Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

JULY 27, 2025: SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"And I tell you, ask and you will receive;

seek and you will find;

knock and the door will be opened to you." (Lk 11:9)

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Mass Schedule

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

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday	6:30—7:30 PM

Confessions

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

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

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Wednesday	5:45 PM

Worship

This Week's Readings

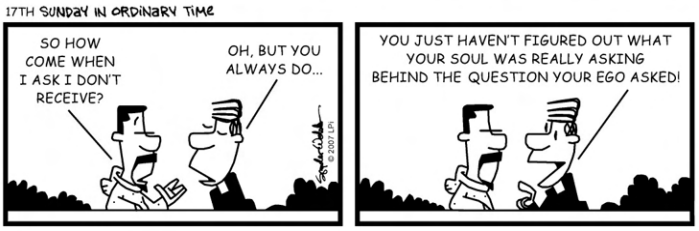
Sunday: Gn 18:20-32/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6-7, 7-8 (3a)/Col 2:12-14/Lk 11:1-13
Monday: Ex 32:15-24, 30-34/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/Mt 13:31-35
Tuesday: Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28/Ps 103:6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13/Jn 11:19-27
Wednesday: Ex 34:29-35/Ps 99:5, 6, 7, 9/Mt 13:44-46
Thursday: Ex 40:16-21, 34-38/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6a and 8a, 11/Mt 13:47-53
Friday: Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37/Ps 81:3-4, 5-6, 10-11ab/Mt 13:54-58
Saturday: Lv 25:1, 8-17/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8/Mt 14:1-12
Next Sunday: Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17 (1)/Col 3:1-5, 9-11/Lk 12:13-2

Please Pray for the Sick

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

Welcome Our Recently Baptized

Clyde Sharkey Byam
Camila Castro Morgan
Bo Thomas Brozovic



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.





WEDDINGS

Lillian Dorsey and Steven Childs

Natalia Medina and Eduardo Gil

Bridget Dingens and Kevin Sunyog

Wedding Banns

II. Peyton Zylke and Connor Dieckman

I. Allyse Johnson and Jordan Sacks

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, July 27
9:00 AM Juliana and Dino Swan (Anniversary)
Jane Keppeler (Birthday)
11:00 AM +Colette Marie Hourquebie
12:30 PM The People of Saint Alphonsus
5:00 PM +Rosario Anzelmo

Monday, July 28
8:30 AM Genevieve Morris (Anniversary)

Tuesday, July 29
8:30 AM +Ann Riffner

Wednesday, July 30
6:00 PM All Unborn Children

Thursday, July 31
8:30 AM Fernando & Leanna Prieto
(2nd Wedding Anniversary)

Friday, August 1
8:30 AM Robert Ludwig

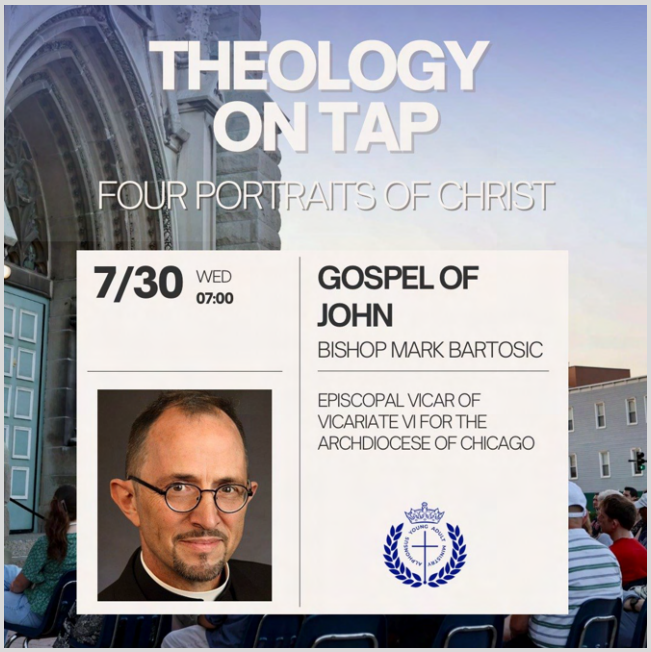
Saturday, August 2
8:30 AM +Matthew Semoes

Sunday, August 3
9:00 AM +James B. Pellino
11:00 AM +Ignacia Santarinala
12:30 PM The People of Saint Alphonsus
5:00 PM Holy Catechists and a Fruitful RE Year

News and Events

Theology on Tap— Wednesday, July 30

Our 2025 Theology on Tap speaker series finishes **this Wednesday, July 30** on the St. Alphonsus veranda. Fellowship and light refreshments at 7 PM; with the speaker's talk at 7:30 PM. This year's theme, ***"The Four Portraits of Christ"*** illuminates the distinctive way one of the four evangelists portrays Jesus in their gospel narrative.



Portrait of Christ According to John

Our speaker for ToT on July 30 is Bishop Mark Bartosic. Bishop Bartosic was born in 1961, in Neenah, Wisconsin. He grew up in Ashland, Ohio, where he attended public schools and Ashland University. He received a BA in Theatre in 1983 and moved to Chicago to pursue a career in acting.

Six years later, he entered the seminary at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, IL. In 1994 he was ordained into the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Chicago by Cardinal Joseph Bernardin at Holy Name Cathedral.

After ordination, he was assigned as the Associate Pastor to St. Agnes of Bohemia Parish in Little Village. In 2001, he was named Pastor of St. Frances of Rome Parish in Cicero, IL, serving there for 15 years. Fr. Bartosic also assumed additional duties as Pastor for Our Lady of Charity Parish in Cicero in 2009. In 2016, Fr. Bartosic was named Director of Kolbe House Jail Ministry in Chicago, as well as Pastor of Assumption BVM Parish.

On July 3, 2018, Pope Francis appointed Fr. Mark A. Bartosic as Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Chicago, and he was consecrated at Holy Name Cathedral on September 17, 2018, by Cardinal Blase Cupich. Bishop Mark A. Bartosic currently serves as Episcopal Vicar of Vicariate VI for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

This talk will be given on the church veranda – if inclement weather, it will be moved to the church basement (Festival Hall).
7:00 PM: doors open, food and drinks available
7:30 PM: talk begins
8:00 PM: speaker Q&A
8:30 PM: socializing
9:00 PM: end of program

Volunteer at Mass as a Lector!

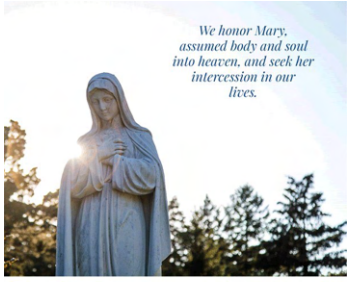
Our parish is in need of Lectors, especially at the 11 AM Mass. Lectors proclaim the Scripture readings of the day so that all may hear God's word. Lector training only takes about an hour of your time. A workbook with all readings for the year, helpful advice, and interpretive information is also provided. Most lectors are scheduled to read at mass about once a month. If you are interested, contact coordinator Barbara Scharres, bscharres@hotmail.com, to learn more details and be scheduled for an individual training session.

Foundations Study—Monday Evenings

Each and every Sunday, we recite the Creed. But what does it mean? Pastoral Associate Brooks Robinson continues to lead a study on Monday evenings at 7 PM in the rectory 2nd Fl. Common Room. All are welcome to further explore the richness of our profession of faith! Contact Brooks, brobinson@stalphonsuschicago.church

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Thursday, August 15 is the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass will be at 8:30 AM and a bilingual Mass at 6:30 PM.



BECOME A CATECHIST FOR ST. ALPHONSUS!



Why Be A Catechist?

- Inspire Joy and Love in Little Hearts
- Bring Christ to the Children
- Be a Role Model and Witness
- Increase in Knowledge of the Faith





Jesus said what you do to the least of these you do to me.

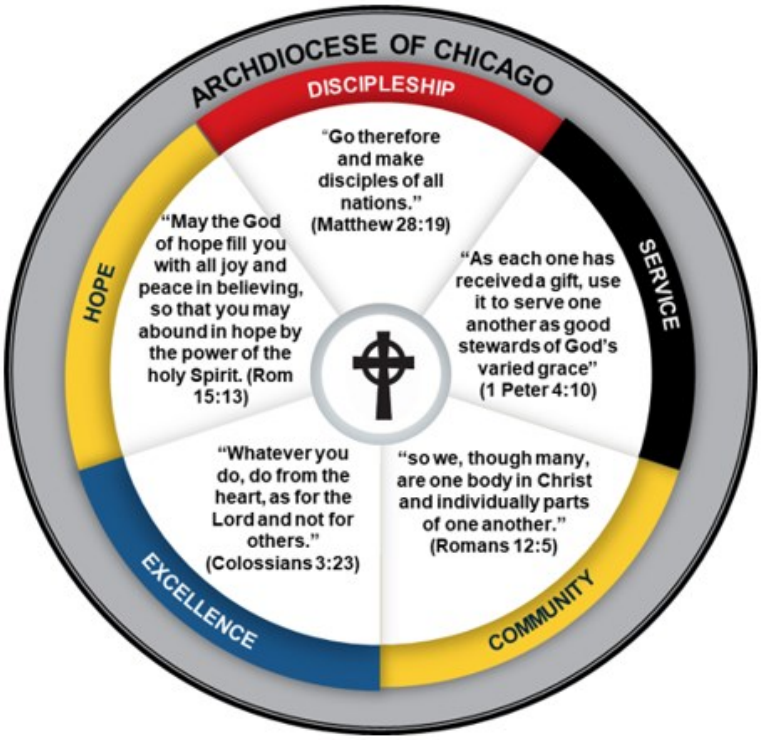


Spread the Faith **Inspire Hearts** **Make a Difference**

Become a Catechist for the 2025-2026 School Year!

*The kids need you!! Me? You're thinking. I don't know the faith well enough. I'm not a teacher. I wouldn't know where to begin! The good news is, when you give your Yes, God hears your 'yes' and fills in where you're lacking. He will complete the good work He has begun in you! All you need to do is allow the Holy Spirit to guide; you are **never** alone.*

Our Religious Education Program meets on Tuesday evenings (September to May), beginning on September 16. If you are feeling a pull on your heart, I would love to talk with you so you can discern if God is calling you to be a catechist this year. Jesus desires to fill you with an abundance of joy and love, and He will always give you the grace to accomplish what He asks!



Shaping the Next Generation of Catechetical Leaders
Core Value Statements

- Discipleship— We serve true to our commitment to the mission of the Catholic Church to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We seek to see others through the eyes of Jesus and to bring them to a relationship with Him.
- Community— We minister together for the good of the whole. We labor, across boundaries, building communal wisdom and relationships to serve those in need of care, support, and knowledge.
- Service— Service is how we think and act; treating everyone with dignity and respect. Using our gifts individually and collectively, we humbly follow through on our promises and provide timely and appropriate assistance to those we are called to serve.
- Excellence— We are committed in heart and mind to work and serve to achieve a high-quality level. We continuously evaluate, respond, adapt and seek to improve.
- Hope— Through our faith in Jesus, our passion leads us to forge forward, encouraging optimism as we act with courage finding our future path.

Feast of St. Alphonsus

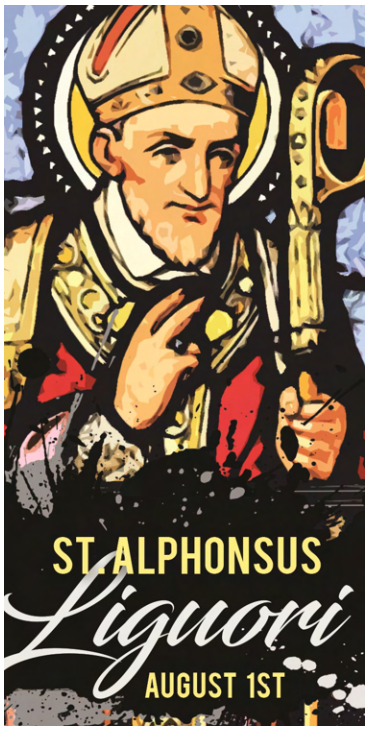
Our faithful are encouraged to join as St. Alphonsus celebrates our patron saint's feast day with a light social in the Festival Hall after the 5 PM Mass on Sunday, August 3!

St. Alphonsus Liguori, (1696-1787) was born in Marianella, near Naples, in Italy. When he was young, he displayed exceptional intelligence and piety, earning a doctorate in civil and canon law by the age of 16. Feeling a calling to dedicate his life to God and the service of others, however, he abandoned his legal career and pursued ordination to the priesthood. He was ordained at the age of 30 in 1726.

Throughout his priestly ministry, Liguori focused on preaching missions and retreats, seeking to renew people's faith and draw them closer to the Eucharist. He frequently preached on the real presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and encouraged frequent reception of Holy Communion as a source of spiritual nourishment and grace.

In 1732, Liguori founded the Redemptorists, a religious congregation dedicated to promoting devotion to the Eucharist and the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Redemptorists' charism also revolved around reaching out to the most abandoned, including the poor and marginalized, and offering them hope through God's love and mercy.

As a prolific writer, he authored numerous works on moral theology, spirituality, and Eucharistic devotion. His most famous work, *"The Glories of Mary,"* remains a classic in Marian theology and devotion. He is remembered for his practical and merciful counsel, always seeking to lead souls to reconciliation, and union with God.



St. Alphonsus was canonized as a saint in 1839 and declared a Doctor of the Church in 1871. His spiritual writings, particularly on the Eucharist, continue to inspire and guide the faithful worldwide. As the patron saint of moral theologians, his example reminds believers of the profound love and presence of Christ in the Eucharist and the enduring mercy of God.

St. Alphonsus Liguori, pray for us!

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 the Athenaeum

Sistine Chapel Choir— Friday, September 5 at 8 PM



Is beauty a form of truth? The world's oldest active choir brings centuries of sacred music to life, accompanied by art historian Dr. Elizabeth Lev's reflections on Renaissance beauty as theological witness. This unforgettable evening will reveal how music and art can elevate the soul and form the imagination toward the divine.

Whether you come for the soaring music, the historical depth, or the spiritual richness, Sistine Chapel Choir with Dr. Elizabeth Lev promises a night where heaven touches earth through the timeless language of beauty.

A celebration of sacred tradition, artistic genius, and the eternal harmony between faith and culture—this is a once-in-a-lifetime experience you won't want to miss.

Check out all upcoming shows at the Athenaeum Center for Thought and Culture, visit athenaeumcenter.org/events/

Generation To Generation

CAMPAIGN PROGRESS

GENERATION TO GENERATION: **ANSWER THE CALL**

100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10%

$2,240,000

Our capital campaign has been going on for some time now, even though it's briefly on pause for summer vacation. Our campaign committee has been telling us about its goals and our particular needs, and inviting groups of parishioners and school families to support it and make a pledge. We currently stand at 67.6% of our stretch goal, which is amazing, and we are so thankful to the 199 parishioners/families who have made a donation or a pledge so far!

$1,514,068… *67.6%*

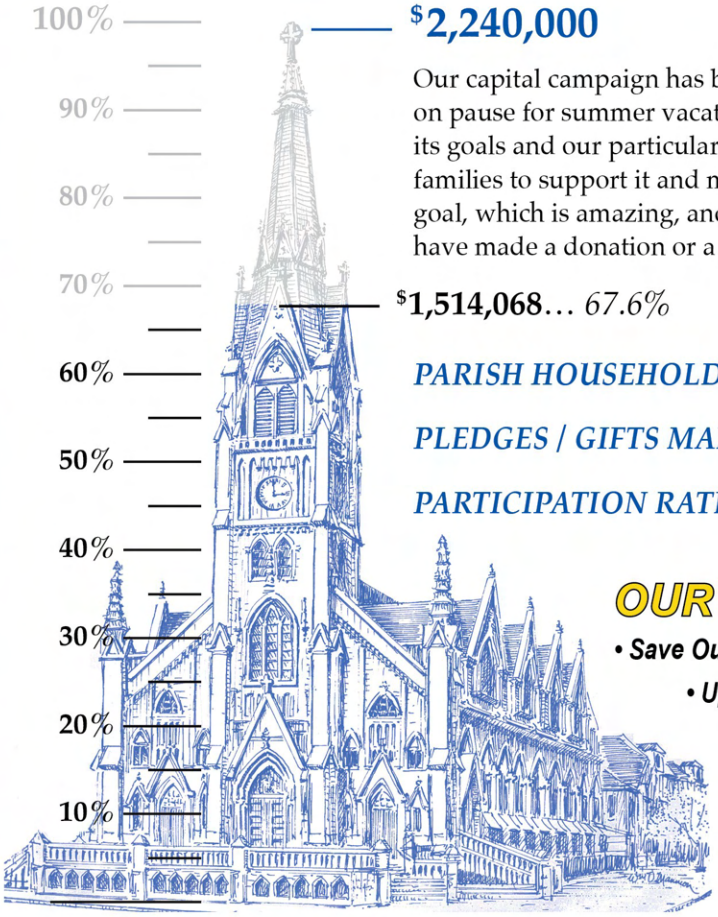
PARISH HOUSEHOLDS..... 2,100

PLEDGES / GIFTS MADE..... 199

PARTICIPATION RATE..... 9.5%

LEARN MORE AND MAKE YOUR PLEDGE

or visit the parish website at www.stalphonsuschicago.org



OUR CAMPAIGN GOALS:

- *Save Our Iconic Veranda; and Repair & Restore the Organ*
- *Upgrade the Common Rooms*
- *Install Drinking Fountains in the Church*
- *Re-Imagine the Rectory's Side Courtyard as an Outdoor Classroom & Prayer Garden*
- *Sharing with the Arch for Spiritual Renewal Programs, Scholarships, and Priest Retirement & Health Care*

Stewardship—First Fruits

FIRST FRUITS
time talent treasure

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

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

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

Giving Update

Weekly Budget Amount: $15,192

Sunday Offertory for 7/20: $12,201

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

Left QR code for GiveCentral; Right QR code for Venmo

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Give today to support your parish

Young Adult Ministry

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*

BE SOCIAL
BE SPIRITUAL
BE CHARITABLE
BE INTELLECTUAL
BE CATHOLIC

Upcoming Young Adult Ministry Activities



Sippin' Social Happy Hour— Sunday, July 27 after 5 PM Mass
Join us after the 5 PM Mass this Sunday for some drinks and socialization. Find some of us in the back of church after Mass and we'll head over to the rectory courtyard. Invite some friends to come and stop by!

Montrose Beach Day! Saturday, August 9
All young adults in our parish (ages 21-39) are invited to join our YA leaders on Saturday, August 9th from 11 AM-3 PM for a fun day at the beach! We ask you bring some food or drinks to share for a beachside picnic. Feel free to bring any beach games like volleyball, spike ball, or bags. If the weather isn't beach worthy, we will come up with a back up plan to do an indoor activity! There is a Google Doc sign-up on our Facebook event page, or contact Tammy and Nate with any questions at stalsyamsocial@gmail.com

More News and Events

Are You Ready to Become Catholic?

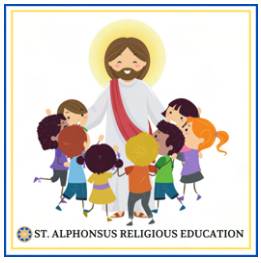
Registration is open for Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (O.C.I.A.) Each year we are blessed with several individuals who desire to enter and learn more about the Catholic faith. The OCIA program is the study of the Catholic Faith and the process of introduction into the faith community.

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

Register Your Children for Religious Education!



Registration for our Religious Education program is now open for the 2025-2026 school year for grades 1st-8th on Tuesday nights at 6:15 PM. Parent orientation is September 9 and classes will begin on September 16. Please register at the link on our Religious Ed page, www.stalphonsuschicago.org/religious-education

Recovery Programs at St. Alphonsus

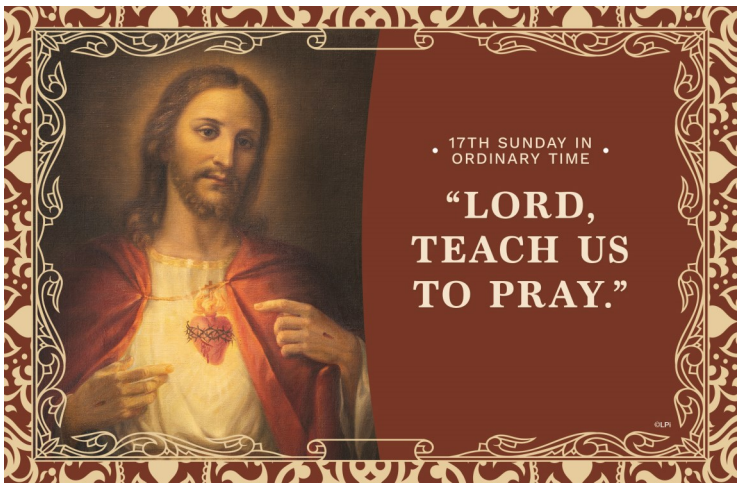
If you or loved ones you know have a problem with alcohol/substance abuse, please seek help! Our parish hosts two AA programs, Daily Reflections and Young People's Big Book AA Group. Daily Reflections meets on Monday mornings at 8:30 AM in the rectory 1st Fl. dining room. You may contact Lauren Merrill Sammis at lauren.merrill@live.com for more information.

Young People's Big Book AA Group meets Sunday evenings at 7 PM in the Festival Hall. Contact coordinator Denver Baker, dtbaker97@gmail.com for info.

Gospel Reflection

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples." Luke 11:1

Learning to Pray



In today's Gospel we are given three teachings on prayer. First, Jesus teaches His disciples what has come to be called "The Lord's Prayer." Second, He teaches about the importance of persistence in prayer. Third, He teaches about the fruit that comes from correct and persistent prayer.

The Church Father Tertullian said that The Lord's Prayer "is truly the summary of the whole Gospel." Saint Augustine said, "Run through all the words of the holy prayers [in Scripture], and I do not think that you will find anything in them that is not contained and included in the Lord's Prayer." Saint Thomas Aquinas said, "The Lord's Prayer is the most perfect of prayers.... In it we ask, not only for all the things we can rightly desire, but also in the sequence that they should be desired" (See the Catechism of the Catholic Church #2761–2763).

It's amazing to consider what these great teachers of the faith have said about this short prayer. Perhaps because of our familiarity with this prayer we can easily gloss over the depth of its meaning. We can fail to use it as a foundation and model for all of our prayer. One way to correct this tendency is to use The Lord's Prayer for an extended period of time by prayerfully pondering every word slowly and meditatively. Doing so will help open us up to these perfect "instructions" on how we should pray.

Immediately after Jesus taught this short prayer, He taught a lesson about persistence in prayer. He taught that we must not simply say a few prayers and leave it at that, giving up if they do not appear to be answered. Instead, we must continuously beg God for His grace until it is bestowed in its fullness.

What will we receive from persistent prayer? This is an important point. We ought not go to God with our own wants and desires. We ought not beg Him for things that do not fall within His perfect will. Instead, when our prayer is modeled on the Lord's Prayer, and when it is persistent and grounded in faith, then our prayer will be for what the Father bestows upon us, that is His will alone. We must pray that His Kingdom will come. We must trust that He will provide for our needs. We must seek His forgiveness for our sins, and we must pray that He will protect us from the evil one.

Reflect, today, upon that perfect prayer, The Lord's Prayer. Spend time studying it, thinking about each petition, the order in which Jesus laid it out, its simplicity and its clarity. Acknowledge that because we pray The Lord's Prayer so often, we can sometimes miss its true meaning and beauty. Our Lord gave us this prayer for a reason. Make sure that you do all you can to discover its meaning and practice its teaching.

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen. Jesus, I trust in You.

Helpful Household Hints by Harvey Levin

Customer Service

When you have a problem with a company here are a few guidelines. Start the phone conversation with "I want you to understand that I am very angry with your company but I am not angry with you." The telephone representative will be much more helpful if you start that way. Collect all the necessary information. You'll probably need your order number, account number, the date the transaction took place, and perhaps the warranty. In the case of appliances, you'll also need the serial number. Have a sheet of paper in front of you. Write down what they say, keep a record of what happens, and ask for the name of the person you are talking to. You may need more phone calls and you will need the history of what happened.

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

Pope Leo XIV's message for the Fifth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, which takes place this Sunday, July 27, 2025
"Blessed are those who have not lost hope" (Sir 14:2)



Dear brothers and sisters,

The Jubilee we are now celebrating helps us to realize that hope is a constant source of joy, whatever our age. When that hope has also been tempered by fire over the course of a long life, it proves a source of deep happiness.

Sacred Scripture offers us many examples of men and women whom the Lord called late in life to play a part in his saving plan. We can think of Abraham and Sarah, who, advanced in years, found it hard to believe when God promised them a child. Their childlessness seemed to prevent them from any hope for the future.

Zechariah's reaction to the news of John the Baptist's birth was no different: "How can this be? I am an old man and my wife is advanced in years" (*Lk* 1:18). Old age, barrenness and physical decline apparently blocked any hope for life and fertility in these men and women. The question that Nicodemus asked Jesus when the Master spoke to him of being "born again" also seems purely rhetorical: "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" (*Jn* 3:4). Yet whenever we think that things cannot change, the Lord surprises us with an act of saving power.

The elderly as signs of hope

In the Bible, God repeatedly demonstrates his providential care by turning to people in their later years. This was the case not only with Abraham, Sarah, Zechariah and Elizabeth, but also with Moses, who was called to set his people free when he was already eighty years old (*Ex* 7:7). God thus teaches us that, in his eyes, old age is a time of blessing and grace, and that the elderly are, for him, the first witnesses of hope. Augustine asks, "What do we mean by old age?" He tells us that God himself answers the question: "Let your strength fail, so that my strength may abide within you, and you can say with the Apostle, 'When I am weak, then I am strong'" (*Super Ps*. 70,11). The increasing number of elderly people is a sign of the times that we are called to discern, in order to interpret properly this moment of history.

The life of the Church and the world can only be understood in light of the passage of generations. Embracing the elderly helps us to understand that life is more than just the present moment, and should not be wasted in superficial encounters and fleeting relationships. Instead, life is constantly pointing us toward the future. In the book of Genesis, we find the moving episode of the blessing given by the aged Jacob to his grandchildren, the sons of Joseph; his words are an appeal to look to the future with hope, as the time when God's promises will be fulfilled (*Gen* 48:8-20). If it is true that the weakness of the elderly needs the strength of the young, it is equally true that the inexperience of the young needs the witness of the elderly in order to build the future with wisdom. How often our grandparents have been for us examples of faith and devotion, civic virtue and social commitment, memory and perseverance amid trials! The precious legacy that they have handed down to us with hope and love will always be a source of gratitude and a summons to perseverance.

Signs of hope for the elderly

From biblical times, the Jubilee has been understood as a time of liberation. Slaves were freed, debts were forgiven and land was returned to its original owners. The Jubilee was a time when the social order willed by God was restored, and inequalities and injustices accumulated over the years were remedied. Jesus evoked those moments of liberation when, in the synagogue of Nazareth, he proclaimed good news to the poor, sight to the blind and freedom for prisoners and the oppressed (*Lk* 4:16-21).

Looking at the elderly in the spirit of this Jubilee, we are called to help them experience liberation, especially from loneliness and abandonment. This year is a fitting time to do so. God's fidelity to his promises teaches us that there is a blessedness in old age, an authentic evangelical joy inspiring us to break through the barriers of indifference in which the elderly often find themselves enclosed. Our societies, everywhere in the world, are growing all too accustomed to letting this significant and enriching part of their life be marginalized and forgotten.

Continued on page 10

Given this situation, a change of pace is needed that would be readily seen in an assumption of responsibility on the part of the whole Church. Every parish, association and ecclesial group is called to become a protagonist in a "revolution" of gratitude and care, to be brought about by regular visits to the elderly, the creation of networks of support and prayer for them and with them, and the forging of relationships that can restore hope and dignity to those who feel forgotten. Christian hope always urges us to be more daring, to think big, to be dissatisfied with things the way they are. In this case, it urges us to work for a change that can restore the esteem and affection to which the elderly are entitled.

That is why Pope Francis wanted the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly to be celebrated primarily through an effort to seek out elderly persons who are living alone. For this reason, those who are unable to come to Rome on pilgrimage during this Holy Year may "obtain the Jubilee Indulgence if they visit, for an appropriate amount of time, the elderly who are alone… making, in a sense, a pilgrimage to Christ present in them (*Mt* 25:34-36)" (Apostolic Penitentiary, *Norms for the Granting of the Jubilee Indulgence*, III). Visiting an elderly person is a way of encountering Jesus, who frees us from indifference and loneliness.

As elderly persons, we can hope

The Book of Sirach calls blessed those who have not lost hope (14:2). Perhaps, especially if our lives are long, we may be tempted to look not to the future but to the past. Yet, as Pope Francis wrote during his last hospitalization, "our bodies are weak, but even so, nothing can prevent us from loving, praying, giving ourselves, being there for one another, in faith, as



shining signs of hope" (*Angelus*, 16 March 2025). We possess a freedom that no difficulty can rob us of: it is the freedom to love and to pray. Everyone, always, can love and pray.

Our affection for our loved ones – for the wife or husband with whom we have spent so much of our lives, for our children, for our grandchildren who brighten our days – does not fade when our strength wanes. Indeed, their own affection often revives our energy and brings us hope and comfort.

These signs of living love, which have their roots in God himself, give us courage and remind us that "even if our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day" (2 Cor 4:16). Especially as we grow older, let us press forward with confidence in the Lord. May we be renewed each day by our encounter with him in prayer and in Holy Mass. Let us lovingly pass on the faith we have lived for so many years, in our families and in our daily encounter with others. May we always praise God for his goodness, cultivate unity with our loved ones, open our hearts to those who are far away and, in particular, to all those in need. In this way, we will be signs of hope, whatever our age.



Contact

Sacramental Information

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

How to Offer a Mass Intention

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

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

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

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

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

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

St. Alphonsus Social Media

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

Directory

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

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

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

School Office Hours:
8:00 AM– 3:00 PM

Staff

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

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