Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

MARCH 23, 2025: THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



3rd Sunday OF LENT

"He said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down.'" - Lk 13:7a

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*

This Friday at 6:30 PM!

ST. ALPHONSUS KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
FISH FRYDAY
COUNCIL 15158 CHICAGO IL

FORMED— Just Press Play!

St. Alphonsus is dedicated to YOUR spiritual formation. We encourage our faithful to check out FORMED, a premier online platform filled with over 4,000 Catholic studies, movies, audio dramas, talks, e-books, and even cartoons for our children. Best of all, this material is FREE to you. You can get started by clicking on the Formed icon on the front page of our website, www.stalphonsuschicago.org

Worship



This Week's Readings

Sunday: Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11 (8a)/1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/Lk 13:1-9
Scrutiny: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42
Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15b/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4/Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/Mt 5:17-19
Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 11:14-23
Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17/Mk 12:28-34
Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab/Lk 18:9-14
Next Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 (9a)/2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Scrutiny: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (1)/Eph 5:8-14/

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
Gary Masterson
Ramona Colon
Michelle Renee Moya
Vera Wilkinson
Ernest Nora
Albert Meier

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

Love. Grow. Serve.

At Rest in the Peace of Christ

Kelly Novit
Crusita Dounias
Kali Maya Ferris

WEDDINGS

Claudia Rojas and Enrique Alday

Tessa Boukal and Christopher Sousa-Nieves

Wedding Banns

II. Alan Garcia & Jennifer Garcia

Welcome Our Recently Baptized

Robbie Kenneth Wright
Yamalia Valentalia Escalona

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, March 23
9:00 AM Rosi Graham (Birthday Blessings)
11:00 AM +Ed & Mary Gobat
12:30 PM +Julita Luciano y Fidel Medina
5:00 PM The People of St. Alphonsus

Monday, March 24
8:30 AM +Mary McGrath

Tuesday, March 25
8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus

Wednesday, March 26
6:00 PM +Eloisa Sotelo

Thursday, March 27
8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus

Friday, March 28
8:30 AM +John P. Huffman

Saturday, March 29
8:30 AM Alex Marsalek (Birthday Blessings)

Sunday, March 30
9:00 AM Carolyn Marsalek (Birthday Blessings)
11:00 AM +Eileen Kruse
12:30 PM +Felipe Dominguez
+Arcadia Meza
5:00 PM The People of St. Alphonsus

News & Events

Holy Week & Easter Schedule



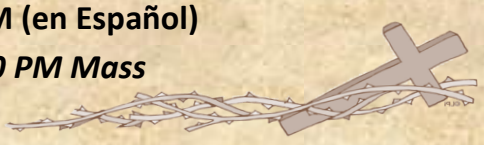
Palm Sunday, April 13
Mass times: Sunday 9:00, 11:00 AM,
12:30 PM (Spanish) and 5:00 PM

Holy Thursday, April 17
8:30 AM Liturgy of the Hours
7:00 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday, April 18
8:30 AM Liturgy of the Hours
3:00 PM Stations of the Cross
7:00 PM Good Friday Liturgy

Holy Saturday, April 19
12:00 PM Blessing of Easter Baskets
8:00 PM Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY, April 20
7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM,
1:00 PM (en Español)
No 5:00 PM Mass



Divine Mercy Sunday, April 27
Mass times: 9 AM, 11 AM, 12:30 PM (en Español)
and 5 PM
3:00 PM Holy Hour & Confessions

Lenten Fish Fry Dinner— Friday, March 28

Truly a highlight and staple of Lent, St. Alphonsus will be hosting our last Lenten Fish Fry event on Friday, March 28. These fun events are sponsored by our Knights of Columbus council to benefit charitable projects of the parish.

Dates and Time: March 28 6:30 PM—9:00 PM
Where: 1429 W. Wellington, Chicago in Festival Hall, beneath the church
Featuring the Trinity Irish Dance Troupe around 7 PM.

Cost: $20 for adults. $10 for kids 5-12. Free for 4 and under.

Tickets for March 28 here: www.givecentral.org/otp/42836
Children tickets for March 28: www.givecentral.org/otp/42878

Menu: Fried Beer Battered Cod, Macaroni and Cheese, Coleslaw
For Sale separately: Mini-cupcakes, Brownies and other treats
BYOB Alcohol only. Water and other non-alcoholic drinks will be available.
For the kids: Multiple kids games and prizes

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!! Sign-up to volunteer at our KoC Fish Fry website page, www.stalphonsusknights.com/fishfry/ **The links for tickets are also on our website.**

Contact Ray San Agustin, raysanagustin15158@gmail.com for sponsorships and questions!

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 March 30th, May 4th, June 1st.
Questions? Contact Emily at eember@stalphonsuschicago.church



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

Young Catholic Professionals Lenten Retreat at St. Alphonsus Saturday, March 29; 9 AM– 2:30 PM

YOUNG CATHOLIC PROFESSIONALS CHICAGO

Join YCP Chicago on Saturday, March 29th from 9 AM to 2:30 PM for a Lenten Retreat ***Celebrating The Eucharist, From Adoration to Action!*** This retreat is a half-day retreat (open to all young adults in their 20s and 30s), where young adults are encouraged to "look upon work with the eyes of faith" and see God's presence in their vocations and professional lives. The retreat will include talks, group discussion, and prayer, and it will be a time to reflect on the life of YCP's patron saint, St. Joseph the Worker. Sister Mary Ann Spanjers and Fr. Nathan Linton, priest for the Capuchin Franciscan Order, will be guest speakers.

This event will be FREE for YCP Members and $25 for non-members.
Register NOW at ycp.glueup.com/event/ycp-lenten-retreat-136423

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.

Lenten Teaching Mass— Saturday, April 5



Are you looking to learn more about the mass in this season of Lent? Have you ever wondered where certain parts of the mass come from and how the mass as it is now became to be? Have you ever wanted to ask why the priest adds water to the wine? What does the sign we make before the Gospel mean? Now is your chance to learn and ask questions! Our Pastor Father Steve will be hosting a Teaching/Explanatory Saturday Vigil mass.

The event begins at 5:00 PM and will begin with a brief explanation of the history of mass. We will then have a Saturday Vigil Mass, but Father Steve will stop at appropriate times during the mass to explain what he is doing and why. After mass, we will open the floor to questions you may have that were not covered. All questions are welcome. This is a great time for everyone to learn more about mass and I guarantee at least one other person is wondering the same thing you are! Depending on what time we finish, we will be having a social afterwards. This is a unique event, so be sure to come!

Coming to Confession During Lent



Lent is a traditional time to 'take stock' and discover the ways in which we can turn more fully toward the Lord and away from the sin that weighs us down. It is a great season in which to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

The sacrament is Reconciliation is regularly offered twice each week: Wednesday from 6:30 to 7:30 PM; Saturday from 11:00 to 11:30 AM. You may also contact the rectory office and schedule an appointment with a priest.

Divine Mercy Chaplet

The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed at 6:40 PM on Fridays before Stations. If you need a refresher on how to pray the chaplet, you can go to www.catholic-link.org/how-to-pray-the-divine-mercy-chaplet-your-step-by-step-visual-guide/

Stations of the Cross



Each Friday during Lent, the Stations of the Cross are prayed at 6 PM (en Espanol) and 7 PM (in English). This prayer allows us to meditate on Christ's Passion and death while walking the "Way of the Cross." It is a wonderful way to grow in one's knowledge of being a disciple of the Lord.



During the 5 PM Mass on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sunday's of Lent we will be celebrating the Scrutinies. These rites mark the final preparations for the Easter Vigil, where our elect and candidates receive their Sacraments of Initiation. The rites celebrate petition for a spirit of repentance, an understanding of sin, and are meant to uncover and heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; concurrently strengthening what is upright, strong, and good in their hearts. Finally, these rites complete the conversion of the elect while strengthening their resolve to hold fast to Christ and their love for God above all else.

Please continue to join us in praying for the elect and candidates as they prepare to receive their Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil!



Stewardship— First Fruits

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.

FIRST FRUITS
time talent treasure

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

Giving Update

Weekly Budget Amount: $15,192

Offertory for 3/16: $15,152

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

Left QR code for GiveCentral; Right QR code for Venmo

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

Stewardship Reflection

"He said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none.'" - Luke 13:7

We can all be like the barren fig tree at times. Do you cling to what you have, or do you generously share with others? How will you respond when God asks you what you have done with all the gifts He has given you? Remember, not only are we called to be generous; we are called to develop and nurture our gifts; and return them with increase. We are called to be generous with all of gifts; especially the one that means the most to you.

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

During Lent, many of us will want to cook fish.

The first thing to consider when cooking fish is to buy FRESH fish. There are four ways to determine if fish is fresh. If fish is whole, look at the eyes and the gills. The eyes should be round and bulging and not sunken. The gills should show bright red blood. Fresh blood is red. Old blood is black. Touch the fish. The skin should not feel slimy. The slime comes from older fish when the oils start seeping through the skin. The skin should feel like dry plastic. Also, when you touch the fish, your finger should not leave a dent. It should bounce back, the same as if you touch your own forearm.

When cooking in any method, do not over-cook the fish. James Beard's rule of thumb is 10 minutes per inch of thickness. If the filet is ½ inch thick, 5 minutes. If you walk into a house and you can smell fish cooking, it is over-cooked fish. Remember, fresh fish can be eaten raw. (sushi) You are not killing any bacteria. (This is for bony fish, not shellfish.)

"'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?' He said to him in reply, 'Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down.'" Luke 13:7–9

The Divine Gardener

Imagine for a moment that you were the owner of the orchard in which this fig tree was planted. After the gardener asked you to wait for one more year and promised to fertilize the unfruitful fig tree and cultivate the ground around it, you agreed. Then imagine coming to inspect that same fig tree the next year. Imagine three scenarios. First, what would you do if, once again, there were no figs present? Second, what if there were only a few figs? Third, what if the tree suddenly produced an abundance of good fruit?

It seems clear that in the first scenario, if for the fourth year in a row not a single fig was produced, it would be time to cut down the tree. This depicts the justice of God sent forth on those who obstinately resist His grace. In the second scenario, the decision might be more difficult. If the tree produced only a few figs for the first time, then perhaps that would provide enough hope for the future of that tree to ask the gardener to continue caring for it. This depicts those who are in a state of grace but are still lazy in their service of the will of God. In the third scenario, however, the reaction of the owner of the orchard would be clear. There would be much excitement and gratitude that the gardener's good work paid off.

Jesus is the Gardener, and we are the fig tree. This parable should lead us to look at our lives and examine whether or not we bear good fruit for the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus comes to you to cultivate the soil of your heart, fertilizing it with His holy Word, watering it with His Sacraments and doing all He can to give you the opportunity to produce the fruit of charity in your life. How successful are these actions of our Lord in your life?



Too often, when we see only a little good fruit being borne from our lives, we are satisfied. And though any good fruit is good, we are wasting our lives if we do not do all we can to become as abundantly fruitful as possible. Imagine the joy in the Hearts of our Lord and the Father in Heaven if they were to look upon you and see good fruit being produced beyond expectation. Why wouldn't this be your goal in life? Our Lord is patient, but He is also just. Do not try His patience, and do not succumb to His justice.

Reflect, today, upon the image of you being this fig tree and our Lord as the divine Gardener. Commit yourself to His actions of tilling and fertilizing. You do so by strengthening your commitment to reading and understanding the Word of God, by participating more fully in the Sacraments, by being more focused upon your daily prayer, by examining your conscience more fully, and by sincerely confessing your sins. Do all you can to cooperate with the action of our divine Gardener and you will be amazed at the good fruit that begins to pour forth from your life.

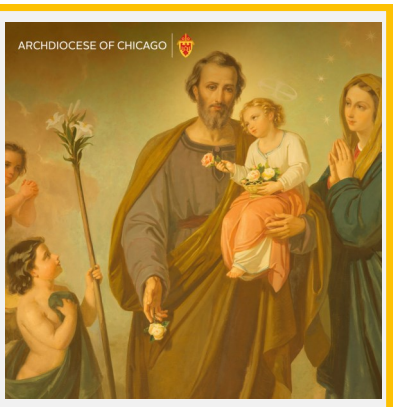
My divine Gardener, You have committed Yourself to the humble work of tilling the soil of my heart and fertilizing it with Your abundant mercy. I choose, this day, to respond to Your grace and pray that my cooperation with You will produce an abundance of good fruit in my life for Your glory and the building up of Your Kingdom. Jesus, I trust in You.

Feast of St. Joseph— March 19

We know so little about Joseph from Scripture. He seems to have been the strong, silent type. Not a word of his is recorded, but his actions have much to say, especially to men.

On this feast of St. Joseph, we do well to ponder him as a model for manhood, for husbands and fathers.

1) **Joseph is a man who obeys God and clings to his wife.** Joseph was betrothed to Mary. This is more than being engaged; it means they were actually married. It was common at the time for couples to marry at a young age. Once betrothed they lived an additional year in their parents' household while they became more acquainted and prepared for life together. At a certain point it was discovered that Mary was pregnant, though not by Joseph. Scripture describes Joseph as "a just man." This does not mean that Joseph was fair and a nice guy (though I presume he was); it means that he was a follower of the Law. He based his life on the Jewish Law that God gave through Moses, as interpreted by the rabbis. The Law said that if a man discovered that his betrothed was not a virgin, he should divorce her and not "sully" his home. As a follower of the Law, Joseph was prepared to follow its requirements. However, he did not wish to expose Mary to its full force, which would have permitted her to be stoned. Hence, he chose to follow the Law by filing a divorce decree without publicly accusing her. He would remain quiet as to his reason for the divorce and Mary would escape possible stoning. To fail to divorce Mary would expose Joseph to cultural ramifications. Just men didn't marry women guilty of fornication or adultery. To ignore this might have harmed not only Joseph's standing in the community but also that of his family of origin. You know the rest of the story: Joseph is told in a dream that he should not be afraid because Mary has committed no sin. Matthew records, *When Joseph awoke, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife (Matt 1:24*). Now a man obeys God even if it is not popular, even if he has to suffer for it. Joseph is told to cling to his wife; he may suffer for it, but he "obeys God rather than men." It takes a strong man to do this, especially when we consider the culture in which Joseph lived, and that he lived in a small town no less. Joseph model of strong manhood has something to say to the men of our day. In current Catholic wedding vows, a man promises to cling to his wife for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health. Our culture often pressures men to bail out when there is trouble. Joseph shows the proper way by obeying God over the pressures of the prevailing culture, even if he will personally suffer for it.



2) **Joseph is a man whose vocation is more important to him than his career.** In Bethlehem, Joseph is warned by an angel in a dream, *Get up, take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him (Matt 2:13)*. Joseph may well have had much to lose in this flight. Back in Nazareth he had a business, a career if you will. He had business prospects, business partners, and contacts. Fleeing to a distant land might mean that others would take away his business. But Joseph was a father and husband before he was a businessman. His child was threatened and his first obligation was to Jesus and Mary. His vocation outweighed his career. Today, too many parents make their careers and livelihood paramount, relegating their children to day care; Joseph demonstrates different priorities. It is true that many parents feel they have no choice but to work, but it is also true that many demand a standard of living that requires extra income to maintain. Perhaps a smaller house and fewer amenities would permit their children to have a childhood without day care. Joseph shows the way for parents: vocation has priority over career. For fathers especially, Joseph shows that a man is a husband and father before he is a businessman.

3) **Joseph is a man who protects his family.** Joseph models a protective instinct that too many men lack today. Like Jesus, our children are exposed to many dangers. In the United Sates there aren't a lot of physical dangers to fear, but moral dangers surely abound. Fathers, what are your children watching on television? What are they looking at on the Internet? Who are their friends? What do your children think about important moral issues? Are you preparing them to face the moral challenges and temptations of life? Are you and your wife teaching them the faith? Are you just a passive father, minimally involved in the raising of your children? A man protects his children from harm, physical, moral, and spiritual. Joseph demonstrates this aspect of manhood.

4) **Joseph is a man of work.** Scripture refers to Joseph as a "carpenter" (Matt 13:55). The Greek word used, however, is tekton os, which can mean more than a woodworker. It can also refer to a builder or any craftsman. It seems unlikely that Joseph and Jesus would have worked exclusively in wood, as it was fairly rare in the Holy Land and used more sparingly than it is today. Stone was surely plentiful at that time, so it may be that Joseph worked with stone as well as wood. It was through His work that Joseph supported his family. It is the call of a man to work diligently and to provide for his family responsibly and reliably, and Joseph models this well. St. Paul felt it necessary to rebuke some of the men of his day for their idleness: *In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you to keep away from every brother who is idle and does not live according to the teaching you received from us…. For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat." We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ that with quietness they earn the bread they eat (2 Thess 3:10-12).*

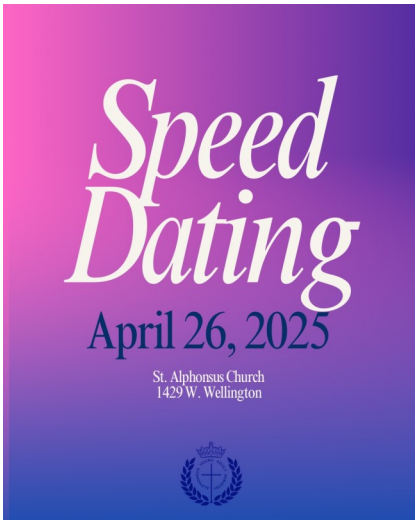
5) **Joseph is a man who teaches his son.** We learn from Scripture that Jesus was a carpenter (Mk 6:3). It is obvious that it was Joseph who taught Him this trade. Consider the hours that they spent together as Joseph patiently handed his trade on to Jesus, teaching Him its methods and intricacies. It is not enough for a father to provide for his children; he must also prepare them for life. He does this through modeling and teaching discipline, moderation, hard work, self-control, and many other life skills. Today it is relatively rare for men to teach a trade to their sons or to other children. In the end, a man prepares his children for life. Joseph models manhood by preparing Jesus for life as a tradesman. Some (e.g., St. Thomas Aquinas) argue that Joseph did not teach Jesus carpentry and that His knowledge was not learned, but I cannot square this with the Scripture that indicates Jesus grew in age, grace, and wisdom (see Lk 2:52). If Jesus can even grow in human wisdom, how much more so in lesser knowledge. At any rate, however much Jesus was taught by Joseph, every father should teach his sons and daughters!

Joseph is a model for manhood. Nothing he ever said was recorded, but his life speaks eloquently. He is referred to as the Guardian and Patron of the Universal Church. He has these titles because he was guardian, protector, and patron (provider) of the Church in its earliest stage: when the Church was just Jesus and Mary. Because the Church is the mystical Body of Christ, in protecting, providing, and preparing Jesus, he was doing that for us, for we are in Christ as members of His body. Men do well to imitate St. Joseph and invoke his patronage in all their endeavors as husbands, fathers, and providers.
St. Joseph, pray for us.

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https://spiritualdirection.com/2025/03/18/st-joseph-and-manhood

Young Adult Ministry

Young Adult Speed Dating— Saturday, April 26



Mark your calendar! Young Adult (21 - 39 years old) Speed Dating will take place on Saturday, April 26th, with check-ins beginning at 6:00pm. This event will be held in St. Alphonsus Festival Hall.
Cost per individual ticket will be $50. You must pre-register for the event! Sign-ups at the door will NOT be allowed. This is a necessity to ensure that we are able to properly plan everyones conversations. The final day to register will be Wednesday, April 23rd at NOON, no exceptions. Cost of entry includes light refreshments, two drink tickets for the beginning of the event and two drink tickets for afterwards. We will NOT be serving a full dinner so we strongly recommend eating dinner before arriving as this is a longer event.
In order to register for this event, each individual will have to sign up through two links: Give Central (to pay for the event) and our Speed Dating link (your account will require your email, a password to see matches afterwards, your age, your minimum dating age, and your maximum dating age). Remember, you must both pay and sign up through the link order to attend this event.
GiveCentral Link for Men: www.givecentral.org/otp/42962
GiveCentral Link for Women: www.givecentral.org/otp/42961
Speed Dating Account (all signups): www.stalphonsuschicago.org/yam-speed-dating-form

Capital Campaign at St. Alphonsus

GENERATION TO GENERATION: **ANSWER THE CALL**



Today we kick off the public phase of the "Generation to Generation: Answer the Call" campaign. Our parish's participation in the campaign, along with every parish in the Archdiocese of Chicago, will meet the needs of our parish and support Catholic ministries thorughout Cook and Lake counties.

Our Campaign Goal

The archdiocese assesses a goal amount for each parish to raise, which for St. Alphonsus was $1,120,000 in pledges over five years from our church and school families. However, through much prayer, planning, and conversation, we have identified our greatest needs and desired projects to strengthen our mission and vision for years to come, and those have necessitated a stretch goal of 200%, or **$2,240,000.**

When you receive your invitation to participate in this historic effort, please pray and discern a multi-year sacrificial pledge taht is right for you, your family, and the parish.

Our Share of the Funds

As a campaign done in conjuction with the Archdiocese, the funds raised are shared. Our share of the funds raised is 50% of contributions up to the inital goal of $1,120,000. Above that, 80% of funds raised, up to our stretch goal of $2,240,000 will remain with St. Alphonsus. Anything in excess of that will remain entirely with the parish. To simplify the math, if we achieve our stretch goal, **65%** of the funds raised in the campaign will be applied to our specific projects.

The Archdiocesan Use of the Funds

Of the portion that goes to the archdiocese, it will be used for spiritual renewal programs in parishes (30%), assisting vulnerable communities (20%), and priest health care and retirement (50%).

OUR PRIORITIES

Saving Our Iconic Veranda

Repairs to preserve the veranda's facade, structure and safety

Restoring Our Shared Home and Campus Beautification Projects

- Re-Imagining of the rectory side courtyard
- Restoration and repairs to the organ
- Drinking fountains in the church / Festival Hall

OUR PROGRESS SO FAR

- Arch assessed goal: $1,120,000
- Parish stretch goal: $2,240,000
- Total raised to date: $509,900
  22.8% of stretch goal,
  45.5% of original goal.
- Number of Pledges & Gifts: 19
- Updated: March 20, 2025

Campaign Priority: Saving our Iconic Veranda

Wintry City Erosion

Decades worth of classic Chicago snow-rain-ice and freeze-thaw cycles and winter weather has taken a toll, creating many small cracks. The limestone facade is in serious need of tuckpointing, mortar repair, and seal coating to strengthen the veranda for many more generations.

The Collapse of August 7, 2022

Two days prior, the city was replacing the gutters and sidewalks along Southport. The vibrations of the heavy machinery used in the loosened the mortar between some of the limestone blocks. In the early morning hours of August 7th, heavy overnight rains washed out enough broken mortar to cause a small section of the veranda's facade to collapse onto the sidewalk (top right). (The structural integrity of the deck of the veranda was not affected.).



The Underbelly Exposed

The deck of the veranda is very solid, having been well reinforced in 2000. However, the veranda is hollow – cracks in the facade, and especially along the stairs, allow water to seep in, accelerating decay and erosion. The seams between some steps have developed multiple large cracks easily visible from the underside



The Plan for Restoration

To save the veranda, the plan is to dismantle the staircases, build a retaining wall underneath, backfill the space, and replace each step on solid ground to rebuild the stairs. The limestone facade is also scheduled to receive some much-overdue tuckpointing in order to preserve its beauty, character, and structural integrity.

Capital Campaign at St. Alphonsus

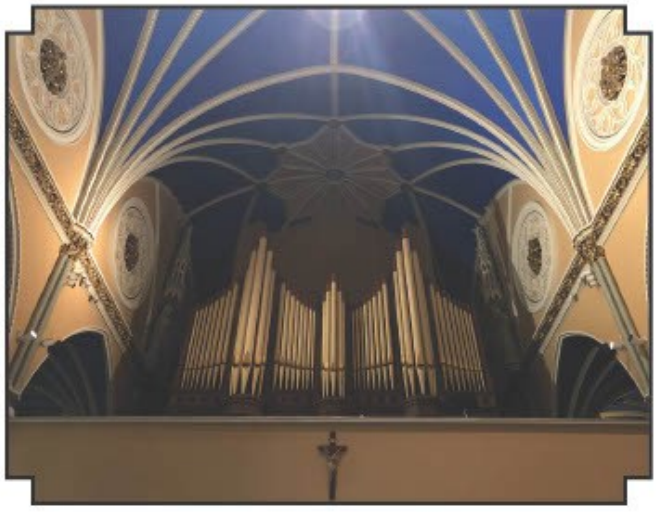
Campaign Priority: Campus Beautification

Reimagining of the Rectory Side Courtyard

Our dynamic parish community has a remarkable talent for creatively using any available space to accommodate our diverse array of classroom activities, young adult events, and parish groups that utilize our campus. With this Gen-to-Gen campaign, we have the opportunity to transform the most underused space on campus into a beautiful garden for our students and parishioners to gather, learn, pray and grow.



Campaign Priority: Organ Repair & Restoration



The original pipe organ was destroyed by the church fire of 1950. But 37 years later, in 1987, the parish was fortunate to acquire and install a Casavant pipe organ from a church in Michigan. This top-tier instrument, which contains nearly 16,000 pipes, is a centerpiece of our worship and liturgical worship. While it looks beautiful on the outside, the inside is not; 37 years after its installation, significant maintenance and repair to its pumps, bellows, pipes, and interior leatherwork is needed to keep the organ singing for successive generations. Inside the organ, holes and air leaks are present in the bellows rendering a significant number of pipes and stops mute without adequate airflow to make them sing.

POP QUIZ! This photo was taken on campus… what is it?



a.) Al Capone's vault
b.) the tomb Jesus was buried in
c.) the school's detention dungeon
d.) Fr. Bauer's office
e.) the underside of the veranda stairs

Answer: Years ago Al Capone's secret vault was discovered, and was supposed to have been filled with treasures greater than Brandon Johnson's gift closet, but alas, the vault was empty. But it wasn't on our campus, so we can rule out answer A. We can also easily rule out B as an answer because Jesus' tomb was obviously not in Chicago. We can probably rule out C as an answer because the school hasn't been using detention dungeons for something like at least five or six years now, maybe more. Answer D is a little more difficult to rule out because that may have been his temporary office when he first arrived (or it may have looked like that back then), but we know for a fact that his office has more windows in it. Which leaves answer E — the underside of the veranda's south staircase.

But why this "quiz"? We've all seen the unsightly cinder block patchwork in the facade of our beautiful veranda. Some of us may even remember Sunday morning August 7th, coming to church and seeing a gaping hole in the wall and pile of limestone blocks on the sidewalk when it fell, caused by terrible trifecta of road construction, heavy rains, and erosion. But blueprints have been drawn up and plans are now in actively in motion to restore the veranda to its iconic stature, which we have inherited from the generations of parishioners who preceded us, that it may be preserved for the generations which follow us.

To learn more about the capital campaign, you're invited to a wine & cheese reception!

Thursday, April 10th at 6:30 pm
Festival Hall

Open to anyone who wants to learn more about the capital campaign and the specific projects we have planned.

CAMPAIGN PRAYER

God of abundant and generous mercy,
we gratefully acknowledge the many gifts
you have given us across the years
from the sacrifice of generations before us.

And so, we confidently trust
that you will walk with us into the future.

We echo the words of the Blessed Virgin Mary:
truly, your mercy is from generation to generation.

Help us now to respond generously to your gifts,
as we support our Church
in the Archdiocese of Chicago
and work to bring faith forward
for the generations that follow us.

By your grace and help, let our gifts be a blessing
for our children, our grandchildren,
and those who follow them.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Religious Education News

NET Missionary Housing and Food Donations Needed!



Invest in the faith of our next generation! A perfect tithe for your Lenten Almsgiving! Help provide either shelter or food for NET Missionaries who are coming to St. Alphonsus to hold retreats for our 7th & 8th graders!

We are hoping to find 3 families to provide:

- **A Space for 2-3 Missionaries to Sleep April 10th-12th** (*they have their own sleeping bags so floorspace, couches, or air mattresses are fine)*
- **Shower Access**
- **Continental Breakfast** *(like cereal, yogurt, or fruit)*

We are also looking for families to help provide meals for the missionaries *(either home cooked or gift cards like Chipotle/Panera, etc).*

During this Jubilee Year, you can receive an indulgence for performing a work of mercy! Please help us to host these missionaries that will help to spark the faith in our youth! Email any questions to Emily Ember at eember@stalphonsuschicago.church

More News and Events

Donate Blood at St. Alphonsus!

GIVE BLOOD
You can make a difference.
American Red Cross

Our parish will be hosting an American Red Cross blood drive on Sunday, April 6 in the Festival Hall. You can register for an appointment by going online to www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive and type in **StAlphonsusChurch** for available times. All donors will also receive a $15 gift card to Amazon.com via email.



Volunteer with Safe Families for Children

Looking for a meaningful way to serve local moms in need?

Then join the many parish families who generously care for adorable little guys like this one, and consider becoming a Safe Families volunteer!

- "**Host Family**" - host local children in your home for short periods of time
- "**Family Friend**" - provide volunteer babysitting, emotional support, and/or transportation
- "**Resource Friend**" - provide material items or financial support
- "**Closet Worker**" - stewardship of the St. Al's Resource Closet

Learn more at safe-families.org or please contact us at safefamiliesstals@gmail.com! God Bless!

Worldwide Marriage Encounter— Marzo 29 y 30

RENUEVA | RESTABLECE | REAVIVA

El retiro Encuentro Matrimonial les permitirá crear un diálogo profundo entre ustedes dos y con Dios, logrando una comprensión de lo que significa el Sacramento del Matrimonio. Br. David Darst Center 6336 S. Kilbourn Ave. Chicago, IL 60629 De Sabado 7 AM a Domingo a las 5 PM Admision Por Pareja $300 https://wwme.org/apply/# Contacto Jesus y Yesmin Medina (708) 825-3238

There will be another Marriage Encounter enrichment weekend in English language in Rockford, IL on April 25-27.



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