

**FEAST OF THE  
*Holy  
Family***

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Luke 2:40



# ST. ALPHONSUS

PARISH

151 ST. ALPHONSUS WAY • CROSSVILLE, TN 38555

Phone: 931-484-2358 • Fax: 931-484-7407

Email: office@stalonline.org Website: www.stalonline.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/StAlphonsusCrossville

Parish Office Hours: Monday–Wednesday: 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.  
Thursday: 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

*As disciples of Jesus Christ, the Catholic community of St. Alphonsus is committed to knowing, loving, and serving God, and His creation.*

• DECEMBER 26, 2021 •

## St. Alphonsus Happenings

**SATURDAY, December 25**

Christmas Day Mass at 8:30am  
*No 5pm Mass*

**SUNDAY, December 26**

Mass at 8:30am\* & 11am  
No CCD

**TUESDAY-FRIDAY:** 8:30am Morning Mass

*Parish Offices closed through January 3*

**WEDNESDAY, December 29**

Mass at 6:30 & 8:30am  
No Youth Ministry

**THURSDAY, December 30**

No RCIA, No Choir Rehearsal

**SATURDAY, January 1**

*Mary, Mother of God (non-Holy Day this year)*

First Saturday Mass & Devotion at 8:30am  
Mass at 5pm

*CCW Card Party Ticket Sales after all Masses*

**SUNDAY, January 2**

Mass at 8:30am\* & 11am  
No CCD  
Spanish Mass, 4 pm

## Mass Intentions

**SATURDAY, December 25**

8:30am †Steven R. Blatt & Erwin Braden

**SUNDAY, December 26**

8:30am †Mr. & †Mrs. Yao Ka Pun;  
Int. of Barbara Braden  
11:00am †Margarite Scott  
4:00pm No Spanish Mass

**TUESDAY, December 28**

8:30am Int. of Father Mark Scholz

**WEDNESDAY, December 29**

6:30am & 8:30am Our Parish Family

**THURSDAY, December 30**

8:30am For the Priests, Deacons, and Nuns in our diocese

**FRIDAY, December 31**

8:30am Int. of Father Mark Scholz

**SATURDAY, January 1, 2022**

8:30am Our Parish Family  
5:00pm Our Parish Family

**SUNDAY, January 2**

8:30am Our Parish Family  
11:00am Our Parish Family  
4:00pm Our Parish Family

Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. You can find more information about the Pope's monthly intentions on the Worldwide Prayer Network website. (The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network will also publish any urgent prayer intentions of the Holy Father as soon as they are received from the Holy See.) <http://popesprayerusa.net/>

**December--Let us pray for catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

**Mass Times**

Sunday: 8:30am\*, 11:00am

Mass in Spanish: 4:00pm on 1st & 3rd Sunday

Tuesday - Friday: 8:30am

Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm

First Friday & First Saturday Mass & Devotion, 8:30am

\*- Streaming Mass on You Tube



**Administrator/Pastor**

.....Rev. Mark Schuster

**Deacon**

.....Deacon Peter Minneci

**Director of Business & Finance**

.....Karen Otuonye

**Director of Music**

.....Marian Sullivan

**Director of Faith Formation & Youth Ministry**

.....Pauline O'Keeffe

**Assistant Director of Faith Formation**

.....Sara Carey

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Daily, 30-45 minutes before each Mass

Saturday: 4:00 - 4:45pm

Sunday: 7:45 - 8:15am & 10 - 10:45am



Whether you are just visiting or are new to Crossville, we welcome you to St. Alphonsus Catholic Church!

People often attend Mass at a parish for months or even years without officially registering. Parish registration is an expression of your commitment to being an active member of our community. Parish registration also simplifies the process for the planning and preparation of baptisms, weddings, and funerals, and for serving as sponsor or godparent for a sacramental candidate. Parish registration can be easily accomplished by contacting the parish office.

(We also need your help in keeping our records current. Whenever there is a move, birth, death, or marriage in your family, please notify the parish office.)

**Observances for the week:**  
*\*indicates Saint or Blessed highlighted in this bulletin*

- Sunday:** St. Stephen\*, First Martyr
- Monday:** St. John, Apostle & Evangelist
- Tuesday:** The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
- Wednesday:** St. Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr
- Thursday:** St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin & Martyr
- Friday:** St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve
- Saturday:** Mary, Holy Mother of God; World Day of Peace; New Year's Day
- Next Sunday:** Epiphany of the Lord; Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors of the Church

**UPCOMING AREA EVENTS**

Intermediate Level Wire-Wrapped Heart-Shaped Earrings: Sat., Jan. 8, 10:30am to 1:30pm at FACS in the Crossville Outlet Mall, Suite 122; \$25 for tools & supplies; [www.facstn.com](http://www.facstn.com) or 931-210-5599.

Toilet papering the rectory: TBD

How to Paint Trees in Watercolor: Thurs., Jan. 20, 10am-1pm at Plateau Creative Arts Center, Fairfield Glade

Southern Stars Symphonic Brass Spring Concert: Sun., Feb. 20 at 3pm at Stone Memorial High School Auditorium; FREE admission

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**—Families can be very difficult to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, but also for the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

**Readings for the week of 12/26**

- Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52
- Monday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Tuesday:** 1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18
- Wednesday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35
- Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40
- Friday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18
- Saturday:** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
- Next Sunday:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.

Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can, too. ©LPI

**St. Alphonsus Resources and Organizations**

- Faith Formation/Youth Ministry:** Pauline O'Keefe
- Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation:** Sara Carey
- RCIA (joining or returning to Catholicism):** Sara Carey
- Marriage:** Our diocese mandates a minimum six-month period for marriage preparation, and attendance at an Engaged Encounter is required. Visit [dioknox.org](http://dioknox.org) for more information. Contact the Office
- Anointing of the Sick/Communion to homebound:** Contact the Office

Knights of Columbus (K of C)  
 Council of Catholic Women (CCW)  
 Hispanic Ministry  
 SACS Community Services: 931-484-8074



1. At Christmastime, we decorate our trees, homes, and churches with lights. Why?
  - A.** Isaiah prophesied about the Messiah: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned." (Is. 9:2); **B.** Jesus said about himself, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me won't walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (Jn. 9:12); **C.** Light represents the star that led the Magi to Jesus. (Mt. 2:1-12); **D.** Light symbolizes that this is the season when, "The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world." (Jn. 1:9); **E.** All of the above
2. What is the Mexican traditional living Nativity celebration called?
  - A.** Feliz Navidad; **B.** Las Posadas; **C.** Nochebuena; **D.** All of the above; **E.** None of the above

should not be used for snacks; they are for emergency purposes only. Please let the office know if you use something from the box so it can be replenished.



Question: I have been away from the Church for a few years and really want to get active again, not so much for me, but for my children. Is this a bad reason to come back to Church? Answer: If you are on your way to the supermarket, and you are forced to detour from your usual route because of road work, does the food you buy taste different? Is the meal less filling? Are the vegetables less tasty? Of course not. In our faith journey, there are many detours called sin. Some are greater than others, some are even a bit longer. But God's grace comes to us in ways we understand and recognize and need. Your children leading you back to the Church is not as important as the fact that you are back. This is an opportunity for you to renew, strengthen, and deepen your faith. Regardless of how we get to Church, or what draws us closer to God, the fact is we are there. Do what you need to do to get right with God and the Church. Go to confession, begin good family religious practices, and be involved in the ministries your parish offers. Be more than a lukewarm parishioner. Be the kind of Catholic you want your children to be. ©LPi

**St. Stephen—Proto (first) Martyr** The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. A man filled with grace and power, he worked great wonders among the people. Some Jews debated with St. Stephen but could not match his wisdom and spirit. Eventually, a charge of blasphemy was brought up against him, and the local population demanded that he be tried and sentenced. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin. Despite the danger he faced, in front of the Sanhedrin and his accusers St. Stephen gave a long speech about the history of Israel and the blessings that God had given to His chosen people. He talked about how Israel had become disobedient despite God's abundant mercy. This enraged his accusers, and eventually the crowd dragged him out of the city and stoned him to death. Even in his final moments, St. Stephen displayed great forgiveness and even asked God not to hold the sins of his attackers against them. Hundreds of years after his death, he is still a role model for us to follow. ©LPi

**20 + C + M + B + 22** This year we invite you to take part in an old tradition of "chalking the door" to celebrate the Epiphany, the day that marks the arrival of the Magi to the place where Jesus was born! The Epiphany will be celebrated on Sunday, January 2 (traditionally celebrated on January 6 as the Twelfth Day of Christmas) and we will be equipping you with the prayers and chalk for your own celebration!

**What is "Chalking the Door"?**

"Chalking the door" is a sign and symbol of asking God's blessing upon those who live, work, or visit throughout the coming year to your home. In Exodus, the Israelites marked their doors with blood so that the Lord would pass over their homes; but in this service, we mark our doors with chalk as a sign that we have invited God's presence and blessing into our homes.

In Deuteronomy 6:9 God tells the people of Israel: "These words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house... You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." Chalking the door is a tangible way to honor God in our lives.

Thank you to my parish family for all their support during & after Jerry's journey. He will be sorely missed; but I know he will live in the hearts of many of you who shared our grief. Our family thanks you. Maralynn Lorenc

**LIBRARY CORNER**



Library Corner will resume after the Christmas break.



The CCW will be hosting the annual **Scholarship Game & Card Party**, including lunch, on **Monday January 17, 2022** in Liguori Hall. Doors open at 11:30am, lunch will be served at noon, and cards and games will be played 12:30 to 4:00pm. Cost: **\$15.00**. This is the **only fundraiser** for the CCW Scholarship Fund. CCW awards \$700.00 for four years to qualifying graduating seniors from all Cumberland County high schools and home schools. **Please support this community effort!** Tickets will be sold after all Masses the weekends of January 1/2 & January 8/9, or contact Mary Geahan at 517-004-8021 or Lou Ann Kelly at 617-240-8919. We will also take donations for door prizes during these weekends.

**Stewardship - All in the Family**


At first glance, we may find the image of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, and the Christ Child intimidating — who are we to aspire to that level of discipleship? How could we ever hope to conform ourselves to that mold? Sometimes, it can even be painful — perhaps we hail from a broken family or struggle with a broken relationship within our family, or perhaps we long to be a mother or a father ourselves and that state in life has eluded us.

But the image of the Holy Family is, in reality, a beautiful invitation to us all, no matter our vocation or state in life, and the example of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus is rich with the symbolism of stewardship.

You need not be a biological mother who has carried a child in your womb to be a mother in spirit. Who in your world needs you to love them with the heart of a mother? The same goes for fatherhood. The Church and the world are crying out for the courageous witness of Christian men like St. Joseph. Who can you love with the steadfast, selfless protection of a father?

Who in your life needs you to love them with the faithful, unconditional love of a son? Who needs your gentle and constant love as a daughter?

We are the Body of Christ, friends. Those of us rejoicing in heaven, those of us suffering in purgatory, and those of us struggling here on earth. We are the great family. Let us love each other well. —Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



12/25- Christmas Day **8:30am**  
(no 5pm Vigil Mass)

12/26- Masses: **8:30am & 11am**

12/28-12/31- Mass daily at **8:30am**;  
Parish Offices closed

1/1- Masses: **8:30am & 5pm**

1/17-CCW Scholarship Card Party

Our Automated External Defibrillator is located in the main hallway, across from the St. Alphonsus statue. On top of the AED, there is an emergency container for diabetes (juice, crackers with peanut butter or cheese). These

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