

ST. ALPHONSUS - ST. CLEMENT PARISH

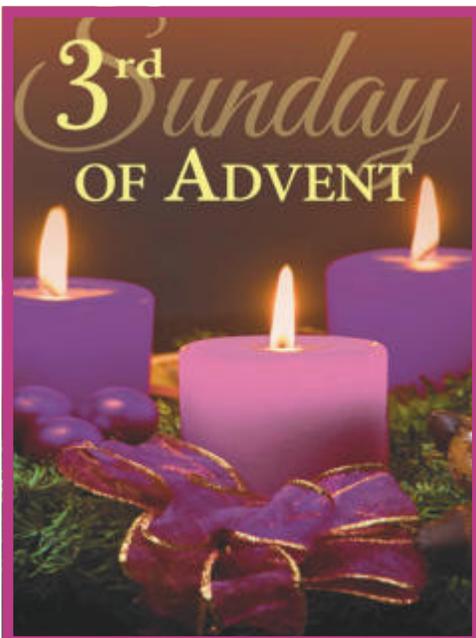
Mission Statement

We, the family of St. Alphonsus - St. Clement, are called by Jesus Christ to know Him and celebrate His Word. Sustained by the sacramental life rooted in the Eucharist, we reach out in service to all through faith, love, and fellowship.

Fr. Linus Kinyua, Pastor

Fr. Gregory Deters, Associate Pastor

DECEMBER 12, 2021



“From silly devotions and sour-faced saints, good Lord, deliver us!”
St. Teresa of Avila

We’ve all heard the adage, “Laughter is the best medicine.” In many ways, it really is. When was the last time you really laughed? The gift of imagination allows us to see possible things that are yet to be. Imagine a world filled with laughter. We take life too seriously sometimes. Fear, uncertainty, pressure, negativity, disappointment, and myriad other human experiences can rob us of the joy needed for laughter. God never promised us an easy road, and we do have to take the course of our lives seriously. However, there is a balance to be sought and a possible joy that can be brought even to the darkest and most challenging of encounters.

St. Therese of Lisieux reminds us that, “Joy is not found in the material objects surrounding us but in the inner recesses of the soul. One can possess joy in a prison cell as well as in a palace.” Falling in love with God, who is present in all of creation, allows us to bring a depth of understanding to everything we do and experience. We can more easily see above and beyond things while pursuing the only One who can truly satisfy our hearts. When we realize that God, the king of Israel, is in our midst and with us, there is no further misfortune to fear. We can celebrate the wonder and beauty of God’s gift of joy. It is no wonder that many saints radiate joy and have no reservations expressing laughter. They are happy because they have found a pearl of great price.

We celebrate with joy today with hearts filled with expectation, wonder, awe, and beauty as we ready ourselves, even more excitedly, for the coming of our Savior. Do not fear and do not be discouraged. If you haven’t laughed in a while, why? Something is preventing you from expressing the magnificence of your soul and the presence of God who dwells within. God’s power and presence within us assures us that we are loved and kept in that presence. What more is really needed? Rejoice and laugh in the presence of God! It really is the best medicine and a most perfect way to convince others that God is really with us. “Go ahead, laugh! Live your life with joy and serve the Lord with laughter! Joy, with peace, is the sister of charity. Serve the Lord with laughter.” (St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina)

The light is on for YOU! Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation any Saturday between 3:00 pm and 3:45 pm or call the office to schedule an appointment. **Advent Reconciliation Dec. 14** at St. Alphonsus-St. Clement Church at 7:00pm and **Dec. 15** at the Village at 7:00 pm Come cleanse your soul in preparation to receive the Guest, the Christ Child, who comes to us at Christmas.

Christmas Mass Schedule—NOTE: No 8:30 am Mass on Friday, Dec. 24

Dec. 24 Christmas Vigil 4:00 pm

Dec. 25 Christmas Day 9:00 am at the Village

9:00 am and 11:00 am at St. Alphonsus-St. Clement Church

There is NO 4:00 pm Mass on Saturday, Dec. 25

Parish office is closed Dec. 24 and will reopen on Dec. 27 at 9:00 am

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Dec. 11 4:00 pm Fr. Linus

- +Vincenza Arrigone by Bonanno Family
- +Al Addison (ann) by Daughter & Family
- +Tom Santocke by Wife
- +Bernard & Leo Ruddy by Family
- +Ted Klamerus by Kathy Addison
- +Joel Wizinsky by Kathy Addison
- +Richard, Stella & Frank Rzepka by Family

Sunday, Dec. 12 9:00 am (Village Chapel) Fr. Linus

- +Mary Baron by Penny Nash
- +Marie Kitz by Joseph Kitz

9:00 am Fr. Greg

- +James & Margaret Blair by Family
- +Mary Palmeri by Kucel Family
- Birthday Blessings Joann Sanscriste by Norma Bak

11:00 am Fr. Greg

- +Casimer & Vera Draus by Family
- +Irene Rains by Rick & Annemarie Posh
- +Fr. Richard Kelly by Danny Fader
- +Ventura & DeMarco Families by Family
- +Lou Nagy by Parish Staff
- +Aldo & Remo Mastroianni by Family

Monday, Dec. 13 8:30 am Fr. Linus

- +Leo VanGorp by Kolk & Marsh Families

Tuesday, Dec. 14 8:30 am Fr. Linus

- +Fredrick Kinyua by Family

9:30 am (Village Chapel) Fr. Greg

Living & Deceased Residents of the Village

Thursday, Dec. 16 8:30 am Fr. Linus

- +Vincent Johnston (ann) by Pat Durham
- +Jerry & Charlene Jeske by Family
- +Carol Shpakoff by Family
- +Lee & Len Mayers by Family

Friday, Dec. 17 8:30 am Fr. Linus

- +Cheryl Haddad by M. Filip

Saturday, Dec. 18 4:00 pm Fr. Greg

- +Judith Kilian (ann) by Mother & Family
- +Brenda Mitchell (ann) by Family
- +Tom Santocke by Wife
- +Bernard & Leo Ruddy by Family
- +Edwin Gorski (ann) by Wife
- Health Greg Stawara bu Helen Gorski

Sunday, Dec. 19 9:00 am (Village Chapel) Fr. Greg

- +Louise Smytka (ann) by Sister, Angie

9:00 am Fr. Linus

- +Carmine & Elisabetta Stancato by Family
- +Irene Dewicki by Cammie Krisko
- +Leona Ciesielka by Cammie Krisko
- For Poor Souls in Purgatory by Kathy Heimiller

11:00 am Fr. Linus

- +Rosa Policicchio by Family
- +Jerry Coogan by David Parrello
- +Roger & Nicu by Angelina
- +Giacomino Mannarino by Mike & Amy Abraham
- +Louie & Steven Cascardo by Family
- +Lou Nagy by Staff

Maintenance Custodian Needed

A part-time Parish custodian position is available. The custodian is responsible for maintaining the Parish complex, buildings and grounds. This includes various systems (such as mechanical, electrical, plumbing) repairs, safety requirements, cleanliness and some landscaping/snow removal. The candidate must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily and possess the knowledge, skill and/or ability to do so to ensure the parish buildings and property are maintained on the interior and exterior. If interested, please contact the Parish office at 313-581-5218 or 313-581-7495 for a detailed qualifications and job description before submitting your resume for consideration.



The LIFE Sodality would like to thank all those who came to the Fall Festival and making it such a success. Congratulations to all of the lucky raffle winners.

A special thank you to Bill G., who donated to the parish the tub of ornaments and lights that he won in the raffle.

The LIFT Sodality would like to wish all of our parishioners a very Blessed and Merry Christmas.

Snow Day! Snow Day!

St. Alphonsus-St. Clement is going to follow the Dearborn school system when severe weather happens. If Dearborn schools close due to severe weather conditions, St. Alphonsus-St. Clement parish will be closed as well. All parish events for that day will be cancelled for the safety of our parishioners and staff.



Monetary Christmas Gifts

All donations marked as "Christmas" and given now through January 9 or given on Christmas, are not assessed the 7% Archdiocesan tax. Your gift remains with the parish 100%. Your gift will be recorded on your family donor statement for the year it was received.



Pray for the Sick of the Parish. St. Joseph, help of the sick, pray for them.....

Luigi Aronne, Eugene Bernard, Giorgina Cascardo, Maria Cercone, Catherine Cody, Barb Delgado, Evelyn Derengowski, Betty Fisher, Marco Frattarelli, Sylvia Fregonara, Betty Fucinari, Mary Furioso, Sulhi & Charlotte Gencyuz, Peggy Goodart, Geri Haddad, Thomas Horvath, Jeranne Jackson, Margaret Javor, Virginia Karvelis, Madeline Keller, Marie Kobane, Becky Kohaen, Kimberly Kucel, Walter Kucel, Jan Lawrence, Robert Lijaj, Jan Majewski, Phyllis Marek, Bernadine Mistor, Mary Mitchell, Lois Mueller Kavanaugh, Frank Palmeri, Henry Perle, Jennifer Przepiora, Diane Raymond, David Rentschler, Serafina Romano, Pearly Ruffin, Dana Slepsky, Rosario Aleta So, Judith Stafford, Greg Stawara, Martha

Stott, Marcy Tarlow, Tina Threedy, Shirley Viviano, Joshua Yeager, The Parishioners of HFV Assisted Living and Health Care. ***Please notify the Parish office for changes to our prayer list.***

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Shout for joy! When was the last time you ever felt like doing that? Fear, uncertainty, pressure, negativity, disappointment, and myriad other human experiences can rob us of joy. We can never predict what life will bring. As unsettling as that can often seem, life's unpredictability is also the very thing that allows it to be exciting and adventuresome! We know that life can be difficult, and it is unrealistic to expect it to be otherwise. God never promised an easy road. But, when a person truly falls in love with God and discovers the peacefulness and assurance of God's presence, then a depth of understanding will be brought to everything they do and experience. Nothing will be able to rob them of joy! When we realize that God, the King of Israel, is in our midst and with us, there is no further misfortune to fear. We celebrate the beauty and wonder of God's gift of joy today as we ready ourselves, even more excitedly, for the coming of our Savior. Do not fear and do not be discouraged. There is a power and presence within us, our God, who has made us, who loves us and who will keep us. What more do we need? Rejoice!



RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

The Well That Never Dries Up



Depending on how your mood is today, the words of Paul will hit you differently. "Rejoice always," he tells us. Well, if your football team is poised to win this weekend or next, maybe you're really feeling this vibe. But if you've got a long slog at work ahead of you this week and a to-do list that only seems to grow and never shrink, it may make you grumble. "Rejoice always? Always? When I'm tired? Cranky? When I'm sick of doing and giving? Thanks, Paul. I'll be sure to scribble that phrase on a Post-It and stick it to my dashboard for when some entitled punk inevitably cuts me off on tomorrow's morning commute."

When we feel this way, we know it's time to head back to the well. Think of all the places in Scripture where God compares His love, His mercy, His salvation to water. And not just any water — living water, water that moves. God's strength is not a stagnant puddle sure to evaporate and disappear. It's water you can keep coming back to. It's water that never dries up.

Which is good news for us, because we never stop failing to do what we should, never stop failing to feel the joy and the compassion and the selflessness we are called to. We need a source of living water if we are going to 'rejoice always.' To be everyday stewards, we need a well that never empties.

The fountain of salvation never dries up. There is always more there for us to draw from. It's a sign of His commitment — so let us, in turn, be committed to Him. ~Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS~

Choir Rehearsal—join us every Thursday at 7:00 pm. We still need voices to join the choir. No experience necessary. Remember when you sing, you pray twice.
Lawrence Zelenka
Music Director



The third Sunday of Advent is rose (pink) because pink symbolizes joy, the joy that Jesus is almost here. When parents get ready to bring a new baby home, they typically paint the baby's room pink or blue. They do this out of joy for the baby's arrival. In the same way, the priest wears pink and we light a pink candle to represent the joy we feel to welcome Jesus in Christmas.



Retirement Fund for Religious

Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others—

educating the young, comforting the sick and ministering to the less fortunate. Today, many are frail and need assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish mediations, nursing care and more. Please give generously to today's collection.

St. Lucy Feast Day—Dec. 13



Every little girl named Lucy must bite her tongue in disappointment when she first tries to find out what there is to know about her patron saint. The older books will have a lengthy paragraph detailing a small number of traditions. Newer books will have a lengthy paragraph showing that there is little basis in history for these traditions. The single fact survives that a disappointed suitor accused Lucy of being a Christian, and she was executed in Syracuse, Sicily, in the year 304. But it is also true that her name is mentioned in the First Eucharistic Prayer, geographical places are named after her, a popular song has her name

as its title, and down through the centuries many thousands of little girls have been proud of the name *Lucy*.

One can easily imagine what a young Christian woman had to contend with in pagan Sicily in the year 300. If you have trouble imagining, just glance at today's pleasure-at-all-costs world and the barriers it presents against leading a good Christian life.

Her friends must have wondered aloud about this hero of Lucy's, an obscure itinerant preacher in a far-off captive nation that had been destroyed more than 200 years before. Once a carpenter, he had been crucified by the Romans after his own people turned him over to their authority. Lucy believed with her whole soul that this man had risen from the dead. Heaven had put a stamp on all he said and did. To give witness to her faith she had made a vow of virginity.

What a hubbub this caused among her pagan friends! The kindlier ones just thought her a little strange. To be pure before marriage was an ancient Roman ideal, rarely found, but not to be condemned. To exclude marriage altogether, however, was too much. She must have something sinister to hide, the tongues wagged.

Lucy knew of the heroism of earlier virgin martyrs. She remained faithful to their example and to the example of the carpenter, whom she knew to be the Son of God. She is the patroness of eyesight.



St. Alphonsus-St. Clement parish has reached **100%** of our goal for the 2021 Catholic Services Appeal. Thank you to the **101 parishioners** who have made gifts and pledges totaling \$57,538.04. If you are still prayerfully considering your CSA pledge, please know that our parish will now receive 100% of the gifts we receive.

We will continue to accept CSA donations through April 2022. Any and all CSA donations will be returned tax free to the parish. You may mail your completed pledge card in the pre-addressed envelop that was provided you, which is:

Archdiocese of Detroit

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Or make your gift to our parish campaign online at givecsa.org.

If you misplaced your pledge card, please contact the parish office.

Thank you again for helping to Fuel the Mission to witness Christ.

CHRISTMAS
TO-DO-LIST

~~BE~~
~~buy~~ presents

~~wrap~~ gifts **SOMEONE IN A HUG**

~~send~~ gifts **PEACE**

~~DONATE~~
~~shop~~ for food

~~BE~~
~~See~~ the lights

Readings for the Week of Dec. 12

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/ Lk 3:10-18

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday: Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a, and 13b [2a]/Lk 7:24-30

Friday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17

Saturday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/ Mt 1:18-25

Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/ Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-4

St. Alphonsus-St. Clement Parish

Church: 13540 Gould St., Dearborn, MI 48126

Office: 7469 Calhoun St., Dearborn, MI 48126

Office Phones: (313) 581-5218 ~ 581-7495

Fax: (313) 581-4233

Parish Website: stals-stclem.org

Email: info@sta-stc.comcastbiz.net

Village Chapel

15101 Ford Rd., Dearborn, MI 48126

Phone: (313) 846-7712 ext. 1121

Devotions

PERPETUAL HELP: Tuesday 9:00 am.

HOLY HOUR: 2nd Wednesday 7:00 pm (HFV Chapel)

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: 1st Friday 9:00 am.

RECONCILIATION: Saturday 3:00-3:30 pm, or by appointment.

BAPTISM: Registered Parishioners should call the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

MARRIAGE: The couple must make arrangements at least 6 months prior to date of marriage. You must be a registered/active parishioner for at least 1 year.

WEDDINGS: Fridays preferred; Saturday, prior to 1 pm.

Parish Staff

Pastor: **Rev. Linus Kinyua**

Associate Pastor: **Rev. Gregory Deters**

Pastoral Minister: **Sr. Margaret Alandt, IHM**

Bookkeeper: **Dawn Peters**

Housekeeper: **Denise Paniccia**

Maintenance: **Frank Bechard**

Organist: **Lawrence Zelanka**

Secretary: **Marilyn Filip**

Parish Council

John Savage, Chairperson

Annette Fiedor, Vice-Chairperson

Jennie Sinatra, Secretary

~ Parish Council Members ~

Barbara Bechard, Colleen Charara,

Matthew Keller, Karen Krepps

Chester Lawrence,

Debra Mrocza and Joseph Sullivan

Parish Office Hours

Monday through Thursday: 9 am until 3 pm;

Friday: 9 am until Noon.



If you have not done so, we invite you to register in the Parish. Being a member of St. Alphonsus-St. Clement Parish gives you a home.

Please complete a registration form located at the exits of the church and drop in the collection basket or call the office 313-581-5218. Thank you.

Check out our parish website for current information at www.stals-stclem.org

Stewardship Report

	<u>w/e 11/28/2021</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Church	\$4,129	\$85,312
Village Chapel	\$327	\$14,640
On-Line Giving		\$11,054*
ACTUAL	\$4,456	\$111,006
BUDGET	\$5,000	\$110,000
Variance	(\$544)	\$1,006
Capital Improvements	\$40	Christmas \$9,239
Christmas Flowers	\$170	Religious Ret. \$35
Catholic Charities	\$170	Missions \$350

* 22% of the Year-to-Date On-Line Giving was from the Village.

To give on-line, please register on the Parish Website.



Whenever your address, phone number or family status changes, please be sure to contact the parish office and update your information with us.

It is important that we keep our parish records up to date. Phone 313-581-5218.



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