Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

JANUARY 15, 2023: SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." (Jn 1:29)

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Mass Schedule

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

Alphonsus Academy & Center For the Arts

Friday	8:30 AM or as announced

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday	6:30—7:30 PM

Confessions

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

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

Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help

Wednesday:	5:50 PM

Worship

This Week's Readings

Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34
Monday: Heb 5:1-10/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4/Mk 2:18-22
Tuesday: Heb 6:10-20/Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9 and 10c/Mk 2:23-28
Wednesday: Heb 7:1-3, 15-17/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4/Mk 3:1-6
Thursday: Heb 7:25—8:6/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17/Mk 3:7-12
Friday: Heb 8:6-13/Ps 85:8 and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Mk 3:13-19
Saturday: Heb 9:2-3, 11-14/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9/Mk 3:20-21
Next Sunday: Is 8:23—9:3/Ps 27:1,4, 13-14 (1a)/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

Please Pray for the Sick

Dorothy Bonds
Jamie Wallett
Sandra Wilson
Monica Alexis Rios
Margaret Nichols
Maria Eisler
Tessa Sergent
Carolina Goldie
Diane Mareci
Fidel Mercado Chavez
Emilia Hurtado
Bernard Zapp
Rachel Schopp
Mike Madigan
David Birks
Celeste Soult
Carol Reckwerdt
Magdalena Gonzalez
Michael Aldape
Jane Christensen
William Ahearn
Janet Horvat
Frank G. Bauer
Al Corleone
Mary Perisin
Cheryl Nester-Detweiler
Marla Alicea
Leon Wink
Judy Fredrickson
Tracy Duda
Jacob Duda
Dorothy O'Brien

Giving Update

Weekly Budget Amount: $15,218

Offertory for 1/8: $14,546

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

At Rest in the Peace of Christ

Cardinal George Pell

Welcome to the Parish!

Elisabeth and Brandon Banner
Theresa and Jonathon Scotto
Megan Perez
Nina Haley
Erin McGarel
Kayla Auletto and Aaron Letzeiser Aidan
Rachel Bazan
Blanca Salazar
Cody Strolia
Taylor and Robert Shaffer Ellis
Amy and Andrew Van Ryzin Evan
Dominick Moran
Kelly and Matt Bonovich Vinny Theodora

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.

Wednesday Evening Men's Vespers
All men in the parish are invited to pray with us every Wednesday evening from 8:00-9 PM in the sanctuary.



MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, January 15
9:00 AM +David A. Dufek
11:00 AM +Felix Espinoza Jr.
12:30 PM The People of St. Alphonsus
5:00 PM +Robert Nimietz

Monday, January 16
8:30 AM +Germaine and William Kovarik

Tuesday, January 17
8:30 AM +Peter Salvino

Wednesday, January 18
6:00 PM +Emily Mola

Thursday, January 19
8:30 AM Mariana Gramajo (Healing and Blessing)

Friday, January 20
8:30 AM Lirdan Gramajo (Healing and Blessing)

Sunday, January 21
9:00 AM +David A. Dufek
+Veronika Stankeviciene
11:00 AM +Marcus Verg
12:30 PM The People of St. Alphonsus
5:00 PM +Emma Negele
+Senzi and Josef Mueller

Parish News and Events

Friends Through Faith Brunch



Do you know the names of the familiar faces you see each week at Mass? Do you feel you're missing a sense of community after leaving Church?

Our Catholic tradition teaches that human beings grow and achieve fulfillment in community. Pope Francis says, *"No one saves oneself. The community is essential."* Our newly formed Friends thru Faith Adult Social Group hopes to foster these essential faith-filled connections and build the St. Alphonsus community through fellowship and fun starting with brunch--breakfast, cocktails, coffee, and tea--on **Sunday, January 29th following the 11 AM Mass**. Connecting with other parishioners can lead to lasting friendships, fruitful ministries, or even just a friendly wave and smile the next time you attend Mass.

For more information or to help with this event and to RSVP, please contact Amy Keefner, amykeefner@gmail.com

Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion



Our parish is in need of faithful Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion. EMHC's should be fully initiated and practicing Catholics having received baptism, confirmation, and first Eucharist. If you would like to volunteer for this important ministry at Mass, please contact Harvey Levin, harveylevin@rcn.com

Knights of Columbus News

FEB 24-25, - St. Alphonsus Parish Men's OVERNIGHT RETREAT led by Fr. Patrick Gorman at Joseph & Mary Retreat House, University St. Mary of the Lake Seminary, Mundelein, IL; retreat will begin about 8 PM FRI evening and finish mid-afternoon on SAT, permitting return back home by SAT evening; will include Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Confession, talk(s), rest, leisure time to walk around the lake. Fee of $128 includes dinner (available for late arrivals), one night's stay in individual room, breakfast & lunch. Please sign up at tinyurl.com/FEB-24-MENS-RETREAT
Open to Men's Club, Parishioners, YAM, AACA Dads & Friends-all men are welcome!

Two New Eagle Scouts at Troop 889!



On December 22, Troop 889 held the "Court of Honor" ceremony awarding the rank of Eagle Scout to Sam Brusstar and Matt Hansen. Matt completed all his requirements in 2021, and Sam completed all the requirements in September 2022. This ceremony awards them the Eagle Scout medal and lets us celebrate what Scouting has meant to them, while urging them to continue their good citizenship for life. Congratulations to Sam and Matt!

Tuesday Evening Philosophy Group



Join us on Tuesdays for weekly philosophy discussions and digging deeper into the greatest thinkers of all time. Get in touch with our Philosophy group coordinator Evan at esadasiv@alumni.nd.edu for more information.

Recovery Programs at St. Alphonsus

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



"In the sacrament of the altar, the Lord meets us, men and women created in God's image and likeness, and becomes our companion along the way. In this sacrament, the Lord truly becomes food for us, to satisfy our hunger for truth and freedom. Since only the truth can make us free, Christ becomes for us the food of truth. . . . The Lord Jesus, "the way, and the truth, and the life", speaks to our thirsting, pilgrim hearts, our hearts yearning for the source of life, our hearts longing for truth. Jesus Christ is the Truth in person, drawing the world to himself." -Pope Benedict XVI

Faith Formation

Religious Education at St. Alphonsus



Our Religious Education program is a ministry to support children & families in deeper formation of our Catholic faith! We currently serve children in grades 1st - 8th. Two consecutive years of enrollment is required to participate in First Communion and Confirmation! Our program relies on the time & talents of volunteer parishioners to serve as catechists to our students. **We are currently looking for an additional 2nd grade catechist(s) to serve January - May 2023!** If you have any questions, please reach out to: ecook@stalphonsuschicago.church

Are You Ready to Become Catholic?

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

This class is offered for adults in three situations:
1. Un-baptized adults who desire to be baptized in the Catholic Church.
2. Baptized non-Catholic Christians who desire to be formally admitted into communion with the Catholic Church.
3. Baptized Catholics who have not yet been confirmed and desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Adult baptism (and if applicable, Confirmation and First Holy Communion) takes place at the Easter Vigil (Evening before Easter Sunday). It is one of the highest celebrations in the Catholic Church's liturgical year!

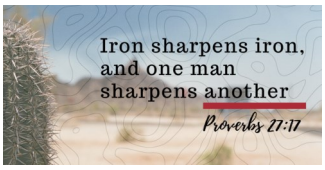
If you or someone you know is interested in taking the class, please contact our pastoral associate, Brooks Robinson at brobinson@stalphonsuschicago.church

Communio: A Men's Prayer Group

Men of the parish are invited to attend the Communio prayer group each Wednesday at 8 PM in the rectory chapel (come to the rectory side door at the southwest corner of the building at 7:55). It's a great way to take your spiritual life a step further as we enrich our knowledge of the faith, encourage each other in life's challenges, and grow in fortitude together. We chant the Liturgy of the Hours, share reflections on the upcoming Sunday gospel reading, followed by a social with refreshments, fellowship, and conversation.
All men of the parish are invited. For questions or more info, contact James Morrow, jemseoul@hotmail.com

St. Alphonsus Men's Group

Thursday Evenings



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

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

We meet every Thursday night at 7 PM in the rectory. Food and drinks provided. All men are welcome, with most men being in their 20s and 30s. Access can be gained at the west facing rectory door in the parking lot. For questions or more information, contact Matt Duff at mduff527@gmail.com.

Safe Families For Children



Hallelujah! Another successful Safe Families hosting complete by the St. Alphonsus community! One of our parish host families LOVED hosting this little guy for a week.

THANK YOU to everyone who helped make this hosting possible (babysitters, donations to the supply closet, encouragement, prayers, and extra patience during mass).

Favorite book: The Cat in the Hat
Favorite food: pickles
Favorite activity: building forts

Please pray for this little guy and his hard-working mom, that this next transition time goes smoothly and that they always receive their daily bread. For more info about Safe Families for Children, contact us at safefamiliesstals@gmail.com



Misa de Señor de Esquipulas

Señor de Esquipulas Mass Sunday January 15 at 12:30 PM



The 12:30 PM Mass this Sunday Jan 15 is a grand liturgical celebration to honor our Lord in a way that is particular to the people of Guatemala, yet also bears relevance for all of us, who, by virtue of their baptismal call, follow the way of Jesus. Therefore the invitation to participate is extended to all the Christian faithful.

The celebration of Señor de Esquipulas, a cultural devotion to the Black Christ of Esquipulas, therefore invites all the Christian faithful to participate, since we are all called to walk in the way of the Lord Jesus. Esquipulas is a city in Guatemala, and in 1594 an artist from Portugal carved a large crucifix there to help foster devotion among the natives, who found Jesus and the Catholic faith more relatable because of the dark color of the cross. (You may have seen the replica of the cross which resides in the shrine next to the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.) Down through the centuries, devotion to this image of our Lord has grown in Central America. The Cross is carried in processions each January, and it has become a powerful symbol offering hope, peace and justice to so many. There will be a fiesta in the Festival Hall after the Mass. All are invited!

Support the Collection for the Church in Latin America!



Next week we will take up the Collection for the Church in Latin America. For many in Latin America and the Caribbean, a rising secular culture, difficult rural terrain, and a shortage of ministers all present obstacles to practicing the faith. Your support for the collection provides lay leadership training, catechesis, priestly and religious formation, and other programs to share our Catholic faith with those who long to hear the Good News of Christ. To learn more about how your gifts make a difference, visit www.usccb.org/latin-america

La próxima semana realizaremos la Colecta para la Iglesia en América Latina. Para muchos en América Latina y el Caribe, una creciente cultura secular, unos terrenos rurales difíciles y una escasez de ministros, son obstáculos para practicar la fe. Su apoyo a la colecta proporciona capacitación para el liderazgo laico, la catequesis, la formación para sacerdotes y religiosos y ostros programas para compartir nuestra fe católica con aquellos que anhelan escuchar la Buena Nueva de Cristo. Para informarse más sobre cómo sus donativos hacen una differenia, visiten www.usccb.org/latin-america

Stewardship—First Fruits

FIRST FRUITS
time talent treasure

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

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

Sign up at *www.givecentral.org/location/39*

Walking With Purpose

Women's Group at St. Alphonsus—
Tuesday mornings and evenings 9:30-11 AM or 6:30-8 PM



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

We live in a self-centered culture that all too often leaves us feeling empty and dissatisfied. A fuller view of God and His glory is the perfect antidote—find this during our journey through the **Beholding Your King** Bible study.

We'll study King David, select psalms, the temple, and many Old Testament prophets and see the ways in which they all point to the coming King of Kings, Jesus Christ. This Nine-Lesson Bible study is the second part of a two -part series and is ideally completed after *Beholding His Glory*.

**** Walking With Purpose is taking a break for winter. The new Beholding Your King bible studies will start up again on Tuesday February 7** Questions? Contact Susan Combes at suecombes@hotmail.com

St. Alphonsus Baptism

Choosing A Baptism Date - Most baptisms at St. Alphonsus are celebrated at 2:00 PM on Sundays. To request a date, please complete the Baptism Request form on our website (one form per child).

If your child is age 7 or older, please contact Erica Cook (ecook@stalphonsuschicago.church) for religious education classes.

Preparing For Baptism - First time parents are required to take our baptismal prep class. We hold this class once a month via Zoom, please rsvp in advance. Godparents are welcome to attend class at St. Alphonsus or at their local parish.

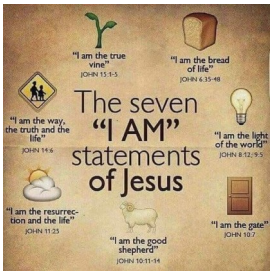
If you have already had a child baptized at St. Alphonsus, you need not attend the preparation session again, unless you would like to.

Godparent requirements - It is required to have at least one Catholic godparent who is confirmed and over the age of 16. Godparents are typically one male and one female. The maximum number of Godparents is two.

Contact **Kaitlin Holyk** for questions and inquiries.
weddings@stalphonsuschicago.church
773.525.0709

Time, Talent, Treasure

To carry out our mission that God has graciously invited us to participate in, we must be stewards of the temporal goods. By giving up our time, talent, and treasure, we are able to respond to the call of our why in our "whats" and "hows." This means, we baptize, we see others face-to-face, we draw in, we invite in, we create spaces of deep hospitality that we are able to accompany others as they seek to discover how God has been already present to them. In other words, as Henri J.M. Nouwen reminds us in, *A Spirituality of Fundraising*, stewardship, fundraising, and generosity are all concrete ways we help the Kingdom of God come about. We invite you to join us in responding to the vocational call of our shared baptism. Please go to https://tinyurl.com/stalphonsusttt and consider the ways in which you may be generous with your time, talent, and treasure for the sake of the Kingdom of God and the mission with St. Alphonsus.



Young Adult Ministry

BE SOCIAL
BE SPIRITUAL
BE CHARITABLE
BE INTELLECTUAL
BE CATHOLIC

The Young Adult Ministry (YAM) is one of St. Alphonsus' most active parish groups! YAM is led by a volunteer board and is guided by Pastoral Associate, Brooks Robinson. Stated simply, the ministry's mission is to help one another participate in Christ's mission, that we, as young adult Catholics, may be effective disciples, evangelists, and agents of charity in all that we do. YAM provides many social, intellectual, service, and spiritual opportunities for growth. Members range in age from 21-39 years old.

Our YAM group is made up of 4 main pillars, Spiritual, Intellectual, Service, and Social.

Visit the St. Alphonsus YAM Facebook page, *www.facebook.com/AlphonsusYoungAdult* or contact the YAM board at *stalphonsusyam@gmail.com*

YAM Town Hall

Please join us **this Sunday January 15th** after the 5 PM Mass in St. Al's Rectory Common Room (2nd Floor of Rectory) for our Town Hall Event. This is an event we are restarting for this year! Please bring any questions or suggestions you have to help us plan future St' Al's YAM events. Our YAM Board will be present at this event to help answer any questions you might have and take down your suggestions for future events in a Town Hall setting.

Plus learn how to get involved in our small groups and Spiritual, Social, Service and Intellectual pillars.
We will provide free soda, water, beer and wine along with having some snacks!
We look forward to seeing you at our event! Whether you're a YAM regular or newcomer, all are welcome!
If you have any questions about this event, please feel free to email Reilly Cosgrove or Matt Rebernick at stalsyamsocial@gmail.com

Catholicism, Ourselves, and Others: A Faith-Based Perspective on Mental Health



Next Saturday, January 21, our St. Alphonsus YAM will be hosting Julia Hogan for day retreat. Julia is a licensed therapist, author, and speaker (www.juliamariehogan.com). She will be discussing mental health, our faith lives, and living a healthy and balanced life.

Julia has spoken at the SEEK retreat, Notre Dame, Deloitte, and many other places and we are excited to have her! The day will be filled with talks, small group discussions, adoration, music, and more!

Sign up online at www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/36002
Registration is $60. Walk ins are welcome!

Spirituality and Spirits: The Eucharist and Intimacy



Tuesday January 24 from 6:30–8:30 PM in the Festival Hall, Sr. Jess Lambert, FE will help us dive into the profound intimacy that the Lord desires for us in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. It is an intimacy that can only be experienced when we let down our masks and walls such that Jesus in the Eucharist can truly speak to us and we can truly encounter Him.

Drinks and light appetizers provided. Freewill offerings accepted. We hope to see everyone for this engaging discussion!

9 Days for Life— Jan. 19-27

Join thousands of Catholics nationwide in the annual Respect Life novena, 9 Days for Life, Thursday, January 19 – Friday, January 27.
Get daily intentions, brief reflections, and more.
Sign up at 9daysforlife.com!

The National March for Life is January 20 in Washington, D.C. Speakers include *The Chosen* actor Jonathan Roumie, former NFL coach Tony Dungy and more. You can view the livestream on the March for Life site, www.marchforlife.org/national-march-for-life/



Faith In Action

10 Tips for Your Plan of Life and Putting Into Practice

- **Breathe.** Remember, it's his plan before it's ever yours. The Lord Jesus Christ is the sole mediator of salvation. He has no strict need for our assistance. If he chooses to employ our efforts and our plans, it's because he is good; it's because he wants to give us the opportunity to share in his divine life even more. His sovereignty and his providence have to remain always in focus. A plan of life is first a work of the Lord Jesus who seeks to save us from mediocrity.
- **Don't take yourself too seriously**. The general tendency in life is to take things more and more seriously. And yet, the weight of the world can't be allowed to crush your childlike spirit. As G.K. Chesterton writes of the angels, "[They] can fly because they can take themselves lightly." We should strive for a similar levity. As St. John XXIII said to the Lord each night before putting his head on the pillow, "It's your Church, Lord. You save it." So too we can say, "It's your plan, Lord. You manage it."
- **Be prepared for interruptions**. Whether it's a traffic jam or an urgent request from a friend, things are going to happen that you didn't foresee. You might be tempted to see these moments as a waste. Don't fret. What matters is that you seek the Lord. So if you're on your way to the chapel and a homeless man asks you for money, it's good to stop, offer something to eat, and have a quick exchange, even if it may cut into your prayer time. As St. Vincent de Paul preached, "Do not become upset or feel guilty because you interrupted your prayer to serve the poor. God is not neglected if you leave him for such service. One of God's works is merely interrupted so that another can be carried out." You are made for more than efficiency. You are made for love.
- **Don't overplan**. Be modest in your expectations. There's not much sense in being overly ambitious at the beginning only to be terribly frustrated at the end. I used to bring a stack of books with me whenever I traveled, perhaps for fear that I'd read them all and then not have anything to do. I never did, not even close. Now, I bring two or three. If I finish them, I can think about Jesus or call a friend.
- **Be open to adjusting the plan**. A plan of life is also something that you want to revisit in prayer and in conversation. Revise at times in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, or vet it with a close friend or regular confessor. For the most part, a plan of life is a fixed thing, but certain seasons of life will require you to adjust. The plan is meant to orient your journey toward its destination. Along the way, there are bound to be twists and turns. Take them in stride.



- **Leave room for spontaneity**. As we say, when we think of our time as if it were wholly ours, we can become strangely obsessive and possessive. Remember that you are the steward of your time, not its master. Who knows what awaits you in the hours ahead? That's part of the excitement. So, permit some space for the spontaneous. Certainly, as you get older, you'll get set in your ways, but the need for the spontaneous abides. You should have time to say "Yes!" to a random invitation.
- **Leave room for rest**. St. John the Evangelist taught that the bow can't stay strung all the time. If it does, it loses its zing. We all need leisure, some kind of contemplative repose. You should have time to think. So too, you should have time to do nothing. The Lord doesn't ask you to optimize your output or to sacrifice your humanity on the altar of an empty inbox. So, if you have a snow day, take the snow day. Cancellations don't need to be turned immediately into more work. Also, sleep. It's often the difference between enjoying life and not. (By the way, it's good to enjoy life.) Mothers, when the kids are napping, you don't have to fold laundry. You can nap with them. You'll never catch up, and that's fine. You have all of eternity for getting caught up.
- **Leave room for the other**. Don't schedule others out of your life. Sure, others are bound to place demands and throw a wrench in all your plans, but they are the greatest richness imaginable. Human life isn't about maximizing pleasure and minimizing pain. It's about finding those with whom you want to share your love, and then sharing it. I once walked the Camino with the intention of keeping up with my work along the way. It was a disaster. Several days in, I decided to shift gears and chat with the people I met. It was a revelation. I'm happy to call a few of them friends.
- **Don't compare**. Or, if you do compare, make healthy comparisons. Your plan of life is a personal response to God's call. There are certain objectively good things that you should take into consideration, but you still have to appropriate those goods as your own.

Continued on page 9

You are called to live this life, with these people, in this time and this place. Your plan of life isn't intended for an ideally holy existence. It's intended for your holy existence. We are all seeking to follow the Lord Jesus. Different Christians propose different ways of doing so. A plan of life should represent your way of following Jesus adapted to your life in the here and now.

- **Don't judge yourself too harshly**. You cannot think of every poorly-used minute as if it were a failure or sin. Don't hyper-moralize your spiritual task completion. You are not a robot. You are a child of God. Treat yourself with the mercy proper to a member of his household.

Ultimately, the Lord has placed your life in your hands. He calls you to himself, and he is excited to see how you will respond. A rule of life is meant to make our purpose clear so that we have an easier time pursuing it. Rather than having to think through my life every minute of every day, I can consult the plan that I've discerned and try to put it into practice.

All discipleship requires discipline. A plan of life provides just such a discipline that helps us, the students, to remain faithful in the school of the master. At root, the discipline of a plan of life is in service of freedom. *"For freedom Christ set us free; so stand firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery" (Gal 5:1)*. So while a plan may feel, at times, like a kind of slavery, remember that it is a sweet slavery that begets a glorious freedom. "*Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light" (Mt 11:29-30).*



Helpful Household Hints by Harvey Levin

Banana Pancakes

This is a great way to get fruit into the kids. They are delicious and quite simple. You may think that the recipe needs flour but it does not. These are also gluten free.
1 ripe banana
2 large eggs, lightly beaten
Butter or oil, for cooking

Not quite a Jeremy Bearimy....

Gospel Meditation



When I was a kid, I remember the priest at Mass announcing, "The Lamb of God!" Frankly, it struck me as nonsense. I thought: Why in the world does God have a lamb? And where is this lamb?

John the Baptist sees Jesus coming toward him and announces, "Behold the lamb of God." His Jewish listeners knew what he meant. God's lamb is the thing that is sacrificed at the Jewish Passover and consumed by the participants. For almost a thousand years, lambs were ritually slaughtered and eaten in Jerusalem at Passover. The lamb meant sacrifice, freedom from sin, and communion with God. The Baptist is saying in effect, "This man will be ritually sacrificed and consumed so that God's people may be free from sin and united to God."

It's crucial to relate to Jesus as a friend, brother, teacher, and Lord of our lives. But we should also learn to interact with Him as our lamb of God. That means we intentionally place on him our sins, sadness's, and hopes, and offer him to God. Then we consume him to make us free. This is what we do at every Mass. That's why he is the Lamb of God.

— Father John Muir

Stewardship Reflection

"Now the Lord has spoken who formed me as his servant from the womb..."Isaiah 49:5

God have given each of us different gifts. In order for God's plan to work, you have to do what God is calling you to do and I have to do what God is calling me to do. And guess what? God has given each of us a different plan! So, stop comparing yourself to others. Don't let envy and jealousy enter your life. Be thankful for the gifts God has given you and become the saint that God is calling you to be.

Science, Science Fiction, and God

A Winter Conference for High School Students

January 21st
10am - 3:30pm
University of St. Mary of the Lake

- Join with hundreds of other teens from Chicagoland to explore Science, Art, and Faith
- Particiapte in "lightning round" talks that examine questions like:
  - If we discover aliens, should we baptize them?
  - Is Merlin a Scientist and is Luke Skywalker a Saint?
- Engage directly with speakers during "Office Hours"
- Learn the science behind prayer and enter into Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

More Information and Registration at:
Newmanforum.org/conferences



The Lumen Christi Institute
for Catholic Thought

Cosponsored by the University of St. Mary of the lake, Mundelein; the Archdiocese of Chicago Vocations Office; the McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame; and the Society of Catholic Scientists

Contact

Sacramental Information

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

How to Offer a Mass Intention

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

www.stalphonsuschicago.org/marriage

St. Alphonsus Social Media

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

Directory

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

Parish Office Hours:
9:00 AM— 5:00 PM Mon, Wed, Fri
9:00 AM— 7:30 PM Tue, Thurs

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

School Office Hours:
8:00 AM– 3:00 PM

Staff

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

School Staff
Gerit McAllister, Principal
Angela Kladis, Assistant Principal
Mary Bodlak, Director of Admissions
Caroline Jordan, Advancement Director
Kim Wallett, Secretary
Connie Del Toral, Administrative Assistant