Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

APRIL 9, 2023: EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD



LITURGY SCHEDULE

Mass Schedule

Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri 8:30AM
Wed 6:00 PM
Sun 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 12:30 PM (Spanish) and 5:00 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 AM—12:00 PM
**Or call one of the priests for an appointment*

For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead. (Jn 20: 9)

Worship

This Week's Readings

Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 (24)/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/ Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10
Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/Mt 28:8-15
Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22/Jn 20:11-18
Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 24:13-35
Thursday: Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 24:35-48
Friday: Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118:1-2 and 4, 22-24, 25-27a/Jn 21:1-14
Saturday: Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21/Mk 16:9-15
Next Sunday: Acts 2:42-47/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 (1)/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31

Love. Grow. Serve.



Welcome to the Parish!

Hannah Dari

Katie Cunningham

Ian Conger

Marc Lenihan and Kara Warner
Leni
Cameron

Rachel and Corey Jacobs
Blair
Luca

Please Pray for the Sick

Dorothy Bonds
Jamie Wallett
Sandra Wilson
Monica Alexis Rios
Margaret Nichols
Maria Eisler
Tessa Sergent
Diane Mareci
Fidel Mercado Chavez
Emilia Hurtado
Bernard Zapp
David Birks
Celeste Soult
Carol Reckwerdt
Magdalena Gonzalez
Michael Aldape
William Ahearn
Janet Horvat
Frank G. Bauer
Al Corleone
Mary Perisin
Judy Fredrickson
Tracy Duda
Jacob Duda
Dorothy O'Brien
Ryan Meadow
Danny Browder
Carol Kania
Juanita Ramirez

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

Men of the parish are invited to attend our Communio prayer group each Wednesday at 8:15-9 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, 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

Giving Update

Weekly Budget Amount: $15,218

Offertory for 4/2: $19,667

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, April 9 (Easter Sunday)
7:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus
9:00 AM +Edward Marsalek Sr.
11:00 AM The People of St. Alphonsus
12:30 PM The People of St. Alphonsus

Monday, April 10
8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus

Tuesday, April 11
8:30 AM The People of St. Alphonsus

Wednesday, April 12
6:00 PM Smith Family

Thursday, April 13
8:30 AM +Chet Sullivan

Friday, April 14
8:30 AM +Ricky Azores

Sunday, April 16
9:00 AM +Ervin Frohnauer
11:00 AM +Robert T. Maikie
12:30 PM The People of St. Alphonsus
5:00 PM +Maria Swachta

An Easter Reflection: Hiding and Seeking

A beloved Easter morning tradition is the Easter egg hunt. Children yell with excitement whenever they discover eggs dyed in springtime colors, decorated with stickers, or sprinkled with sparkles. Depending on the age of the seeker, the eggs may be more cleverly hidden with increasing degrees of difficulty. Kids love the fun of the seeking, and parents enjoy the game of the hiding – as long as all the eggs are found that morning. (But if someone miscalculates the number of eggs found vs. hidden, don't worry too much, the missing one will be sniffed out in just a few days.). The Easter egg, while being the object of a fun tradition as well as a tasty treat, is often said to be a symbol of Christ's Resurrection from the tomb.

Today we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ – He is risen! With a blare of trumpets, with the fullest volume of organ pipes and resounding choirs, with flowers blooming and colors bursting, with columns of incense and a pillar of fire, with souls seeking and hearts pounding – every aspect of the church and every fiber of our being in exclaims the great Easter hymn of Alleluia! Alleluia!

Today we find the salvation that the Israelites had been looking for through the centuries. Today we rejoice as we commemorate Christ rising from the dead early in the morning on the first day of the week as the early morning sunlight crests the edge of the horizon.

Even though the Resurrection happened two thousand years ago, it is not merely an historical event with a happy ending. By the power of God and through the faith we are baptized into, our celebration of Easter helps us understand that this story is as alive and meaningful today as it was when Mary Magdalene first announced it to the Apostles. Jesus is alive – death has no authority over Him. And because we are created in God's image and likeness, and because we are deeply loved by our Heavenly Father, Jesus wants to give us that same life, the same joy, the same Spirit, the very same gift. He has been raised up – and so shall we be. To seek this truth is to find eternal life. And in that, we find access to every spiritual gift in the heavens (Ephesians 1:3).

At Easter Sunday Mass we celebrate these gifts, this encounter with the Resurrection. It is mediated to us through the Sacred Liturgy as we are ushered into the deepest and greatest mysteries of our faith. By receiving Our Lord into our hearts in this way – and especially in the reception of the Holy Eucharist, the Bread of Life – we come to share personally in the story of Christ's Passion, death and Resurrection. Because it is a divinely written story, one that transcends time and eternity, we discover our own life and story – with all its challenges and blessings – is actually hidden inside the Risen Heart of Jesus Christ. St. Paul teaches us that in the second reading on Easter Sunday: "your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with Him in glory."

Your life is hidden in Christ. Because you are loved more than you know. The realization of that deep truth does so much for us: it makes our hearts feel lighter, relieves us from the pressure for perfection, heals the wounds of sin, dispels the illusion of earthly success, fuels conversion of heart, enables us to see God's fingerprints, comforts us in times of sorrow, brings feelings of peace, connects us to the Holy Spirit, fortifies us against temptation, inspires us in charity, empowers us to forgive, saturates us with grace… and reminds you that you are loved more than you. Because your life is hidden in the risen heart of love.

For all of these reasons – and for many more yet to be revealed – St. Paul tells us to "seek what is above," because we were raised with Christ, and our lives are hidden in Him. And dwelling in the Heart of the Risen Lord, we find all the hope, healing, and joy of new life. It is the gift of Resurrection.

Happy Easter!

Rev. Steven Bauer
Pastor

Easter Stewardship

FIRST FRUITS
time talent treasure

Christ is risen! Alleluia! The Easter message of joy echoes through the whole world proclaiming Christ's ultimate victory of light over darkness, grace over sin, and life over death. It is the message upon which we build our lives and to which we anchor our own hope of victory with him.

Make your Easter offering online this season! It is encouraging to see both new and familiar faces at our worship services.

Throughout the year, many already support St. Alphonsus with your time, talent and treasure.

Thank you again for your continued support of our church! Your spirited generosity ensures our parish continues our mission and good works throughout our community and beyond for years to come!

Sign up at *www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/527*

You can also text *Risen* to (773) 570-7600

Divine Mercy Sunday, April 16, 2023

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

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

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





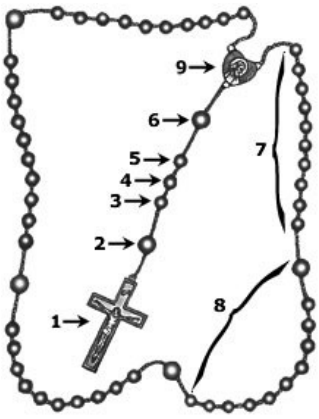
Confessions will also be heard from 3-4 PM. We must be signs of God's mercy in the world. We must not hold back this mercy, for we ourselves have been forgiven. Some reflection questions to consider:

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

Who do I need to show mercy to right now?

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

Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet



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

News and Events

Baptisms



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

If you are interested in having your child baptized at St. Alphonsus, please contact Kaitlin Holyk at weddings@stalphonsuschicago.church
For adult baptisms contact Brooks Robinson at brobinson@stalphonsuschicago.church

Marriage at St. Alphonsus



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

Serve as a Wedding Coordinator!

Are you looking to get more involved in our parish? St. Alphonsus is currently looking for wedding coordinators to join our team. Being part of the Wedding Ministry is a rewarding opportunity, fun, and all volunteers receive a stipend for their time. For more information contact Kaitlin Holyk

Friends Through Faith

The newly formed Friends Through Faith Adult Social Group is beginning to foster essential faith-filled connections and build our St. Alphonsus community through fellowship and fun. 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.

We are creating small groups, charity/service opportunities, outings and friendships out of this community and would love more parishioners joining us. If you'd like more information, please email Amy amykeefner@gmail.com

We meet the last Sunday of every month following the 11 AM mass in the Rectory. To register for the April 30th gathering, please email Amy Keefner.

Safe Families for Children

THANK YOU to so many St. Alphonsus parish groups for participating in our SFFC ministry's "Blessing Bags" campaign during Lent this year! We are so grateful for your help in supporting our host families.

When children arrive at a host family's home, they usually don't bring much with them. Maybe an extra outfit or two, but rarely more than that. These Blessing Bags (including hair care products, skincare products, toiletries, and Bibles) will be SO HELPFUL for host families welcoming and caring for new children! Hallelujah!

Please join us in assembling these Blessing Bags in the rectory on **Wednesday April 12 from 7-8 PM.** All are welcome!

AACA— Wizard of Oz Musical

Wednesday April 26



Journey with us, April 26th at the Athenaeum, down the yellow brick road for Alphonsus Academy & Center for the Arts' spring musical *"The Wizard of Oz!"* The performance begins at 6:30PM. There will be cake and other refreshments following in the Festival Hall. Admission is free- but you can make a free-will donation to support AACA's Musical Program. www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/36953

Joining St. Alphonsus Parish

St. Alphonsus welcomes all community members on their faith journey! Just moved in the area? Coming back to practicing our Catholic faith? You will want to learn about all the events going on at our parish. If you are not receiving our weekly parish newsletter in your email, contact Mario Serrano at

mserrano@stalphonsuschicago.church

You can officially register to join the parish at www.stalphonsuschicago.org/visitors

Faith Formation

Spring Your Kids Into Totus Tuus Summer Camp!



For all families looking forward to summer, we've got the perfect thing for your children to do: the Archdiocese is bringing the Totus Tuus summer camp back to St. Alphonsus, July 23-28. It's like a week-long vacation Bible school, only way more fun and active. Each session is limited to only 50 participants. All safety protocols will be followed to ensure the health & safety of all participants and volunteers. For more information, please visit vocations.archchicago.org/events/totus-tuus/what-is-totus-tuus

The price is only $75 per child for an entire week!
Register on our parish GiveCentral page at www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/32872

Any parent or parishioner interested in volunteering with Totus Tuus should contact Erica Cook, ecook@stalphonsuschicago.church

Walking With Purpose Women's Group

Tuesday mornings/evenings



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.

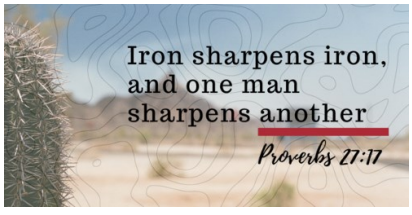
We'll study King David, select psalms, the temple, and many Old Testament prophets and see the ways in which they all point to the coming King of Kings, Jesus Christ. This Nine-Lesson Bible study is the second part of a two-part series and is ideally completed after Beholding His Glory.

Our new Beholding Your King bible study group meets ***Tuesdays from 9:30—11 AM and 6:30—8 PM.***

There will be no meeting this Tuesday April 4; we will resume on April 11. Questions? Contact Susan Combes at suecombes@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 Peter Tigue, peter.tigue@gmail.com

A Day of Reflection for Women

Friday May 12 9 AM—3 PM



Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House, 420 W. County Line Rd. Barrington, IL 60010

Retreat Masters: Fr. J. Michael Sparough, SJ and Rachel Forton

Retreat Title: *Holy is Her Name*

Spend a day in the presence of other women getting in touch with the feminine qualities of God as we explore what it means to say "holy is Her name." As women, we do ourselves a disservice if we only ever relate to a male image of God. We know that God is without gender and encompasses all the masculine and feminine qualities of humanity. Imagining a feminine God helps us view our own femininity as sacred and precious. We will draw from Scripture (where God is referred to as a mother hen, midwife, laboring woman, and more), the words of holy women such as Julian of Norwich and Hildegard of Bingen, and the work of numerous women theologians and spiritual writers. Join us as we share prayer experiences designed to open our hearts to new ways of seeing God within and around us.

Program Cost: $65.00 (includes Lunch) Register & check out more future retreats www.jesuitretreat.org/pages/retreat-schedule

Young Adult Ministry

Young Adult Speed Dating!



Young adult (21-39 yrs old) speed dating will take place on **Saturday, April 29** with registration check-ins beginning at 6:00 PM.

Cost per individual ticket is $50. You must pre-register for the event. Final day to register is Wednesday, April 26. At the door sign ups are not allowed, to ensure everyone is able to meet their matches for each round.

Women's Sign-up: www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/36787
Men's Sign-Up: www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/36788
Participants will be asked to please create a profile. More info on the GiveCentral registration page.

Join us for a tremendously fun evening of quality conversations with great dates, food and drinks included! Don't wait to register! Seats go super fast. All ticket sales are final, limited number of tickets available so buy yours now before they sell out.

Follow-up questions can be sent to stalsyamsocial@gmail.com

More Young Adult News— YCP Chicago Executive Speaker Series



All young adults are invited to join Young Catholic Professionals for their April Executive Speaker Series with Fr. John Kartje, Rector of Mundelein Seminary and President of the University of Saint Mary of the Lake. Fr. Kartje will speak on ***"Easter Season: New Life, New Mindset."*** The event will be held at the Athenaeum Center for Culture & Thought (2936 N. Southport Ave) on ***Tuesday April 11*** *starting at 7 PM, and daily Mass will be held prior at 6:15 PM here at St. Alphonsus.*

Young adults in their 20s and 30s from all industries are invited to this free event, which will include networking, beverages, and appetizers! Please note that professional attire is encouraged at YCP Chicago events. We look forward to seeing you Tuesday, April 11th!

REGISTER HERE: bit.ly/ycpapriless2023

MEET THE SPEAKER:
Father John was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Chicago in 2002. He has served in parish and campus ministry in both Chicago and Washington, DC, as well as Mundelein Seminary where he has taught scripture since 2009. He was appointed the rector at Mundelein Seminary in 2015. He holds doctorate degrees in scripture (Catholic University of America) and in astrophysics (University of Chicago).

Catholic Sports League



Kickball League
Springtime is here, and it's time for a fan favorite, the CSL kickball league! Join on Tuesdays beginning May 9th at Gill Park. Teams will have 16 members, so you can sign up individually or with a friend! Register before early bird pricing closes on April 10th.

Dates: Tuesdays from May 9th through June 13th
Time: Games at 6:30 PM and 7:30 PM
Location: Gill Park, 825 W Sheridan Rd. Chicago, 60613
Cost: $55 – early bird; Visit www.catholicsportsleagues.com

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus are the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization. Dedicated to the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. The Knights organize and participate in numerous charitable activities each year that are designed to benefit their parish communities, to help their brother Knights grow deeper in their faith as Catholic men, and to serve the needy and less fortunate in the world.

The St. Alphonsus Council has a strong group of motivated Knights from all ages and walks of life, with our numbers now 100 strong and growing. Our council's main goals are: to rally the Catholic men in our community to a common and noble cause, to assist and defend our church, to serve our community, to encourage growth in faith and prayer in ourselves and in our friends and families, to become better men and fathers, and finally to meet like-minded men that share our same values and belief that you can be a man of the world while still having Christ at the center of your life.

We are always looking for new members, and would welcome the practicing Catholic men of the parish and surrounding community to join our ranks. There is usually a social following our meetings, which is open to all prospective members. To find out more information about the Knights of Columbus at St. Alphonsus, or to apply for membership, feel free to contact parishioner, Carlos Medina at cmedina15158@gmail.com or visit www.stalphonsusknights.com

Thank You to All Our March 31 Fish Fry Volunteers, Sponsors and Attendees who made it a great night!

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

VOCATIONS EVENTS

Do you have a calling to the priesthood?

Father Tim Monahan, Vocations Director, wants to connect with you.

High school men are invited:
Quigley Discerners Event, April 29

Families of discerning men are invited to meet with parents of seminarians:
St. James, Arlington Heights, April 30 at 3 p.m.

Scan code for details and to sign up!



At the Athenaeum

Film and Culture Series— April 12 at 7 PM



When was the last time you went to the movies? And was it magical? Or just … meh? Is it too late to save the movies? Are they even worth saving?

New York Times columnist & Athenaeum Advisory Board member Ross Douthat will address these questions and more in the inaugural episode of the newly launched Film & Culture Series on April 12 in the Paradiso at the Athenaeum.

Tootsie, the classic 80s rom-com, will be screened on the same day in the Historic Main Stage theatre—the perfect way to counteract the decline Douthat will discuss! His talk will reference the film as an example of the kind of movies Hollywood no longer makes. Visit athenaeumcenter.org/events/2023/the-film-culture-series Be sure to make a free-will offering to support this event!



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Cardinal's Easter Letter



Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Risen Lord,

At Easter time, we proclaim and celebrate that Christ, our hope, has risen from the dead and is active in the life of the Church. He is our hope as the world faces so many challenges.

Think of our sisters and brothers in Ukraine and people in other parts of the world who daily struggle with war, civil unrest, violence, repression, and natural disasters. Think of those who are homeless and who walk our streets and those whose streets in our city are plagued with violence. Think too of the dark forces that continue to polarize our society and result in our own sinfulness, and the suffering of so many in mind or body with chronic illness. In the face of all this, we clearly know our need for the risen Christ, who is our hope.

I urge you to reclaim your Easter faith and hope in Christ, especially as you gather with your parish community and once again hear the proclamation "Christ is risen!" We sing in response "Alleluia, he is truly risen," to express that on hearing this good news we deepen our faith that by rising from the tomb, Christ has broken the bonds of sin and death, and claims us as his very own daughters and sons of light.

Let this Easter season be a new springtime for us personally, our parishes and our archdiocese as we continue our renewal and commitment to be missionaries of hope to a world so much need.

Finally, let us pray for one another, for all those we love, and for all who have not yet heard or accepted new and lasting hope in Christ our risen Lord.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Cardinal Blase J. Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago

Carta de Pascua del Cardenal

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en el Señor Resucitado:

En el tiempo de Pascua, proclamamos y celebramos que Cristo, nuestra esperanza, ha resucitado de entre los muertos y obra en la vida de la Iglesia. Él es nuestra esperanza cuando el mundo se enfrenta a tantos desafíos.

Piensen en nuestros hermanos y hermanas de Ucrania y en las personas de otras partes del mundo que luchan a diario contra la guerra, los disturbios civiles, la violencia, la represión y las catástrofes naturales. Piensen en la gente sin techo que camina por nuestras calles y en aquellos para quienes las calles de nuestra ciudad están plagadas de violencia. Piensen también en las fuerzas oscuras que siguen polarizando nuestra sociedad y dan lugar a nuestro propio pecado, y al sufrimiento de tantos en mente o cuerpo con enfermedades crónicas. Ante todo esto, sabemos claramente nuestra necesidad de Cristo resucitado, que es nuestra esperanza.

Les insto a recuperar su fe pascual y su esperanza en Cristo, especialmente cuando se reúnan con su comunidad parroquial y escuchen una vez más la proclamación "¡Cristo ha resucitado!". Cantamos en respuesta "Aleluya, verdaderamente ha resucitado", expresando que al escuchar esta buena noticia profundizamos nuestra fe en que, al resucitar de la tumba, Cristo ha roto los lazos del pecado y de la muerte, y nos reclama como sus propios hijos e hijas de la luz.

Que este tiempo de Pascua sea una nueva primavera para nosotros personalmente, para nuestras parroquias y para nuestra arquidiócesis, mientras continuamos nuestra renovación y nuestro compromiso de ser misioneros de esperanza en un mundo tan necesitado.

Por último, recemos unos por otros, por todos los que amamos y por todos los que aún no han escuchado o aceptado la esperanza nueva y duradera en Cristo, nuestro Señor resucitado.

Sinceramente suyo en Cristo,
Cardenal Blase J. Cupich
Arzobispo de Chicago

Helpful Household Hints by Harvey Levin

Now that spring is here, you probably will want to have the house look nice and fresh, but how about those carpet stains. The best way to clean your carpet efficiently is Ammonia and an iron. First, preheat your iron, then mix one cup of ammonia with one cup of water and spray the mixture onto the carpet stain and cover it with a clean towel, put the iron on top of the towel and move it around. Repeat this process, changing the towel, until the stain vanishes completely.

Gospel Reflection

The Revelation of the Burial Cloths

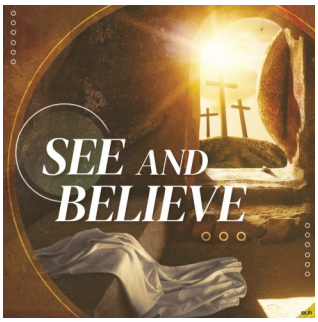
People want proof. Blind faith can be challenging, however, we know it is not only possible but actually a gift of great grace. One which, as Jesus tells the Apostle Thomas, blesses those who are able to believe without seeing (John 20:29). Yet, Jesus does wish us to see and believe and offers signs — moments that go beyond the miraculous to reveal something about who he truly is. There are seven signs in John's Gospel. The Resurrection is the seventh. But where's the proof? What can we see in today's Gospel that offers irrefutable evidence as to Jesus' resurrection versus an abduction of the body?

Let us focus on these two verses for our reflection, "When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed" (John 20:6-8).

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (640) turns first our thoughts first to the empty tomb. "In itself it is not a direct proof of Resurrection; the absence of Christ's body from the tomb could be explained otherwise. Nonetheless the empty tomb was still an essential sign for all." Next, we focus on the burial cloths. In the Scriptures, when there is something important that demands special attention, it is often repeated. In John's account of the Easter morning discoveries, we encounter the burial cloths, along with the words "saw and believed," numerous times.

The Ignatius Catholic Study Bible: New Testament's commentary on John 20:7, speaks of "the napkin (the linen cloths, aka burial cloths) as "Corroborating evidence of the Resurrection. No thief would have taken the time to unwrap Jesus' corpse and fold his burial clothes neatly in the tomb. In any case, the grave robbers of antiquity usually stole the expensive linens and left the body behind, not the other way around."

The Gospel of John (Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture) delves even deeper with their reflection on John 20:7.
"John's description of the graveclothes suggests several important things about what happened to Jesus. The first, the presence of the burial cloths in the tomb refutes the speculation that Jesus' body had been stolen, because grave robbers would not have unwrapped the corpse before stealing it. Second, the graveclothes point toward something unprecedented happening to Jesus through a contrast with the raising of Lazarus. When Jesus called Lazarus out of the tomb, Lazarus "came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth" (11:44), and Jesus then gave the order to unwrap him. But Jesus, who is not in the tomb, is not bound by the graveclothes or face cloth nor in need of anyone to untie him. Something radically different has happened to Jesus ... Jesus' resurrection is not resuscitation but God's raising and transforming him to an immortal, glorified mode of existence ...Third, the fact that the head covering was rolled up in a separate place suggests conscious, deliberate action. As Moloney points out, many verbs pertaining to what happened in the tomb, such as the stone being "removed" (20:1) and the face cloth being "rolled up" (20:7), are in the passive voice, which points to God as the agent. Jesus' tomb is empty because God has directly acted here."



Here's something minute but interesting to ponder regarding the way in which the burial cloths were left. Anyone who has lived with others, especially for three years, learns much about the manner in which they care for their belongings. Consider your college roommates or your own family, if you walked into the bathroom, would you know instantly who showered last by where (and how) you found their towel? Could we not then logically deduce, perhaps when Peter and John saw how the garment was arranged and left, they knew immediately who left it that way? Not to mention, how would a body — other than one risen from the dead — escape the cocoon-like wrappings of burial cloths hardened over the three days with about a hundred pounds of myrrh and aloes? Would a thief take the time to even remove the body from its wrappings or neatly roll the head covering?

We'll conclude with these poignant words from John Bergsma (The Word of the Lord: Reflections on the Mass Readings for Solemnities and Feasts), "It still requires faith to say "Amen" to the radical assertion, "The Body of Christ." And this is part of God's pedagogy: He reveals Himself clearly enough that we have reason to believe, but not so directly as to compel us and force our will. He always leaves room for us to exercise faith because He desires children who will trust Him, not servants forced to serve Him. Let's come as children to this Eucharist, confident in the testimony of the Apostles Peter (in the first reading) and John (in the Gospel) that Christ has risen, and exercising faith to believe the Eucharist we receive is the same Body that was missing from the tomb."

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As Pope St. John Paul II reminded us in a 1986 Angelus address, “We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song! We are not looking for a shallow joy but rather a joy that comes from faith.” May you be blessed this Easter by believing without seeing, having recognized the greatest sign of why we can profess those words. The tomb is empty. Jesus is not dead, he is alive! Alleluia, Alleluia!

—Allison Gingras

PRAYER

My Lord and My God!
How awed by your Passion
how grateful for your salvific work upon the Cross.
My Lord and My God!
May Alleluia always be our song!

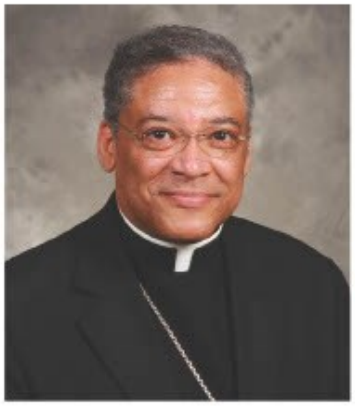
Around the Archdiocese

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Evenings with Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton



A five-part series featuring Bishop Joseph N. Perry



Join Bishop Perry at the Tolton Heritage Center in Chicago to learn about Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton, the first recognized African American Roman Catholic priest. He is on the road to canonization. These events will include a short video, a presentation by Bishop Perry and plenty of time for conversation.

Events are free. Please visit **tinyurl.com/477k4yps** to register.

Starting on March 8 | 4 – 6 p.m.
Tolton Heritage Center
44 East 41st Street, Chicago, IL 60653

April 12 **Spreading the Word**
Fr. Augustus Tolton: The pioneer, spiritual leader, and social justice advocate. Discover how Tolton’s legacy extends beyond Catholics, and why everyone should know about his impact.

May 3 **Embodying Forgiveness**
Today, there are deep divisions in this country. What does Fr. Tolton’s life teach us about forgiveness and understanding that would move us toward healing?

May 10 **All Things Tolton**
You’ve probably heard a lot about Tolton or perhaps nuggets about various groups or organizations bearing his name. Learn about the various groups and how they work together to advance Tolton’s legacy.

Sponsored by the **Tolton Spirituality Center**.

Around the Archdiocese

Volunteer w/Little Sisters of the Poor

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR
ST. MARY'S HOME

Little Sisters of the Poor in our Lakeview area, St. Mary's Home 2325 N. Lakewood, are looking for volunteers to visit residents and help with serving meals as well as other volunteer opportunities. Make a difference in the lives of others, put a smile on someone's face! For more info, contact the volunteer coordinator Tayler Liedke, (773) 935-9600 or email at *volchicago@littlesistersofthepoor.org*

Living the Gospel of Life— Support Aid for Women!

Aid for Women

Aid for Women was founded over 44 years ago on the faith and teachings of the Catholic Church. We are the only Chicago area pregnancy resource center listed in the Official Catholic "Kennedy" Directory. The Most Rev. Mark Bartosic is an active member of our Board of Advisors and Robert Gilligan, Executive Director of Catholic Conference of Illinois, serves as our Board President.

Aid for Women operates four pregnancy resource centers throughout the Chicago metropolitan area. Services include pregnancy tests, ultrasound exams and confidential counseling. Aid for Women's residential programs, Heather's House and Monica's House, help women whose decision to choose life is further complicated by lack of adequate housing.

Visit www.aidforwomen.org or call (312) 621-1100. Thank you for your support of our life-saving work.

Susan Barrett
Executive Director

Catholic Charities

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
Archdiocese of Chicago

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago was established in 1917 by the Catholic Bishop of Chicago to meet human needs, through the provision of basic and specialized services in the Mission of Charity.

They are proudly committed to accompanying anyone in need, regardless of his or her faith, gender, race or ethnicity as they face difficult times in their lives.

Catholic Charities is comprised of dedicated professionals who partner with mission-driven people and organizations across Cook and Lake counties to witness a message of mercy and hope to a world in need. To learn more, visit catholiccharities.net.

Theology of the Body

Echo Retreat 2023

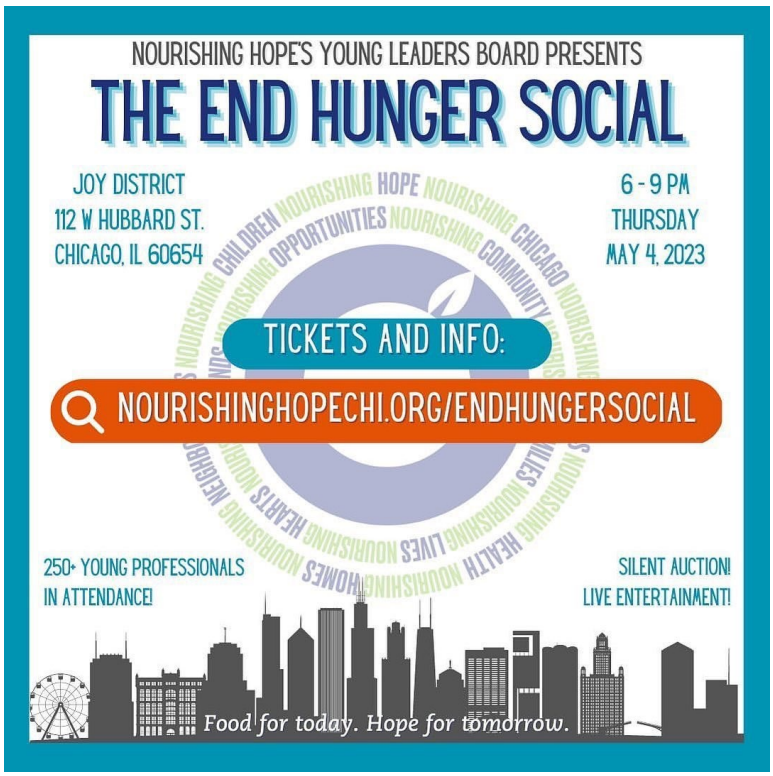
ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
ECHO
THEOLOGY OF THE BODY CAMP

ECHO is a dynamic and immersive Catholic retreat experience of St. John Paul II's landmark teaching called the Theology of the Body. This year, ECHO Chicago is geared towards young adults. ECHO is not just an intellectual exercise, but a journey into the heart where we discover the "distant echo" of God's plan for life and love from the very beginning.

Focused on identity, prayer, vocation, relationships and the Catholic Church's teachings on human sexuality, participants are invited into a new level of freedom to be the gift that God has called them to be. ECHO Chicago will be an overnight retreat that begins on **Friday evening, June 23 and concludes on Sunday evening, June 25.**
St. Alphonsus pastor Rev. Steven Bauer will be chaplain of the ECHO retreat.

WHEN: June 23-25, 2023
Where: Casa Iskali, Our Lady of Guatelupe Campus, 9430 W. Golf Rd. Des Plaines
For more info and to register, visit
https://pvm.archchicago.org/human-dignity-solidarity/respect-life-chastity-education/events

Community News



Nourishing Hope's End Hunger Social

The Young Leaders Board of Nourishing Hope, formerly known as Lakeview Pantry, is hosting the End Hunger Social on Thursday, May 4, at Joy District, 112 W. Hubbard Street, to help raise funding to support their community programs.

The End Hunger Social draws more than 250 young professionals from all over the Chicago area, raising funds annually to provide food, social services and mental health counseling to any Chicagoan in need.

Join for an evening of food, music, cocktails, games and silent auction items to raise funds for Nourishing Hope's future!

Learn more and get tickets at https://give.nourishinghopechi.org/event/end-hunger-social/e462926

Midtown Educational Foundation's 8th Annual Soirée

MEF operates through its Metro Achievement Center for girls and Midtown Center for boys in grades 4 – 12. Programs focus on Hispanic and African American youth, offering after-school and summertime growth opportunities that help students of average academic ability to achieve above-average results. Programs are rooted in Catholic moral and social teaching and embrace students regardless of their religious, racial, ethnic, or familial status. MEF received its original inspiration from Opus Dei, an institution of the Catholic Church, and continues today its partnership with Opus Dei.

The MEF Soiree plays host to roughly 500 of Chicago's young professionals and is their Auxiliary Board's largest fundraiser of the year. For tickets and more info, www.midtown-metro.org/events/23soiree





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 |
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 |
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