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**St. Alphonsus
Catholic Church
Parish Registration**

Everyone 18 years and older should register for the parish. To register, please call the Office Center, 257-2414 or you can register online at www.st-als.org.

Parish Staff

Pastor: Fr. Brian Ardagh

Weekend Celebrants:

Fr. Robert Rohrich

Fr. Lou Zake

Diaconal Ministry:

Deacon Terry McGuire

Deacon Dan Rittenhouse

Director of Religious Education

Kevin Cody

Admin. Assistant for Religious Ed.

Tricia Latz

School Principal:

Renee Payne

Pastoral Associate:

Doreen Dabney

Youth Minister:

Michael Lundberg

Office Coordinator:

Roseann Lucas

Accountant: Carol Levas

Music Director:

Joseph Martorano

Music Staff

Diane Marelli

Maureen McCoy

SPRED: Carol Levas

**Parish Pastoral
Council Members**

Mike Bruno

Bill Doherty

Diane Kaye

Deborah Kornacker

Jim Pickering

Terese Turner

James Zuccarelli

From Father Brian's Desk

In Appreciation...

Now that the season of exchanging gifts is winding down, I want to remind everyone that we have many people in our St. Alphonsus community who have shared their gifts to make our church such a wonderful place of worship. Through their faith and participation in our church community, they have brought the Light of Christ into our little part of the world.

I would like to thank all of the people who made our Advent and Christmas season such a great success including:

1. **Fr. Bob Rohrich, Fr. Lou Zake, Fr. Larry Gorski and Fr. Bob Lucas** for celebrating the various Christmas Masses.
2. **Joe Martorano, the St. Alphonsus Choir** and the numerous musicians for their wonderful music and song during the Christmas liturgies and their beautiful Advent Vespers Prayer Service on December 14th
3. **Don Betley, Sharon Kostas and Paul Malak** for their hard work and dedication to creating a beautiful environment for our Advent and Christmas seasons.
4. All of our Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Sacristans and Ushers who have volunteered to minister at our liturgies.

Safety Concerns

As we enter a new year, I want to remind everyone about a few safety issues that some parishioners and the Lemont Police Department have brought to my attention:

1. Even though we would like to make our way to our automobiles as fast as possible after Mass is over, I would advise everyone who is parked west of State Street and Lemont Road to please use the designated crosswalk with the yellow pedestrian sign and lights. I know that some people would like to save some time and enter the street crossing in the middle of the street, but it is extremely dangerous. Please use the designated crosswalk to safely cross the street.
2. I know that the amount of parking spaces we offer is extremely limited, but we have had a number of complaints about the lack of access to our parking lot during Masses due to cars blocking the entrances/exits. Please be considerate of others and do not park in areas that are designated as "No Parking Zones". We want to keep the access points clear for any Emergency vehicles to enter so they can provide assistance.

Welcome Guests and Visitors. We are so glad that you are here and invite you to join us in thanksgiving for God's presence in our lives. Our goal is to provide a spiritual home where all are welcome, where the healing, reconciling love of God flows through us to all people. In this way, we believe that the Church is the sacrament of God's presence in the world.

"Please come to Mass early enough not to disrupt. Leave late enough not to insult (the Mass does not end until the final blessing). Worship reverently enough not to distract. And dress proudly enough not to offend."

Reflecting on God's Word

What are the major attractions in your area? Are they natural wonders, spectacular buildings, engaging activities, powerful people, works of art? We expect people to stream to Las Vegas, to Hollywood, to New York City, to Paris, to London, to Rome, to the Eiffel Tower and the Grand Canyon. In today's scriptures, however, we see tourists attracted to two very lowly and humble sights.

Jerusalem was a sorry sight when the prophet Isaiah was written. The prophet must have seemed impossible to those who heard this message. And yet, today's Jerusalem is a tourist attraction. We also know that through the Jews many other people Christians and Muslims have been attracted to the one Lord.

Jesus himself must have seemed very weak and insignificant in comparison to the rich and powerful King Herod, and later on compared to the priests and Pharisees. Yet his birth from the virgin Mary attracted people to him. Like the tourists in today's Gospel, people saw something in him that drew them to him and they came to understand what God intended for their life journeys.

Virginia Stillwell
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Living God's Word

*The Church is the new Israel, called to attract all people to the Lord.
We must be "the place where the child" (Matthew 2:9) is found today.
God's glory shines through the Church and, despite our many flaws,
we are called to become the "place" where everyone can find the Lord
and "[do] him homage" (2:11).*

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

— Psalm 72:11

PARTNERS IN THE PROMISE

As a society, during these days we are experiencing something of a postpartum depression. Our celebrations of Christmas and the New Year are over, and after many of us will put away the decorations and the last visible remnants of the celebrations of the past weeks. The Apostle Paul today uses the expression partners in the promise. This is an uplifting phrase to reflect upon, and to think of as our own calling in these days following the birth of the Lord. What is this promise? We can find it in the gifts the magi bring: it is a promise of being a royal priest (gold), a holy nation (frankincense), a people set apart for self-giving (myrrh). We find more of the promise in Isaiah a light shines upon us! In the psalm we know the promise of a world of flowering justice, profound peace, the poor rescued, the lowly and the poor. This is the promise of the best ways for us to lift ourselves out of any possible low spirits we may be suffering is to live our partnership in this promise each and every day.

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Religious Education Update

CONFIRMATION PRESENTATION OF THE CREED



Sunday, January 1st
9:00am School & Track A
11:00am Tracks B & C

Standing with their sponsors in front of the church, our confirmandi will listen to the assembly recite the Apostles Creed as if hearing the faith passed down to them for the first time. They will be presented with a scroll of the creed.

CHRISTMAS BREAK

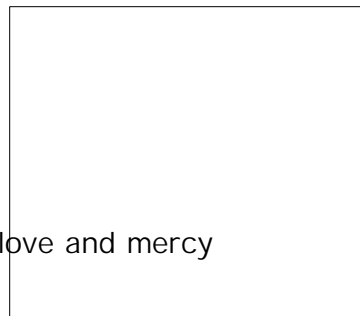
We will resume classes on the following dates:

- Track A: January 1st
- Track B: January 2nd
- Track C: January 4th

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Saturday, January 17th in the church
10:00am School & Track A
12:30pm Tracks A & B
Plan on the services lasting about an hour.

Please keep our young penitents in your prayers as they encounter God's love and mercy in this special celebration.



REMEMBERING OUR YEAR

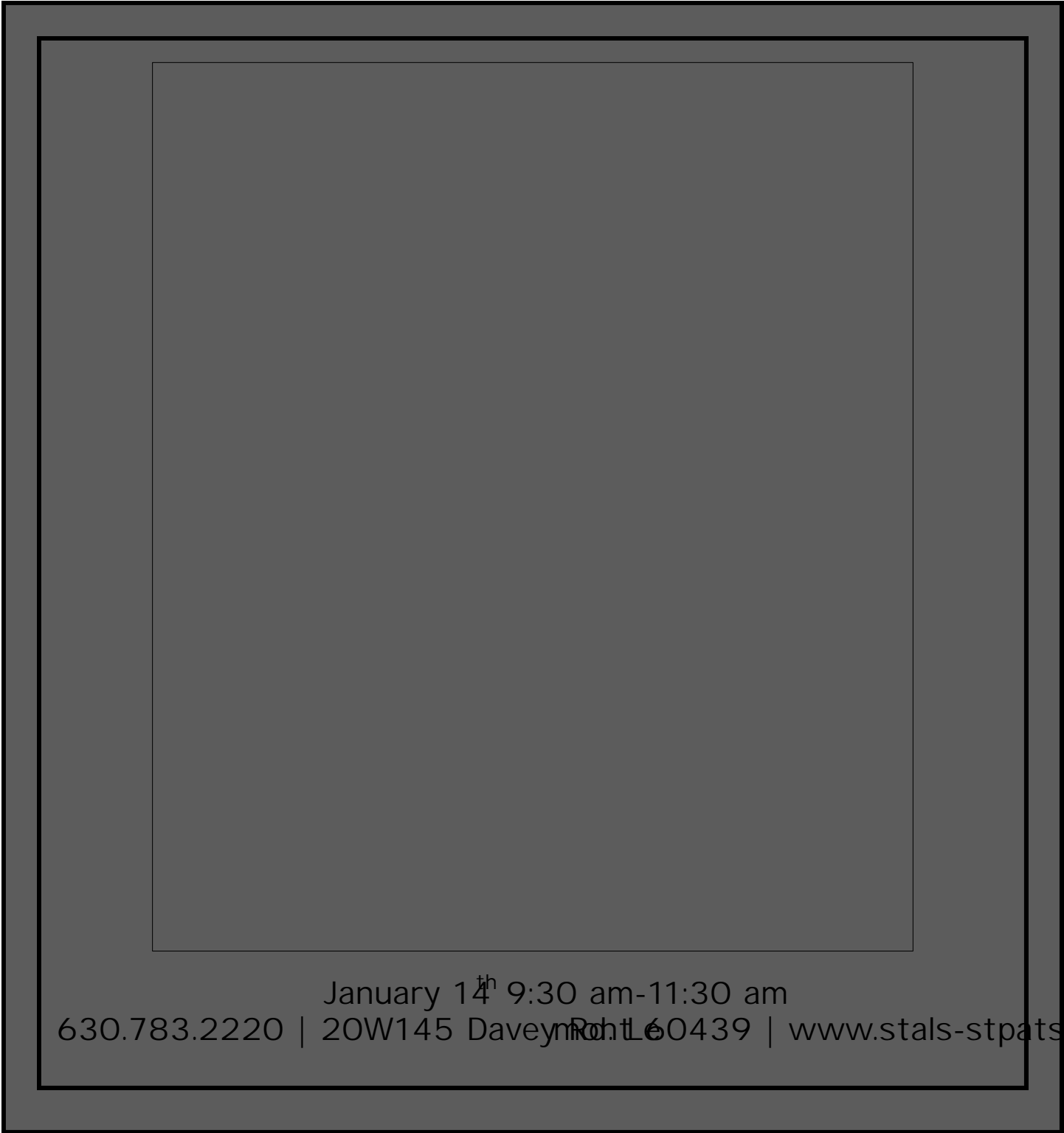
It's easy to live at such a fast pace that we neglect to remember where we have been and the highlights of our year. As a family, take the time to think about what happened in the past year as you begin the New Year. Here are a couple suggestions found at VibrantFaithAtHome.org:

1. Each family member list what they remember under the following categories: *Time Spent With Family, Time Spent With Friends, A Vacation or Getaway, Holiday Highlights, Favorite Church Service or Parish Activity, Proudest Moment.* Family members can add categories according to what was important to them: *Sports Activities, etc.* Parents can help youngsters with their lists. They can draw some of their favorite memories.
2. Consider starting a family tradition of going through photos taken during the year and creating a keepsake: a photo album, scrapbook, memory book, etc.

Include a prayer of thanksgiving for the past year, intercession for loved ones in need of your prayers, and of guidance and blessing for the coming year.

St. Alphonsus-St. Patrick School News

Check out our website: www.stals-stpats.org



January 14th 9:30 am-11:30 am
630.783.2220 | 20W145 Daveyn Rd. Le0439 | www.stals-stpats.org

SAINT ALPHONSUS

*Journey of Faith:
Birth, Baptism, Belonging*

BAPTISM SEMINAR

If you are expecting a baby, family and friends have showered you with gifts and you have no doubt furnished and decorated a nursery. In the same way your Catholic community through the sacrament of Baptism, welcomes and offers spiritual strength and encouragement as your child begins a life-long journey of faith.

Our baptismal preparation program *Journey of Faith: Birth, Baptism, Belonging* is a seminar that will help you better understand the sacrament of Baptism. The seminar can be taken while awaiting the birth of your child or shortly after the baby is born.

The seminar will meet Saturday of alternate months from 9:00 am to Noon in the Religious Education Building. The first Seminar date for 2015 is: January 10.

If you have not attended a baptismal preparation class in the last three years you must participate in a Baptism seminar. Call the Parish Office at 630-257-2414 to schedule the baptism seminar along with your baptismal date.

**RCIA CELEBRATES THEIR
NATIVITY CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**



The Tri-Parish RCIA group celebrated their Nativity Story Christmas Pageant on December 6th. It is always a fun night when the Birth Narrative is acted out along with appropriate music. It helps everyone to better understand not only the story but the significance of the Christmas gift of Jesus.

**ALTAR SERVER
TRAINING**

For all those th4 through th8 graders interested in becoming an altar server, there will be a new altar server training on Tuesday, January 13th and 20th in the church from 6-7:30 pm.

Please attend both sessions. Any questions, please contact Sharon Kostas at 630-243-8434

THE HOLY STAR

O Father, may that holy star every year more bright and send its glorious beams afar to fill the world with light.

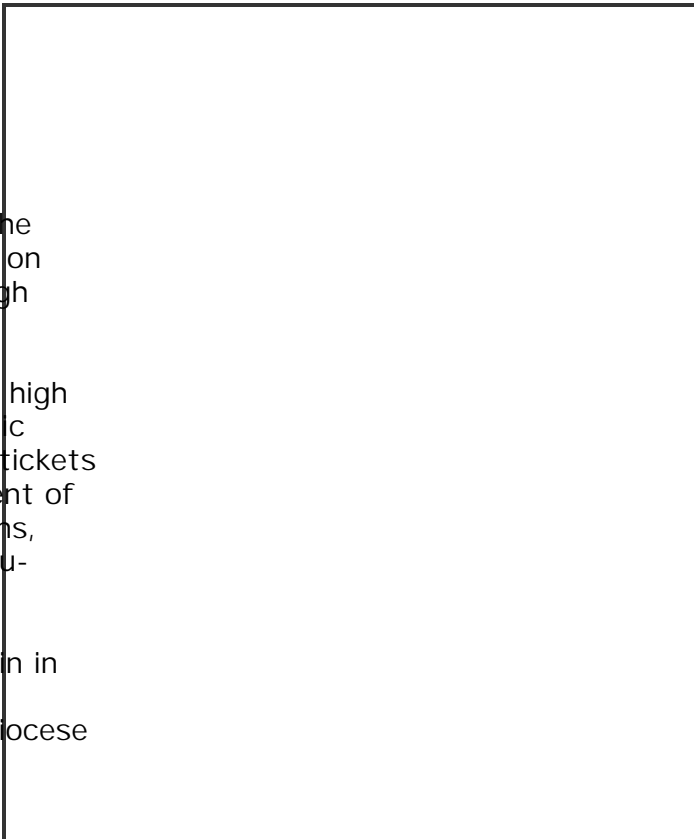
William Cullen Bryant

WELCOME MASS FOR ARCHBISHOP CUPICH

The faithful of Vicariate V are invited to welcome Archbishop Blase Cupich as the new shepherd for the Archdiocese of Chicago. A special Mass will be held on Thursday, January 8, 2015 at 7:00pm at St. Rita High School.

Because seating is very limited, leaders of parishes, high schools, religious orders, and other Vicariate Catholic institutions are being issued a specified number of tickets to distribute. Your pastor has received your allotment of tickets. The diversity of the 61 parishes and missions, along with our six Catholic schools and other institutions will be represented.

Whether you are at the Mass or at home, please join in prayer as we ask our heavenly Father to bless our Archbishop as he serves as the leader of the Archdiocese of Chicago.



Queen of the Clergy Prayer Group

Please consider joining Queen of the Clergy, a new prayer group that has been formed to pray for our beloved priests, religious, and for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. We meet in the Day Chapel at Our Lady of the Woods, 10731 W. 131st Street, Orland Park every Tuesday evening from 7 to 8pm.

Any questions you may have or if you have a priest, deacon, seminarian, deacon candidate, religious brother or sister that you would like us to place in our intention book and pray for, please call Barb McCague at 708-478-3652.



Due to the implemented government regulations in all hospitals, parishes will NOT be informed of any parishioner's hospitalization NOR will that information be available to any visiting clergy and/or parish visitor. It is strictly your responsibility

to let us know of your hospitalization. A hospital can notify us only if you specifically request this at the time of admission. We certainly want to continue praying for and supporting those who are ill. Please don't feel it is a bother to inform us.

You are important to us.

Thank you for your continued support of our local food pantry. As part of a service project, Al's Women's Club will be featuring a product of the month. This item will be a special request from the pantry for an item that is needed January. We will collect personal items such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, and deodorant. Any item you are able to give is gratefully accepted. The staples you provide are also necessary.

Your kindness and generosity are very much appreciated.

Time to RSVP!

Let s Shake, Rattle, and Roll!
January 10, 2015

Join fellow parishioners for dinner and a live show, A Tribute to the Legends of Rock n Roll featuring Michael Valentine.

Doors open-6:00 pm, dinner served-6:30pm, show starts-7:30pm.

Price: \$20/person \$15/senior

Please rsvp Beth Burke at:

630-673-5457 or bethburke44@gmail.com

Checks payable to St Alphonus Women or cash can be dropped off at the church office or at school to the attention of Beth Burke.

PLOWS Council on Aging Offers Support Groups

Call PLOWS at 708.361.0219 to register for these groups:

Caregiver Support Group

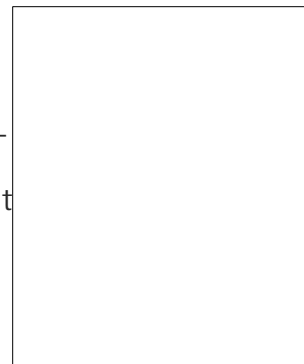
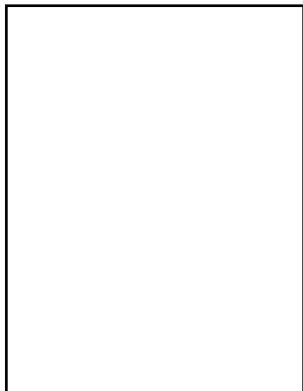
PLOWS Council on Aging will hold a six-week support group for caregivers caring for persons with dementia starting in late winter 2015. Registration accepted now.

Early Stage Memory Group

If you or a loved one is experiencing early stage memory loss, join us for a supportive, informative group for both the caregiver and loved one with memory loss. The group offers education, emotional support, social interaction in a safe, supportive environment. Topics may vary but include an overview of early stage memory loss, medical information, legal and financial planning, navigating social and family relationships. Time and place to be determined. Space is limited. An interview is required prior to attending the group.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

PLOWS Council on Aging is hosting a 6-session support group for grandparents raising grandchildren. Each session will have a specific focus, including financial & legal assistance, building relationships, and caring for oneself along with the grandchild. Knowledgeable and experienced guest speakers will provide additional information and guidance. The first session is at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at the Palos Township office, 10802 S. Roberts Road, Palos Hills. We strongly encourage all grandparents raising grandchildren to take advantage of this opportunity.



**“TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON
AND A TIME FOR EVERY PURPOSE UNDER HEAVEN.”**

“A Time to be Born through Baptism” — Charles Henry son of Ryan & Elizabeth McGovern

“A Time to Love in Holy Matrimony” — Congratulations to: Laura Shoplas & Andrew McElligott

“A Time to Heal” —

Joetta Karlos	Francis Rittenhouse	Dorothy Goushas	Edward Perkey	Patricia Dedek
Kevin McGuire	Deb Fase	Harriet Bromberek	Melanie Williams	Sue Dyer
Nora McDonnell	Baby Kenneth	Robert Trock	Karl Knasiak	Jim Musial
Mary Tadda	Bill Sullivan	Keith Donofrio	Tina Ruiz	Richard Brazzale
Baby Jordan	Joe Fekete	Antonia Helmuth	Colleen Burns	Jeff Freeman
Skrobot	Deacon Terry	Bonnie Posey	Ashley Smith	Kitzer
Nathan Parry	McGuire			

“A Time of War” —

Scott Bosco, USA, Kuwait
 Christopher Durkovic, USA, S. Korea
 Stanley M. Simrayh III, USN, Japan
 Alex Sullivan, USA, Italy
 Kevin Parker, USA, Fort Campbell

Joshua Plucinski, US Air Force,
 David Borkowski, USN, Guam
 Joseph R. Pociask, USMC, San Diego

Jason Fricka, USAF, Germany
 And all who serve our country.

Virginia Beach, VA

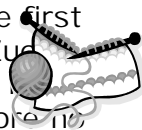
“A Time to Die” —

Jeanette Scott and Maureen Tejada
 The military and innocent civilians who have died in the war.

Please keep all these listed, and their families, in your prayers.

LOOPS OF LOVE MEETING

The Knit and Crochet Group meets the first Wednesday of each month at Nancy Zucarelli's house at 1350 Overton Drive, Lemont. If you have not joined us before, problem-come just the same. If you have joined us before or are a regular, we look forward to seeing you on January 7th at 7:00 PM.



Counseling By Fr. Rohrich

Counseling services are available by Fr. Bob Rohrich at the DePaul Center, 212 Custer. Appointment times on weekdays are: 10 and 11 am and 5, 7, 8 and 9 pm. Bob counsels the engaged and married, as well as individuals for depression, anxiety, grieving, separation, divorce and other personal problems. The cost is a \$10.00 donation for each session.

Please call, 630-257-9235.

PREGNANT? NEED HELP?	
Waterleaf Women s Center	630-702-6270
National Birthright	1-800-848-LOVE
National Pregnancy Hotline	1-800-535-9947
National Adoption Hotline	1-202-463-7563
Rachael s Vineyard	1-866-99-4-GIVE
Natural Family Planning	1-312-534-8351
DuPage Catholic Charities Children s Services	630-495-6864
Southwest Region Chicago Catholic Charities Children Services	708-430-0428
Father turing Network	1-800-TNN-4MOM
Crisis Pregnancy	1-800-NO-ABORT 1-800-67-BABY-6
Woman s Choice Services	630-261-9221
Project Gabriel	1-877-734-2444

Weekly Offering

December 20 & 21, 2014

Week s Need	\$12,869.00
Sunday s Collection	\$10,306.44
Electronic Fund (EFT)	\$ 1,125.67
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$ 1,436.89)
Fiscal Year to Date	
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$34,440.02)
Last Year s weekly	
Collection	\$ 9,992.00

December 27 & 28, 2014

Due to the early bulletin submission, figures for the above weekend will be reported in the weeks to come.

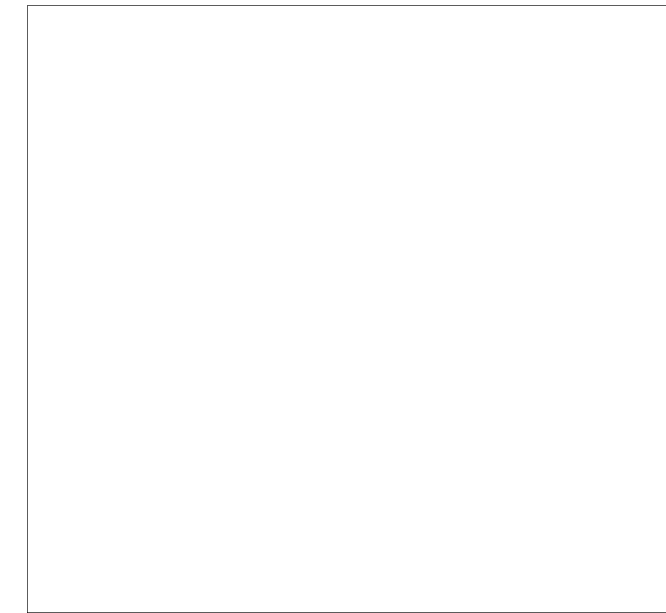
Thank you for your support of our parish.

Fundraiser for Craig Mikalayunas

In the past, we have presented bulletin announcements of local fundraisers, including those of parishioners. The family of one of our parishioners, Craig Mikalayunas, is undergoing an extremely difficult time with various expenses as he faces his final weeks of his life s journey in hospice care.

If you can possibly donate any amount, it would be greatly appreciated. Donations are being accepted at the Lemont Township Office at 1115 Warner Ave., Lemont, IL 60439. Please make checks out to **Lemont Township Family Assistance Fund** and note that it is for Craig Mikalayunas. You can also donate online at:

gofundme.com/i46cok.



In Nicaragua, families face many challenges as they strive to live and share their faith. Through a grant from the Collection for the Church in Latin America, the Diocese of Juigalpa was able to build its capacity for sharing the faith by forming family evangelization teams in all of its twenty-two parishes. Thanks to the training they received, participants are now able to accompany married couples and those preparing for marriage. This collection is an opportunity to share your faith with the people of Latin America and the Caribbean. Thank you !

Next week, we will take up the Collection for the Church in Latin America. Your gifts to the collection will fund catechesis, marriage and family life programs, and seminarian formation. Please support programs like these and give generously in next week s collection

SECOND COLLECTION
Saturday & Sunday, January 10 & 11
Support the Church in Latin America

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. It also 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, when asked to be a baptismal or confirmation sponsor.

Registering here is very simple. You can go to our web page www.st-als.org, look under Parish Registration, and fill out the needed information.

You can come into the office and fill out a registration form. Remember that you need to be a registered parishioner to partake in all the services that St. Alphonsus offers. We are not sign-up? You are surely welcome!

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 3

5:00 pm Margaret Joseph *Family*
Bob Kasak— *Judy Langowski*

Sunday, January 4

7:30 am Parishioners of St. Alphonsus
9:00 am George Lindauer *Rita Lindauer*
Gino Zanin, Sr.— *Mom & Sue*

11:00 am Robert Kurcab *Litoborski Family*

Monday, January 5

7:30 am Carol Cistor *Bill & Mary Anne Doherty*

Tuesday, January 6

7:30 am Patricia A. Goode *Tony Goode*

Wednesday, January 7

7:30 am John J. & Laura E. Ruppel *Family*

Thursday, January 8

7:30 am Joseph Ochala *Family*

Friday, January 9

7:30 am Parishioners of St. Alphonsus

Saturday, January 10

5:00 pm Charlotte Sud *Family*
Dennis Ganski— *Ganski Family*

Sunday, January 11

7:30 am Ann Lindauer *Rita Lindauer*
Carol Pakeltis *Family*
9:00 am Parishioners of St. Alphonsus
11:00 am Blessings for the Fairclough *Family*

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22 4:6; Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk 6:45-52
 Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19 5:4; Ps 72: 1-2, 14, 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22a
 Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16
 Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 3:22-30
 Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd-6; Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9; Mk 1:7-11

PLEASE NOTE : The 2015 Mass book is open

PLEASE NOTE : If you are celebrating a special occasion, wedding anniversary, etc. and request a blessing or renewal of vows, arrangements must be made in advance by calling the Parish Office, 630-257 2414. The blessings and/or renewal of vows, will take place after the Mass.

Liturgical Ministers Schedule

Date	Time	Lector	Ministers	Servers	Music
Jan. 10	5:00 pm	P. Josephitis	D. Josephitis G. Smith B. Israel	Meeks Family	Bell Choir
Jan. 11	*7:30 am	R. Kaiser	G. Kaiser C. Kuhlman P. Malak G. Umentum (C) J. Sternat (C)	Pontrelli Family	
	9:00 am	J. Latz	C. Levas D. Dabney J. Pickering	C. Calhoun S. Kerfin B. Pickering-training	Keyboard & Cantor,
	11:00 am	B. McGuire	M. McGuire K. Gory E. Bruno	S. O Hara A. Ward	Parish Choir
	5:00 pm Lemont Tri- Parish Mass at St. Pat s	* Communion under both species			

Gather Hymnal

Glendalough Mass

Gloria #261
 Gospel
 Acclamation #262
 Holy, Holy #263
 Memorial
 Acclamation #265(B)
 Great Amen #267
 Lamb of God #269

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