Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

JULY 30, 2023: SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field,
which a person finds and hides again,
and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." (Mt 13:44)

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: 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12/Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130 (97a)/Rom 8:28-30/Mt 13:44-52 or 13:44-46
Monday: Ex 32:15-24, 30-34/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/Mt 13:31-35
Tuesday: Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28/Ps 103:6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13/Mt 13:36-43
Wednesday: Ex 34:29-35/Ps 99:5, 6, 7, 9/Mt 13:44-46
Thursday: Ex 40:16-21, 34-38/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6a and 8a, 11/Mt 13:47-53
Friday: Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37/Ps 81:3-4, 5-6, 10-11ab/Mt 13:54-58
Saturday: Lv 25:1, 8-17/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8/Mt 14:1-12
Next Sunday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9/2 Pt 1:16-19/Mt 17:1-9

Please Pray for the Sick

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

Welcome to the Parish!

Kimberly and Travis Constantine
Soledad Villanueva
Hailey Baumstein
Tammy Brasic
Max Slott
Marisa Sclafani
Gabriel Matar
Christopher and Alex Nolting Vivienne



WEDDING BANNS

Leanna House
and
Fernando Prieto

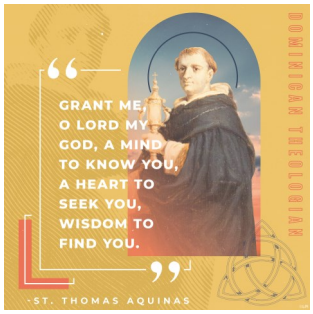
Welcome Our Recently Baptized

Elise June Ulman
Ezio Amaechi Galiano

Giving Update

Weekly Budget Amount: $14,890
Offertory for 7/23: $12,262

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



MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, July 30
9:00 AM +Ann Riffner
11:00 AM +Aurora Hernandez, Jesus Hernandez, Cayetano Rivas
12:30 PM +Manuela Nevárez
5:00 PM +Diane P. Bageanis

Monday, July 31
8:30 AM +Irene Foster

Tuesday, August 1
8:30 AM +Charlotte (Richard) Jablonski & Son, Arthur Jablonski
7:00 PM For the People of St. Alphonsus

Wednesday, August 2
6:00 PM For the People of St. Alphonsus

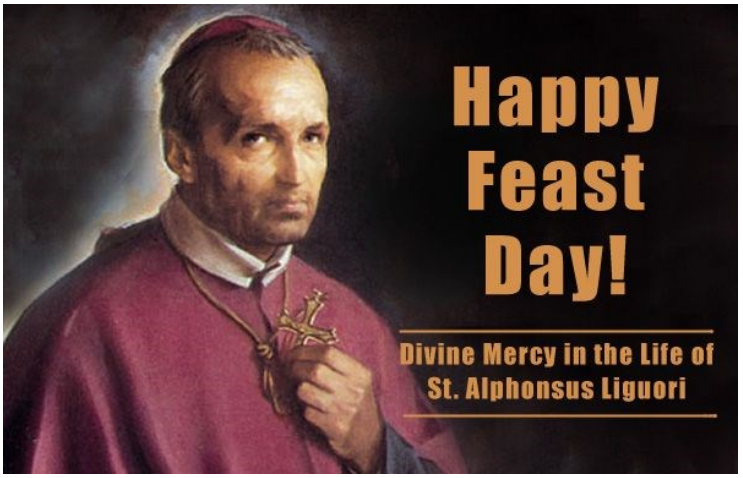
Thursday, August 3
8:30 AM For the People of St. Alphonsus

Friday, August 4
8:30 AM For the People of St. Alphonsus

Sunday, August 6
9:00 AM +Norma Pellino
11:00 AM +Richard Meindl
12:30 PM +Manuel and Maria Naula
5:00 PM +James Duff

Feast of Saint Alphonsus

St. Alphonsus Liguori's Story



St. Alphonsus Liguori was born Alfonso Maria de'Liguori in Marianella, a town near Naples, Italy, in 1696. He was a brilliant student who, by the age of seventeen, had already earned two doctor's degrees, one in civil law, the other in canon law, both at the University of Naples. He practiced law with much success for eight years until he lost a major case because of a serious blunder of his own, and he interpreted this as a sign from God to leave the legal profession and study for the priesthood.

Alphonsus threw himself into his theological studies and was ordained to the diocesan priesthood in 1726 at the age of 30. He spent the next three years canvassing the countryside preaching and hearing confessions, and he quickly gained a reputation for excellence in both.

Three years later he became the chaplain for a college that trained missionaries for China. There Alphonsus became friends with a senior colleague, Father Thomas Falcoia, who had spent a long while trying to found a religious order of nuns, but he had only been able to establish a single convent. Falcoia was made bishop of Castellamare. One of his nuns, Sister Celeste, claimed to have had a vision that confirmed Falcoia's earlier vision regarding a new rule of life for their congregation. Bishop Falcoia asked Alphonsus to offer a retreat for the nuns and to investigate Sr. Celeste's vision. Alphonsus found the vision to be authentic, and with a new rule and religious habits, a new religious order was founded, the Redemptorines.

With the religious order of women established, Bishop Falcoia asked Alphonsus to found a religious order of priests that would specialize in preaching and missionary work directed toward the poor in the rural areas around Naples. The new institute was established in 1732 and called the Congregation for the Most Holy Redeemer, also known as the Redemptorists. The Congregation was officially approved by Pope Benedict XIV in 1749. Alphonsus did his best to guide the new community, but his efforts were hindered by the dissension among the members.

Meanwhile, Alphonsus continued to go from village to village preaching the gospel with a message that was understandable to all, especially common folk, children, and the elderly. He also was in high demand as a confessor because of his gentle style and wise advice.

At this point Alphonsus increasingly turned to spiritual writing, and he composed thirty-six separate works, some scholarly, others devotional. His first work was published in 1745 and his most famous work, *Moral Theology*, was published in 1748, which presented a reasonable middle ground between the morally stringent approach of Jansenism and laxity, an excessively lenient approach. His contributions led him to being named a Doctor of the Church.

After leading the Redemptorists since 1732, Alphonsus was named the bishop of Saint Agata dei Goti in 1762. His major initiatives were to reform the clergy and to serve the poor. He was afflicted with rheumatic fever, and because of ill health, he resigned in 1775 after having serving for thirteen years. He retired to Nocera dei Pagini in Campagna where he died in 1787. Alphonsus was beatified in 1816, canonized a saint in 1839, pronounced a Doctor of the Church in 1871, and named the patron saint of confessors and moral theologians in 1950.

Reflection

Saint Alphonsus was known above all as a practical man who dealt in the concrete rather than the abstract. His life is indeed a practical model for the everyday Christian who has difficulty recognizing the dignity of Christian life amid the swirl of problems, pain, misunderstanding and failure. Alphonsus suffered all these things. He is a saint because he was able to maintain an intimate sense of the presence of the suffering Christ through it all.

All are welcome!! There will be a special evening Mass this Tuesday, August 1 at 7 PM for our parish's patron saint.

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.stalphonsuschicago.org/religious-education for more information.

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

Are You Ready To Become Catholic?

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

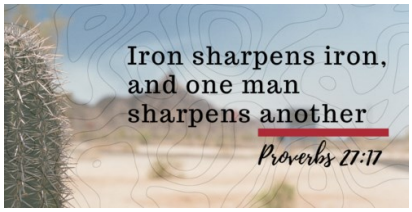
This class is offered for adults in three situations:
1. Un-baptized adults who desire to be baptized in the Catholic Church.
2. Baptized non-Catholic Christians who desire to be formally admitted into communion with the Catholic Church.
3. Baptized Catholics who have not yet been confirmed and desire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

Adult baptism (and if applicable, Confirmation and First Holy Communion) takes place at the Easter Vigil (Evening before Easter Sunday). It is one of the highest celebrations in the Catholic Church's liturgical year!

If you or someone you know is interested in taking the class, please contact our pastoral associate, Brooks Robinson at brobinson@stalphonsuschicago.church

St. Alphonsus Men's Group

Thursday Evenings



St. Alphonsus Men's group meets Thursday nights to pray the liturgy of the hours, have fellowship, and to propose challenging topics to discuss.

When great conversations happen, synergy that creates connections and helps values be shared develops. *Proverbs 27:17* describes this as two iron tools being sharpened and made more effective. The same applies with friends coming into contact, sharpening and encouraging each other to greater service.

We meet every Thursday night at 7 PM in the rectory. Food and drinks provided. All men are welcome, with most men being in their 20s and 30s. Access can be gained at the west facing rectory door in the parking lot.
For questions or more information, contact Men's Group at our new email, divineofficers@gmail.com

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

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 Communio prayer group each Wednesday at 8:15-9 PM in the rectory chapel (come to the rectory side door) It's a great way to take your spiritual life a step further as we enrich our knowledge of the faith, encourage each other in life's challenges, and grow in fortitude together.



We chant the Liturgy of the Hours, share reflections on the upcoming Sunday gospel reading, followed by a social with refreshments, fellowship, and conversation. All men of the parish are invited.
Questions or more info, contact James Morrow, jemseoul@hotmail.com

Samuel Group at St. Alphonsus

Starting in September; 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/3D9wQYl

SAMUEL GROUP

Discernment for young adults

Blessed Miguel Pro (formerly St. Leonard)
2023: Sept. 24, Oct. 22, Dec. 3 | **2024:** Jan. 14, Feb. 25, Mar. 24, Apr. 28
Meetings: 3 – 7 p.m. (English), Mass: 7 p.m. (Spanish)

St. Alphonsus Parish (Lakeview)
2023: Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 19 | **2024:** Jan. 21, Feb. 18, Mar. 17, Apr. 21
Meetings: 1 – 5 p.m. (English), Mass: 5 p.m. (English)

Cost: $45 per person. Register here: bit.ly/3D9wQYl.



Air and Water Show Viewing Party

Saturday August 19— Rectory Rooftop

Come join St. Al's YAM on Saturday August 19th from 11 AM-3 PM as we have watch the Chicago Air Show from the St Al's Rectory Rooftop. Enjoy the great weather, fantastic views of the Chicago skyline and great time meeting new friends!



This is a BYOB and food event, we are hoping to have a small grill set up to cook up some hot dogs or burgers. Feel free to bring any yard games as well.

Contact Matt Rebernick or Tammy Brasic with any questions at stalsyamsocial@gmail.com

Why Do We Do That? Catholic Life Explained

Question: Why do priests kiss the altar at the start of Mass?

Answer:
Our churches and chapels are filled with symbols. We might think of the more common symbols (like the crucifix, statues, stained-glass windows, vestment color and altar cloths) as well as major symbols (such as the paschal candle and the baptismal font). But there are some things that we can take for granted in our sacred spaces, because unfortunately, they seem to just be part of the building, including three of the main symbols of our liturgy: the ambo (lectern), the chair for the priest celebrant, and the altar.

These three objects are placed in a specially designated area called the sanctuary. They are the places where the Word of God is proclaimed, where the priest prays and presides at the celebration, and where the bread and wine are offered by the priest during the Eucharistic Prayer. Although each of these objects is sacred because of the role they play in our worship, the altar holds a special place. In a document containing the rules and instructions for the Mass — the "General Instruction of the Roman Missal" — we read: *"The altar on which the Sacrifice of the Cross is made present under sacramental signs is also the table of the Lord to which the People of God is called together to participate in the Mass, as well as the center of the thanksgiving that is accomplished throughout the Eucharist"* (no. 296).

One of the ways that we recognize the importance of the altar is when the priest and deacon kiss the altar at the beginning of Mass. Kissing is an ancient act of devotion. Remember, we also kiss the cross on Good Friday, and the deacon or priest kisses the *"Book of the Gospels"* after the Gospel is proclaimed. This act of devotion reminds us that the altar is a symbol of Jesus, the "living stone" (see 1 Peter 2:4), the foundation stone of our faith. It is a symbol gesture, but it is a powerful reminder of the One on whom our faith is built and in whose name we gather as the "household of faith" (see Galatians 6:10).

To learn more, see the *"Catechism of the Catholic Church"* (no. 1382-1383).



At the Athenaeum

Hailing from Ireland, Cup O' Joe is a family band playing folk-bluegrass music. They write music inspired by C.S. Lewis, were runners-up in the "BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Awards," and for one special night you can see them at Paradiso!

Tell your friends - all ages welcome! The Bar at the Paradiso will be open during the performance. Use the code ALPHONSUS, which gives you 10% off tickets, and donates 10% back to St. Alphonsus!

Serve as a Eucharistic Minister of Holy Communion!



Our parish is in need of faithful Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion. EMHC's should be fully initiated and practicing Catholics having received baptism, confirmation, and first Eucharist. If you would like to volunteer for this important ministry at Mass, please contact Father Bauer.

Ministry of Care

St. Alphonsus is blessed with wonderful volunteers who bring Holy Communion to parishioners that are sick or homebound on a weekly, biweekly, or monthly basis. Please call the rectory office (773) 525-0709 to arrange a visit for your loved one(s) who are unable to worship in-person at church and receive the Eucharist.

Stewardship—First Fruits

FIRST FRUITS
time talent treasure

We want to 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*

Helpful Household Hints by Harvey Levin

Laundry Room Tips

1. Pour cornmeal on fabric or upholstery to absorb grease stains. Apply enough to cover the soiled area and let it sit for a half hour, and then vacuum to remove the cornmeal mess.
2. You know that sticky residue that collects on irons? Run the iron (don't use the steam setting) over white paper sprinkled with salt.
3. Add 1/2 cup of lemon juice to a load of laundry to brighten whites.
4. Got some lipstick on your favorite shirt? Saturate the spot with hair spray (be sure the fabric is machine washable) and let it sit for at least 10 minutes. Dab with a damp cloth to remove and launder as usual.

Contact

Sacramental Information

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

How to Offer a Mass Intention

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

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

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

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

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

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

St. Alphonsus Social Media

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

Directory

Parish Office

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

Parish Office Hours:

9:00 AM— 5:00 PM Mon, Wed, Fri
9:00 AM— 7:30 PM Tue, Thurs

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
Erica Cook, Coordinator of Religious Education
Daniel Szymanski, Director of Operations
Mario Serrano, Parish Office Manager

School Staff

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