



Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023: THE TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



*"Lord, if my brother sins against me,
how often must I forgive?
As many as seven times?"*

Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times." (Mt 18:21-22)

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: Sir 27:30—28:7/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 (8)/Rom 14:7-9/Mt 18:21-35

Monday: 1 Tm 2:1-8/Ps 28:2, 7, 8-9/Lk 7:1-10

Tuesday: 1 Tm 3:1-13/Ps 101:1b-2ab, 2cd-3ab, 5, 6/Lk 7:11-17

Wednesday: 1 Tm 3:14-16/Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 7:31-35

Thursday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Mt 9:9-13

Friday: 1 Tm 6:2c-12/Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20/Lk 8:1-3

Saturday: 1 Tm 6:13-16/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 8:4-15

Next Sunday: Is 55:6-9/Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18 (18a)/Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/Mt 20:1-16a

Please Pray for the Sick

Emilia Hurtado	Judy Fredrickson
Bernard Zapp	Tracy Duda
Dorothy Bonds	Jacob Duda
Jamie Wallett	Dorothy O'Brien
Sandra Wilson	Ryan Meadow
Monica Alexis Rios	Danny Browder
Margaret Nichols	Carol Kania
Tessa Sergeant	Leslie Salimi
Diane Mareci	
Fidel Mercado	
Chavez	

At Rest in the Peace of Christ

Richard Slowinski
Mercedes Carrillo



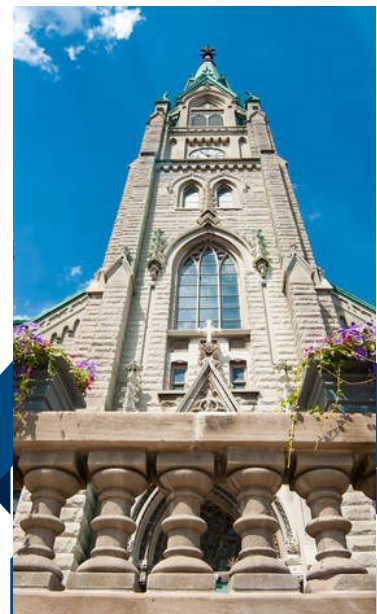
Welcome to the Parish!

Vincent Wloch

Michael
and Joy Mollet
Patrick
Olivia
Harper
Lucy
James {Fitz}

John McCormack

Christina Meyer



WEDDING BANNS

Brooke Steiner
and
James Chaon

Angelica Rejczak
and
David Cintron

Alexa Barwacz
and
Vincent Farella

Giving Update

Weekly Budget Amount:
\$14,890

Offertory for 9/10:
\$15,425

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



MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, September 17

9:00 AM For the People of St. Alphonsus
11:00 AM +Rita Gerich
12:30 PM For the People of St. Alphonsus
5:00 PM +Dennis Brogan

Monday, September 18

8:30 AM For the People of St. Alphonsus

Tuesday, September 19

8:30 AM Jesus Hermosillo

Wednesday, September 20

6:00 PM For the People of St. Alphonsus

Thursday, September 21

8:30 AM +Agustin Corona

Friday, September 22 (Oktoberfest!)

8:30 AM For the People of St. Alphonsus

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



Beer, brats and bands.



Oktoberfest!

September 22, 23, and 24th

Join us for all the Oktoberfest fun!

**Admission \$10.00
Friday and Saturday**

**Free Admission on
Sunday!**

And just like every year, there will be plenty of beer and homemade brats!

We'll have music from lots of German bands and Fest favorites alike.

Get all the Fest details and Volunteer at

www.stalsoktoberfest.org

Entertainment

Friday 5-10 PM

Leslie Hunt Band, Dancing Queen
Stachel, Trippin Billies

Saturday Noon-10 PM

Fletcher Rockwell
The Gingers
Hello Weekend
16 Candles

School of Rock
The 77 Solution
Ipop
The Polkaholics

Sunday Noon-7 PM

KINDERFEST! JUMBOTRON SCREEN TO WATCH
THE GAMES!



Craft Beer Tasting

Friday 6-9 PM, Saturday 4-7 PM
Select from dozens of options from local
breweries, seasonal selections, and
international favorites.

Tickets now available at
[runsignup.com/TicketEvent/
OktoberfestChicago2023](http://runsignup.com/TicketEvent/OktoberfestChicago2023)

Brewmaster Packages

Brewmasters will receive a
commemorative 1L stein from Germany,
brats, free admission for 4, 2 for 1 beer,
Oktoberfest T-Shirts, Hat and more!

Package now available on parish
GiveCentral site, [www.givecentral.org/
location/39/event/34537](http://www.givecentral.org/location/39/event/34537)

PROST!

Help Out and Have a Great Time!!



It takes more than 500 volunteers to make our Fest a success!

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 .

Get all the Fest details & Volunteer at
www.stalsoktoberfest.org

Thank You from SVdP!



The Society of St. Vincent dePaul's Donation Drive is over.

Thank you SO very much for your support. Through your generous donations we collected lots of clothes, household items, books,

toys and other miscellaneous items. Your donations help us help our neighbors in need. Learn more about what your donations help accomplish at stvincentdepaulchicago.org/what-happens-to-those-donations-whose-life-did-i-change/

Our next drive will be in the spring of 2024. Please watch the bulletin for details.

Before the drive, Father Bauer received a specific request for shoe donations for all the refugees currently staying at the Chicago Police District on Addison near Halsted. We sorted out all the shoes from the donations on Sunday and delivered them. The shoe donations were graciously accepted with much appreciation and extreme gratitude. **Because of this immediate need, we will continue collecting shoes for the refugees. 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.

Once again thank you for kind generosity. We could not have done this without you. God Bless You!



Samuel Group at St. Alphonsus

Monthly meeting; starting this Sunday, September 17; Register Now!



Do you ever wonder how to make a good decision according to God's will? Join us for a discernment group specifically geared toward young adults (ages 19–35). Here you will discuss all kinds of discernment – if you are called to consecrated life, married life or single life, to a certain career or city, and more. The goal of this group is to help you, and in some cases your significant other, know yourself, Jesus and your role within the Church. These discernment groups will take place monthly over

the course of seven months. At each session, you will listen to talks, have time for small group sharing, and have the opportunity for Mass, Confession and Adoration. Participants will also have the opportunity to meet individually with a spiritual director during this program.

Cost: \$45 per person. Register at bit.ly/3D9wQYI

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.



More Young Adult News and Events Around Chicago

Catholic Sports Leagues Escape Room event

Date: **Saturday, September 23**

Time: Start Times begin at 10:50 AM (perfect to explore before heading to St. Alphonsus' Oktoberfest!)
42 E. Ontario St., Chicago, IL 60611.

Cost: \$40

Visit www.catholicsportsleagues.com

Young Catholic Professionals will be hosting an event, **Faith and Fortitude in the Workplace**, on Tuesday September 19 from 6-9 PM at Benedictine University

in Lisle, IL. You can learn more and register at ycp.glueup.com/event/faith-and-fortitude-in-the-workplace-81545/



**YOUNG CATHOLIC
PROFESSIONALS**
Working in Witness for Christ™

Seminary Sunday Collection

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Today, more than ever, we need compassionate and knowledgeable priests who will accompany us on our life journey, sharing in our joys and sorrows and guiding us through its challenges. The young men who are currently enrolled at both the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary and at Saint John Vianney College Seminary in Saint Paul, Minnesota, are the priests of tomorrow who will walk with us through life.

We are truly blessed to have these selfless, young seminarians step forward to minister us, our children and our grandchildren. We are grateful for their willingness to dedicate their lives to Jesus, the Church and each of us.

As a show of our gratitude, we take a moment this weekend to pay our respects by making a gift to their education. At Masses throughout the archdiocese this weekend, we ask for your encouragement and prayers for our seminarians. We also seek your financial support to help cover the cost of their preparation, which includes tuition and fees, room and board and health insurance.

These young men are giving their lives to us, and I ask that you to match their generosity by making a sacrificial gift as we take up this collection. Not only will you be investing in them, but also in the future of the Church.

A remittance envelope has been placed in your pew or at the back of the church for your 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.

In addition, you can also support vocations in the archdiocese by encouraging young men in your acquaintance to consider discerning the priesthood. Many current priests credit their vocation to personal conversations with loved ones and friends who recognized this potential in them.

On behalf of current and future archdiocesan seminarians, thank you. May God continue to bless you abundantly. Please know that I keep you in my daily prayers and intentions, and I ask for yours in return.

Sincerely yours in Christ,




Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago


ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

SEMINARIAN EDUCATION FUND

The archdiocesan collection for the education and formation of our future priests.

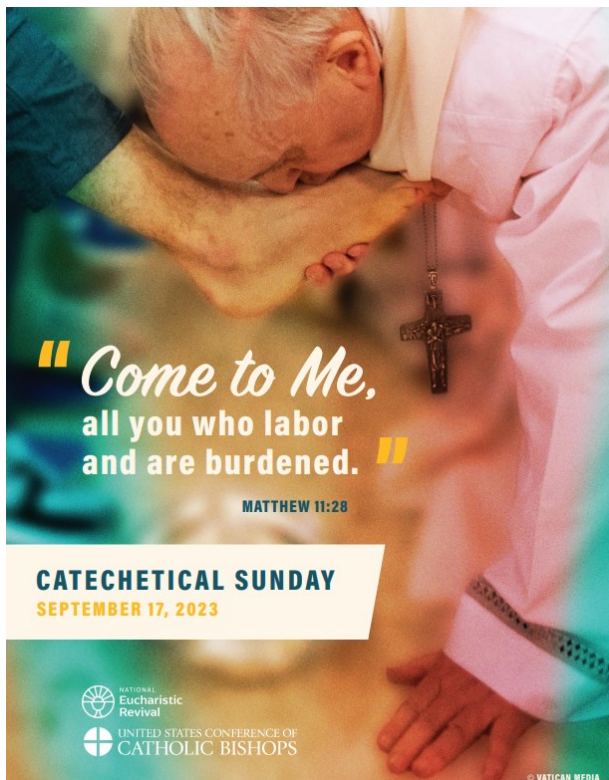


Thank you for supporting our seminarians through your generous gift to their education.



archchicago.org/seminarianfund

Catechetical Sunday



**"Come to Me,
all you who labor
and are burdened."**

MATTHEW 11:28

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival
UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

© VATICAN MEDIA

"Come to me all you who labor and are burdened"
Matthew 11:28

"Vengan a Mí, todos los que están cansados y
cargados"
Mateo 11:28

This year's theme reminds us of the invitation we receive from the Lord Jesus to follow Him and the promise that He doesn't want to add to our burdens; he wants to lighten them.

Prayer for Catechists

Loving Father, pour forth your Holy Spirit upon all catechists that they might become living instruments of your Word to others. Help them to be faithful witnesses to Gospel life so that your Church may become ever more alive. Let the fire of your live enkindle their hearts that they may be instruments of drawing others to love of you. Amen.

[adapted from A Catechist's Prayer, USCCB]

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. Parent orientation is September 19 and classes will begin on September 26. Please register at the link on the front page of our parish website. Visit our Religious Ed page, www.stalphonsusichicago.org/religious-education for more information.

Registration for our Religious Education program is now open for the 2023-2024

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 Rev. Steven Bauer, sbauer@stalphonsusichicago.church

What is a catechist?



Pope Francis

The catechist, then, is a Christian who is mindful of God, who is guided by the memory of God in his or her entire life and who is able to awaken that memory in the hearts of others.

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.

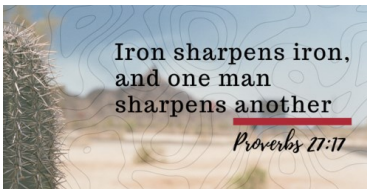
This class is offered for adults in three situations:

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@stalphonsusichicago.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

Eucharistic Adoration: A Source for Peace:

Sometimes our weeks can be quite hectic, making it hard to find quiet time to pray. If this sounds familiar, join us for Mass on Wednesdays at 6 PM., followed by Eucharistic Adoration from 6:30-7:30. This can be a great way to re-center yourself in God and experience the peace that only Christ can give.

Wednesday Evening Men's Vespers

Men of the parish are invited to attend our Communion 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





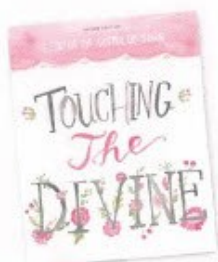
Come as you are.

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

Stewardship— First Fruits



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

It is encouraging to see both new and familiar faces at our worship

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



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

Alphonsus Academy News



At Alphonsus Academy, we encourage our students to live out their faith every day as part of being responsible citizens and Christians. One way we do this is to engage students in service to others that extends into and beyond our community in a way that contributes to our students' sense of themselves as people who can create change in the world.

Did you know that our AACAA students partner with Blessings in a Backpack to provide meals for students at a partner school throughout the school year? 1 in 5 American children do not know where their next meal will come from. In Cook County, more than 250,000 children face food insecurity. During the school week, these children are fed by the free and reduced meal program at school. Blessings in a Backpack is a nationwide organization that helps feed hungry elementary school kids. Blessings provides weekend food bags for students who receive free lunch and breakfast at school every day of the school week and so are at risk of going hungry on the weekends. With the help of parent volunteers, our students pack up a month's worth of shelf stable meals & deliver to the children at Holy Angels.

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.

Knights of Columbus



The KofC was founded by Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney to support our Pastor, our Parish and those in need, as well as to support strong marriages & families. If you are interested in learning more about our St. Alphonsus Parish Council #15158, then please contact parishioner Ray San Agustin, raysanagustin15158@gmail.com

National Migration Week

The World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR) is an opportunity for global church and the Catholic faithful to engage in prayer, reflection, and action on behalf of our brothers and sisters who are forced to flee their homes. National Migration Week is a uniquely US-based celebration that builds on the ideas put forth in WDMR and shaped accordingly to American public. **In 2023 we will celebrate National Migration Week September 18 – 24, which culminates with WDMR that Sunday the 24th.**

This year's theme, "Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay," shines a light on the root causes that drive migration. In many instances, war and conflict have left people with no option but to abandon their homes and seek safety elsewhere. The Syrian conflict, for example, displaced millions, creating one of the largest refugee crises in modern history. More recently, the Russian invasion of Ukraine displaced hundreds of thousands of people, many of whom fled to neighboring countries in search of safety. In both cases, migration is not a choice, but a necessity for survival.

Pope Francis emphasizes the importance of understanding the systemic factors that contribute to forced migration, such as political instability, economic inequality, and persecution. Through advocacy, education, and charitable works, Catholic faithful can work to create a world where individuals and families are free to choose whether to migrate or stay in their homelands. By addressing these issues, we can help create the conditions for people to live in safety and dignity, regardless of where they call home.

Let us use this National Migration Week and World Day of Migrants and Refugees as an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the complex issues driving forced migration and to renew our commitment to building a just and inclusive world.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Human Dignity and Solidarity — Immigration Ministry

NATIONAL MIGRATION WEEK MASS

"Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay."
— Pope Francis

In Celebration of the World Day of Migrants and Refugees
September 24, 2023 | 5:15 p.m.

Holy Name Cathedral

735 North State Street, Chicago, Illinois, 60611

Free parking at Holy Name Cathedral Parking Garage, 14 West Superior Street, Chicago, IL (across the street from the cathedral).

For more information, please contact Mauro Pineda at mpineda@archchicago.org or 312.534.8103 or Olga Anglada at ofigueroa-anglada@archchicago.org or visit catholicsandimmigrants.org.



Photo credit: Duc Tran

Oh Dios, Padre todopoderoso,
concédenos la gracia de comprometernos activamente
en favor de la justicia, la solidaridad y la paz,
para que a todos tus hijos se les asegure
la libertad de elegir si migrar o quedarse.

Concédenos la valentía de denunciar
todos los horrores de nuestro mundo,
de luchar contra toda injusticia
que desfigura la belleza de tus criaturas
y la armonía de nuestra casa común.

Sostennos con la fuerza de tu Espíritu,
para que podamos manifestar tu ternura
a cada migrante que pones en nuestro camino
y difundir en los corazones y en cada ambiente
la cultura del encuentro y del cuidado.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



NATIONAL MIGRATION WEEK 2023
PRAYER

More events around the Archdiocese for National Migration week can be found at <https://pvm.archchicago.org/es/human-dignity-solidarity/immigration-ministry/national-migration-week>

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 Walleth, Secretary
Connie Del Toral, Administrative Assistant