



ST. ALPHONSUS - ST. CLEMENT PARISH

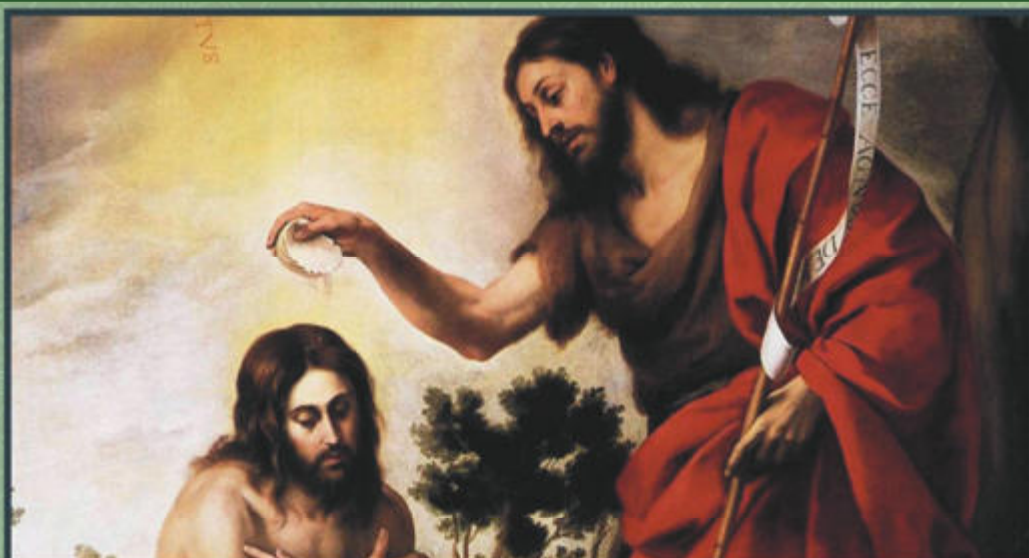
Mission Statement

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

JANUARY 9, 2022



THE BAPTISM *of the Lord*

"I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." - Lk 3:16bc

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

The Baptism Jesus

"We are called to live our baptism every day, as new creatures, clothed in Christ."

— Pope Francis

What reference point do you use when making decisions? Many times, impulse takes control and decisions are made based solely on emotion and desire. We all know that these types of decisions can often get us into trouble. When a person has a confident sense of who they are and

a real understanding of what is important and of value, the likelihood of kneejerk impulsive choices diminishes. Baptism gives us what we need to make well informed and purposeful decisions. By this simple gesture, God claims us as His own and provides us with the identity and purpose we need to properly live life.

It is tremendously reassuring, when we truly embrace this revelation and realize that we no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. The answer of who we are in God has been given to us. We no longer have to fumble around, trip over ourselves or walk aimlessly about. Issues surrounding the sacredness of life, the meaning of death, the protection of those most vulnerable, care for the weak and the poor, offering hospitality to those in search of a home, the purpose and proper place of work, how to create a just social order, caring for creation, and understanding our roles as heralds and stewards are just a few of the wonderful gifts baptism brings. When we make decisions based on things such as these core Gospel truths we really act as Christ himself, revealing to others the new creations that we are. This is how we live our baptism.

It is difficult to walk against the tide. Yet, that is precisely what baptism calls us to do. Although we are sinners, in need of mercy and far from perfection we are called to order our life and make decisions based upon the wisdom and guidance of Almighty God. He alone is the one who can claim us as His sons and daughters. Standing up for our principles will not make us popular. But who ever said Christianity is a popularity contest? Baptism calls us to stand up for that which goes against the grain of secularism. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor to steady us in the tempests of life and God is very pleased. Forge ahead. There is nothing to fear.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Jan. 8

4:00 pm

Fr. Linus

- +Elio Puzzuoli by Madeline Prokop
- +Naomi & Agnese Puzzuoli by Family
- +Richard, Stella & Frank Rzepka by Family
- +Valere (Larry) Salagan (ann) by Family

For All Named on Christmas Flower Donation Envelopes**Sunday, Jan. 9**

9:00 am (Village Chapel)

Fr. Linus

For All Named on Christmas Flower Donation Envelopes

9:00 am

Fr. Greg

- +Kathleen Bitonti by Eileen Bridenstine
- +Joe Sorrenti (Bday) by Cousins
- +Chester & Helen Pietraz by Family

For All Named on Christmas Flower Donation Envelopes

11:00 am

Fr. Greg

- +Francesco & Florence Parrello by Family
- +Aldo & Remo Mastroianni by Family
- +Jeannine Hamilton by Jackie Manick
- +Sue Baker by Jackie Manick

For All Named on Christmas Flower Donation Envelopes**Monday, Jan 10 8:30 am**

Fr. Linus

- +Jake, Betty & Nancy Kosko by Friend

Tuesday, Jan 11 8:30 am

Fr. Linus

- +Stella Filip (Bday) by Family

9:30 am (Village Chapel)

Fr. Greg

Living & Deceased Residents of the Village

Thursday, Jan 13 8:30 am

Fr. Linus

- +Deceased Golob Family Members by Friend

Friday, Jan 14 8:30 am

Fr. Linus

- +Deceased Tamburro Family Members by Friend

Saturday, Jan. 15

4:00 pm

Fr. Greg

- +Anne Gusfa by M. Filip

Sunday, Jan. 16

9:00 am (Village Chapel)

Fr. Greg

Living & Deceased Residents of the Village

9:00 am

Fr. Linus

- +James & Margaret Blair by Family
- +Jeannine Hamilton by Frank & Barb Bechard
- +Joseph J & David Bobowski by Family
- +Mary Maliszewski by Family

11:00 am

Fr. Linus

Living & Deceased Coogan Family Members

**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.

**Flight 2022 Instructions**

Good

morning and welcome to Flight 2022.

We are pre-

pared to take off into the New Year.

Please make sure your Positive Attitude and Gratitude are secured and locked in the upright position.

All self-destructive devices: piety, anger, selfishness, pride and resentment should be turned off at this time. All negativity, hurt and discouragement should be put away. Should you lose your Positive Attitude under pressure during this flight, reach up and pull down a prayer. Prayers will automatically be activated by Faith. Once your Faith is activated, you can assist other passengers who are of little Faith. There will be NO BAGGAGE allowed on this flight. God, our Captain, has cleared us for take-off.

Destination—GREATNESS!

God, our Father, let 2022 be filled with new HOPE, new JOY and new BEGINNINGS!



Eternal Father, You have given us Your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and revealed him to us at his baptism in the River Jordan, grant that we,

who have been born again of water and the Holy Spirit and made Your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by Your Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who is alive with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



Please remember in your prayers the soul of

Linda Pietrandrea

May she be wrapped in the loving arms of our heavenly Father and may God grant His peace and consolation to her family and friends.



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, Leonard, Susan, Cary 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, Theresa Mullen, 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, Tina Threedy, Joshua Yeager, The Parishioners of the Village Assisted Living and Health Care.

Please notify the Parish office for changes to our prayer list.



St Hilary of Poitiers Feast Day Jan. 13

This staunch defender of the divinity of Christ was a gentle and courteous man, devoted to writing some of the greatest theology on the Trinity, and was like his Master in being labeled a “disturber of the peace.” In a

very troubled period in the Church, his holiness was lived out in both scholarship and controversy. He was bishop of Poitiers in France.

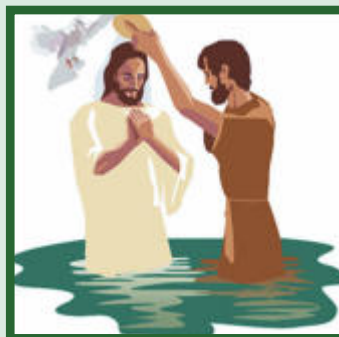
Raised a pagan, he was converted to Christianity when he met his God of nature in the Scriptures. His wife was still living when he was chosen, against his will, to be the bishop of Poitiers in France. He was soon taken up with battling what became the scourge of the fourth century, Arianism, which denied the divinity of Christ.

The heresy spread rapidly. Saint Jerome said “The world groaned and marveled to find that it was Arian.” When Emperor Constantius ordered all the bishops of the West to sign a condemnation of Athanasius, the great defender of the faith in the East, Hilary refused and was banished from France to far off Phrygia. Eventually he was called the “Athanasius of the West.”

While writing in exile, he was invited by some semi-Arians (hoping for reconciliation) to a council the emperor called to counteract the Council of Nicea. But Hilary predictably defended the Church, and when he sought public debate with the heretical bishop who had exiled him, the Arians, dreading the meeting and its outcome, pleaded with the emperor to send this troublemaker back home. Hilary was welcomed by his people.

Reflection—Christ said his coming would bring not peace but a sword (see Matthew 10:34). The Gospels offer no support for us if we fantasize about a sunlit holiness that knows no problems. Christ did *not* escape at the last moment, though he did live happily ever after—after a life of controversy, problems, pain and frustration. Hilary, like all saints, simply had more of the same.

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS I Hope I Am Like Him



“Who is this Christ? Is he like you?”

Perhaps you’ve heard this story, often attributed to the life of St. Teresa of Calcutta. A sick man asked her this question, as he marveled at her tireless ser-

vice to himself and others in the name of someone named Jesus Christ.

“He is nothing like me,” the saint is said to have answered. “But I hope I am like him.”

Though the authenticity of this exchange cannot be verified, its message rings perfectly true: all the value of our stewardship lies in its relativity to the one in whose name we perform it.

Consider the figure of John the Baptist — a magnificent, towering character even purely from a literary or historical perspective. A martyr who fed on wild locusts and boldly spoke truth to power — a man so great some mistook him for the Messiah.

But why is he great? Because he prepared the way. All his accomplishments and escapades mean nothing if they are taken out of the context of salvation history. He only makes sense relative to Christ — and this is exactly as he wanted it. “One worthier than I is coming,” he insists. And because of that humility and that total embrace of God’s will, he is given one of the greatest honors in the New Testament — he baptizes the Son of God.

Let’s examine our lives in the light of their relativity to Christ. How do we prepare the way? When Christ comes to us, what do we do? How do we leave ourselves open to be actors in God’s plan?

~Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS~



WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED Baptismal Bib

Question: Why does the priest put a bib on the baby at their Baptism.

Answer: When an adult is baptized, there is a part in the ceremony when the newly baptized is vested in a white garment. It is symbol-

ic of the changes that baptism brings in the life of the baptized as they are freed from the bonds of sin and brought into the saving grace of Christ. Realities that are so profound are symbolically presented so that we might better grasp and understand them.

Infants are often dressed in a baptismal dress, which is the baptismal garment. In some places, the bib is used as a kind of baptismal garment. At the place in the ceremony where the investiture takes place, the bib is used. Some are poncho-like and fit over the baby's head.

Others are simply placed on the baby's chest. If the baby is dressed in a white garment, nothing else is needed. The prayer says it all: "See in your white garment the outward sign of your Christian dignity ... bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of heaven." In baptism, we are given our purpose and goal in life as believers, and this is symbolized by the white garment.



As soon as Jesus was baptized, he came up out of the water. Heaven was opened and he saw the spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. Then a voice said from heaven, "This is my own dear son with whom I am pleased."



St. Alphonsus-St. Clement parish has reached **100%** of our goal for the 2021 Catholic Services Appeal. Thank you to the **105 parishioners** who have made gifts and pledges totaling \$58,624.29. 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

P. O. Box 6047

Albert Lea, MN 56007-6647

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.

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Jesus stood in line with everyone else and



was baptized. There is something incredibly humbling about how this must have played out. Then, God did something truly awesome and inspiring. Through a very gentle and simple action he let the world know

about the special relationship He shares with Jesus. That's exactly what is so incredible about our baptisms as well! Through those holy waters God announces to the world the special place we also occupy in His heart. We no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. We do not need to fumble around, tripping over ourselves and wondering why we are even here. The answer has been given. All we have to do is live out the vocation we have received, to live the Gospel in fidelity to our Creator. There is nothing to fear and worry has no place. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor and God is very pleased.

Readings for the Week of Jan. 9

Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/ Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22
 or, Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/
 Lk 3:15-16, 21-22
Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19/Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39
Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/ Mk 1:40-45
Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12
Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17
Next Sunday: Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 [3]/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11

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 12/26/2021</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Church	\$1,044	\$95,212
Village Chapel	\$181	\$16,343
On-Line Giving	\$450	\$13,711*
ACTUAL	\$1,675	\$125,266
BUDGET	\$5,000	\$130,000
Variance	(\$3,325)	(\$4,734)
Christmas	\$31,622	
Christmas Flowers	\$39	
Religious Ret.	\$155	

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

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

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.



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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