Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025: TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"No servant can serve two masters.
He will either hate one and love the other,
or be devoted to one and despise the other.
You cannot serve both God and mammon." (Lk 16:13)

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

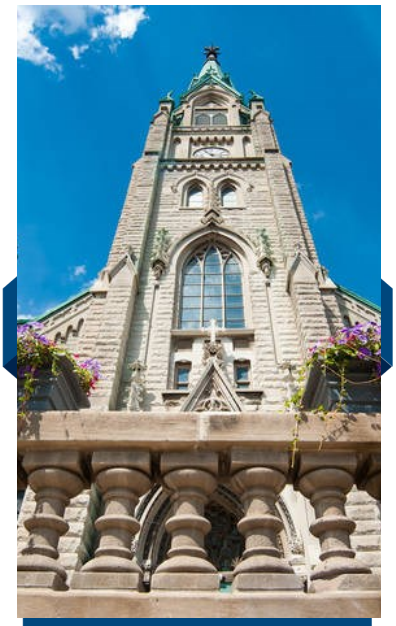
This Week's Readings

Sunday: Am 8:4-7/Ps 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8 (see 1a, 7b)/1 Tm 2:1-8/Lk 16:1-13 or 16:10-13
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: Hg 2:1-9/Ps 43:1, 2, 3, 4/Lk 9:18-22
Saturday: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13/Lk 9:43b-45
Next Sunday: Am 6:1a, 4-7/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 (1b)/1 Tm 6:11-16/Lk 16:19-31

Please Pray for the Sick

Dorothy Bonds
Jamie Wallett
Monica Alexis Rios
Richard Wagner
Frances Buscemi
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
Brian Krembs
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

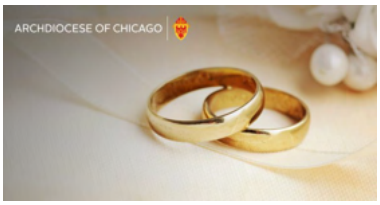
Men's Vespers– WED evening
Men of the parish are invited to attend our Communio prayer group each Wednesday from 8-9 PM in the rectory chapel (come to the rectory side door) It's a great way to take your spiritual life a step further as we enrich our knowledge of the faith, encourage each other in life's 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



WEDDINGS

Amelia Small and Joseph DeRosa

Victoria DeLira and William Morris



Welcome Our Recently Baptized

Molly Meghan Rogers
Margot James Marcotullio
Zac Maurice Casey

Wedding Banns

I. Kaitlyn McCormick and Robert Frasor
I. Anna Grubisich and Ryan Downs
I. Brooke Capone and Michael Mandera

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, September 21
9:00 AM Andrew Morris (Birthday Blessings)
11:00 AM +Zoila Espinosa
12:30 PM +Martin Rios
+Luis Hernandez
5:00 PM Glowienke Family

Monday, September 22
8:30 AM Brian Krembs (Health)

Tuesday, September 23
8:30 AM The People of Saint Alphonsus

Wednesday, September 24
6:00 PM The People of Saint Alphonsus

Thursday, September 25
8:30 AM The People of Saint Alphonsus

Friday, September 26 (Oktoberfest)
8:30 AM Evangelization Efforts of St. Alphonsus

Saturday, September 27 (Oktoberfest)
8:30 AM The People of Saint Alphonsus

Sunday, September 28 (Oktoberfest)
9:00 AM Dino Swan (Birthday Blessings)
11:00 AM +Ed and Mary Gobat
12:30 PM The People of Saint Alphonsus
5:00 PM Patrick Zapf (Health)

News and Events

Extraordinary Ministers of 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. If you would like to volunteer for this important ministry at Mass, please contact us at parish@stalphonsuschicago.church

Baptisms at St. Alphonsus



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 go to our website and scroll under the Sacraments tab, click on Baptisms and complete the form online. Our Sacraments ministry coordinator will be in contact to schedule the date.

Weddings 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 Kathryn at kkibler@stalphonsuschicago.church

Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary is now at St. Alphonsus! Legion of Mary is a lay apostolic association of Catholics who serve the Church and their neighbor on a voluntary basis. The Legion sees as its priority the spiritual and social welfare of each individual. Members participate in the life of the parish through volunteering and evangelizing activities sponsored by the parish.

Interested in becoming a Legionary? Meetings in English take place on Fridays at 5 PM in the rectory. Meetings in Spanish are on Mondays at 6 PM. For more info, please contact Fr. Jesus Raya, jraya@stalphonsuschicago.church

Mama Meetup Ministry

Moms of the parish are invited to join for two upcoming events! Join other moms for coffee in Festival Hall after the 9 AM Mass on **Sunday, September 21!** This is a casual opportunity to meet other new moms and chat. Littles and spouses are welcome to join!

Join us for an outing to the Hamlin Park Farmer's Market on Sunday, Oct. 12 at 10 AM! Bring the babies for a stroll through the vendor tents with other moms, and enjoy the Fall morning! We will meet at the park entrance on Damen, closest to where the market is set up.

This group is geared towards new and first time moms with kids under 18 months, but any mother looking for community and a safe space to discuss the joys and difficulties of motherhood is welcome. We look forward to seeing you!

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 a special Blessing of Pets on Saturday, October 4th at 9:30 AM for the faithful outside on the Veranda of the Church. Make sure that all pets are appropriately leashed (or caged), and "walked" before arriving, please and thank you!

Low Gluten Hosts Available



If you are allergic to wheat or have celiac disease, or for any reason can't tolerate gluten, we have hosts available for you. Low gluten hosts are available at every Mass, even daily Masses. To receive a low gluten host at Mass, all you have to do is get in the Communion line for the celebrant, and then just point to the little ciborium that the priest sets on the communion rail. These hosts have 0.01% gluten. We can provide further information about their content upon request.



Fri., Sept 26, 5 – 10 p.m.

Sat., Sept 27, Noon – 10 p.m.

Sun., Sept 28, Noon – 7 p.m.

featuring Kinderfest, Noon - 6 pm

BANDS, MUSIC, AND ENTERTAINMENT!

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

PLUS...

The Official Blessing of Beer and Ceremonial Keg Tapping!
Stein Hoisting Competition!
Kinderfest Opening Ceremony Sunday at Noon featuring the AACA Band!

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO CELEBRATE OUR PARISH'S GERMAN HERITAGE AT THE BEST OKTOBERFEST IN THE CITY!

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 on the Fest website under the Merchandise tab.

WILLKOMMEN!

Beer!

Sam Adams Octoberfest… this deliciously smooth seasonal beer successfully passes the Reinheitsgebot, the famous German beer purity law, and by so doing, it became the first American made beer allowed to be sold and served at the Munich Oktoberfest!



New this year: a flight of German imports will be available in Festival Hall.

Brats!

Bratwurst, of course – but not just any Brat… this is our famous St. Alphonsus special-recipe Oktoberfest Brats, uniquely made only for our Fest, and only available here!



Upgrade to VIP Status!



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.

And new this year…

An Indoor Beer Hall!

Festival Hall will be transformed into a Bavarian style beer hall where fest goers can sit to enjoy their brats and beer –and also enjoy a flight of several German imported beers.

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 out the parish you love! **The volunteer link is on the Oktoberfest website, or scan the QR code.**

Visit our website for more info…

www.StAlsOktoberFest.com

Help Out and Have a Great Time!!



Volunteering is a great way to make new friends and help out your St. Alphonsus parish community. Volunteers are involved in admissions, serving food and drinks, and more! Perks include a ticket for a free beer or brat, stylish Volunteer shirt and access to the Volunteer Appreciation Party .

Kinderfest Sunday!



Providing additional fun for families and children, Oktoberfest features a special Kinderfest area with the popular train ride, face painting, crafts and activities, and a friendly Kinderfest meal available for them to enjoy, while parents can hang out and enjoy a beer, brat, or soft pretzel and watch the afternoon games on a Jumbotron. Kids should also keep an eye out for the limited "oktoBEARfest buddy" for sale at the Merch tent.

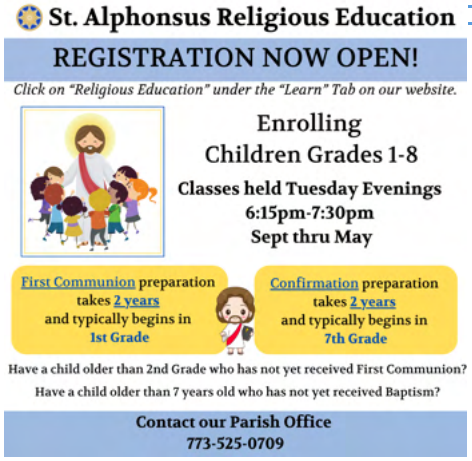
German Beer Flights

Everyone is invited to celebrate our parish's German heritage at the best Oktoberfest party in the city – which this year has a special new addition: a Munich-styled Beer Hall (located in Festival Hall beneath the church) where fest-goers can sit to enjoy their brats, beer and pretzels.

This specially curated Beer Flight encompasses the wonderful flavor of beers from Germany. Each flight will contain four 4-oz servings of authentic brews from Munich, and also comes with a commemorative Oktoberfest mini beer mug. The Beer Flight is only available in Festival Hall and only during its hours of operation: Friday, September 26 from 6-9 PM, and Saturday, September 27 from 3-9 PM. Pre-sales can be purchased online at:

www.stalsoktoberfest.com

Faith Formation



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. **Our RE program starts on September 23**.

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

Are You Ready to Become Catholic?

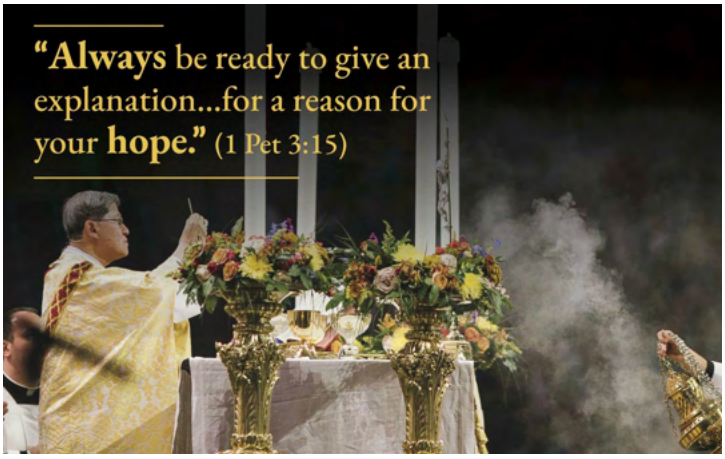
Registration is open for The Order of Catholic Initiation for Adults (O.C.I.A.) Each year we are blessed with several individuals who desire to enter and learn more about the Catholic faith. The OCIA program is the study of the Catholic Faith and the process of introduction into the faith community.

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

Catechetical Sunday 2025



Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel.

The 2025 theme encourages us to be prepared to share the basis of our faith, the Lord, and the hope he provides. In the same manner Saint Peter encouraged the believers of his time, the Scripture reminds us, the sharing should be done with gentleness and respect.

El lema de 2025 nos anima a estar preparados para compartir la base de nuestra fe, el Señor, y la esperanza que Él nos brinda. De la misma manera que San Pedro animó a los creyentes de su tiempo, la Escritura nos recuerda que compartir debe hacerse con amabilidad y respeto.

This month we begin our Religious Education and OCIA programs. These programs help to shape new believers, both adults and children. The whole church has the responsibility to share and teach the faith, to live it out and to celebrate the sacraments. Thank you to all 2025-2026 catechists!

Loving Father, we pray today for our catechists. We thank you for their gift of ministry in your Church. Grant them your wisdom that they may grow in the understanding and teaching of your Word. Grant them also your love that they may be fruitful heralds of your Word and lead others to love you. Pour forth your Holy Spirit upon them to grant them wisdom about what is important; knowledge of the truths of faith; understanding of their meaning; right judgement about how to apply them in life; courage to persevere even in the face of adversity; reverence before all that is sacred and holy; and that loving zeal which leads others to a transforming encounter with your Son. We pray this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Brian Coote
Sean Delanty
Candice Dy
Nathaniel Egan
Malika Hainer
Emily Hamrick
Lisa Huge
Jack Kelly
Emma Lyne
Annaleigh Mar
Elizabeth Mellor
Lucy Mollet
James Morrow
Kathyrn Pluta
Julia Riley
Julia Sansone
Matt Solem
Emily Warren
Hannah Weinewuth
Annie Wiffler

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Join us for a special Mass with Fr. Steven Bauer, Serra Club and the propaedeutic year seminarians to **pray** for an increase in **vocations** – then stick around for **food, fun,** and **fellowship** at **Oktoberfest!**

Sunday, September 28 at 11 a.m.
St. Alphonsus, 1429 W. Wellington, Chicago

The Serra Club is a global organization of lay people within the Catholic Church, dedicated to fostering and supporting vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Examination of Conscience



1. Do I make an effort to inform myself in a way that is open to truth wherever it might be found or do I only read opinions and media with which I always agree?
2. Do I make an effort to find, understand, and read news sources that are objective and follow journalistic standards?
3. Do I regularly reduce complex issues to simplistic, partisan sound bites to avoid engaging honestly and vulnerably with people with whom I disagree?
4. Do I speak of my ideological opponents in a way that dehumanizes, stereotypes, or objectifies them? Do I speak scornfully or dismissively of those with whom I disagree rather than engaging with their ideas?
5. Do I allow feelings of rage, hatred, and bitterness toward those I see as political enemies grow in my heart?
6. Do I cultivate sin in my heart more than I cultivate virtue?
7. Do I read spiritual books as much as or more than I read the news?
8. Do I speak of and focus on political events more than the Church's liturgical calendar?
9. Am I regularly distracted from my responsibilities by news, pundits, political arguments, and negative feelings toward those with whom I disagree?
10. What are my highest priorities? Where do I direct most of my energies? Do I put living for God first in my life?

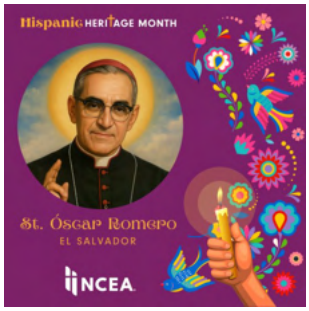
Credit to Sr. Theresa Aletheia, @pursuedbytruth
Inspired by Bishop Robert Barron

For all those injured and who lost their lives recently, we pray they may rest in peace. For an end to division in our nation, Lord hear our prayer. That peace, justice, and truth may reign in our hearts and in our nation, Lord hear our prayer.

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).

Hispanic Heritage Month



Raíces Que Inspiran – Roots That Inspire Us St. Óscar Romero (El Salvador)



"Aspira no a tener más, sino a ser más." San Óscar Romero nos recuerda que la fe siempre debe ir de la mano con la justicia. En las escuelas católicas, honramos su legado al formar estudiantes que lideran con compasión, valentía y convicción.

"Aspire not to have more, but to be more." St. Óscar Romero reminds us that faith must always walk hand in hand with justice. In Catholic schools, we honor his legacy by forming students who lead with compassion, courage, and conviction.

Starts This Tuesday, Sept. 23!

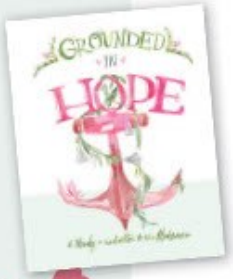
Come as you are.

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

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

In a world where levels of despair, addiction, and suicide are rising, we need more than clichés or positive thinking. ***Grounded in Hope***, based on the book of Hebrews, will help you encounter Jesus in such a powerful, comforting, and stabilizing way that He can become your lifeline.

Hebrews contains some of the most beautiful passages you'll find in Scripture. It will comfort you and challenge you. Every word of it has a treasure to mine, and those who are willing to make the effort will be richly rewarded.



St. Alphonsus Rectory Common Room
Starting September 23
Tuesday mornings at 9:30 AM
and evenings at 6:30 PM

Questions? Contact Marianne at
mariannek36@yahoo.com

walking with purpose

www.walkingwithpurpose.com

Young Adult Ministry

Volunteer at Oktoberfest! Sippin Social after 5 PM Mass Sept. 28



Following the 5 PM Mass on Sunday, September 28th, we will step outside for drinks and socialization at Oktoberfest! Invite some friends to come and stop by!

It's that time of year again! Oktoberfest is rapidly approaching, and we are in need of volunteers. This year, there are two volunteer shifts for young adults with 45 spots to cover between. Oktoberfest is the largest fundraiser of the year for the parish and many of YAM's events would not be possible without this event. So if you've benefitted in some way in the past year from an event hosted by us, please consider giving some of your time to support our work. Volunteers can sign up at www.stalsoktoberfest.com and clicking on the Become A Volunteer tab at the top of the page.

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!). Sign up on our parish's GiveCentral, www.givecentral.org/location/39/38222

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. You can register at www.givecentral.org/otp/41828

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.

Stewardship—First Fruits

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

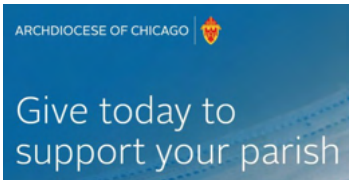
Giving Update

Weekly Budget Amount: $15,192

Sunday Offertory for 9/14: $16,398

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



Seminary Collection



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Recently, Pope Leo spoke to seminarians who had gathered from all around the world for the Jubilee. He invited them to be witnesses of hope. Indeed, the men who are preparing for ordination in the Archdiocese of Chicago are witnesses of hope to us. In the future, they will serve our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Some of our seminarians are in the pre-seminary spiritual year at Bishop Quarter House in the city. Others are completing their college studies at the University of St. Thomas in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Finally, those in the last four-year phase of preparation are being formed at Mundelein Seminary.

Supporting vocations to the priesthood is a task that belongs to all of us in the Church. I want to invite you to express that support in four ways:

- Pray for vocations and our seminarians in preparation
- Encourage those seminarians serving in your parish
- Urge young men to give their lives in service as priests, and
- Make a financial contribution to support our programs of priestly formation.

Prayer, encouragement, recruiting and financial support—all these actions express our gratitude to God for the gift of priestly ministry. These actions also build for the future of our Church and for our children and grandchildren. I would note that given that our seminarians need to invest themselves totally in formation, they are not able to work. Thus, it is up to us to cover the costs not only for their education but other expenses such as health insurance and other personal support.

An offering envelope is in your pew or at the back of the church for your financial gift. You may also send your donation directly to your parish, noting that it is for "Seminarian Education," or you may make a gift online at archchicago.org/seminarianfund. If you wish to send a permanent burse to support seminary education in memory of a family member, as others have done, do not hesitate to contact Kirsten Trybula at ktrybula@archchicago.org.

Thank you for your generous response.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago

Gospel Reflection

And the master commended that dishonest steward for acting prudently. "For the children of this world are more prudent in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light." Luke 16:8

Supernatural Prudence

These lines conclude the Parable of the Dishonest Steward. At that time, there was a Palestinian custom in which agents acted on behalf of a wealthier master's money, making loans and obtaining them back with interest. It is similar to our modern banking system. The problem presented in this parable was that the steward was dishonest, skimming some of the profits for himself. As a result, the master told the steward to get his financial affairs in order because he was going to fire him. The shrewd steward, acting on the authority he still had for the moment, then went forth and reduced the debt of each of his master's debtors so as to win favor with each of them so that he could do business with them after he was fired by his master.

Obviously, Jesus does not tell this parable because He approves of dishonest and shrewd deception in business practices. Instead, He tells it to illustrate the fact that many people who are motivated by selfishness and worldly goals use the natural gift of prudence with much more zeal than many of the "children of light."

Think about your goals in life. If you were to make a list of your goals, what would it look like? And if you were to order that list according to the importance of those goals, what would be first? Hopefully, on the top of that list, you would have as your primary goal the love, service and glory of God. In the end, that is all that matters in life. Every other goal in life will fall into place when that is our central goal.

However, if you were to order your list according to how much time, energy and prudence you put into each endeavor, how would it look? Would it look different? Most likely. Many people go about their lives putting a tremendous amount of time and effort into the passing things of this world. Many make their financial advancement the goal with which they spend the most time and energy. Others devote countless hours to hobbies, entertainment, home improvements, sports, and even wasteful activities such as binging on television. When it comes to the practice of the faith, it is a rare person who devotes a significant amount of time and energy to daily prayer, studying the Scriptures, learning the Catechism, and studying the lives of the saints. Many experience Sunday Mass as a burden. Charitable service can become undesirable. Many rarely work at the proclamation of the Gospel.



Though it is true that much of your time might need to be devoted to the ordinary duties of life, such as making a living and caring for the home and family, it is also true that most people need to reorder their priorities by making sure that the will of God is the central mission of their lives. How is this best accomplished? It begins with the virtue of prudence. Prudence is both a natural virtue and a supernatural one. On a natural level, prudence is called the "mother of all virtues" because it is the quality by which every other virtue, all our time and energy, goals and ambitions are directed. Prudence is the act of vigorously using our minds to creatively and zealously work to achieve the most important goals in life. Supernatural prudence is a spiritual gift by which our natural abilities of prudence are infused with the grace of God, and we are better equipped to know how to accomplish God's will for our lives.

Reflect, today, upon what your list would look like if you were to make it honestly. What do you spend the most time and energy doing? Even if you need to spend most of your time on the ordinary aspects of life, this becomes a holy endeavor when you do it because God is inspiring you to do so. In that case, even the ordinary becomes grace-filled and becomes a way by which you glorify God. The only way for you to know if you are using your time and energies properly is by being open to the gift of supernatural prudence. Pray for that gift today and ask our Lord to more directly order your life so that everything you do is for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

Lord, You are perfect Wisdom; You are Prudence Itself. Please flood my mind and will with Your divine presence and fill me with a desire to make Your perfect will the central mission of my life. Please help me to know how to order my days so that everything I do gives You glory and works toward the salvation of souls, beginning with my own. Jesus, I trust in You.

ALTAR SERVERS WANTED

INVITING ALL 4TH–8TH GRADERS

Altar serving is a calling from God, have you thought about it? TRY IT!!!



To be an altar server you must:

- be in 4th-8th grade
- have received First Holy Communion
- commit to serving at least one Sunday Mass per month

Training for new altar servers will take place on
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 AT 1:45PM OR
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 AT 6:30PM

Trainings will take place inside the church.
For questions or details contact Fr. Jesus Raya (Fr. Chuy)
jraya@stalphonsuschicago.church

Invitation

Join us for a special discussion, titled,
"How are wine and vine related to human spiritual growth?"
with the Author and International Wine Consultant

ANNA PAKULA

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH AT 7:00PM
St. Alphonsus Church
Common Room of the Rectory
1429 W. Wellington Avenue, Chicago, IL 60657

RSVP by September 27
annapakula@mac.com



Whether for personal contemplation or as a thoughtful gift, ***Wine and Spirituality*** invites you to reconnect with the natural gifts of God, find peace, harmony, and inspiration in every page. The book contains **breathtaking photography, Spiritual wisdom, and the elegance of wine tasting.**

Order Your Copy Today!
Contact Anna Pakula at annapakula@mac.com or
Rev. Jesus Raya at 773-525-0709

10% of book proceeds will be donated to
St. Alphonsus Church

Around the Archdiocese



On Monday, Sept. 29, all First Responders and their families are invited to join St. John Cantius, 825 N. Carpenter St. for a special BLUE Mass in honor of the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel. Following Mass, beer & pizza will be provided for all at an outdoor bonfire.



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