

St. Alphonsus Parish

Lemont, Illinois

Established 1867

St. Alphonsus Catholic Community Our Mission

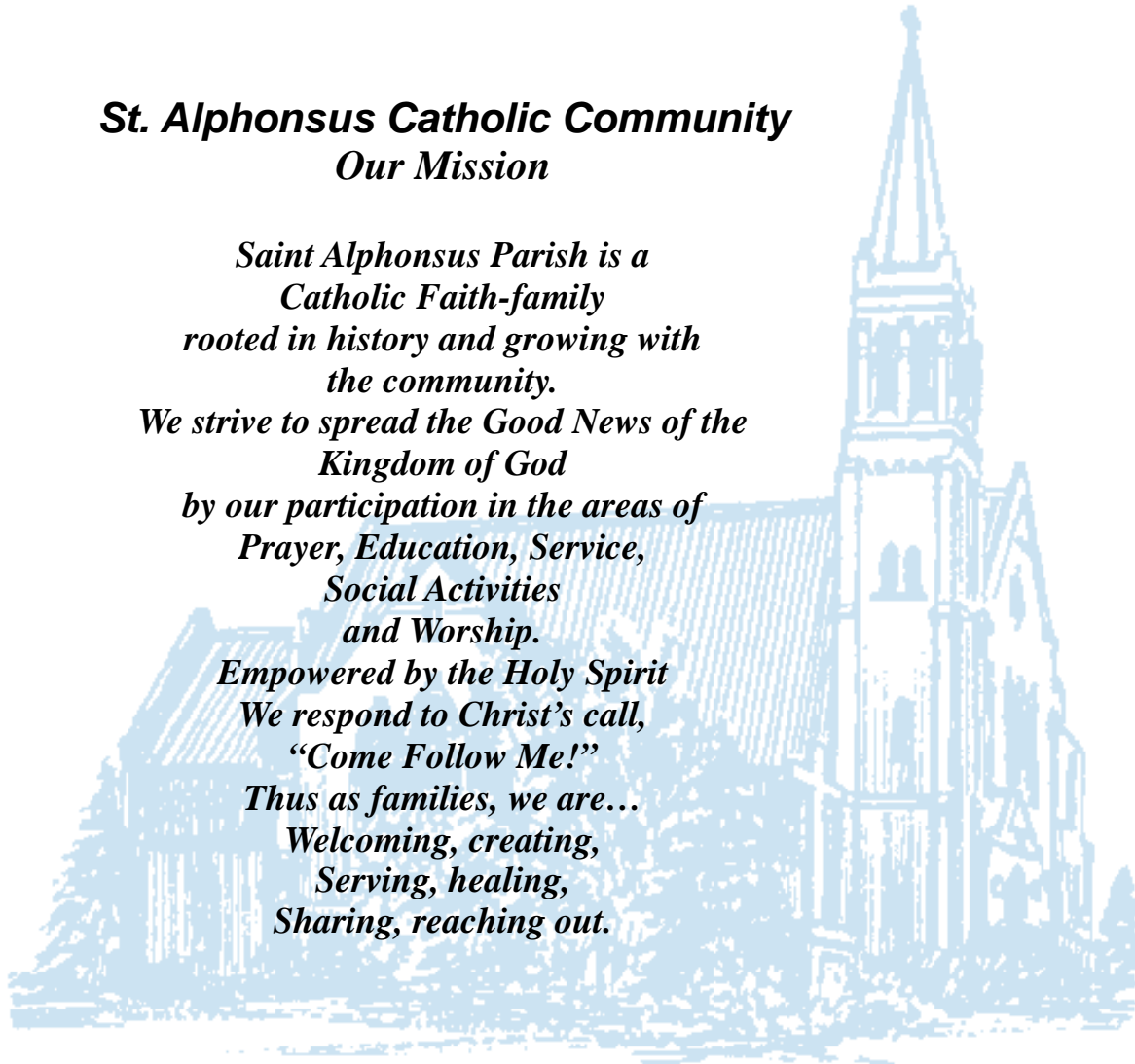
*Saint Alphonsus Parish is a
Catholic Faith-family
rooted in history and growing with
the community.*

*We strive to spread the Good News of the
Kingdom of God*

*by our participation in the areas of
Prayer, Education, Service,
Social Activities
and Worship.*

*Empowered by the Holy Spirit
We respond to Christ's call,
"Come Follow Me!"*

*Thus as families, we are...
Welcoming, creating,
Serving, healing,
Sharing, reaching out.*



**The Epiphany of the Lord
January 4, 2009**

All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him..

Psalm 72:11

St. Alphonsus Catholic Church

210 E. Logan, Lemont
Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. Brian Ardagh

Weekend Celebrants:

Fr. Robert Rohrich

Fr. Ron Scarlata

Diaconal Ministry:

Deacon Terry McGuire

DRE: Mr. Kevin Cody

School Principal:

Ms. Renee Payne

Pastoral Associate:

Doreen Dabney

Office Coordinator:

Mrs. Dorothy Lafin

Accountant: Mrs. Carol Levas

Records Coordinator:

Mrs. Jody Stemat

Music Director:

Mr. Joseph Martorano

Music Staff

Ms. Christina Grinius

Ms. Anne Madden

Ms. Diane Marelli

SPRED: Mrs. Carol Levas

Business Hours

Monday-Friday—9:00 am-4:00 pm

Phone Numbers

Office Center—630-257-2414

Fax—630-257-2476

RE Office—630-257-2371

School Office—630-783-2220

Mass Schedules

Weekends—Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday, 7:00, 8:30, 10:00 and 11:30 am

5:00 pm at St. Pat's

Monday- Friday 7:30 am in the chapel

Holy Days—to be announced

Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday—8:00 am—8:00 pm, chapel

Parish Web Site

www.st-als.org



The Baptism of the Lord Friend Or Foe?

Water is a rich and potent symbol. We all know that no life on earth would be possible without it. We use it for our sustenance, our cleansing, our relaxation; it touches nearly every facet of human life, and its absence is soon noted. Without it, the grain, wine, milk, and other "rich fare" from Isaiah would not be possible. The messianic age is characterized as a time of abundance and fertility, not attainable without water. It was a precious commodity in Jesus' world. Water has its dark, dangerous side as well—the chaos of the dawn of creation was symbolized by water, the earth was destroyed (and still knows destruction) by the waters of the flood. Israel risked it all in the waters of the Red Sea as they fled Egypt and entered the desert. In similar fashion, today Jesus risks it all in his calling as Son of God and, like the Israel whose son he also was, he will enter the desert in the next few verses of Mark's Gospel.

Thicker Than Water

Another powerful life symbol is blood. Like water, it is essential. John's letter today tells us that three things testify to Jesus as the Son of God: water, blood, and the Spirit. Today's feast forms a hinge of sorts between the two great "water and blood" moments in the life of Jesus. It is the culmination of the season of the Nativity, the time when we remember and celebrate that Jesus came into the world as a fully human being, in water and blood. It is also the day on which he begins his public ministry of calling Israel to repentance by proclaiming the reign of God, a ministry that will ultimately end in water and blood as he is crucified. But hovering over all of this is the Holy Spirit. It is by the Spirit that Jesus was conceived in the womb of Mary; it is the Spirit who guides his entire ministry from Jordan to Calvary; and it will be the Spirit who brings his resurrected life back to the world, who continues it to this very day in the waters of baptism and the blood of disciples, by which his Body, the Church, is still proclaiming the reign of God to the world.

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ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Archbishop



Post Office Box 109098
Chicago, Illinois 60690

January 11, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Church in Latin America, while diverse in culture, is grounded in a deep faith that we all share as children of God. This lived faith invites all believers in this part of the world to action – to be disciples of Christ, sent by His Spirit as missionaries and leaders in their communities and beyond.

For the past 45 years, the faithful of the United States have supported the **Collection for the Church in Latin America** as a visible sign of their compassion and solidarity with the faithful of Latin America and the Caribbean. Proceeds from this annual collection assist in the formation of seminarians, lay ministers, catechists and youth ministers in more than 200 dioceses throughout our southern hemisphere.

On behalf of those who, while lacking financial resources, are blessed in faith and love for Our Lord Jesus Christ, please accept my gratitude for your generous support of this collection. May God continue to bless you and your loved ones.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago

Please Pray For

Mason Briese
Kyle Holley
Patricia Dedek
Melissa Braddy
Tom Richardson
Charles DiNovo
Antoinette Lacaze
Richard Pociask

Rest In Peace

Jean Fryszak

Reconciliation

Saturday, 4:00 to 4:30 pm
Or by Appointment

Baptisms

Baptisms are usually celebrated the second and third Sundays of every month. No Baptisms during Lent.

Marriage

Prospective bride and groom must be registered parishioners at least 6 months.

Sick and Homebound

Contact the office, 257-2414 to receive a visit from a Minister of Care.

Parish Registration

Everyone 18 years and older should register for the parish. To register for the parish, please call the Office Center, 257-2414

Parish Pastoral Council Members

Paul Christin
Jack Counter
Tom Culcasi
Barbara Laubhan
Bev Malak
Paul Malak
Renate Meyer
Jim Pickering
Keith Polk
Carol Ricken



Religious
Education
Update

News and Happenings



*Please remember
those who are in
need.*

*Donate to the
food pantry.*

*Monetary gifts are also
appreciated.*

Around St. Al's

Early Childhood Shadow Day

St. Al's-St. Pat's School will be offering a Kindergarten and Preschool shadow day Thursday, January 15th. Parents and their 3-5 year old children are invited to visit from 12:00-1:30 a.m. to observe and participate alongside the current Pre-K and full day Kindergarten students.

This is a great opportunity for any parent who would like to learn about our NAEYC accredited Early Childhood programs and meet the staff while your child experiences a portion of a school day with the "big kids".

For more information go to www.stals-stpats.org or call 630-783-2220.

Lil' Celtics Program



The Lil' Celtics program continues to grow and become a success! Please join us on Fridays from 10am-11:30am (new times!!! There will be no open gym on 1/23/09). All children 4 and under (and their parents) are welcome to come play in the gym and socialize with other kids their age. The cost is \$2/child.

Are You Registered?

Registering in a parish is a declaration of your desire to be part of a Catholic community and to make a commitment in all its dimensions brings many advantages, recognition and responsibility.

Being a registered parishioner makes the process much easier when it is time for infant baptism, school registration, weddings, or when asked to be a baptismal or confirmation sponsor.

A registered parishioner also receives all parish mailings. Church law advises that territories or boundaries no longer limit parish registration. We accept anyone who wants to share in the life of our parish regardless of where they live. Why not sign up? You are surely welcome!

Weekly Offering

January 3rd & 4th, 2009

Weekly Need	\$12,232.00
Sunday Collection	\$ 7,790.19
Christmas	\$1,786.50
Electronic Fund (EFT)	\$
Surplus (Deficit)	\$30,620.48
Fiscal Year-to-date	
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$12,775.84)

Last Year

This figure is supplied as a comparison to last year's comparable fiscal week.

Thank you to all our parishioners who give their share to support our parish.

**I&M Canal Y.A.C.H.T. Club
 Young Adult Catholics Hanging Together
 We raised our anchor and sailed to a new location:**



**Fox's Pub
 9655 West 143rd Street
 Orland Park**

Join us on the second Tuesday of every month at Fox's Pub between September and May.

Cost is \$5 admission plus whatever you order off the menu.

We meet from 7:00 pm-9:30 pm with the speaker

beginning at 7:30 pm.

www.yamchicago.org www.foxsorland.com

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Mr. Mike Ciciura is an Investment Executive with Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., and advises clients on investment decisions appropriate to their objectives.

Mike will speak on Money Management Basics for Young Adults. We will review budgets, loans, using or moving your 401K, and the difference between saving, investing and gambling.

Remember In Your Prayers...

- Ryan Meder, USMC, Iraq,
- Russell Neal, USA, Fort Campbell;
- Scott Bosco, USA, Kuwait;
- Robert McKinney, USAF, Afghanistan;
- Mark Giancarol, USA, Iraq,
- Brent Danielson, USMC, Iraq
- Jim Adamiec, USAF, Utah
- Chris Hearne, USN, Virginia
- Tabitha Filicicchia, USAF
- David Borkowski, USN, Mississippi
- Thomas Walsh, USMC,
- Christopher King, USA, Iraq
- Kevin Doyle, USA, Afghanistan
- Denny Shanahan, USMC, Iraq
- And all those who
serve our country

Have You Ever Considered Counseling?

Have you ever considered counseling, but you couldn't find the time? The Holbrook Counseling Center of Catholic Charities can help. Whether it is personal, relational or career-related, the center offers professional assistance that is confidential, convenient and affordable. Our therapist at SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish is Mr. Bill Chatzivasiliadis, LCPC.

For further information or to make an appointment, please call 312-655-7725.

Communion in the Pew

If you have difficulty walking to the front of church to receive communion, notify an usher before Mass. Communion will be brought to you at your pew. Please sit at the end of the pew. No one should be deprived of the gift of the Eucharist due to difficulty in walking.

SPRED Meeting

Meeting: St. Alphonsus Meeting Center

Date: Tuesday, January 20, 2009

Time: 7:00 pm



The Lemont area is in need of catechists to begin a new SPRED group for persons in the 6 – 10 year old age group. We are SO close to being able to start this group. We currently have five families who would like to see their children in a SPRED group. We have three catechists who are looking forward to having the group start. Fr. Mike has graciously agreed to let the group meet in one of St. Pat's Religious Education rooms. We still need to fill a couple of key roles (leader and activity catechist) before the group can begin. And we would need two more catechists to complete the group.

SPRED (SPecial Religious EDucation) is a ministry designed to meet the spiritual needs of people with developmental disabilities such as autism, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, mental impairment and learning problems. Through the experience of friendship in one-to-one relationships, our friends discover a place where they belong which helps them realize their own giftedness and dignity. Participation in a SPRED community of faith enables our friends to enter into the worshipping experiences of the Church. No previous experience is required. Training is provided.

If you feel a calling towards this ministry or would like more information, please come to the January 20th meeting or feel free to give me a call. THANK YOU for your continued support and prayers.

Carol Levas
630-257-2414
630-739-9612

Month Of December

Congratulations to the parents and their sons and daughters who have been Baptized into our Faith-community.

Jessica Brooke, daughter of
Ralph & Gina Pontrelli,
Clare Elizabeth, daughter of
Thomas & Colleen Galateo.

Please remember this couple who has celebrated the sacrament of Marriage.

Adam Kwasneski and Heather Roe

Congratulations to everyone!

March for Life

Every January, the Respect Life Office coordinates a pilgrimage to the March for Life Rally in Washington, D.C. This powerful, faith-filled experience has touched the hearts of youth and young adults around the Archdiocese, inspiring many to become active in the pro-life movement.

Highlights of the pilgrimage include sight-seeing in Washington, D.C., opportunity for daily Mass, reconciliation service, Q & A with Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I., Vigil Mass at the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, the Verizon Center Youth Rally and the March for Life itself on January 22!

Pilgrimage 2009 is scheduled for January 20-23, with hotel accommodations at the Hyatt in Crystal City, VA. Cost is \$275/person, including transportation, accommodations and some meals. Registration forms can be found on www.respectlifechicago.org. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to put your faith into action! For more information contact Mitch Striedl at 312-751-5355.

Income Tax Statements

Like everyone else, the parish needs to watch its spending, so to eliminate the cost of extra postage we once again will only be sending tax statements to those parishioners who request them instead of mailing them to all parishioners. If you need your statement for income tax purposes, please either fill out the form below and place it in the collection basket, mail it or bring it to the office, or you may also call the office. Thank you.

St. Alphonsus Donation

Please send me a copy of my donations to St. Alphonsus for 2008

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Envelope Number _____

Pre-Cana Marathon

Fr. Bob Rohrich, C.M. invites all engaged couples to a "Pre-Cana Marathon" held in the Ministry Center Gym at Sacred Heart, 8245 W. 111th Street, Palos Hills, on Monday, February 2nd from 7:00 pm to 10:30 pm. No pre-registration is necessary. However, we ask that you come early (6:45 pm) so that you may sign in.

Please Note: If one of you is from St. Alphonsus, this will count for the Pre-Cana requirement.

This is primarily for the engaged, but others are also welcome. Its purpose is to serve as a preparation for marriage.

A certificate will be given at the conclusion.

Senior Kindred Spirits

Seniors, 55 and older, are welcome to join this organization for social activities, spiritual events and service to others. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 27th, at 11:30 am in the Parish Center. Please call Nancy Pierce at 630-257-2016 by Friday, January 23rd, if you are planning on attending this meeting.

The agenda for the meeting is to have fun and to have some laughs. Lunch is catered by Ali Tucker for a fee of \$5.00.

Our next card party will be held on January 16th at 1:00 pm in the Parish Center. We do play all kinds of games.



Winter Gala
Silent & Live Auction
Saturday, February 21, 2009

Sponsorship & Advertisement Request

Sponsorship

Sponsor a Silent Auction section: _____ \$500

Sponsors will have a Silent Auction Section named after their establishment.

The company logo will be displayed on 8 1/2 x 11 signs, at the designated Silent Auction Section. Logo must be provided in jpeg and sent to mcglynnt@comcast.net.

Sponsors will be acknowledged in our auction booklet and announced during the auction.

Deadline: January 30, 2009.

Auction Catalog Advertisement

_____ \$25 Third of a Page

_____ \$50 Half Page

_____ \$100 Full Page

_____ **Business Card Ad**

I have enclosed a business card that is to be scanned for the ad. (Do not staple cards to a sheet of paper).

_____ **Business Ad**

I will provide an ad in jpeg format and send to mcglynnt@comcast.net.

_____ **Personal Shout Out** (Message) _____

Auction catalog page size is 8 1/2 x 5 1/2.

Deadline: January 9, 2009

Gift Bag Sponsor

Advertise your company or personal business products in a unique way by distributing samples or company logo items in our guest "thank you" bags. Examples include: skin care samples, toothbrushes, cookies, calculators, etc. Approximately 200 items will be required. Final number will be determined closer to event. This is not a business card distribution. Sponsors will be acknowledged on a card enclosed in the gift bag. If you are interested, please submit this form to the address listed below or contact Theresa at mcglynnt@comcast.net. If possible, please forward us a sample of your product with this form.

_____ Yes, I would like to donate the following item/s for the gift bags. _____

Deadline: Items must be received by January 9, 2009.

Please return a copy of this form along with payment, if applicable, to the address listed below.

A copy of the Auction Catalog will be available online. Please indicate if you would like a printed catalog sent to you: _____ No _____ Yes

Contact Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

- Checks payable to: St. Al's/St. Pat's School (Memo-Gala Ad or Gala Sponsor)
- Send form and check to: St. Al's/St. Pat's School, c/o Theresa McGlynn, 20W145 Davey Rd., Lemont, IL 60439
- Questions: Theresa at: mcglynnt@comcast.net
- An electronic version of this form is also available online at www.stals-stpats.org/gala.



Treasures From Our Tradition

One of the most ancient and enduring sites for baptism in Rome is the church of San Giovanni in Fonte. This church is in fact a baptistery, and houses the font for the Lateran Basilica, the cathedral of Rome. The Emperor Constantine sponsored its construction in the year 315, and it is therefore the oldest baptistery in the world. It is the model for nearly all later baptisteries, including perhaps the font in your own parish church. In the fourth century, churches didn't contain baptismal fonts. Baptism was a once-a-year event, at Easter, and mostly for adults. Within a century, new practices soon masked the original purpose of Constantine, and later popes made additions, like a nave and altars, and even side chapels.

High above the place where the immersion baptism pool once stood, an inscription in mosaic tile is a lyrical expression of our baptismal tradition. It speaks of the font as the "womb of the church," and encourages the sinner not to be afraid of the water. "Though your sins be many and great, do not draw back afraid. Reborn from this stream, a Christian you shall be." The actual font is very old, but it is not the ancient flowing pool. As you often see in Italy, there are smaller pools carved into the marble railing of the font, just big enough to dip an infant. The present font has a carving of the baptism of Constantine, leading some to think that he was baptized here. That's not the case, since he waited until the last minute for a deathbed baptism, as people often did in the fourth century. It's not on the usual tourist path in Rome, but just a few steps from the Lateran Basilica is the best place in Rome to renew your baptismal vows and to marvel at the life-giving stream that has "washed the whole earth" over the centuries.

--Rev. James Field, (c) Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 3

5:00 pm—Parishioners of St. Alphonsus

Sunday, January 4

7:00 am—Rita Zolecki—*Keenan Family*

8:30 am—Estelle Cacciato—*Carol & John Cacciato*
Christina Tam—*Maria Tam*

10:00 am—Helen Bromberek Pytlewski—*Larry & Sue Bromberek*

11:30 am—Leonard Kaczmariski—*Bogard Family*

Monday, January 5

7:30 am—Annette Serio—*Jody Sternat*

Tuesday, January 6

7:30 am—Patricia Goode—*Husband*

Wednesday, January 7

7:30 am—Estelle Mick—*Barb & Don Betley*

Thursday, January 8

9:00 am—Parishioners of St. Alphonsus

Friday, January 9

7:30 am—Henry Graf

Saturday, January 10

5:00 pm—Rita Zolecki—*Ostrowski/Wilson Family*
Zigmund & Marie Ostrowski—*Ostrowski/Wilson Family*

Sunday, January 11

7:00 am—Joseph & Augusta Serio—*Jody Sternat*

8:30 am—Carol Pakeltis—*Family*

10:00 am—Darwin Soljacich—*Dalton Family*

11:30 am—Jean Lindauer—*Robert Lindauer*

Liturgical Ministers Schedule

Date	Time	Presider	Lector	Ministers & Sacristan	Servers	Ushers	Music
Jan 10	5:00 pm	Fr. Bob Rohrich	P. Josephitis	B. Rogers D. Josephitis (S) J. August	M. Leibforth B. Hoster	J. August G. August J. Nemeth S. Wall	Cantor & Keyboard
Jan. 11	7:00 am	Fr. Bob Rohrich	R. Kaiser	G. Yanku G. Kaiser (S)	C. Schaal	G. Bozych B. Erickson J. Counter J. Bannon	None
*	8:30 am	Fr. Brian Ardagh	B. McGuire	P. Perkey (S) J. Cacciato D. Czaja C. Kuhlman (C) R. Meyer (C)	Ahline Family	C. Miklos M. Bruno T. Armijo J. Cacciato	Children or Bell Choir
	10:00 am	Fr. Brian Ardagh	M. Doherty	B. Litoborski R. Haubner (S) J. Stolfo	K. Derrig M. Ricken	B. Litoborski T. Dalton M. Soljacich J. Goushas R. Parry	Parish Choir
	11:30 am	TBA	K. Cody	K Gory (S) K. Polk M. Malewski	B. Cody S. Lillwitz	B. Lindauer W. Flynn D. Harkins D. Drew P. Christin K. Shupe R. Leonardo	Cantor & Keyboard

* Communion under both species

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