



Saint Alphonsus

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

JANUARY 30, 2022: FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



LITURGY SCHEDULE

Mass Schedule

Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri	8:30 AM
Wed	6:00 PM
Sun	9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 12:30 (Spanish) and 5:00 PM

Alphonsus Academy & Center For the Arts

Friday	8:30 AM or as announced
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And he said, "Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place." (Lk 4:24)

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday	6:30—7:30 PM
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Confessions

Wednesday	6:30—7:30 PM
Saturday	11:00 AM—12:00 PM

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

Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help

Wednesday	5:50 PM
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Worship

This Week's Readings

Sunday: Jer 1:4-5, 17-19/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15-17 [cf. 15ab]/
1 Cor 12:31-13:13 or 13:4-13/Lk 4:21-30
Monday: 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 5:1-20
Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/1 Chr 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd/Mk 6:7-13
Friday: Sir 47:2-11/Ps 18:31, 47 and 50, 51/Mk 6:14-29
Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14/Mk 6:30-34
Next Sunday: Is 6:1-2a, 3-8/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8 [1c]/1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11/
Lk 5:1-11

Please Pray for the Sick

Diane Mareci	Stacy Strickland
William Ahearn	Tim Dooling
Dorothy Bonds	Spencer Lyles
Joanna Ravelingeen	Magdalena Gonzalez
Jamie Wallett	Rachel Schopp
Sandra Wilson	Mike Madigan
Monica Alexis Rios	David Birks
Margaret Nichols	Lorik Oppland
Maria Eisler	Celeste Soutl
Rita Gerich	Carol Reckwerdt
Tessa Sergent	Doug Tally
Carolina Goldie	Jeff De La Cruz

Giving Update

Weekly Budget
Amount: \$15,218

Offertory for
1/23/2022:
\$13,722

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

Welcome Our Recently Baptized

Grace Marie Richer
Juan Diego Villegas Gonzalez

For more info about having
your child baptized at St.
Alphonsus, please contact
Kaitlin Holyk at
stalsweddings@gmail.com

Welcome to the Parish!

Katherine Roney

Anne Snow

Katherine Christy & Eric,
August & Charles Anderson

Dominic Cuevas

Crystal and Rodolfo Magaña,
Hector, Nathaniel & Elijah

Carly Abate & Derek Lang,
Stella

Caitlin Hegarty

Emily Affinito & Ryan Casserly

At Rest in the Peace of Christ

Carl M. Hasegawa

Find Peace in the Middle of the Week: 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. That can be a great way to experience re-center yourself in God and experience the peace that only Christ can give.

Wednesday Evening Men's Vespers

All men in the parish are invited to pray with us every Wednesday evening from 8:00 to 9 PM in the sanctuary.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, January 30

9:00 AM Justin Pellino
11:00 AM +Ben Eisler
12:30 PM +Antonio Perez
+Monica Abreu, +Victoriano Ramos
5:00 PM +Chuck Nicholas

Monday, January 31

8:30 AM +William M. Fox

Tuesday, February 1

8:30 AM The People of Saint Alphonsus

Wednesday, February 2

6:00 PM The People of Saint Alphonsus

Thursday, February 3

8:30 AM + Dante Pagalunan, Bartolome Pagalunan Jr.
& Bartolome Pagalunan Sr.

Friday, February 4

8:30 AM The People of Saint Alphonsus

Sunday, February 6

9:00 AM +Bart Lipowski
11:00 AM +Jonathan Gilana (Birthday Blessing)
12:30 PM Anita Lopez
5:00 PM The People of Saint Alphonsus

AACA— Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week/ Family Mass



St. Alphonsus strongly supports our wonderful Alphonsus Academy & Center for the Arts school and our community families! National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States.

It starts the last Sunday in January and runs all week, which in 2022 is January 30 – February 5. The theme for National Catholic Schools Week 2022 is “**Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service.**” Schools typically observe the annual celebration week with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members. Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation.

St. Alphonsus will be having a **special “Family Mass” this Sunday, Jan. 30 at the 11 AM** to kick-off Catholic schools week. AACA students will read, bring up the gifts, and the children’s choir will perform. Due to health concerns, there will not be a school tour w/ refreshments as customary in previous years. School tours are now virtual. Interested in sending your children to AACA? Please contact Mary Bodlak, Director of Admissions at mbodlak@aaca.school

After the 11 AM Mass this Sunday, thanks to our friends at Lakeview Roscoe Village Chamber of Commerce, worshippers will be treated to a **special Ice Sculpting exhibition starting at 12:00 PM until 2:00 PM** outside of church. The event is free to attend, with one block of ice carved per hour. Free beverages and pastries provided right next door at the Athenaeum to help keep attendees warm! With music, food and winter fun, this is a great event for the whole family!

a dozen reasons to choose Catholic Schools



For the many sisters, brothers, priests, and laypeople who have dedicated their lives in service to our Catholic schools over the years, we pray to the Lord:
Lord Hear Our Prayer

For the teachers and administrators who sustain our schools and religious ed programs today, we pray to the Lord:
Lord Hear Our Prayer

For our school community: that we would serve others in all that we do, and work together to love others as Christ loved us, we pray to the Lord:
Lord Hear Our Prayer

For our parents who have given support and witness to the importance of Catholic education in their daily lives, we pray to the Lord:
Lord Hear Our Prayer

For the students who work hard to further their education, we pray to the Lord:
Lord Hear Our Prayer

In thanksgiving for all the blessings in our lives, especially our families, friends, and school community, we pray to the Lord:
Lord Hear Our Prayer

we ♥ our teachers

ALPHONSUS ACADEMY & CENTER FOR THE ARTS

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Faith Formation

Women's Bible Study Meetings– Tuesdays at St. Alphonsus



Are you looking for a way to refuel and be refreshed, make authentic connections with other women, and learn more about God? It's time to come back to community! Our mission at Walking With Purpose is to help every Catholic woman and girl in America encounter Jesus Christ through our Bible studies.

Women of the Old and New Testaments were as flawed and broken as we can be, yet the power of God worked in their lives. Learn from their experiences in *Discovering Our Dignity*, a 22 lesson Bible Study.

Through their stories recorded in Scripture, women of the Bible reach out to touch our "present" in a tender, honest and loving way— woman to woman— with ancient wisdom, sage advice, and insights from sorrowful failures and emotional wounds.

Walking With Purpose meet on Tuesdays at the St. Alphonsus Common Room in the rectory.

Meetings are from 9:30 AM to 11 AM or 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. For more info, contact suecombes@hotmail.com

Free Catechist Workshops Friday Feb 11 and Saturday Feb 12

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Catechetical leaders, catechists, principals and teachers in the Archdiocese of Chicago are invited to these in-person workshops. Presenters from Sophia Institute for Teachers will blend scholar presentations with interactive pedagogical sessions, giving you a chance to explore content with a respected college professor, as well as explore and simulate practical teaching strategies with ready-to-use classroom materials.

SOPHIA
INSTITUTE
FOR TEACHERS

During each of these FREE workshops, you'll have the opportunity to share best practices with your fellow catechists, enjoy catered breakfast and lunch, and engage in both formal and informal discussions. We invite you to register for one or both!

Friday, February 11, 2022 (8:30 AM - 2:30 PM)

Made in His Image: Exploring the Theology of the Body

Participants will enjoy a one-day program on helping students see the beauty of what it means to be made in the Image and Likeness of God through the lens of St. Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body.

For more information and to register, <https://sophiainstituteforteachers.org/workshops/details/made-in-his-image-exploring-the-theology-of-the-body-archdiocese-of-chicago>

Saturday, February 12, 2022 (8:30 AM - 2:30 PM)

Source and Summit: The Most Holy Eucharist

Participants will enjoy a one-day program that reflects on the beauty and gift of the Eucharist, and engages in ways to help your students see the power and reality of this great sacrament.

For more information and to register, <https://sophiainstituteforteachers.org/workshops/details/source-and-summit-the-most-holy-eucharist-archdiocese-of-chicago>

The Carmelite Spiritual Center is located at 8419 Bailey Road in Darien, Illinois.

Please Note: The Carmelite Spiritual Center is following all local COVID-19 guidelines and taking extra cleaning and sanitizing measures at this time. All participants are required to wear masks indoors, and distance between seats will be increased as space allows.

Bellarmino Jesuit Retreat House– Feb 21 Retreat for School Teachers

Gratitude, Rest and Renewal for Educators

Veteran classroom teacher Dr. Amy Cattapan shares the tricks and tips she's learned for making it through those class sessions when it seems like June will never come. Optional activities include the time to pray, rest and enjoy the serenity of the house and grounds. Virtual Program Cost: \$30 In-Person: \$60.00 (includes Lunch) Register and learn about other upcoming retreats at www.jesuitretreat.org/pages/retreat-schedule



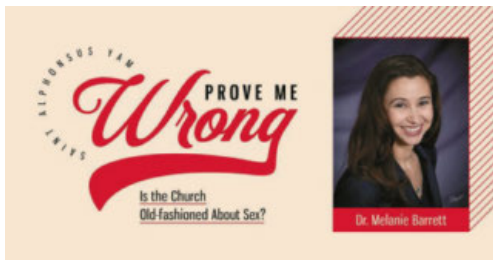
Young Adult Ministry (YAM)

Our Mission

As members of St. Alphonsus Young Adult Ministry, we walk alongside one another in faith. Our community is focused on:

- Meaningful worship, careful discernment, and prayerful reflection
- Curiosity and a thirst for the truth
- Service to one another, our church, and our city
- Lasting friendships and an invitation to fellowship and meaningful participation

Prove Me Wrong Speaker Series *Is the Church Old-Fashioned About Sex?*



Join us for the next event in the Prove Me Wrong series, "*Is the Church Old-Fashioned About Sex?*" The conversation will

be with Dr. Melanie Barrett, professor of moral theology at University of St. Mary of the Lake. Dr. Barrett will respond to questions about the Church's traditional teachings on sexual ethics, specifically their relevance for young adults today.

What is this series, you ask? In the age of 'gotcha' arguments on social media, in which the only goal is to score points, we need to be extra intentional about pursuing truth. Prove Me Wrong endeavors to outline both sides to any given (controversial) topic to equip us in discerning the truth which ultimately aids in strengthening our faith.

Wear your best networking attire and join us on **Tuesday, February 15th in the St. Al's Festival Hall** (church basement). A \$5 suggested donation is encouraged.

Tuesday Evening Philosophy Group

Join us on Tuesdays in the St. Alphonsus rectory for weekly philosophy discussions and digging deeper into the greatest thinkers of all time. Get in touch with our YAM Intellectual chair, Ephrem at ephrem.shaffer@gmail.com for more information.

Small Groups

If you are interested in leading (either by yourself or with another person) or joining a small group, please contact our Small Group Coordinator, Katie Haggerty, at katie.haggerty13@gmail.com.

Book Club at St. Alphonsus

Our parish has a group of intellectual avid readers who love our Catholic faith and learning more about life through the great works. They meet Wednesdays at 6 PM, either in-person in the rectory or on Zoom. ****Weekly book club will be taking a hiatus during the month of February, but will return March 9, at 7PM.**** For more info, contact Book Club coordinator Leora at lwallac2@alumni.nd.edu

Speed Dating Update

Unfortunately due to the rise in Omicron and various factors, our Young Adult Ministry Social Team made the prudent decision to delay the planned Speed Dating event. Our team hopes to potentially host the event sometime in late April/early May. Any questions can be directed to stalsyamsocial@gmail.com

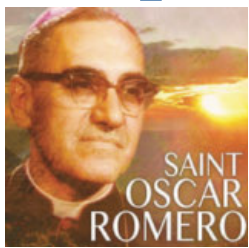
Made For More



Save the Date! April 5 An evening of live music, visual beauty, and reflection

Where do we come from and where are we going? These questions are **DECISIVE** for understanding what it means to be human and how to orient our lives and our actions toward authentic fulfillment. Join Christopher West and Mike Mangione as they creatively weave together dynamic presentations with live music, movie clips, YouTube videos, and sacred art for an evening of beauty and reflection on the meaning of life, love, and human destiny. You will come away with a faith-filled vision of hope that will instill in you the sheer wonder and joy of being alive... For more info, contact Dawn Fitzpatrick, dfitzpatrick@archchicago.org or (312) 534-5355 **Ticket sales are now live.**

Gospel Meditation



St. Oscar Romero (1917-1980) was a “Salvadoran Roman Catholic archbishop who was a vocal critic of the violent activities of government armed forces, right-wing groups, and leftist guerrillas involved in El Salvador’s civil conflict (Encyclopedia Britannica).”

As a voice of the voiceless, he was an outspoken champion of the poor who were the ones most affected by the civil unrest and violence. His advocacy provoked several attempts on his life. Nonetheless, St. Oscar Romero was convinced that before all else his faith in the resurrected Christ and the values of the Gospel trumped any earthly concern or worry. He walked with complete confidence and trust. On March 24, 1980, St. Oscar Romero was assassinated while celebrating Mass. Such is often the fate of those who challenge the socio-political agendas of the day.

We may look at the example of witness of St. Oscar Romero as something extraordinary. In one sense it is. Through the power of God, an ordinary human being did extraordinary things. But, in and of himself,

St. Oscar Romero was simply a humble, loving servant of God. Oscar knew not only the power of love but the risk that comes when loving unconditionally. The beauty of God’s message was able to shine in and through him because he was able to step out of the way and be a vessel. One can assume that for St. Oscar Romero, one’s earthly life has no merit when faith, integrity, conviction, zeal and love are jettisoned. Fear and apprehension had no grip on this man who not only saw but spoke the truth.

Do we speak the truth? It makes us feel good to speak of God as love. But have we ever considered the ramifications of this radical message? There are assaults on human life occurring daily. More and more the value and worth of a human being is being reduced and minimalized. We are becoming widgets in the production of life. In our whole simple humble ways, we too are called to be prophets. Knowing who you are and what is within your means to do, how can you make God’s love real, stand up for what is right, and give witness to the sacredness of all that is around you?



Parish News and Events

Parish Co-Ed Volleyball League



Sign up for this year's St. Al's Co-Ed Volleyball League! Games will be played in the St. Alphonsus gym on Thursdays starting at 7:30 PM on February 17th and will go through April 28th. Teams will play a total of 8 games each over the course of 11 weeks. You can sign up individually or with up to 2 other people. Sign-ups are online at www.catholicsportsleagues.com. Sign up at the early bird price of \$65 by January 31st.

Kids Play Time!

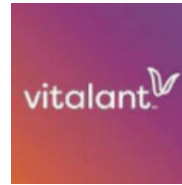
Saturday Morning Fellowship, Faith and Fun



Families are invited to bring their toddlers and young kids to Festival Hall (below the church) to play and spend time with other St Al's families. Please bring any toys your kids would like to

play with and enter through the West door closest to the parking lot (by the Mary Altar). Saturdays 8:30 AM-10:30 AM. For questions, please contact Monica Cloghessy at monica.mccormack15@gmail.com.

St. Alphonsus Vitalant Blood Drive—



Please consider giving blood this **Sunday, Jan. 30 from 9 AM to 3 PM in the Festival Hall**. Giving blood greatly benefits local patients and saves lives! There is a severe blood shortage in our area. Appointments are recom-

mended but walk-ins are welcome. You can visit www.vitalant.org to make an appointment. Use the Group Code **ORD00581** to bring up the drive at St. Alphonsus. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact parishioner Paul Gillespie, (773) 612-4408.

Recovery Programs at St. Alphonsus

If you or loved ones you know have a problem with alcohol/substance abuse, please seek help! Our parish hosts two AA programs. Daily Reflections meet on Monday mornings at 8:30 AM in the rectory Common Room. Contact Lauren Merrill Sammis, lauren.merrill@live.com for more information. There is also a Young People's Big Book AA group that meet Sunday evenings at 7 PM in the Festival Hall. You can contact one of the coordinators, Samuel, samuelaaronmosley@gmail.com for more info.

Sacraments at St. Alphonsus

Baptisms

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. This Christmas season, as we celebrate the Word of God made flesh, remember your baptism and God's presence in your life. If you are interested in having your child baptized contact Kaitlin Holyk at weddings@stalphonsuschicago.com. For adult baptisms contact Brooks Robinson at brobinson@stalphonsuschicago.com



Marriage 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 Kaitlin Holyk at weddings@stalphonsuschicago.com.



Tips for Parents & Guardians

Parents need to establish *clear expectations* with teens and check-in regularly to be sure those expectations are being met. As much as possible, try to have an adult at home when teens are there and always know where they are and who they are with.

Archdiocesan Office for the Protection of Children & Youth

(312) 534-5254

protect.archchicago.org



Stewardship— First Fruits



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

Youth Evangelization

Be A Volunteer Missionary With Young Life

Young Life is looking for Catholic volunteer missionaries to help represent and serve Catholic students in Chicago. Young Life is an ecumenical evangelization organization sharing the gospel with teens in Chicago. Young Life focuses on outreach and accompaniment for teens through authentic friendship between youths and mentors. Mentors become actively involved in the lives of students by meeting them "where they are at" through coffee hangouts, "club", small groups, and camps. Young Life "missionaries" typically work full-time jobs and volunteer with students outside of work. Want to learn more? Scan the barcode!



Contact ylchicagonorthside@gmail.com to learn more/get involved.



AACA ALPHONSUS ACADEMY
& Center for the Arts



Preschool thru 8th Grade Arts Integration Social-Emotional Learning Extended Care TOTS Program (2 year olds) Blue Ribbon School

Now accepting applications for the 2022-23 school year.
Apply at <https://bit.ly/applyaaca>. Applications submitted by January 31, 2022 will be considered in the first round of acceptances in February.

We inspire and develop the whole child in an enriching environment combining academic excellence, an arts-integrated curriculum, and a supportive Catholic family.

This year we are offering three virtual options to get to know our school. Go on a Virtual Tour, join an Open House, or participate in "Happy Hour" with some AACAA parents by scheduling on our website at <https://bit.ly/learnaaca>. Contact Mary Bodlak, Director of Admissions & Marketing at 773-819-7655 or mbodlak@aacaa.school with any questions.



Renew My Church

Renew My Church Coming to Parishes of Lakeview and Lincoln Park

MISSION IMPERATIVES

Make Disciples

INITIATIVES

1. Evangelization & Formation

Outreach to the “unchurched” and leading people from an initial encounter with Christ to the fullness of life within His Church.

2. Vocations

Creating a broader understanding of a personal vocation and new ways of helping people discern God’s call.

Build Communities

3. Leadership Development Support

Renewing how pastors are supported and equipped to lead in today’s culture and parish models.

4. Parish Vitality

- Grouping rollout
- Mission vitality support
- Parish operating stability

Creating new models of parish life and operations to better support and fund the vital ministries that lead to spiritual growth.

5. School Vitality

Building Catholic identity, enhancing academics, and improving development of school leaders.

Inspire Witness

6. Faith in Action

Bringing the healing message of Jesus through works of mercy.

7. Society Engagement

Support the Mission

Foundational Excellence

Ensuring effective and efficient resources are available to support pastors, parishes, and schools in achieving our mission imperatives

Several years ago Cardinal Cupich and a team of researchers studied demographic trends and religious shifts in the Archdiocese. Seeing an overall decline in population, decreasing attendance at Sunday Mass, and fewer priests to serve in parishes, there was an obvious need for spiritual renewal, evangelization, and in some cases, merging of parishes. Parishes were grouped together for collaboration, and various waves of these Groupings began to go through a process of discernment to determine how to best position themselves to serve the spiritual needs of Catholics for current and future generations.

St. Alphonsus was grouped together with St. Clement and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. All three parishes are very vibrant, so there won’t be any merging. However, because the three of us have an amazing amount of creativity and spiritual

resources, our grouping is uniquely positioned to jump right into discussions about RMC’s strategic initiatives and evangelization.

RMC’s Strategic Initiatives

Renew My Church includes a set of initiatives designed to both introduce people who have no familiarity with the Christian faith into a life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ, as well as deepen and strengthen the discipleship of existing Catholics so that they are able to evangelize the world through an inspiring witness in their communities.

Initiatives range from pastoral leadership programs and vocation discernment to faith-in-action efforts, such as anti-violence, immigrant support, care for creation and respect life programs. The most significant investment is in parish vitality through our parish grouping process—the goal of which is to create a culture of evangelization and improve the vital ministries within each parish community by restructuring and redirecting necessary resources.

Stewardship Reflection

What Your Pastor Won't Tell You About Parish Giving



Our parishes are getting by on too little from too few, but it wouldn't take much to change that.

It's that time of year. Your new set of Sunday offering envelopes arrives in the

mail, or you pick up the box after Mass. Maybe you're still hearing echoes of last fall's pleas for a renewed commitment to weekly parish giving. Or your parish is beginning the pledge process for the annual diocesan collection. Registration opens for next fall's Catholic school classes.

You might catch yourself grumbling, "Money! Money! Money! That's all Father ever talks about!"

Here's a secret: Father dreads this even more than you do. And another secret: Whether it's once or twice a year (which is standard) or more frequently (when driven by dire necessity), chances are that if Father has to mention money at all, he's not talking about it nearly often enough.

Think about that first part. Your pastor is living out his priestly vocation to preach the Gospel, minister the sacraments, and bring people to Christ. Unless his was a late-in-life calling from the business world, it's unlikely that he was ever trained in the branch management of a good-sized non-profit corporation, which is the equivalent of the pastor's secular responsibilities. Your average diocesan priest hates talking about money even more than you hate hearing about it.

Fortunately, your pastor probably has more support to draw on now than pastors had in your parents' or grandparents' day. Diocesan stewardship offices provide guidance and resources, and many parishes have finance committees or parish councils with members who have business and finance backgrounds. Pastors have more help making wise financial decisions.

But here's something that hasn't changed in generations – and it's the reason Father can't talk about money enough. The average share of our income that we U.S. Catholics give to our Church (including not just weekly parish giving, but special collections and other Church-related charities) is a mere 1% – the same as it's been as long as anyone's been counting.

That's the lowest percentage of giving of any major religious denomination in the United States.

The truth is that fewer than 1 in 3 Americans who identify themselves as Catholic attend Mass on a "regular" basis (defined as at least once a month). And

of those regular attendees, only 30% give to the support of their parish. Of those, many are likely to toss the same 2 or 3 crumpled dollar bills into the collection basket as their parents did before them.

And this in a time when just keeping the lights on, the boiler heated up, the organ in tune, and the parking lot free of potholes costs more than ever.

Nobody wants to talk about the basic operating costs of a parish, but if they aren't met there is no place for the community to worship, no support for the many ministries and outreach efforts that make a parish so much more than a building.

Father hates having to nickel-and-dime the congregation from the pulpit. But when so few of us have any real notion of or commitment to real parish stewardship, he often has no choice. That term, stewardship, has become more familiar in recent years, as Catholics are called to a more integrated, conscious discipleship. In parishes where real attitudes and practices of stewardship have taken hold, there's a relatively seamless and widely shared commitment of time, talent, and treasure. It shows up in higher attendance levels, successful evangelization, and well-funded parish ministries. It also shows up in Father not having to talk about money all the time.

Too often, though, pastors get such blowback from parishioners about pushing the "treasure" element of stewardship that parishes settle for commitments of time and talent by the same small group of people who always volunteered them anyway. And because time and talent do not substitute for treasure, poor Father is back to nickel-and-dime. It makes parish giving, which should be a grateful response to God's gifts and a regular part of Catholic discipleship, feel like being hounded to pay an overdue cable bill. That's not pleasant for anyone!

So the hard truth is that our parishes are getting by on too little from too few. (That's especially a problem, paradoxically enough, in our largest parishes, maybe because everybody figures everyone else must be giving.) The good news is that it wouldn't take much from each of us to change that. Here are some things to consider as the new year begins.

Give consciously. Write your parish into your family budget. Whether it's on a yearly, monthly, or weekly basis, make your parish offering a line item. Planning ahead will keep you from resorting to digging in your pockets for spare change as the collection basket comes by. Using weekly offering envelopes or participating in an online giving program, if your parish offers one, are two good ways to make your giving conscious.

Stewardship Reflection

Give off the top. When determining how much to give to your parish, many of us look to what's left over after other obligations have been met. We give out of scarcity and fear, rather than gratitude. Try (at least for a few weeks or months) putting your relationship with God and his people first. Whatever we have we owe to God's generosity.

Give more than you think you can. People sometimes ask about whether there's a biblical standard. The tithe, or one-tenth of one's wealth or income, is often mentioned in the Bible, and many Christians today aim for a 10% level of annual giving divided among church and charities. (Parish giving, though tax-deductible, is not charity for Catholics. It's a precept, a joyful obligation.) But Jesus told his rich follower to sell all that he had and give it to the poor – 100%! He praised the poor widow who gave her last two coins to the Temple. In your prayerful consideration, strike a balance between 1% and 100% – pledge to give what you really can and maybe a little more, and to give it gladly and regularly. Don't compare yourself to others; your giving is a covenant between you and your family and God, and God is never outdone in generosity.

Give yourself. Consider ways to be more involved in the life of your parish this year. See your gifts at work in the various ministries. Explore new ways to use your time and talents in the service of others, not as a substitute for financial support, but as a way of living what that support symbolizes.

It would take very little, in practice, to move that 1% of annual income level of giving to 2%. For most people, that's the weekly equivalent of a couple of large lattes or a gallon or two of gas. What could your parish do with twice as much financial support every week? And it wouldn't take much to make it 2 out of 3, or even 3 out of 3, who give regularly.

You can make that difference, starting now. And then maybe you and Father can both stop dreading this time of year.

Excerpt from "What Your Pastor Won't Tell You About Parish Giving" by Joanne McPortland, <https://aleteia.org/>

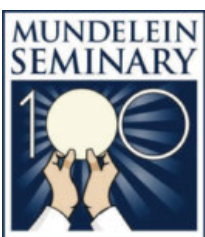
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Around the Archdiocese

Big Questions and Catholic Scientists

The Lumen Christi Institute's Newman Forum for High School Students presents "Big Questions and Catholic Scientists: A Science-and-Religion Fair for High School Students" February 5 at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary. Join us at beautiful Mundelein Seminary for a day full of scientific presentations from the country's premier Catholic scientists. We'll hear a keynote lecture, and then have three "lightning rounds," where students will choose from four mini-lectures each round, whichever sparks their interest most. Then we'll gather for our "reverse science fair," and students will have the chance to ask scientists questions one-on-one. There will also be opportunities for prayer. Learn more and register at <https://newmanforum.org/2021/08/06/science-and-religion/>

Luncheon with Bishop Barron



On March 10-11, Mundelein Seminary will host Bishop Robert Barron for a special luncheon as he delivers the Albert Cardinal Meyer lecture series. Bishop Barron, as the creator of the award-winning *Catholicism* series and founder of global media ministry

Word on Fire, is the world's most influential and followed Catholics. More info to follow at <https://100.usml.edu/events/luncheon-with-bishop-robert-barron/>

ACCW Scholarship for Young Catholic Women

The Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (ACCW) offers a \$1000 scholarship renewable for four years to a deserving young Catholic woman in her senior year of high school (applicants need not attend a Catholic High School, nor plan on attending a Catholic college or university). Complete rules/criteria and application for scholarship are available for download on the ACCW website at <https://accw.archchicago.org/accw-scholarship> The deadline for submission of completed application and all required letters of recommendation is April 30, 2022. Call the ACCW office with questions or for more information (312) 534-8330 or (312) 534-8325.

February Calendar

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
		1 9:30 AM Walking With Purpose 6:15 PM Religious Education 6:30 PM Walking With Purpose 7:00 PM Parish Council Meeting 7:00 PM Boy Scouts Troop 889 Meeting 7:00 PM YAM Philosophy Forum	2 1:45 PM Daisy Scouts—1st 6:00 PM RCIA 8:00 PM Men's Group Vespers	3 7:00 PM Men's Faith Sharing Group 8:30 PM CL School of Community	4 8:00 AM AACA 8th Grade Graduation Pictures 3:30 PM Brownie Scouts—2nd 5:00 PM Webelos/AOL Scouts— 4th and 5th	5 8:30 AM Children's Play Group
Catholic Schools Week						
6 7:00 PM Big Book AA Meeting	7 8:30 AM AA Daily Reflections Group 7:00 PM AACA School Board Meeting 7:30 PM Knights of Columbus Meeting	8 9:30 AM Walking With Purpose 3:00 PM Brownie Scouts—2nd 6:15 PM Religious Education 6:30 PM Walking With Purpose 7:00 PM Finance Council Meeting 7:00 PM Boy Scouts Troop 889 Meeting 7:00 PM YAM Philosophy Forum	9 1:45 PM Daisy Scouts—K 6:00 PM RCIA 8:00 PM Men's Group Vespers	10 7:00 PM Men's Faith Sharing Group 8:30 PM CL School of Community	11 5:00 PM Webelos/AOL Scouts— 4th and 5th 6:00 PM Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby Set-Up	12 8:00 AM Cub Scouts— Pinewood Derby 8:30 AM Children's Play Group
13 7:00 PM Big Book AA Meeting	14 8:30 AM AA Daily Reflections Group	15 9:30 AM Walking With Purpose 4:00 PM Boy Scouts 6:15 PM Religious Education 6:30 PM Walking With Purpose 7:00 PM Prove Me Wrong Speaker Series 7:00 PM Boy Scouts Troop 889 Meeting 7:00 PM YAM Philosophy Forum	16 6:00 PM RCIA 8:00 PM Men's Group Vespers	17 7:00 PM Men's Faith Sharing Group 7:45 PM Young Adult Volleyball League 8:30 PM CL School of Community	18 AACA No School—Professional Development Day	19 8:30 AM Children's Play Group

Ash Wednesday is March 2!

Ash Wednesday Schedule

- 7:00 AM Service, with distribution of ashes (English)
- 8:30 AM Mass w/ AACA
- 12:00 PM Service, with distribution of ashes (English)
- 6:00 PM Service with distribution of ashes (Spanish)
- 7:00 PM Mass



There are traditional practices for Lent which help us to engage in the penitential nature of the season.

Fasting All adults from the age of 18 until their 59th birthday are asked to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This means eating only one full meal that day. One can eat at two other times, but the total food should not equal a full meal. This does not apply to those who are ill, pregnant or nursing.

February Calendar

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<p>20</p> <p>7:00 PM Big Book AA Meeting</p>	<p>21</p> <p>AACA No School—President's Day</p> <p>8:30 AM AA Daily Reflections Group</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:30 AM Walking With Purpose</p> <p>4:00 PM Brownie Scouts</p> <p>6:30 PM Walking With Purpose</p> <p>7:00 PM Boy Scouts Troop 889 Meeting</p> <p>7:00 PM YAM Philosophy Forum</p>	<p>23</p> <p>12:45 PM Blessings in a Backpack Lunch Packing</p> <p>6:00 PM RCIA</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:00 PM Men's Faith Sharing Group</p> <p>7:45 PM Young Adult Volleyball League</p> <p>8:30 PM CL School of Community</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:30 PM Praise and Adoration</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8:30 AM Children's Play Group</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Annual Catholic Appeal Collection</p> <p>1:00 PM Samuel Group</p> <p>1:00 PM Youth Free Throw Shooting Contest</p> <p>7:00 PM Big Book AA Meeting</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:30 AM AA Daily Reflections Group</p>					

Scheduling at St. Alphonsus

The monthly calendar in the bulletin only shows all current parish events/activities. It does not indicate all sacraments such as weddings and baptisms. You can view the entire parish calendar on our website at www.stalphonsuschicago.org/calendar If your group's events are not listed in our calendar, please contact Mario Serrano at mserranostals@gmail.com

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.

To receive a low gluten host at Mass, please come to the sacristy at least ten minutes before mass begins, so that one can be prepared for you. Then, be sure to get into the communion line to receive from the priest.

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 here is \$15. However, any amount that you would like to offer is completely 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

Our parish has received permission to once again host important sacraments. Please be patient as the pandemic created a scheduling backlog regarding Baptisms and Weddings. You can find more info at:

www.stalphonsuschicago.org/baptism

www.stalphonsuschicago.org/marriage



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 | (F): 773-525-3238
www.stalphonsuschicago.org

Parish Office Hours:

9:00 AM– 4:00 PM Mon, Wed, Fri
9:00 AM– 1:00 PM Tue, Thurs

School Office

1439 W Wellington Ave, Chicago, IL 60657-4121
(P): 773-892-1397 | (F): 773-348-4829
www.alphonsusacademy.org

School Office Hours:

8:00 AM– 3:00 PM

Staff

Parish Staff

Rev. Steven Bauer, Pastor
Rev. Patrick Gorman, 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
Kaitlin Holyk, Sacrament Ministry Coordinator

School Staff

Gerit McAllister, Principal
Matt Gunsaulus, Assistant Principal
Mary Bodlak, Director of Admissions
Caroline Jordan, Advancement Director
Kim Walleth, Secretary
Connie Del Toral, Administrative Assistant




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