Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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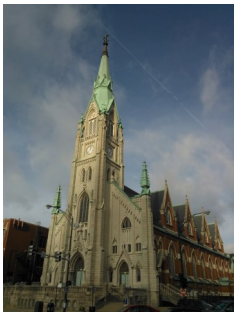
Ash Wednesday



"Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart."
— Joel 2:12

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, when we recall Christ's own 40 days of fasting and praying in the desert. Lent affords us the opportunity to purify our hearts, to simplify and reprioritize our spiritual lives as we journey towards the Cross and ultimately Easter Sunday. We engage the penitential practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in order to conform ourselves more closely to Christ and to follow the path of holiness. All who participate in this spiritual journey demonstrate a willingness to discipline their lives for the love of Jesus Christ we find in His passion, death and Resurrection.

Welcome to St. Alphonsus!



Whether you're a visitor from out of town, a new neighbor here for the first time, or an old friend reconnecting with your community of faith this Lent, you are part of our family. Please feel free to stop by the parish office during the day to introduce yourself. We'd love to get to know you better!

Is there a wedding or baptism in your future? We would be happy to explain the process and help you with the sacramental preparations. Or if you're interested in learning more about the Catholic faith, any of our priests or pastoral staff are happy to listen to your story or answer your questions.

If you have school-age children, Alphonsus Academy & Center for the Arts (pre-K to 8th grade) features academic excellence and development in faith rooted in a welcoming Catholic community. We invite you to arrange for a tour of the school or visit www.alphonsusacademy.org for more information.

Regular Mass & Confession Schedule

Sunday Mass: 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 12:30 PM (Spanish), 5:00 PM

Daily Mass: 8:30 AM; Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri, Sat; 6:00 PM Wed

Reconciliation: Confessions are heard on Wednesday evenings after Mass from 6:30 to 7:30 PM and on Saturdays from 11 AM to Noon

Eucharistic Adoration: Wednesday evenings 6:30– 7:30 PM

Help Fight Hunger with CRS

St. Alphonsus Parish will be participating again this year in Catholic Relief Services' Lenten program, CRS Rice Bowl. Children will receive the iconic cardboard rice bowl to collect money for hunger relief and adults can go to www.crsricebowl.org to learn more about putting our faith in action through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. The site also has numerous meatless recipes for Lent. We invite everyone to bring your rice bowl boxes back to Mass by Palm Sunday, April 13.

Observing the Lenten Season

In addition to discerning their own penitential practices, Catholics are asked to observe the following practices of *fast* (eating less) and *abstinence* (doing without meat) during the 40 days of Lent:

- Everyone 14 years of age and older is bound to abstain from meat on *Ash Wednesday* and *all the Fridays of Lent.*
- Everyone 18-59 years old is bound to fast on *Ash Wednesday and Good Friday*. (The obligation ends after age 59.)

Fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday means eating only one full, meatless meal. Two other smaller, meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to one's needs; but together the two meals should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices, are allowed. When one's health or strength are affected, the guidelines *do not* apply.

Lenten Activities

Lenten Fish Fry Events

Friday, March 14 & March 28, 6:30 to 9:00 PM

Truly a highlight and staple of Lent, St. Alphonsus is hosting two Lenten Fish Fry dinners this year. This event is sponsored by our Knights to benefit charitable projects of the parish. BYOB. Games of chance and amusements for children.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!! Volunteer and get tickets at our website, www.stalphonsusknights/fishfry/

Stations of the Cross & Divine Mercy Chaplet



Most Fridays during Lent, the Stations of the Cross are prayed at **6 PM in Spanish 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.

The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed at 6:45 PM on Fridays between Stations.

Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 28 will be at 5:00 PM and led by AACA 7th graders. Stations will not be prayed in the Church on Friday, April 4 due to Confirmation.

Teaching Mass— Saturday, April 5 at 5 PM



Have you ever wondered where the various parts of the Catholic Mass come from? There are lots of little rituals, signs, gestures, symbols and even hidden prayers... have you ever wanted to know what they mean and why the priest does them all in the Mass? Our pastor, Fr. Steven Bauer, will lead us through a Teaching Mass, which will begin at 5 PM with the history and evolution of the Mass down through the centuries. Then he will offer a vigil Mass (i.e., it counts for Sunday), and pause at appropriate times to explain what he is doing, why, and the spiritual meaning of each part. Following the Mass we will have a Q & A and a social with fellow parishioners and young adults. This Lenten event is sure to deepen your faith and expand your heart.

Holy Week & Easter Schedule



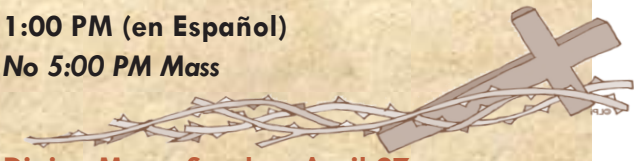
Palm Sunday, April 13
Mass times: Sunday 9:00, 11:00 AM, 12:30 PM (Spanish) and 5:00 PM

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
Regular Sunday Mass Schedule
3:00 PM Holy Hour & Confessions

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For more info on any of our parish or school programs visit us at **www.stalphonsuschicago.org** or call the rectory at **773-525-0709**. To stay connected with us during the Lenten season, **like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/stalphonsuschgo/**