Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

JULY 20, 2025: SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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

The Lord said to her in reply, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her."
(Lk 10:42)

Worship

This Week's Readings

Sunday: Gn 18:1-10a/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 5 (1a)/Col 1:24-28/Lk 10:38-42
Monday: Ex 14:5-18/Ex 15:1bc-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 12:38-42
Tuesday: Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 20:1-2, 11-18
Wednesday: Ex 16:1-5, 9-15/Ps 78:18-19, 23-24, 25-26, 27-28/Mt 13:1-9
Thursday: Ex 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Mt 13:10-17
Friday: 2 Cor 4:7-15/Ps 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6/Mt 20:20-28
Saturday: Ex 24:3-8/Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15/Mt 13:24-30
Next Sunday: Gn 18:20-32/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6-7, 7-8 (3a)/Col 2:12-14/Lk 11:1-13

Welcome Our Recently Baptized

Samantha Martina Fuentes

Isabella Alexandra Fuentes

Caroline Rose Rodriguez

Lorenzo Dante Passalacqua

Vittoria Luca Donatella Passalacqua

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

Dan Clark

Rosemarie Cordero

Michelle Renee Moya

Ernest Nora

Albert Meier

Eileen Koutnik

Kevin Combs

Wedding Banns

II. Lillian Dorsey and Steven Childs

II. Natalia Medina and Eduardo Gil

II. Bridget Dingens and Kevin Sunyog

At Rest in the Peace of Christ

Helga Moller

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 from 8-9 PM in the rectory chapel (come to the rectory side door) It's a great way to take your spiritual life a step further as we enrich our knowledge of the faith, encourage each other in life's challenges, and grow in fortitude together. We chant the Liturgy of the Hours and share reflections on the upcoming Sunday gospel reading, followed by a social with refreshments, fellowship, and conversation. All men of the parish are invited. Questions or more info, contact James Morrow, jemseoul@hotmail.com

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, July 20
9:00 AM +Ed & Mary Gobat
11:00 AM +Frank Rechtien
12:30 PM +Carola Antuñano
5:00 PM Holy Catechists & a Fruitful RE Year

Monday, July 21
8:30 AM Holy Children's Liturgy Volunteers

Tuesday, July 22
8:30 AM +Edward Marsalek

Wednesday, July 23
6:00 PM The People of Saint Alphonsus

Thursday, July 24
8:30 AM The People of Saint Alphonsus

Friday, July 25
8:30 AM The People of Saint Alphonsus

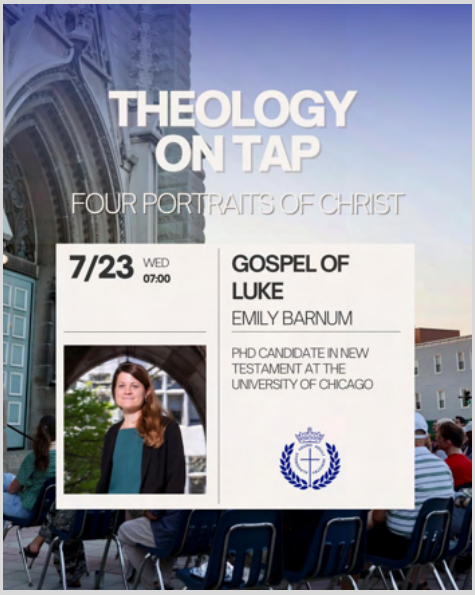
Saturday, July 26
8:30 AM +Joan and Jim Stephenson

Sunday, July 27
9:00 AM Juliana and Dino Swan (Anniversary)
Jane Keppeler (Birthday)
11:00 AM Holy Catechists & a Fruitful RE Year
12:30 PM The People of Saint Alphonsus
5:00 PM +Rosario Anzelmo

News and Events

Theology on Tap— Wednesday evenings this summer!

Our Theology on Tap speaker series continues **this Wednesday, July 23** on the St. Alphonsus veranda. Fellowship and light refreshments at 7 PM; with the speaker's talk at 7:30 PM. This year's theme, ***"The Four Portraits of Christ"*** illuminates the distinctive way one of the four evangelists portrays Jesus in their gospel narrative.



Portrait of Christ According to Luke

Our speaker for ToT on July 23 is Emily Barnum, PhD candidate in New Testament at the University of Chicago. She is a proud Sox fan and an active member of Calvert House Catholic Student Center.

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

Parking Lot Update

Last week's bulletin had a message from our pastor, Rev. Steven Bauer, about the upcoming construction work in the lot, which was originally slated to start Monday, July 14. Of course, in classic City of Chicago fashion, the timing was delayed by the city not issuing the permits required. Our parish was being proactive in alerting our faithful, but received notice of the delay after the 7/13 parish bulletin/e-newsletter had been sent out. As of Thursday, July 17, **the parking lot construction tentatively will begin now on Monday, July 28 and will block the East entrance off Oakdale.** The West side will be entrance-only and all cars must exit past the pneumatic arm gate, making a right turn onto Wellington Ave. We apologize for the delay and any inconvenience caused by this construction work!



Volunteer at Mass as a Lector!

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

Foundations Study—Monday Evenings

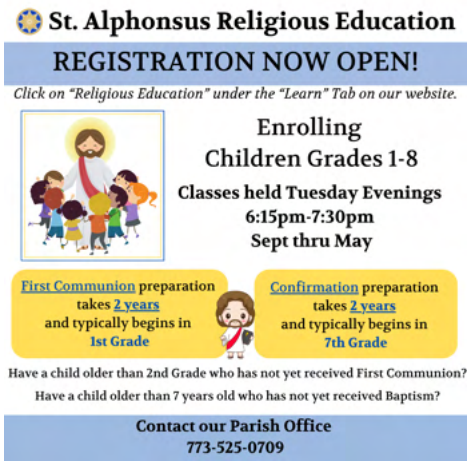
Each and every Sunday, we recite the Creed. But what does it mean? Pastoral Associate Brooks Robinson continues to lead a study on Monday evenings at 7 PM in the rectory 2nd Fl. Common Room. All are welcome to further explore the richness of our profession of faith! Contact Brooks, brobinson@stalphonsuschicago.church

Mama Meetup in July

Mom's Brunch: Sunday, July 27th after the 11 AM Mass - Crosby's Kitchen (3455 N. Southport Ave.) - We will meet in the narthex after Mass and either walk over or drive. Please RSVP to Kathryn at kkibler@stalphonsuschicago.church by July 24th!

Faith Formation

Religious Education 2025-2026 Registration



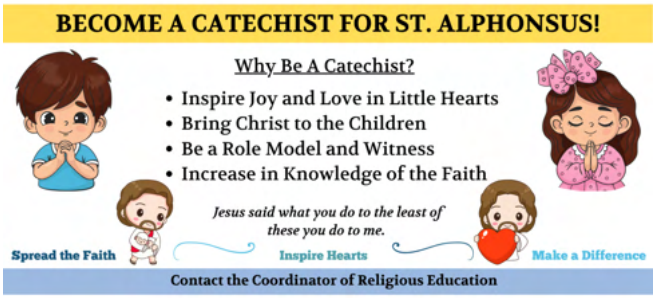
Register your child today for RE! Classes are open for enrollment for Grades 1-8. Our program is held on Tuesday Evenings (Sept. thru May) from 6:15 PM— 7:30 PM.

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 6:15PM-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 our Parish Office (773-525-0709) to sign up!

Walking With Purpose— Tuesdays through July 29

walking with purpose

Our Walking w/ Purpose women's group covers basic teachings of the church, contemporary issues, scripture study, and spiritual reflection! Our summer series continues on Tuesdays. There are two sessions in the rectory 2nd Fl. Common Room on Tuesday mornings and evenings 9:30-11 AM or 6:30-8 PM. ***Come as you are. You are welcome here***. WwP Bible studies combine personal study with small group discussion, linking our everyday challenges to solutions given through Scripture. If you desire to grow in your faith- in a supportive community of Catholic women- JOIN US! Please contact Marianne, mariannek36@yahoo.com

St. Alphonsus 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

Gospel Reflection

Jesus entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary who sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak. Luke 10:38–39

Serving With Generosity

It's interesting that it was Martha who welcomed Jesus, but it was Mary who sat at His feet listening to Him. As the story goes on, we discover that Martha took her responsibility of hospitality seriously; she was very busy preparing a meal. But it appears that Mary needed a different form of hospitality from our Lord Himself. As Martha prepared to feed Jesus so as to care for His physical hunger, Mary sought to be fed by our Lord so as to feed her spiritual hunger. And interestingly, it was the generosity of Martha who was diligent in preparing the meal that made it possible for her sister to receive the spiritual food she longed for.

When we read this story, we can easily become critical of Martha because she complained to Jesus about her sister. It is easy to see Martha's frustration in her words, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me." And though Martha may have been a little impatient, Jesus' response to her was gentle and corrective. "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her." What was that "better part?" It was Mary's prayerful attentiveness to Jesus. She was hungry for His teaching, and Jesus offered it to her in a very personal and loving way. And though this image of Mary before Jesus is a beautiful image to ponder and to use as a model of our own prayer, there is also something important to be said about Martha's role in making Mary's prayer possible.

Because Martha was diligent in taking care of the duties of hospitality, Mary felt the freedom to sit at Jesus' feet. Perhaps the ideal response from Martha would have been to notice that Mary was being spiritually fed by our Lord and to rejoice in that fact, giving her the continued freedom to sit at Jesus' feet. If Martha would have realized this, then she would have continued working in the background so that her sister could continue listening to Jesus. But even though Martha did interrupt this sacred moment for her sister, the fact remains that her initial diligence in taking care of preparing the meal did give Mary some time alone with Jesus.



In a similar way, we will all be given various opportunities in life to take care of the daily mundane tasks that are needed within a family or community. It is easy to fall into the trap of thinking that unless everyone does their equal part, then things are not fair. But being "fair" should not be our focus. True charity, especially within the family, means that, first and foremost, we look for opportunities to better the lives of those around us. For example, spending extra time cleaning a home so that others can enjoy it more adds much to family life. Or spending hours preparing a nice meal for family or friends may afford everyone the opportunity of time well spent together. These are only a couple of the countless ways that our diligence and generosity toward others is fruitful, especially within family life.

Reflect, today, upon these two women and the unique calling they each were given at the time of Jesus' visit to their house. One was called to be fed by our Lord as she sat at His feet. The other was called to work hard so as to make it easier for her sister to receive that spiritual nourishment. Know that both of these callings are important. For that reason, if God calls you to be more like Martha at times, rejoice in that fact and work hard at serving in many ways. If God calls you to be more like Mary at times, then rejoice in those moments and sit prayerfully at the feet of our Lord, being fed by His holy Words.

My gentle Lord, when You came to the home of Martha and Mary, You fed Mary with Your Word and fed Martha by your gentle correction. I thank You for these two women and the roles they both play in teaching me how to love and to serve. May I always be diligent in my service to others, and may I always embrace every moment that You invite me to sit at Your feet in prayer. Jesus, I trust in You.

Stewardship—First Fruits

FIRST FRUITS
time talent treasure

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

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

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

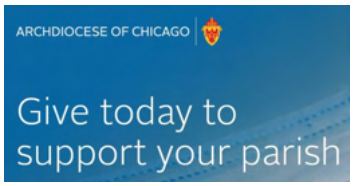
Giving Update

Weekly Budget Amount: $15,192

Sunday Offertory for 7/13: $12,771

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



GENERATION TO GENERATION CAMPAIGN



The Generation to Generation campaign, strengthened by prayer, will enable us to address urgent parish needs as well as support spiritually renewing our parishes, supporting our priests, and assisting vulnerable communities.

St. Alphonsus will receive 50% of the pledges made and fulfilled by our parish families up to our assigned goal of **$1,120,000**, and even more if we reach our stretch goal of **$2,240,000**.



Please reach out to Father Bauer at sbauer@stalphonsuschicago.church with any questions!

Scan this QR code to learn more!

GENERATION TO GENERATION: **ANSWER THE CALL**

Young Adult Ministry

The Young Adult Ministry (YAM) is one of St. Alphonsus' most active parish groups! YAM is led by a volunteer board and is guided by Pastoral Associate, Brooks Robinson. Stated simply, the ministry's mission is to help one another participate in Christ's mission, that we, as young adult Catholics, may be effective disciples, evangelists, and agents of charity in all that we do. YAM provides many social, intellectual, service, and spiritual opportunities for growth. Members range in age from 21-39 years old.

Our YAM group is made up of 4 main pillars, Spiritual, Intellectual, Service, and Social.

Visit the St. Alphonsus YAM Facebook page, *www.facebook.com/AlphonsusYoungAdult* or contact the YAM board at *stalphonsusyam@gmail.com*

BE SOCIAL
BE SPIRITUAL
BE CHARITABLE
BE INTELLECTUAL
BE CATHOLIC

Upcoming Young Adult Ministry Activities



July Rooftop Praise and Adoration— Friday, July 25 at 7:30 PM
Spend time with our Lord in our monthly Praise and Adoration Holy Hour reverently on the parish rooftop, rather than the church. We will have limited seating on the roof. We'll spend the first 30 minutes in silent adoration, and then our musicians will lead worship in song. Confession will also be available! The hour will conclude with benediction, and a group will gather for fellowship and drinks at a local bar after! *Want to sing/play an instrument with us? Contact Erin Kolasinski, ekolasin@alumni.nd.edu

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



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

Marriage & Family Life



Natural Family Planning Awareness Week— July 20-26

Supporting God's gifts of love and life in marriage

Natural Family Planning Awareness Week is a national educational campaign of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The USCCB has some basic supportive materials on their designated website, www.usccb.org/topics/natural-family-planning/national-nfp-awareness-week, focusing attention on Natural Family Planning methods and Church teachings that support their use in marriage.

TO HAVE TO HOLD TO HONOR

Natural Family Planning

Supporting God's gifts of love and life in marriage



To have ... God has given each man and woman an abundance of gifts and marriage is one of them!

What would you think of a person who has an amazing gift, a gift that brings lasting happiness, but doesn't open it? Even more bewildering, what if the gift is in plain sight, but the person still does not open it? Sounds strange? Not really. For a variety of reasons, from distractions to presumptions, from insecurity to arrogance, from fear to foolhardiness, people can easily miss a gift. This all-to-common human inclination to not see the forest for the trees can make us laugh or cry depending upon what it is that we missed. With this in mind, let us remember that as people of faith, we don't want to miss God's gifts to us—they are, after all, from the Lord God Himself. And, they are given to us for our ultimate happiness! Let's take a look at these gifts, especially that of marriage and the family.

God, the great gift-giver, is the one who gives life to every man and woman. This life is directed to the fullness of joy and eternity since the Lord God made men and women "in His image" (see Genesis 1: 27). God's gift of life is multifaceted. The gift of life unfolds to reveal many related gifts, all willed by God, including personhood—one's identity as a precious child of God; human sexuality (created as male or female) with its fertility—the ability to co-create with the Lord of all creation; the capacity to love like God, to forgive, empathize, and form small communions of persons in families, friendships, businesses, citizenships, and so forth. Finally, as if all this were not enough, God crowns His creation with His ultimate gift of salvation through His son Jesus—"For God so loved the world that he gave His only Son so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Added to this abundance is God's gift of the universal vocation to holiness and union with Him. Within it, God calls each man and woman to specific vocations which, hopefully, they will discover in their life's journey. A central vocation for many (but not all), is the call to marry and form a family. Since "humanity passes by way of the family" (*Familiaris consortio*, 86), marriage and the family are important to everyone. In fact, and as St. Paul VI taught,

> "Marriage ... is far from being the effect of chance or the result of the blind evolution of natural forces. It is ... the wise and provident institution of God the Creator, whose purpose was to effect in man His loving design" (*Humanae vitae*, 8).

God, as the author of marriage, willed that man and woman would be joined in such a way as to help each other to grow in holiness (the "one flesh" union that Scripture reveals) and to protect and nurture new life within their covenantal union. Pope Francis reminds us that in the center of the home, "we see the father and mother ... with their personal story of love .... embody the primordial divine plan clearly spoken of by Christ himself: 'Have you not read that he who made them from the beginning made them male and female?' (Mt 19: 4)" (*Amoris laetitia*, 9). Marriage and the procreation and nurture of children speak of God's promise of love and life!

To hold ... is to understand, accept, and embrace God's gifts!

When we consider God's gifts to us, we respond in gratitude and joy. At the same time, we also have a responsibility to seek understanding, to deepen our knowledge about God's gifts so that we can accept and embrace them more fully in our lives. Over the centuries and through the guidance of

the Holy Spirit, Catholic teaching on God's gift of human sexuality, marriage, and family have done just that—they reveal God's truth. And so, we can rejoice that ...

- God created humanity as two sexes—"Male and female He made them" (Gn 1: 27)—with different but complementary gifts. This mutuality in difference is especially seen in the distinctive and unique fertility of the husband and the wife, where they must unite in the conjugal act in order to bring new life into the world. And, "That is why a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body" (Gn 2:24).
- "Marriage is the icon of God's love for us" (Amoris laetitia, 121). St. Paul compares the love of a husband to wife as Christ's love for His Church (see Ephesians 5: 32). Marital love, therefore, is marked by faithfulness, permanence, and openness to life (see *Humanae vitae*, 8–9).
- God made marriage for one man and one woman who freely give consent to each other for "the whole of life and which is ordered by its nature to the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring" (Canon 1055; see also *Gaudium et spes*, 48–50; *Humanae vitae*, 8–12).
- Children are gifts from God and contribute to their parents' welfare (see *Gaudium et spes*, 50).
- God willed that the "essential properties of marriage are unity and indissolubility, which in Christian marriage obtain a special firmness by reason of the sacrament" (Canon 1056). This means that since the baptized Christian is part of Christ's body, it is the Lord who fortifies the marital bond.
- The acts in marriage by which the union of the spouses takes place "are noble and honorable; the truly human performance of these acts fosters the self-giving they signify and enriches the spouses in joy and gratitude" (*Gaudium et spes*, 49).
- God willed that the marital act is for the union of husband and wife AND procreation.

The last point above needs some reflection. It is a mistake to think that Catholic teaching means that every time a husband and wife have conjugal relations it is only for the purpose of conceiving a child. Spouses should engage in the conjugal embrace to give of themselves to each other to fortify their spousal union. At the same time, and as St. Paul VI warns,

> They are not free to act as they choose in the service of transmitting life as if it were wholly up to them to decide what is the right course to follow. On the contrary, they are bound to ensure that what they do corresponds to the will of God the Creator" (*Humanae vitae*, 10).

To honor ... God's gifts we must protect them and live them following God's design!

There are many ways to honor God's gifts of marriage and family. Husband and wife honor their marriage by living faithfully with each other and doing nothing that will divide their marital union. As they make decisions about their lives, they no longer think "I" but "We." They honor their marital communion when they express to each other tenderness, compassion, generosity, and self-sacrifice. They share this life-giving love with their children, extended family, and friends.

Within the context of marriage, the methods of NFP stand as a real support. That is because they do nothing to harm God's gifts. Instead, NFP teaches spouses to understand their fertility and work with God's design. The wife learns how to observe her biological signs of fertility and she and her husband work together to understand whether God is calling them to become pregnant or not. If postponing conception, they simply refrain from the marital act during the fertile time of the wife's menstrual cycle. No drugs or devices are used. In this way, they do not reject God's gifts but rather respect and honor them.

When husband and wife accept, understand, and embrace God's gifts for married love, they honor God. They can maintain the "integrity of the powers of life and love" placed in them by the Lord (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2338). And, in doing so, husband and wife ensure the unity of their persons and marriage (*Ibid*).

Through the use of the methods of Natural Family Planning, spouses can "experience the gift of married love while respecting the laws of conception," thereby acknowledging that they are "not the master of the sources of life but rather the minister of the design established by the Creator" (*Humanae vitae*, 13). Married couples who wish to fully live God's gifts to them set their feet on solid ground where they can live their wedding promises as God intended—to have ... to hold ... to honor!

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Faith Formation

5 Easy Ways To Grow Your Catholic Faith Over the Summer

Keeping your faith growing over the summer can be an easy task if you have some ideas and daily practices already put in place for your family. Summer is typically a time filled with rest, relaxation, and new adventures but it can also be a great time to nurture and grow deeper in your faith, especially as a family. Embrace the summer months as a season of grace and thanksgiving.

Go on a Family Rosary Walk

Take the whole family outside and pray the Rosary. Walk around your neighborhood, a local park, or even the beach. Have each child, teen or parent (or grandparent) say a Hail Mary or decade of the Rosary (if they feel confident) along the walk. This is a great way to get some exercise and praying together.

Start a "Saint of the Week" Tradition

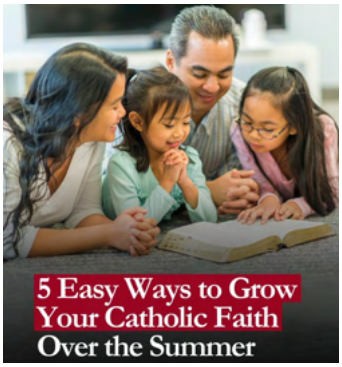
Each week, choose a specific saint and learn about them. There are different ways to teach your family about the saints — through reading stories, visiting a spiritual site, or watching an educational program detailing their life stories.

Create a Gratitude Jar

Each day, or even week, individually write down things to be thankful for (it can be something small). At the end of the summer season, read the gratitude notes out loud for everyone to hear. This activity serves as a reminder to give thanks to God in a simple way.

Keep a Summer Faith Journal

Write, reflect or even draw about personal faith experiences. Like the gratitude jar, share the journals as a family at the end of the summer.



Host a Vacation Bible School at Home

Pick a morning during the week and set aside time to read or watch fun Bible stories, sing songs, do arts and crafts projects, or eat fun snacks. This is a creative and interactive way to bring "VBS" to your domestic church. As St. John Chrysostom said, "Indeed a house is a little church."

Summertime is the perfect time to grow in the Catholic faith in creative and meaningful ways. Incorporating small practices will keep the faith growing during busy seasons. Over these warm-weather days, remember to slow down, deepen your faith, and prioritize the things that will draw your family closer to Christ. As Pope Leo recently reminded the faithful, "In the family, faith is handed on together with life, generation after generation. It is shared like food at the family table and like the love in our hearts. In this way, families become privileged places in which to encounter Jesus, who loves us and desires our good, always."



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

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

Helpful Household Hints by Harvey Levin

Microwave Cleaning

It is often difficult to clean the microwave. The bottom and sides are easy but the top is more difficult. Just put a damp cloth in there for about 30-45 seconds, let it sit (to cool down) then use it to wipe it down. The steam releases all the stuck-on food, like the dried-up stuff you would end up scraping off.

Contact

Sacramental Information

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

How to Offer a Mass Intention

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

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

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

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

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

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

St. Alphonsus Social Media

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

Directory

Parish Office

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

Parish Office Hours:

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

School Office

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

School Office Hours:

8:00 AM– 3:00 PM

Staff

Parish Staff

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

School Staff

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