Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

AUGUST 31, 2025: TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"For every one who exalts himself will be humbled,
but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." (Lk 14:11)

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: Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 (1a)/Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a/Lk14:1, 7-14
Monday: 1 Thes 4:13-18/Ps 96:1 and 3, 4-5, 11-12, 13/Lk 4:16-30
Tuesday: 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Lk 4:31-37
Wednesday: Col 1:1-8/Ps 52:10, 11/Lk 4:38-44
Thursday: Col 1:9-14/Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6/Lk 5:1-11
Friday: Col 1:15-20/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 5:33-39
Saturday: Col 1:21-23/Ps 54:3-4, 6 and 8/Lk 6:1-5
Next Sunday: Wis 9:13-18b/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17 (1)/Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33

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 Moya
Ernest Nora
Albert Meier
Dan Clark
Kevin Combs
Norma Ehrenberg
Janet Dahm
Mary Ziko

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/info, contact James Morrow, jemseoul@hotmail.com

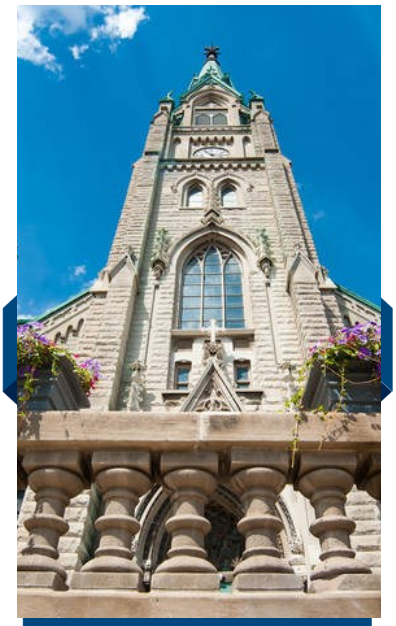
Welcome Our Recently Baptized

Abel Zamores

Lucy Catherine Donegan

Wedding Banns

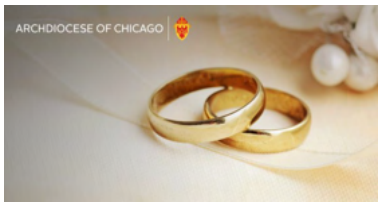
II. Julie Green and Benjamin Rahimi
II. Nicole DiOrio and Joseph Aquino
I. Allison Michel and Cameron O'Connor
I. Madison Dugan and Marten de Boer
I. Mariam M. Hinostroza and Jorge Santiago



WEDDINGS

Taylor Welch and Matthew Johnson

Kelly Hull and Bradley Burrows



At Rest in the Peace of Christ

Olga Fernandez

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, August 31
9:00 AM +Ed & Mary Gobat
11:00 AM +Gonzalo Gilana & Family
12:30 PM +Mercedes Carrillo
5:00 PM +Robert Ludwig & Michael Bucher

Monday, September 1— Labor Day
9:00 AM The People of Saint Alphonsus

Tuesday, September 2
8:30 AM +John Connell

Wednesday, September 3
6:00 PM Evangelization Efforts of Our Parish

Thursday, September 4
8:30 AM +Edward Marsalek

Friday, September 5
8:30 AM The People of Saint Alphonsus

Saturday, September 6
8:30 AM The People of Saint Alphonsus

Sunday, September 7
9:00 AM +Ethel Heyward
Juliana Pellino (Baptism Anniversary)
11:00 AM +Janice Walsh
12:30 PM +Gustavo Medina Sr.
5:00 PM +Cherie Ackman

A Message From Our Pastor



This past Wednesday the heart of every Catholic in the nation – and indeed, every person of good will – was broken. And a few days later, the sound of tears falling still echoes throughout the Universal Church, especially in Minneapolis.

By the time you're reading this, many people will have written sentences, paragraphs, articles and timelines reporting various aspects of the shooting, the shooter, the reasons (or lack thereof), the school, the students, the church, the school, and on and on. The reality is that no matter how much ink is poured out, there are not adequate words to describe the pain, the horror, the trauma of what happened. The news reports are that two are dead and seventeen wounded. But the reality is that we have all been wounded. And because this incomprehensible evil happened in church during a school Mass, it does much more than hit closer to home – it pierces the heart through.

Whenever confronted by the reality of objective evil, especially of an order of this magnitude, my mind turns to two persons who hearts were also pierced through: Jesus and Mary. For Jesus, the spear that punctured his heart is visible to all; for the Virgin Mother, it was visible in the prophecy of Simeon at the Presentation and made manifestly present when Mary wept at the foot of the Cross: "and you yourself a sword shall pierce," Simeon told her, "so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Luke 2:35). One piercing was physical, the other emotional. Even though Jesus had already expired on the Cross, when the soldier thrust his spear into the body of Christ, Mary felt the pain. Blood and water flowed out from Jesus' heart, and from Mary's heart came a river of unimaginable sorrow and anguish – the Immaculate Heart of Mary washed in the blood and water from the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

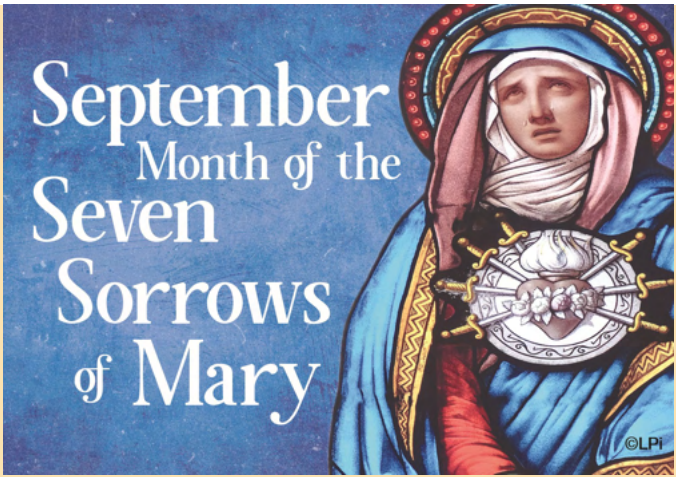
What possible consolation could there have been for Mary, watching her divine Son suffer and die so painfully, so unjustly, so unfairly? What possible consolation could there be for the victims, parents, and parishioners of Annunciation Parish in Minneapolis? The way that Mary found comfort is the way that they can find comfort: cradling and holding tightly the Body of Christ.

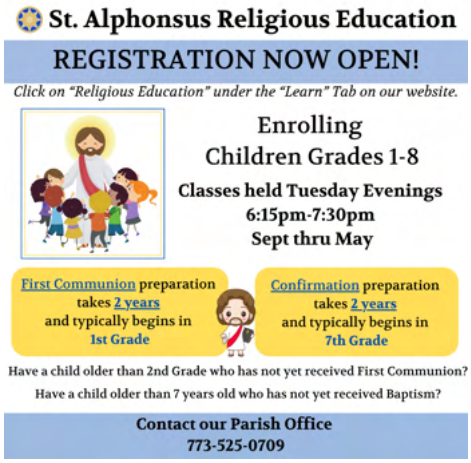
That which we know devotionally as the Thirteenth Station of the Cross is now the spiritual place in which we all stand. We weep with the Virgin Mary and the people of Annunciation Parish, remembering the Blessed Mother holding the body of Jesus – except that now, she is holding all of them, and from her heart flows a torrent of compassion, tenderness, and motherly love... especially those who feel mired at the Fourteenth Station, staring blankly at the tomb. And someday, after many long embraces from our heavenly Mother, after the tears have stopped falling, eventually she will very gently lift their (and our) minds and hearts to see a vision of the mysterious "Fifteenth Station," wherein stands the Risen Lord Jesus, who has conquered all enemies and forces of evil, in a place where hope dwells, where all sin and violence is ended, all wounds healed, and the hearts and souls of all the just are restored. Although it lies just beyond our earthly vision, by the grace of faith and the intercession of the Virgin Mary, it will be become visible and be made manifest through the lens of the Body of Christ, the Bread of Life, the Medicine of Immortality.

Rev. Steven Bauer
Pastor

A Prayer Invoking Our Lady of Sorrows

Grant, we beseech Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ,
that the most blessed Virgin Mary, your Mother,
may intercede for us before the throne of Your mercy,
now and at the hour of our death,
whose most holy soul was pierced with the sword of sorrow
in the hour of Your own Passion.
We ask this through You,
Jesus Christ, Savior of the world,
who lives and reigns with the Father
and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever.
Amen.





Religious Education 2025-26 Registration

Register your child today for RE! Classes are open for enrollment for Grades 1-8. Our program is held on Tuesday Evenings (Sept. thru May) from 6:15 PM— 7:30 PM.

On the St. Alphonsus Website, click on the "Learn" tab, and then click "Religious Education." Scroll down to learn more about our program, register, and pay tuition.

Did you know that preparation for both First Communion and Confirmation is a 2 year process?

First Communion preparation typically begins in 1st Grade and Confirmation preparation typically begins in 7th Grade.

If you have a child that is older than 2nd Grade and has not yet received First Communion or a child that is older than 7 years old and has not yet received Baptism, contact Brooks, brobinson@stalphonsuschicago.church

Catechists for Religious Education

Our Church needs you! A catechist is someone who loves their Catholic faith, has a desire to share that faith with our youngest Church members, and who also desires to continually deepen their own faith as well! Being a catechist is a rewarding gift that you both give to our next generation and that you receive as you see little hearts open and burn with the love of God. **God created you to reveal a unique part of His heart to the world, and this is your opportunity to share that part of God's heart with others**. Classes held Tuesday Evenings 6:15 PM-7:30 PM, Sept thru May; Grades 1-8.

Are you Called to be a Catechist? Remember that God does not call the qualified, He qualifies the called!

Consistent support from the RE Coordinator is also given to each catechist to help ensure that classes go smoothly. Check out our website for more information and contact Steven Torres, storres@stalphonsuschicago.church

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



News and Events



Happy Labor Day Weekend!

St. Alphonsus Parish wishes you and your loved ones a wonderful Labor Day weekend! Please note that due to the holiday, ***daily Mass on Monday, September 1 will be at 9 AM****, instead of the usual 8:30 time. Our parish rectory and Alphonsus Academy school will be closed.*

Mama Meetup— Park Outing

Join other moms and littles for a coffee and park outing at South Lakeview Park (1300 W Wolfram St) **next Saturday, September 6 at 9 AM**! BYOC (Bring Your Own Coffee) and enjoy the last few days of sunshine and warmth with other moms from the parish. Partners and older children are welcome to join! Email Kathryn at kkibler@stalphonsuschicago.church w/ any questions.

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:

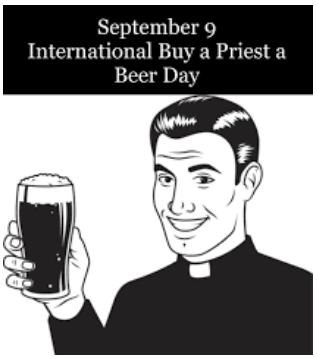
1. Un-baptized adults who desire to be baptized in the Catholic Church.
2. Baptized non-Catholic Christians who desire to be formally admitted into communion with the Catholic Church.
3. Baptized Catholics who have not yet been confirmed and desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

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

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.

International Buy A Priest a Beer Day



Tuesday, Sept. 9 is IBAPAB Day — International Buy A Priest A Beer day. This illustrious holiday dates all the way back to 2013 when it was invented by bloggers online called The Catholic Gentleman. To celebrate, Father Bauer and Father Raya joyfully invite all parishioners to a fun social in the rectory courtyard at 7:30 PM.

This is a day when Catholics are invited to show appreciation for our priests and share with them how their ministry has been important to them. **Bringing a beer is not actually required; this totally legitimate holiday is just a convenient excuse for parishioners to hang out with our priests for a pleasant Tuesday evening social!** There are other ways, of course, to show your appreciation, such as: bringing them a different beverage, dropping off snacks, by inviting them over for dinner, or by letting them know you are praying for them.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion



To elevate our experience of beautiful liturgies here at St. Alphonsus, we are inviting more people to serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. EMHC's should be practicing Catholics in good standing who have received Confirmation. There will be a formation & training session next Thursday, September 4th at 7 PM in the church. If you would like to volunteer for this important ministry at Mass, please contact us at parish@stalphonsuschicago.church

South Lakeview Neighbors Meeting

All are invited on Tuesday, September 9 to the SLN Meeting at the Athenaeum Theater, 2936 N. Southport. AGENDA: Alderman Scott Waguespack reports on The State of the Ward and the City. Meeting Starts at 7 PM. Doors open at 6:30 for socializing. www.slneighbors.org

Scouting Programs at St. Alphonsus



Sign ups are open for Cub Scouts! There will be an Open House Taste of Scouting event in the Scout Room next to the Alphonsus gymnasium on Thursday, Sept. 4 from 4-5:30 PM. Packets of information are available on the tables in the narthex of the church.

Summer Mission Co-Op Appeal This Sunday



Diocese of Mandeville, Jamaica
When we think of Jamaica, we think of Ocho Rios, beautiful beaches, vacations and wonderful scenery. But, just beyond all of that, Jamaica is among the poorest countries in our hemisphere and the Diocese of Mandeville is the poorest of the three dioceses in Jamaica. Many of the people have no running water. Many youth are "functionally illiterate;" there is an alarming number of destitute elderly and abandoned children; and, the average Sunday collection is 10% of the operating cost at half of their parishes. The Diocese of Mandeville is **very poor!**

Each year, a missionary is assigned to our parish by our Archdiocese of Chicago Mission Office for an appeal asking our assistance for ministries to assist the very poor. This **Sunday, August 31**, we will welcome Fr. Gary Wiesmann, for our annual mission appeal on behalf of the Diocese of Mandeville, Jamaica. In our 2nd collection, please consider supporting the evangelization programs and outreach to the people of this diocese.

Volunteer Opportunities

Misericordia Family Fest



The 43rd annual Misericordia Family Fest offers food & drink, live entertainment, children's games, shopping and more for the whole family! The Fest takes place on Sunday, Sept. 7 from 11 AM-6 PM at Misericordia's campus, 6300 N. Ridge (just south of Devon Ave). Misericordia offers exceptional programs for more than 600 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities from diverse racial, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds.

They are in need of volunteers to help with this wonderful Family Fest! Shifts are generally 2 1/2-3 hours. This one-day event takes over one thousand volunteers to pull it off and your help would be greatly appreciated! Learn more at www.misericordia.com/events/family-fest-2025/

WILLKOMMEN!

Friday, Sept 26, 5 - 10 p.m.

Saturday, Sept 27, Noon - 10 p.m.

Sunday, Sept 28, Noon - 7 p.m.

featuring Kinderfest, Noon - 6 pm

Willkommen!

Everyone is invited to celebrate our parish's German heritage at the best Oktoberfest party in the city!

Bands, Music, and Entertainment!

Fletcher Rockwell... Tripping Billies... Run Forrest Run... The Bratwurst Brothers
I-Pop... Hello Weekend... Dancing Queen, A Salute to Abba...
School of Rock... Sergeant Sauerkraut... *and more soon to be announced!*

Lederhosen is optional... but Gemütlichkeit is not!

Gemütlichkeit is a unique German word that describes the feeling you get when you gather with old friends and new in a festival atmosphere with food, drink, music, family and fun that just makes your heart feel happy. Lederhosen, dirndl dresses, Bavarian hats, and our commemorative beer steins have been proven to enhance this feeling, but are not required. Hats and steins can be pre-purchased if you visit our Fest website and click on the Merchandise tab.





Upgrade to become a VIP

Impress all your friends and family by becoming a VIP, which gets you the exclusive one-liter lidded beer stein, and a whole lot of other swag. Pricing and info is available by visiting our Fest website below.

VOLUNTEER!

There are a lot of times, places, and ways you can volunteer during the Fest or help make it a success. Have a fun time while helping our the parish you love! **The volunteer link is on the Oktoberfest website below.**

www.stalsoktoberfest.com



The first day of September is celebrated by Christians around the world as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. It also marks the beginning of the Season of Creation, which will conclude on the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, October 4.

During this time, Christians are asked to join in prayer and work for the care of our common home. The theme for 2025, which was chosen by Pope Francis, is "***Seeds of Peace and Hope***," drawn from Isaiah 32:14–18.

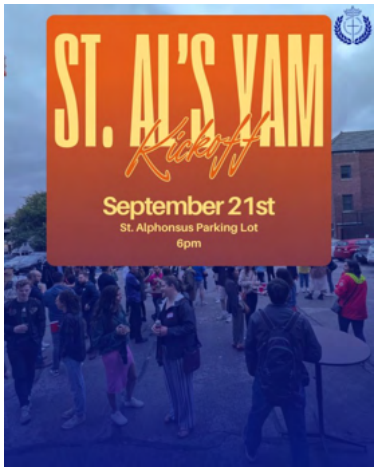
"Now is the time to follow words with deeds," Pope Leo XIV said in his message for the day. "'Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience'"(*Laudato Si'* 217). By working with love and perseverance, we can sow many seeds of justice and thus contribute to the growth of peace and the renewal of hope. It may well take years for this plant to bear its first fruits, years that, for their part, involve an entire ecosystem made up of continuity, fidelity, cooperation and love, especially if that love mirrors the Lord's own self-sacrificing Love."

Pope Leo said that environmental justice can no longer be regarded as an abstract concept, calling it an urgent need that involves much more than protecting the environment.

"It is a matter of justice – social, economic and human. For believers, it is also a duty born of faith, since the universe reflects the face of Jesus Christ, in whom all things were created and redeemed. In a world where the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters are the first to suffer the devastating effects of climate change, deforestation and pollution, care for creation becomes an expression of our faith and humanity," Pope Leo said.

The World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation was begun by the Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in 1989, but it was adopted by the Catholic Church in 2015, the same year that Pope Francis issued his encyclical letter *Laudato Sí: Care for Our Common Home*. The day highlights the connection between peace and care for our planet.

Young Adult Ministry



Young Adult Ministry Kick-Off— Sunday, September 21

We're back for another year and celebrating it with our annual Kickoff! Following the 5 PM Mass on Sept. 21st, young adults (ages 21-39) are invited to attend the YAM kickoff in the church parking lot. During the event, learn more about what YAM is, meet the new board and hear about our plans for the coming year, as well as find ways to get involved in the community! Throughout the year, we host numerous events but we can't do it ourselves which is why we need YOU to help us! So come learn how to get involved in our Spiritual, Social, Service, and Intellectual pillars as well as small groups. Plus, enjoy the food available for purchase, the free beer and wine, music, and great company!

Young Adult Trivia Night— Saturday, October 11

Are you the friend whose schtick is sharing random factoids? Or, the one with the most fun party conversations? Well, calling all you trivia fans and friends, alike, to come join us, in the St. Alphonsus' Festival Hall (basement), on Saturday October 11 from 6 PM-9:30 PM because St. Alphonsus YAM Trivia is back!

The cost of tickets is $25 per person (it is a fundraiser!).

Teams of 5-6 people can register individually or together.

For anyone registering as a team, simply list the names of everyone in the "Comments" section of the GiveCentral link, during your purchase. Light refreshments, beer and wine are included in the event cost. We will have prizes for 3rd, 2nd and 1st place winning teams.

Don't know anyone or don't have 6 people on your team?

Fear not! You may also register individually or in a smaller group (2-4 people). We will assign you to a team. All are welcome!

***Please note: pre-registration with payment through the GiveCentral link is required to attend. No walk-ups will be allowed since we have teams. The deadline to sign-up will be Thursday, October 9 at 11 PM.

For any questions or concerns, please reach out to the YAM social team at: stalsyamsocial@gmail.com

YAM Fall Retreat-Sent Forth from the Jubilee— Oct. 18



Join us for a day of prayer, reflection, and renewal as we conclude the Jubilee Year and prepare to carry its graces into our daily lives. We will be joined by Fr. Tim Anastos, director & chaplain of the St. John Paul II Newman Center at UIC, who will help us explore what the Jubilee has meant for us, how we can live it moving forward, and how we are called to share it with others.

The retreat will take place on Saturday, October 18 from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. The day will include talks, small group discussions, lunch, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and the opportunity for Confession.

Cost: $15 per person.

We ask that you sign up in advance so we can get an accurate count of attendees, but walk-ins are also welcome at the door.

Gospel Reflection

"When you hold a lunch or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or your wealthy neighbors, in case they may invite you back and you have repayment. Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." Luke 14:12–14

Motivations of Love

This Gospel passage goes to the heart of our motivations in life. Because of our fallen human nature, we can easily do what we do for selfish reasons. We want payment for our labors and acknowledgement for our acts of kindness. We want to get ahead in life and try to elevate ourselves over others. But Jesus makes it clear that our motivation for everything we do must only be the glory of God and the love of others.

The poor, crippled, lame and blind in this passage refer to those who are in need of our love. This certainly will include friends and family. When we encounter those in need, we must offer our love, not because we get something out of it, but because it is the right thing to do. The payment we receive in this case comes directly and exclusively from God. It's not a payment of societal recognition or praise. It's not a payment of material things. It's not a payment that helps us get ahead in life. It's a payment of grace that makes us holy. This is the only motivation we should have in life—a motivation for holiness by glorifying God through our love of Him and others.

Think about your motivations in life. Why do you do what you do every day? Clearly we all have certain responsibilities that must be met, such as earning a living, caring for the home and family, strengthening our relationships, etc. But why do you do these things? What is the source of your motivation? Is your motivation based on pure love?

When our love is pure, we are motivated to act in one way or another because we see that it is our holy duty toward God or an act that will benefit another. For example, a loving and holy parent will work hard to earn a living not because they want to get rich so as to indulge in the things of this world, but because they love and care for their family and want to provide for their material needs. Or a friend will seek to be there and listen to another friend not because it is advantageous for them, but because they love their friend and want to provide a listening ear when they need it. True love always looks at the good of the other, looking for the ways they are spiritually poor, crippled, lame and blind so that they can help them in accord with God's will. True love always seeks to fill a void with what is needed at that moment.



The good news for us is that when our motivations are pure and selfless, looking only to glorify God and care for others, God will lavish upon us eternal rewards that begin now. We will grow rich in virtue and rich in the fruits of the Holy Spirit. We will obtain joy, peace, strength, courage, love, goodness and so much more. These good things are the true riches in life and can only be bestowed by God upon a soul whose motivations in life are pure, selfless, sacrificial and merciful.

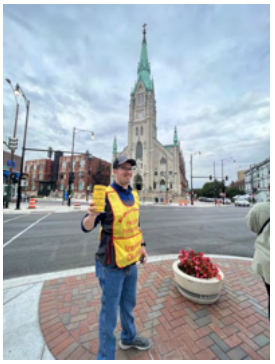
Reflect, today, upon what motivates you each and every day. Do you think more about yourself when acting or more about God and others? Hopefully you will discover within your motivation a burning desire to serve others and glorify God in everything you do. But where you do see selfishness, know that this motivation can never fulfill you. Humble yourself by turning your attention to the love of God and the needs of others, and make serving them your exclusive mission. Doing so will result in God lavishing upon you more than you could ever imagine.

My merciful Lord, You came to earth to serve, not to be served, and to give Your life to others in an act of the most pure and holy love. I open myself to that gift of Your divine love and pray that, as I receive Your love, I may love You and others in the same selfless way. Jesus, I trust in You.

Knights of Columbus

Knights of Columbus— Intellectual Disabilities Drive





On Saturday, September 20, our parish Knights of Columbus will be collecting donations for their annual Intellectual Disabilities (ID) aka "Tootsie Roll" fundraising drive around the parish campus from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Please look for them at the intersections of Southport, Lincoln, and Wellington.

On Sunday, September 21, starting at 9 AM, the Knights will be outside the parish campus again collecting donations for the ID Drive. They will also be in the Narthex after the Sunday Masses (9 AM, 11 AM, and 12:30 PM) at St. Alphonsus. **They can use your help with collection volunteers**. To volunteer: contact Don Ogilvie at dono2108@gmail.com or Ray San Agustin at raysanagustin15158@gmail.com

The funds generated from this drive are used to support local programs which help people with special learning and life needs. The St. Alphonsus Knights thank you in advance for your help and generosity!

Our next Council meeting will be on Monday, September 8 at 7:30 PM! Open to all Catholic practicing men, please come out and join us!

Helpful Household Hints by Harvey Levin

Garbage Disposal

A garbage disposal is nice to have in a sink but it should be used correctly. First of all, it is not a substitute for a garbage can. Never put anything down the disposal that you could not chew. (not that you would want to) Also, the disposed material goes into your drain pipes. There is a limit as to how much gunk the pipes can take. Your garbage can should remain your main receptacle for garbage. The disposal is an electric motor. Heat and motors are enemies, so always use cold water with the disposal. If the disposal jams, shut off the switch and remove the jammed object. If the disposal still does not work, get down on your hands and knees and press the little red button on the bottom of the disposal. If it is still jammed, use the Allen wrench that came with the disposal and place it into the hole in the underside of the bottom and twist it back and forth to release the obstruction.

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/

Around the Archdiocese

A Message From Cardinal Cupich



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Daily, we hear heartbreaking stories of suffering from Gaza. So many innocent victims, including those who belong to Christian communities, face violence, dire living conditions, and hunger. Our Holy Father Pope Leo has said "Gaza is starving," as he called for a cease fire. In a particular way, the faces of Gaza's hungry children make an indelible impression on our hearts.

Perhaps we feel helpless to address this complex story that involves international players. There is, however, a pathway for us to respond. Two very reliable agencies of the Catholic Church are already there providing vital emergency humanitarian relief and medical and psychological care for the sick, malnourished, and wounded. They are the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS).

On the weekend of September 6-7, all parishes of the Archdiocese of Chicago will take up a special collection that will be promptly forwarded to CNEWA and CRS.

Whatever you can give will go far to alleviate the suffering of our brothers and sisters in the Middle East. I know the compassion and generosity of the people of the Archdiocese of Chicago. In the name of all those who will benefit from your support, I thank you.

Finally, let us pray urgently for the gift of peace in our wounded world, a peace which only the Lord can give.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Blase J. Cupich

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago

Are you considering a vocation to the priesthood?

High school men who desire to grow in discipleship, brotherhood, and openness to the priesthood are invited to our first Quigley Day of the year on Saturday, September 13, from 8 AM–Noon. The day begins with Mass at the John Paul II Newman Center (700 S. Morgan St.), followed by Pickleball in Fulton Market. Transportation and lunch are provided. Young men can register here: https://forms.office.com/r/VWPeFDf1Bs





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

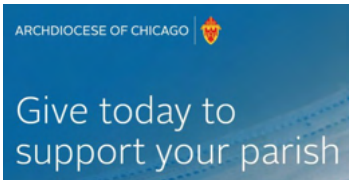
Giving Update

Weekly Budget Amount: $15,192

Sunday Offertory for 8/24: $14,772

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



September Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 *Labor Day Holiday AACA and Rectory Office Closed* *Mass at 9 AM*	**2** **3:00 PM** Cub Scouts Meeting **6:30 PM** Boy Scout Troop 889 Meeting **7:00 PM** Philosophy Forum	**3** **4:45 PM** FOCUS Gathering in Church **6:30 PM** Book Club Meeting **8:00 PM** Men's Group Vespers	**4** **4:00 PM** Taste of Scouting Open House **6:30 PM** Women's Faith Group **7:00 PM** Men's Faith Group **7:00 PM** Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Training **7:00 PM** Baptism Prep Class	**5** **5:00 PM** Legion of Mary	**6** **9:00 AM** Mama Meetup @South Lakeview Park **9:00 AM** YAM—Starved Rock State Park Outing
7 *Archdiocese Special Collection for Gaza* **7:00 PM** Big Book AA Meeting	**8** **8:30 AM** AA Daily Reflections Group **6:00 PM** Legion of Mary (Espanol) **7:00 PM** Foundations Study **7:30 PM** Knights of Columbus Meeting	**9** **3:00 PM** Cub Scouts Meeting **6:15 PM** Religious Education— Catechist Orientation **6:30 PM** Boy Scout Troop 889 Meeting **7:00 PM** Philosophy Forum **7:30 PM** IBAPAB Social	**10** **1:45 PM** Junior Scouts (5th) **6:30 PM** Book Club Meeting **8:00 PM** Men's Group Vespers	**11** **6:30 PM** Women's Faith Group **7:00 PM** Men's Faith Group **7:00 PM** Marriage Information Meeting	**12** **5:00 PM** Legion of Mary **7:30 PM** Men's Group Holy Hour Adoration	**13**

Support Our St. Vincent de Paul Society!

Dear St. Alphonsus parishioners,
Your consistent support to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Chicago (SVdP Chicago) is deeply appreciated. Your generous assistance enables our members to reach out with kindness, compassion, and love to those in need. Thank you for remembering the poor. This summer, your gifts helped us keep people in their homes, feed the hungry, keep the electricity on, provide a family meal, a warm bed, much needed furniture and so much more for those who have nowhere else to turn without the help of SVdP Chicago. Your gift, no matter the size, helps us continue this vital work. Please consider making a donation this week.
Thank you for your kindness.
The poor box is located at the back of the church (in the narthex) just left of the main door (as you exit).

September Calendar

Sunday	*Monday*	*Tuesday*	*Wednesday*	*Thursday*	*Friday*	*Saturday*
14 **7:00 PM** Big Book AA Meeting	**15** **8:30 AM** AA Daily Reflections Group **6:00 PM** Legion of Mary (Espanol)	**16** **6:30 PM** Boy Scout Troop 889 Meeting **7:00 PM** Philosophy Forum **7:00 PM** Problem of Evil Discourse Talk	**17** **6:30 PM** Book Club Meeting **8:00 PM** Men's Group Vespers	**18** **8:15 AM** Blessings in a Backpack **6:30 PM** Women's Faith Group **7:00 PM** Men's Faith Sharing Group	**19** **5:00 PM** Legion of Mary **7:30 PM** Praise and Adoration	**20** ***Knights of Columbus Intellectual Disabilities Drive*** **9:00 AM** Young Adult Welcome to City Retreat
21 ***Knights of Columbus Intellectual Disabilities Drive*** ***Catechetical Sunday 2025*** ***Seminarian Education Collection*** **1:00 PM** Samuel Group **6:00 PM** Young Adult Ministry Kick-Off **7:00 PM** Big Book AA Meeting	**22** **8:30 AM** AA Daily Reflections Group **6:00 PM** Legion of Mary (Espanol)	**23** **9:30 AM** Walking w/ Purpose **3:00 PM** Cub Scouts Meeting **6:15 PM** Religious Education— Opening Night **6:30 PM** Walking w/ Purpose **6:30 PM** Boy Scout Troop 889 Meeting **7:00 PM** Philosophy Forum	**24** **1:45 PM** Brownie Scouts (2nd) **6:30 PM** Book Club Meeting **8:00 PM** Men's Group Vespers	**25** **6:30 PM** Women's Faith Group **7:00 PM** Men's Faith Sharing Group	**26** ***Oktoberfest!***	**27**
28 ***Oktoberfest!***	**29** **8:30 AM** AA Daily Reflections Group **6:00 PM** Legion of Mary (Espanol)	**30** **9:30 AM** Walking w/ Purpose **3:00 PM** Cub Scouts Meeting **6:15 PM** Religious Education— Parent Confirmation Mtg. **6:30 PM** Walking w/ Purpose **6:30 PM** Boy Scout Troop 889 Meeting **7:00 PM** Philosophy Forum **7:30 PM** Parish Finance Council Mtg.				

Pope Leo XIV September Intention

"For our relationship with all of creation

Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

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
Dr. Steven Torres, Coordinator of Religious Education
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