# Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023: THE TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



*"'What if I wish to give this last one the same as you?*

*Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money?*

*Are you envious because I am generous?'" (Mt 20:14-15)*

## LITURGY SCHEDULE

### Mass Schedule

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

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

# Worship

## This Week's Readings

Sunday: Is 55:6-9/Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18 (18a)/Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/Mt 20:1-16a
Monday: Ezr 1:1-6/Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6/Lk 8:16-18
Tuesday: Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/Lk 8:19-21
Wednesday: Ezr 9:5-9/Tb 13:2, 3-4a, 4befghn, 7-8/Lk 9:1-6
Thursday: Hg 1:1-8/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Lk 9:7-9
Friday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5/Jn 1:47-51
Saturday: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13/Lk 9:43b-45
Next Sunday: Ez 18:25-28/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9, (6a)/Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/Mt 21:28-32

## Please Pray for the Sick

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




## Welcome to the Parish!

Elizabeth Wagner and Allister Peera
Iris
Adrian
Robert Michael
Leeza Larson and Michael Serio
Magdalene Lenczowski
Maude Kingsbury
Mary Kate Dockery

## At Rest in the Peace of Christ

Thomas Sullivan

## Giving Update

Weekly Budget Amount: $14,890

Offertory for 9/17: $10,081

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

**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.

**Men's Vespers– WED evening**
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

## MASS INTENTIONS

***Sunday, September 24 (Oktoberfest!)***
9:00 AM Glowienke Family
11:00 AM +Zoila Espinosa
12:30 PM For the People of St. Alphonsus
5:00 PM +Dr. Anthony Caruso

***Monday, September 25***
8:30 AM +Jose Romeo Gonzalez

***Tuesday, September 26***
8:30 AM For the People of St. Alphonsus

***Wednesday, September 27***
6:00 PM +Peter Orillaza

***Thursday, September 28***
8:30 AM For the People of St. Alphonsus

***Friday, September 29***
8:30 AM +Joan Mulcahy

***Sunday, October 1***
9:00 AM +Thomas Mulcahy
11:00 AM +Richard Meindl
12:30 PM +Felipe & Roberto Rodriguez
5:00 PM +Nadine M. Grandi

# A Message From Our Pastor




The weekly bulletin is always compiled a few days in advance of Sunday, so I write this amidst the crunch time of Oktoberfest preparations, including lots of prayers for good weather and good crowds. From a couple days out, as things fall into place, we are getting more and more excited.

One of our chief desires for the Fest is that all attendees, volunteers, vendors and workers experience a genuine sense of *Gemütlichkeit*. Like a number of other German words, it does not translate directly into an English word, instead requiring quite a number of English words to understand the concept. Generally speaking, *Gemütlichkeit* is the feeling of warmth, affection, welcome, friendship and enjoyment experienced from being with those we know and love and sharing smiles, stories, and laughter – and those feelings are enhanced when it involves Brats, Beer and *Brezeln* (that's the German for pretzels, used simply for the sake of alliteration. Because it's fun). That's too wordy. So if you prefer a much simpler translation for *Gemütlichkeit,* consider this: it's the opposite of work!

The Sunday Gospel is about work. Jesus tells the famous parable about various workers in the vineyard, some who work all day, some work part of the day, and a few only for about an hour. All the workers get paid for a full day's work, and predictably the ones who actually worked a full day are frustrated. No injustice was committed, yet the display of generosity of the vineyard's landowner makes them envious. And many of us reflexively empathize with the plight of the full-day laborers. But here's the crux of the matter: if the parable is about the generosity of God and His love being poured out equally, why do we still feel sorry for the full-day workers and not rejoice with those who allegedly receive extra?

If this parable makes us a little uncomfortable, I believe it's because we are too accustomed to viewing our lives and situations through an economic or transactional lens. It's a very common human perspective. And ironically, that's the problem -- it is a ***human*** perspective. As a parable about God's love and generosity, it needs to be approached with a spiritual lens. Which is exactly why the Church gives us the first reading from the prophet Isaiah, which reminds us that God's thoughts are not like ours, His ways are not ours. "As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways." The end result of viewing our lives on earth through an exclusively and inferior human lens is the envy and frustration that we see in the day laborers in the parable.

All people of faith readily acknowledge that God's love, qualitatively, is far superior to our own, yet it is much more challenging to acknowledge His thoughts on justice and generosity are qualitatively superior to our own. God's thoughts on justice, generosity, fairness, mercy, goodness, truth, beauty and love are never measured by a single day's worth of our work – or even a single hour – but rather by the totality of the *Father's* love for us, His "workers" (a.k.a., disciples), and Christ's desire for us to share in the sweet harvest of the Heavenly vineyards.

Or, to restate that same idea employing the word of the day: Jesus wants us to experience the *Gemütlichkeit* of Heaven.

# Stewardship— First Fruits

FIRST FRUITS
time talent treasure

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**

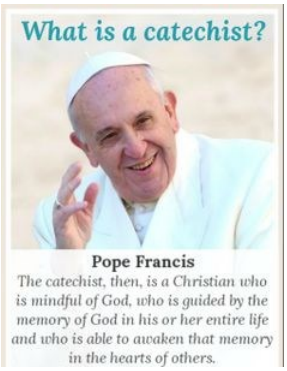
**You can also text *Sunday* to (773) 570-7600**

# Faith Formation

## Register Your Child(ren) for Religious Education! Catechists Needed!



Registration for our Religious Education program is now open for the 2023-2024 school year for grades 1st-8th on Tuesday nights at 6:15 PM. **Classes begin this Tuesday, September 26**. Please register at the link on the front page of our parish website. Visit our Religious Ed page, www.stalphonsuschicago.org/religious-education for more information.




Each year, St. Alphonsus joyfully educates the children of our parish in their Catholic faith. If you would like to spend more time with children, strengthen the faith bonds in our families or enjoy serving in our parish— please consider volunteering as a catechist for our religious education program! We'd love to talk to you and no experience is necessary :) There are training opportunities and support as you get started and throughout your time of service. Contact Oksana Kuzma, okuzma@alphonsusacademy.org

## Are You Ready To Become Catholic?

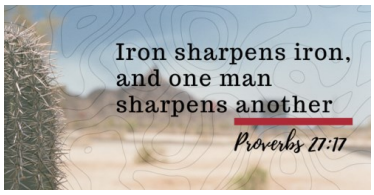
Registration is open for The Rite of Catholic Initiation for Adults (R.C.I.A.) Each year we are blessed with several individuals who desire to enter and learn more about the Catholic faith. The RCIA program is the study of the Catholic Faith and the process of introduction into the faith community.

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

## 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 Men's Group at our new email, divineofficers@gmail.com

***"Come to me all you are labored and burdened and I will give you rest" Matthew 11:28***

## *Discernment Retreat for Women— Oct. 6-8*

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR
ST. MARY'S HOME

*All Catholic young adult women ages 18-35 are invited to join the Little Sisters of the Poor at St. Mary's Home, 2325 N. Lakewood Ave, Chicago, 60614 for a weekend of prayer and discernment as they celebrate the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary with the elderly residents. Overnight accommodations provided Friday, October 6 through Sunday, October 8, with the possibility of staying until the 9th for those who wish. For more information or to register contact: Sister Christina, vcchicago@LittleSistersofthePoor.org*

# Oktoberfest is Happening!



**Providing additional fun for families and children, this Sunday features a special KINDERFEST area with an inflatable obstacle course, face painting, crafts & activities, and a friendly Kinderfest meal available for them to enjoy. Parents can hang out and enjoy a beer, brat, or soft pretzel and watch the afternoon games on the Jumbotron. Kids should also keep an eye out for *limited* "oktoBEARfest buddy" for sale.**



**All little ones are encouraged to enjoy the *Kinderzug* Train Ride from 2-6 PM this Sunday! Tickets will be $1 at the merchandise tent.**

## St. Francis Day and the Blessing of Pets



Saint Francis of Assisi (1181-1226) is famous for many things, the most popular things of which were his love for Jesus, care for the poor, founding the a religious order referred to as the Little Brothers (a.k.a., the Order of Friars Minor), his love for the beauty of God's creation and the ability to preach to animals.

To celebrate his feast day, we will be having special outdoor prayer services with a Blessing of Pets on **Wednesday, October 4th, one after school at 2:00 PM for our AACA school families** in the parish/school parking lot **and one at 5:30 PM for parishioners** on the Veranda of the Church before 6 PM Mass that evening. Make sure that all pets are appropriately leashed (or caged), and "walked" before arriving, please and thank you!

## Serve Your Parish as an EMHC!



We are looking for parishioners who are interested in serving our ministry of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. The requirements to serve as an EMHC: persons must have received Confirmation, be attending Mass weekly, have an active prayer life, be a Catholic in good standing in the Church, and above all, have an understanding of and a sense reverence for our Lord in the Holy Eucharist. Contact Fr. Steven Bauer for more info.

## Donate Shoes for Refugees

Our St. Vincent DePaul chapter is accepting shoe donations for all the refugees currently staying at the Chicago Police District on Addison near Halsted. You will find bins marked for the shoe collections at the back of the church and at the rectory. There is a particular need for children's shoes at this time. Shoes dropped off at the rectory should be done during regular business hours. Thank you for your kind generosity!

## Register as a Member of St. Alphonsus!

St. Alphonsus is blessed to welcome many visitors each year. If you worship at our church, you are invited to formally join our faith community! Register at www.stalphonsuschicago.org/visitors If you have moved and would like to update your address, contact Mario Serrano, mserrano@stalphonsuschicago.church

# Living the Gospel of Life

## Support "The Baby Bottle Project"

### Pick Up Your Bottle Next Sunday October 1



This October, our parish will be participating in The Baby Bottle Project benefiting Aid for Women. Aid for Women was founded over 42 years ago on the faith and teachings of the Catholic Church. 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.

Please take a Baby Bottle home with you next weekend. Fill it with your spare change and return it to church in October. The bottles may be found at the exits as you leave Mass. Thank you for your support!




## Volunteer w/Little Sisters of the Poor

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 volunteer coordinator Angelika Bravo at (773) 935-9600 or volchicago@littlesistersofthepoor.org

# Safe Families For Children

## *Ministering God's Love to Families in Need*

Compassionate Families Needed!

Safe Families for Children is a Christian nonprofit organization that creates extended family-like support for local families facing a crisis by facilitating temporary placements of children with compassionate, background-checked local families.

- Average placement is between 3 days - 3 months
- Average child age is 0-6 years old
- Material, emotional, and spiritual support from our ministry throughout the placement

Want to learn more? Reach out to us at safefamiliesstals@gmail.com



# Young Adult Ministry

## County Line Orchard Trip— Saturday October 14

**Sign up online!**




Hay there, St. Al's YAM community! St' Al's YAM will be going to County Line Orchards on Saturday, October 14th. The orchard has apple picking, pumpkin patch, farm, corn maze and train. So pumpkin spice up your life and come along with us to this appletastic event.

Cars will leave from the St. Alphonsus Oakdale parking lot around 9:00 AM on Saturday, October 14th. Please let us know in the sign-up form if you're able to drive. We will be carpooling to County Line Orchard in Indiana, 200 S County Line Rd, Hobart, IN 46342, about a hour and a half drive. We will stop at some point as a group to have lunch at the kitchen/grill onsite at the orchard. Expect to return to the city around 5PM/leave the orchard to come back around 3 PM.

Please sign up in the Google Form in the recent YAM Newsletter so we know who all to expect and can coordinate rides if needed. We're looking for a handful of people to volunteer to drive so people can carpool as well.

## Talk w/ Fr. Rob Ryan— Monday Oct 9

**The Second Vatican Council and the Universal Call to Holiness**



Monday, Oct 9th 6:30-8:00 PM in St. Alphonsus Festival Hall
Join us as Fr. Rob Ryan gives a survey of the circumstances leading up to Vatican II, its structure, major documents, and the fruit of the council as a roadmap for the church and our call to be saints in the third millennium. Drinks and light appetizers provided. This event is free admission; free-will offerings accepted.

## Trivia Night— Saturday Oct 21




Are you the friend whose schtick is sharing random factoids? Or maybe the one with the most fun party conversations? Well, calling all you trivia fans and friends alike to come join us in St. Alphonsus' Festival Hall (basement), on Saturday, October 21st from 5 PM-8 PM because St. Al's YAM Trivia is back! Sign up at www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/38222

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.

# Scouting at St. Alphonsus




## Cub Scout Registration Open Through October 6!

The BSA Scouting community from Troop 889 and Pack 3889 are grateful for the support of St. Alphonsus parish.

Registration for scouting with Pack 3889 is open for all participants grades 1-5 for the 2023/2024 year. Register at bit.ly/stalsscout23

We have many fun adventures planned and we are in need of a parent Den Leader for our 3rd Grade Bears Den! We would love you to give Scouting a try! Please contact the Pack at pack3889@gmail.com with any questions! Thank you

## Serve as a Wedding Coordinator!

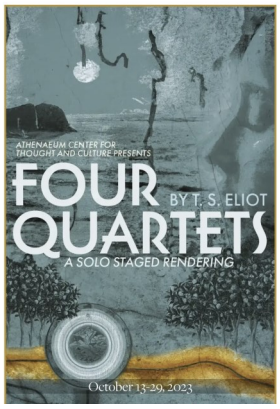
Are you someone who would consider themselves organized and a hopeless romantic, looking to get more involved in our parish? St. Alphonsus is currently looking for wedding coordinators to join our team. Weddings are joyful and jam-packed events filled with lots of details—it's an all-hands-on-deck ordeal! Being part of the Wedding Ministry is a rewarding opportunity as we help couples enjoy their special and Sacramental day. All volunteers receive a stipend for their time. **For more information, contact Priyanka Golwala weddings@stalphonsuschicago.church**

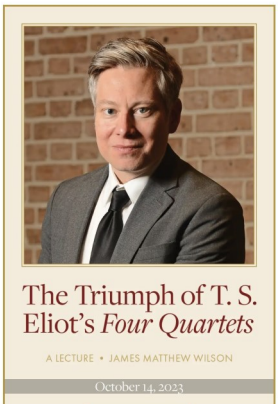
# *At the Athenaeum*

Athenaeum Center for Thought and Culture are thrilled to present these opportunities for you to experience poetry on stage. Poetry that pierces the depths of reality and invites us to look beyond the here and now to what is eternal, unchanging, and shapes our knowledge of our own humanity and its relationship to the Divine.

### T.S. Eliot's Four Quartets
**October 13-29**

Journey with us into the heart of creation as we explore the still point of the turning world, where eternity and time meet in poetry. T. S. Eliot's masterpiece, Four Quartets, distills three thousand years of thought about human nature and our destiny into his spare, perfectly cadenced verses; the poem will be brought to life in a whole new way by Chicago actor Michael Rogalski.







### The Triumph of T.S Eliot's Four Quartets
**Saturday October 14 at 2 PM**

Given our immersion in the merely temporal, is there anything of permanent value about our lives or the world as a whole? Eliot provides profound answers to these questions and does so after the fashion of the greatest works of art—by earning those answers. Four Quartets is his final, most magnificent and musical, statement about what it means to be human and what it means to be created in the image of God. Join us for a profound exposition of Eliot's masterpiece with renowned poet and Eliot scholar James Matthew Wilson.

### Dante 360— Nov 18-20

Returning to our Historic Main Stage for its third year, this Athenaeum Center original is a journey through the mystical structure of the universe so beautifully crafted by the great Dante Alighieri. Experience the depth and complexity of Dante's vision through a series of dramatic performances, visual art, and music by the vocal ensemble Schola Antiqua, which carry the soul alongside the pilgrim in his ascent to Paradise.

**For more info and other future events, please visit**

**athenaeumcenter.org/events/**

# Starts This Tuesday, Sept. 26!

# *Come as you are.*

## YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

**Make authentic connections with other women**
**Refuel and refresh | Learn more about God**

The ***Touching the Divine*** Bible study focuses on qualities of Jesus revealed through the Gospel of John. This study draws us into a deeper, loving relationship with Jesus as we reflect on His life and personality.

Saint John referred to himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved," and as we study, John will teach us how much Jesus loves us and how His love is the true satisfaction of our souls.




**St Alphonsus' Rectory**
**1429 W. Wellington Ave**
**Chicago**

**Starting September 26, 2023**
**Two Sessions: 9:30 am or 6:30 pm**

**Questions Contact:**
**Susan Combes**
**717-329-6370**
**smbcombes51@gmail.com**

walking with purpose

www.walkingwithpurpose.com




Quigley Days is designed for highschoolers ages 13-18 who desire to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ, build brotherhood, and learn about and discern the priesthood. Join Fr. Tim and some of our seminarians for our first Quigley Days of the year on September 30 from 9 AM – 2 PM. Mass and adoration at St. James in Arlington Heights, then lunch and Paintball Explosion in East Dundee. Please register here if you would like to attend: https://forms.office.com/r/eG1ZVY2p8Q.




Contact Katie Hazen with any questions at khazen@archchicago.org

**Annual Mass to End Domestic Violence and for Survivors and their Families – September 30**
The Domestic Violence Outreach Ministry of Chicago invites you for their 8th Annual Archdiocesan-wide Mass for Domestic Violence Survivors on Saturday, September 30 at 5:15 PM at Holy Name Cathedral.



# 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 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 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- Fri***

### 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. 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/Parish Secretary

### School Staff

***Gerit McAllister,*** Principal
***Angela Kladis***, Assistant Principal
***Madeleine Durkin,*** Director of Admissions
***Kim Wallett,*** Secretary
***Connie Del Toral,*** Administrative Assistant