meetings take place every Tuesday on the 2nd Floor Common Room in the parish rectory. For questions and more info, please contact Marianne at mariannek36@yahoo.com

St. Alphonsus Men's Group

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

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

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



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

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



Children's Liturgy of the Word

Children ages 4-7 are invited to join us during the 9 AM Sunday Mass for Children's Liturgy of the Word! The children will hear the Word of God proclaimed in a way that they can understand, enter into prayer, and learn how to actively participate in the Mass! No sign up required. Children will be called up to the front of the Church near the beginning of Mass for a blessing, and Parents may accompany shy/hesitant children to make them feel more comfortable. **Upcoming CLOW Dates are May 4th & June 1st.** Questions? Contact Emily at eember@stalphonsuschicago.church

Religious Education Registration—Coming Soon!



Keep your eyes peeled! Registration for Religious Education opens this Spring! Classes will be open for enrollment for Grades 1-8. Our program is held on Tuesday Evenings (Sept. thru May) from 6:15 PM-7:30 PM.

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

Paint and Sip Event— Thursday, May 1



We invite you to join us for an evening of painting the Chicago skyline to support the essential work of Catholic Charities! You will have the opportunity to learn more about Catholic Charities' programs and services while joining in fellowship.

Thursday, May 1 6:30 PM— 8:30 PM
St. Alphonsus Festival Hall

Event is BYOB. Snacks and painting materials will be provided. Tickets are $40 and can be purchased at bidpal.net/2025paintandsip

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago partners with mission-driven people and organizations across Cook and Lake counties to witness a message of mercy and hope to a world in need. We are called to serve and accompany anyone, regardless of their faith, gender, race, or ethnicity.

May Calendar

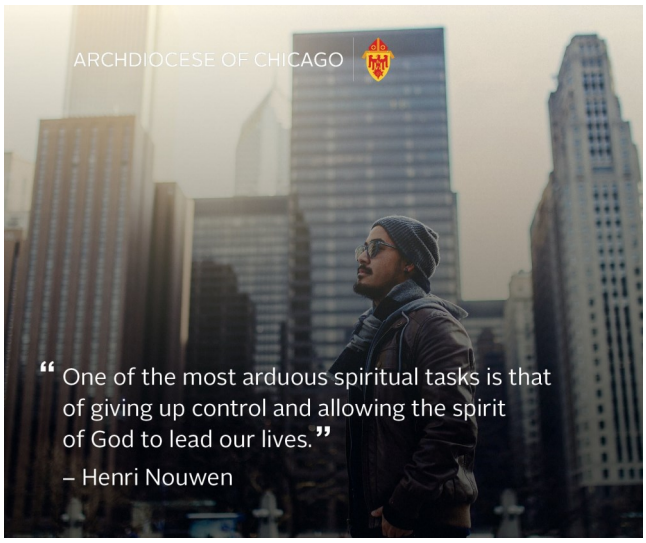
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 **6:30 PM** Women's Faith Group **7:00 PM** Men's Faith Group **7:00 PM** St. Alphonsus SALT Team Meeting **7:00 PM** Catholic Charities Paint & Sip	**2** **5:00 PM** Legion of Mary	**3** **12:30 PM** First Communion Mass (Religious Ed)
4 9 AM Family Mass w/ Children's Choir Children's Liturgy of the Word Holy Land Artifacts Sale After Masses **1:30 PM** First Communion Mass (AACA) **7:00 PM** Big Book AA Meeting	**5** **8:30 AM** AA Daily Reflections Group **5:30 PM** Legion of Mary (Espanol) **7:00 PM** Baptismal Prep Class **7:30 PM** Knights of Columbus Meeting	**6** **9:30 AM** Walking With Purpose **6:00 PM** Boy Scouts Troop 889 **6:15 PM** Religious Education **6:30 PM** Walking With Purpose **7:00 PM** Philosophy Forum	**7** **1:45 PM** Girl Scouts Troop **6:30 PM** Young Adult Book Club **8:00 PM** CL School of Community Meeting **8:15 PM** Men's Vespers	**8** **8:00 AM** AACA Ducky Derby **3:30 PM** Cub Scouts— Wolf Den 2nd **6:30 PM** Women's Faith Group **7:00 PM** Men's Faith Group **7:00 PM** Marriage Information Meeting	**9** **8:00 AM** AACA Ducky Derby **9:00 AM** ACTC Directors Day of Reflection **5:00 PM** Legion of Mary	**10**
11 Generation to Generation Campaign Weekend Mother's Day World Day of Prayer for Vocations **7:00 PM** Big Book AA Meeting	**12** **8:30 AM** AA Daily Reflections Group **5:30 PM** Cub Scouts— Tiger Den **5:30 PM** Legion of Mary (Espanol)	**13** **9:30 AM** Walking With Purpose **6:00 PM** Boy Scouts Troop 889 **6:15 PM** Religious Education **6:30 PM** Walking With Purpose **7:00 PM** Philosophy Forum	**14** **1:45 PM** Brownie Scouts- 3rd **6:30 PM** Young Adult Book Club **8:00 PM** CL School of Community Meeting **8:15 PM** Men's Vespers	**15** **4:15 PM** Girl Scout Bridge Ceremony **5:15 PM** Leonine Forum Chicago **6:30 PM** Women's Faith Group **7:00 PM** Men's Faith Group	**16** **5:00 PM** Legion of Mary **7:30 PM** Mozart's *Requiem* Sacred Music Concert	**17** **10:00 AM** Knights of Columbus Food Pantry Drive in Parking Lot

Building Community

Jesus didn't say, "Alright, now everybody listen to my words but then do your own thing and don't get in each other's way". He assembled a community, gave it a mission and leaders to guide it. A strong community has many aspects, including teaching imperfect people to resolve conflicts. A strong community:

- Prays for and With You
- Celebrates Spiritual Milestones with You
- Guides Your Conscience on Important Personal and Social Issues
- Accompanies You on Your Faith Journey
- Benefits from your Gifts and Contributions
- Gives you Opportunities to Step into Leadership Roles
- Teaches You

Wherever you are on your faith journey, God Bless You!



May Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
18 Little Sisters of the Poor Appeal at all Masses **6:00 PM** YAM Board Meeting **7:00 PM** Big Book AA Meeting	**19** **8:30 AM** AA Daily Reflections Group **5:30 PM** Legion of Mary (Espanol)	**20** Religious Education — May Crowning/ Last Day of RE **9:30 AM** Walking With Purpose **3:00 PM** Cub Scouts **6:30 PM** Boy Scouts Troop 889 **6:30 PM** Walking With Purpose **7:00 PM** Philosophy Forum	**21** **4:00 PM** Cub Scouts Blue & Gold Ceremony **6:00 PM** AACA Arts Together **6:30 PM** Young Adult Book Club **8:00 PM** CL School of Community Meeting **8:15 PM** Men's Vespers	**22** **6:30 PM** Women's Faith Group **7:00 PM** Men's Faith Group	**23** AACA No School **5:00 PM** Legion of Mary	**24**
25 **7:00 PM** Big Book AA Meeting	**26** Memorial Day— AACA & Rectory Closed	**27** **9:30 AM** Walking With Purpose **3:00 PM** Cub Scouts **6:00 PM** AACA Graduation Dinner Tailgate **6:30 PM** Boy Scouts Troop 889 **6:30 PM** Walking With Purpose **7:00 PM** Philosophy Forum **7:30 PM** Finance Council Meeting	**28** **8:30 AM** AACA Pin Day Mass **1:45 PM** Daisy Scouts—1st **6:30 PM** Young Adult Book Club **8:00 PM** CL School of Community Meeting **8:15 PM** Men's Vespers	**29** AACA 8th Grade Graduation in Church at 6 PM **8:00 AM** Blessings in a Backpack **6:30 PM** Women's Faith Group **7:00 PM** Men's Faith Group	**30** Erstesommer-bratfest in Parking Lot **5:00 PM** Legion of Mary **7:30 PM** Praise and Adoration	**31** **6:00 PM** Our Cluster Youth Ministry Visitor Mass

How to Pray: The Rosary

"The Rosary is a prayer that always accompanies me; it is also the prayer of the ordinary people and the saints ... it is a prayer from my heart."

POPE FRANCIS

The Rosary is a meditative prayer comprised of five decades. In this devotion, we walk with Mary and Jesus through the Joyful, Sorrowful, Luminous, and Glorious Mysteries of Christ's life to meditate on God's love for us.

The Church traditionally prays certain mysteries on certain days of the week, as follows:

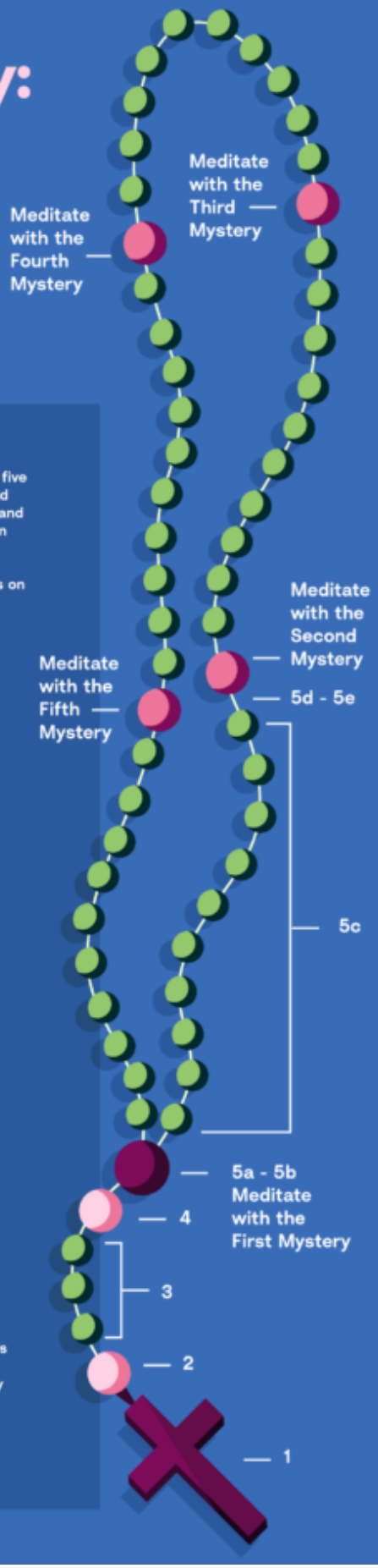
MON	TUES	WED
Joyful	Sorrowful	Glorious

THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
Luminous	Sorrowful	Joyful	Glorious

STEPS TO PRAYER USING ROSARY BEADS

1. On the crucifix - Pray the Apostles' Creed
2. On the first bead - Say an Our Father
3. Next three beads - Say a Hail Mary
4. Pray a Glory Be
5. Pray the first decade
    - 5a. Announce the mystery
    - 5b. Large bead - Pray an Our Father
    - 5c. 10 small beads - Say 10 Hail Marys
    - 5d. After each decade - Say a Glory Be
    - 5e. Pray the Fatima Prayer

    O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell; lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who have most need of your mercy.
6. Repeat this pattern for the remaining decades
7. After the 5 decades, conclude with "Hail, Holy Queen."
8. Close with prayer and the Sign of the Cross.



Why Register at a Parish?

- It is a **sign of commitment and support to the life of a parish community and indicates willingness to belong to our parish family.**
- **Our Parish Staff will have the basic information needed to communicate with individual families, especially in times of emergency.**
- **Every Catholic needs to have their sacramental information documented. Copies of one's Baptismal, First Communion, and Marriage records are required at various times in our life.**
- **Families that enroll their children in our Parish School or Religious Education program should be registered and active in the parish, especially if they intend to have their children receive the Sacraments.**
- **Families are able to receive important information about the parish that often comes through direct mailing.**
- **For Godparents, it is required to provide information stating active parish registration, practice of faith and ongoing support to the overall life of the parish.**



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
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