

ST. ALPHONSUS CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Est. 1867

St. Alphonsus Catholic Church

210 E. Logan, Lemont

Parish Office Center 630-257-2414
Fax 630-257-2476
Religious Ed. Office 630-257-2371
School Office 630-783-2220
20W145 Davey Road

Website: www.st-als.org
E-mail: stals-lemont@comcast.net

Business Hours:

Monday thru Friday: 8 am - 4 pm

Mass Schedule

Weekend Schedule

Saturday: 5:00 pm Vigil Mass

Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:00 am and 11:00 am

Weekday Schedule

Monday-Friday 7:30 am in the chapel

Holy Days to be announced

Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday—8:00 am—8:00 pm, chapel

Sacramental Life

Reconciliation

Saturday—4:00 to 4:30 pm

Or by appointment

Baptism

Baptisms are usually celebrated the second
and third Sunday of every month.

No Baptisms during Lent

Marriage

Prospective bride and groom must be
registered parishioners for at least 6 months
before a wedding date may be scheduled

Sick and Homebound

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

**St. Alphonus
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

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

Sharon Kostas

Terese Turner

James Zuccarelli

From Father Brian's Desk

Celebration of First Eucharist

Last weekend, the 2nd Graders from St. Alphonus/St. Patrick Catholic School and St. Alphonus Religious Education received the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the very first time! Although the weather outside was cold and rainy, we had two beautiful first Eucharist liturgies inside St. Alphonus Church.

I would like to thank our teachers, catechists, Worship Committee members, musicians and choir members for their dedication and patience making the celebration so exceptional. I would also like to congratulate 2nd Graders and their families as they continue to grow on their journey of faith. May God bless you in everything you do!

Presenting our Gifts

A couple of weeks ago, my young nieces had some exciting news for me they were able to bring up the bread and wine *Presenting the Gifts* at their church. They mentioned to me that it was so awesome to bring up the gifts at Mass. They were able to do so because their pastor recently encouraged parishioners to bring the church office to bring up the gifts during the weekend Masses.

I would also like to encourage parishioners of St. Alphonus Church to present the gifts at weekend liturgies. It is a great opportunity for those who are celebrating an anniversary, birthday or memorial of a loved one to offer gifts at Mass. If you would like to present gifts at a weekend Mass, please contact the Parish Office at (630) 257-2414 and speak with Roseann for more information.

Our New School Playground

On the weekend of April 18th & 19th, a number of volunteers dedicated their time and energy to building a new playground at St. Alphonus/St. Patrick School. Through the generosity of our school families and the many donations to the Brent Ludwig Memorial Fund, we were able to raise enough money to put in a beautiful playground for our younger students.

I was able to stop by for a few minutes on Saturday and I witnessed everybody present giving all their help in making the playground a welcoming environment. I would like to thank everyone who donated funds or worked during that weekend to make our playground a special place. I believe our young students will have a wonderful time enjoying their new space to play!

Welcome Guests and Visitors We re so glad that you re 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

Hearing Jesus' words, I am the vine, you are the branches, comforting at first. But then comes and my Father is the vine grower (John 15:1). The task of the vine grower and pruning can be tricky. The danger is cutting the main vine and not the branches, or cutting the branches that carry this year's fruit and not the old ones from last year. But Jesus tells us that it is the Father who is out there pruning with his shears, not some hired hand. He is cutting away the dead wood, and cutting back branches so they bear even more fruit.

Nevertheless, you might think, who wants to be pruned? Who wants God snipping away? It's hard to be pruned. There is a dying in that. But that is the ongoing story of Easter: dying and rising, pruning and bearing fruit. God is there pruning us to bring out life, to make us life givers. The Father continues snipping away, separating us from our selfishness, our self-centeredness, these things we hold on to that do not give us life: resentments, old grievances, desires for getting even.

God is about life, committed to an abundance of life, not just for today but eternal life. That's the divine plan. Are we part of it?

James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R.
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Living God's Word

Jesus tells us: "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you" (John 15:7). Which words of his are calling you to life?

Ask him to help you to trust in the Father and surrender to what the Father wills for you.

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Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.

— 1 John 3:18

BEARING FRUIT

Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth. John's Gospel comes to us on this day when the passage presents us with the great image of the vine and the branches. Jesus uses the image as a warning to those who have begun to distance themselves from the Lord. One of the ways this happens is when we love God in word or speech instead of in deed and truth. What does it mean to remain in Christ? In an extension of the metaphor, the Lord gives us strength if we remain in him, we will bear much fruit. As the branches draw strength from Christ who is the vine. This strength enables us to bear the fruit of the work of true discipleship.

Religious Education Update

THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL CATECHISTS!

I can't say enough for the parents, other adults, and teens who give themselves over the course of 8 months to make a difference in the lives of our young people. We deeply appreciate this great group of people.

Lead Catechists Kandi Sasak, Rosemary Chis, Geri Yanku, Sr Jimene Alviani, Brian Storako, Keri Storako, Debbie Rangel, Lisa Ferguson, Karin Gory, John Gory, Diane Kaye, Judy Techman, Vivian Brueckmann, Lisa Dian, Carl Nenn, Tonia Tomas, Diana Styrzczula, Scott Hurley, Donna Bourdage, Patrice Loisi, Lynn Houser, Nathan Schmidt, Stacey Schmidt, Brent Predovich, Michael Bielski, Laura Webb, and Dave Gorski.

Catechist Aides Carolyn Cesarz, Dana Lepczynski, Nick Yanku, Darlene Brady, CJ Hunter, Carlene Seago, Raychel Techman, Austin Maple, Stevie Brackett, Gig Calzaretta, Beth Kelly, Hurley, Suzanne Smiles, Kathleen Shaw, Chris Ihde, Erin Houser, Jerry Radomski, Debbie Gilman, and Paul Schobert.

VACATION BIBLE CAMP

Contact the RE Office if you are interested in being part of the team. We will have a team meeting this week.

REGISTRATION FOR 2015-2016

Registration forms were distributed last week. Contact the RE Office if you need a form. New family registration has now begun. Contact the RE Office to set an appointment to register.

2015-16 CONFIRMATION PARENT MEETING

Tuesday, May 5th

7:00 P.M. ~ Church Hall

Parents will receive handbooks & information on the preparation program, including what should be done over the summer months. This meeting is for parents only. There will be a Candidate-Sponsor meeting in September.

7th GRADE FOOD DRIVE

Last Sunday, our 7th Graders loaded up all of the goods they had collected for the Lemont Food Pantries over the last month, and delivered it to the pantry at United Methodist

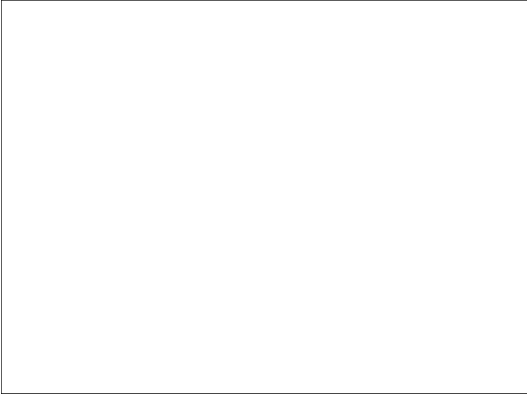
where the pastor explained how the food pantry works, and how someone their age can help out.

FIRST COMMUNION

On the cold rainy Saturday, Fr. Brian celebrated a main-splattered participants that such weather brings good luck to celebrations like our First Communion. It definitely didn't dampen people's spirits at our 2 Masses. Thank you to Vivian Brueckmann, Rosaline, Teri Lercht, PaLoisi, Chris Ihde, Dana Lepczynski, and Austin Maple for helping parents to prepare their children for this special moment. Thanks to the practices held by Doreen Dabney, Paul Mark, Sharon Kostas; the ceremonies went very smoothly. We rejoice at a new group of young people who are now available at the Eucharistic Table!

St. Alphonsus-St. Patrick School News

Check out our website www.stals-stpats.org



YEAH!! WE HAVE A NEW PLAYGROUND

Our new playground was installed this past weekend. I think it was wonderful experience for everyone. Our students are so fortunate!

The project for a new playground was initiated by our Family School Association. Knowing the FSA had a savings that could go toward the adventure, Julie Malone and Sandra (FSA) shared their proposal with Fr. Brian, Fr. Kurt and myself in early fall. At that time FSA did not have sufficient funds to pay the entire cost of the playground. It decided that FSA would continue making plans for the project and use dollars collected at the GALA fund an item.

In the meantime Mr. Mike Bruno and Mr. Bob Parry (husband of teacher) were talking and Mike shared with Bob the school's plan for a new playground. From that conversation came a desire from the Parrys and their daughter Dana, to help fund this project. (In August, Dana suffered the loss of her husband, Brent, in a hiking accident. Both Dana and Brent loved the outdoors hiking, biking, etc. In tribute to Brent, Dana decided to donate funds to our playground project. (Brent, being an architect was creating a playground in a nearby park.) Donations flowed in from Dana and Brent's families and friends. They donated \$26,000 to this project. The dollars from this collection, fund an item monies of \$16,000 from FSA and donations from several individuals and companies allowed us to continue with our installation of the playground at this time.

Last weekend a memorable event unfolded. Dana, the Parry families and many of their friends, parents of our school children and teachers came out to help in the playground. Seeing the creation of this project come into being was incredible; so many people pulling together to create a wonderful playground for our students. This project involved hundreds of nuts, bolts and screws and many wheelbarrows full of mulch being carted from the back parking lot to the playground area. Anyone who came on Saturday and Sunday was put to work. The building of the playground not only provided a play area for our students but brought people together and afforded us an opportunity to know Dana, as well as Dana and Brent's families and friends, and for our parents to create new friendships with other school families that perhaps they never would have met.

We are extremely grateful to all who were a part of this success. On Tuesday, when I was showing the students the playground and explaining what each component did, the students were saying thank you. A little one even gave me a huge hug and said, Thank you for doing this for us. (It was a stand in for that hug. The hug and statement were really for all who took part in this adventure for our students.) More thank you's and pictures will be in next week's newsletter. Below is a message from Dana and Bob and Mona Parry.



We are most grateful! Students, parents, faculty and staff of St. Alphonsus/St. Patrick School

Ms. Renee Payne, Principal

Archdiocese of Chicago

Archbishop Quigley Center
835 North Rush Street * Chicago, IL 60611-2030* 312-534-8230
ARCHBISHOP@ARCHCHICAGO.ORG

May 2015

Dear Friends in Christ,\

Office of the Archbishop

Catholic Charities is the Church's way of responding to Jesus' resounding call to love one another, ensuring that help and hope are brought to those who are the least in our midst. On Mother's Day, we will each have an opportunity to be a part of Catholic Charities' Gospel mission to love and serve the poor through our donations to the Catholic Charities Mother's Day Collection.

This year on Mother's Day, we hear Jesus' command to love our mother as I love you (John 15:9-17). This Gospel reading is particularly fitting on Mother's Day because it is through the unconditional love of our mothers and other special women in our lives that we begin to understand God's love for us, and how we are to share this love with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

With 153 programs at more than 161 locations throughout Cook and DuPage Counties, Catholic Charities serves poor and vulnerable people of all ages, races, religions, and economic backgrounds. Our gifts to the Mother's Day Collection will help people overcome the challenges of poverty, hunger, homelessness, joblessness, abuse, and aging. Families, vulnerable children, courageous veterans, and frail seniors rely on Catholic Charities for food, clothing, shelter, and other services.

Mother's Day is the one day set aside for Catholic Charities to request the financial support of each of us. Please show your support for Catholic Charities during this collection, or make your donations directly to Catholic Charities at 721 North LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois, 60654, or catholiccharities.net/donate.

It is my great hope that we can all come together this Day to share the love of Christ with our brothers and sisters who desperately need our help. Many thanks for a gift to Catholic Charities. During these final weeks of the Easter Season, you have my prayers for God's abundant blessings for you and your families.

Sincerely yours in Christ

Most Reverend Blas J. Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago

Catholic Charities
Mother's Day Collection
Saturday & Sunday ~ May 9th & 10th
Women & Children
FIRST

A second collection will be taken up at all the Masses next weekend.

SAINT ALPHONSUS

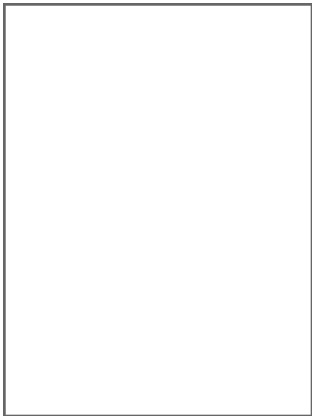
*Journey of Faith:
Birth, Baptism, Belonging*

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 Seminar dates for 2015 are: May 9, 11, September 12, November 7.

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.

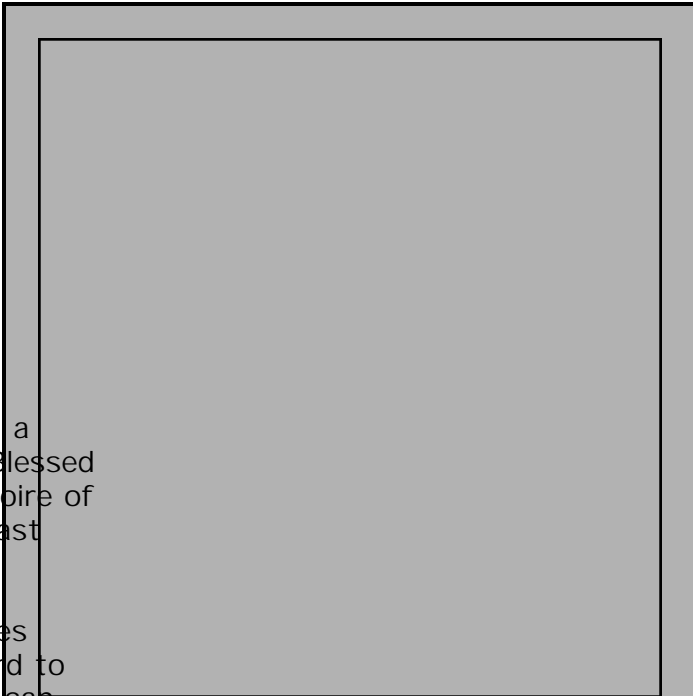


**A
CELEBRATION
OF
MARY
IN SONG**

On Sunday, May 17th at 4:00 PM, the St. Alphonsus Music Ministry will conclude the choir season with a

beautiful program of songs and reflections of the Blessed Mother. The music is taken from the choir's repertoire of songs they have sung and come to love over the past several years.

The musical program will be woven around messages received by the visionaries of Medugorje with regard to the Glorious Mysteries of the rosary. We hope you can join us as we sing and crown Our Lady, Mother of all.



Bishop Kane will give a Special Blessing to all Mothers, including those awaiting the birth of a child, and their unborn children!

All are Welcome!

All expectant Mothers will receive a silk rose and St. Gerard Prayer Card & Medal as a keepsake. St. Gerard is the Patron Saint of Expectant mothers.

Sponsored by the Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of Chicago. For more information, call 312-534-5355.

Mother's Day Cards. . . .

Sunday, May 10th is Mother's Day. Spiritual bouquet cards for Mother's Day are available this weekend, May 2 & 3, at the rear of the church. All mothers, living and deceased, will be remembered during all masses on Mother's Day weekend. Each card comes with an envelope for the card and an envelope to list your intention (mother's name). Please fill out the envelope, place your contribution inside and return the envelope in the collection basket or drop it off at the Office Center by May 8th.

KNOWLEDGE AND PRAYER SERIES

MAY 13

DEFENDING RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Why the big fuss about Religious Liberty? Why is it so important? How will it impact your life, your faith, your church, your pastor? Get the full story as well as a legislative update from Jocelyn Floyd, J.D. from the Thomas More Society

Wednesday, May 13 @ 7:00 PM at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 15050 S. Wolf Rd., Orland Park, IL

Thank you for your continued support of our local food pantry. As part of a service project, the St. 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 most. April we will collect breakfast items, cereal, granola, pancake mix etc. 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.

Bethany Lutheran Church
500 Lemont Street, Lemont

April 23, 2015

Dear St. Alphonsus Parishioners,

Thank you for the bountiful donation of food to the Open Pantry at Bethany Lutheran Church.

Your gift helps us to replenish the pantry so that our clients can select the items they need from the shelves. Your generosity ensures that families can place food on their tables and that we may continue to assist our neighbors in need.

Thank you for remembering the families of the Open Pantry.

Bethany Open Pantry Committee



CHILDREN'S CHOIR REMINDER

The Children's Choir will be singing at the 5:00 pm Mass next Saturday, May 9th. This will be a special presentation for Mother's Day and will also include the Bell choir. Rehearsal will take place at 3:15 pm in the RE building prior to the Mass. This will conclude the season for the Children's Choir. If you have any questions, please call Mr. Martorano at 708-828-5095.

On Sunday, May 17th, at the 9:00 am Mass representatives from GIA Music Publications will be filming a short documentary on our Parish's use of the Gather Hymnal.



Lemont Pro-Life Ministry

Annual Mother's Day Flower Sale

Saturday, May 9th Sunday May 10th

Flowers are a Mother's favorite!
On Mother's Day weekend, beautiful bouquets of fresh flowers will be sold after all Masses. Proceeds go to help support the life-saving work of The Women's Center of Greater Chicagoland.

April 23, 2015

The Open Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass will be held on Sunday, August 30, 2015, at 2:45 pm at Holy Name Cathedral, 735 North State Street, Chicago. Couples married in 1965 interested in attending this celebration should contact the Parish Office at 630-257-2414 by May 15th to register.

For further information, call the Marriage and Family Ministries Office at 312-534-8351 or visit the website www.marriageandfamilyministries.org

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

“A Time to be Born through Baptism” —

“A Time to Love in Holy Matrimony” — Congratulations to:

“A Time to Heal” —

Joetta Karlos	Francis Rittenhouse	Dorothy Goushas	Melanie Williams	Patricia Dedek
Nora McDonnell	Baby Kenneth	Harriet Bromberek	Karl Knasiak	Sue Dyer
Mary Tadda	Bill Sullivan	Robert Trock	Tina Ruiz	Jim Musial
Baby Jordan	Greg Hoger	Keith Donofrio	Ashley Smith Kitzer	Jeff Freeman
Skrobot	Mary Tomy	Bonnie Posey	Randy Nowak	Carson Lee Umentum
Nathan Parry	Roger B.	Ken Convalle	Dan Herzing	Marilyn Ransford
		William Bellair	Lauren Mandel	Gene Bozych

“A Time of War” —

Scott Bosco, USA, Kuwait	Joshua Plucinski, US Air Force,	Jason Fricka, USAF, Germany
Christopher Durkovic, USA, S. Korea		Andrew Bosko, Jr., USN,
Stanley M. Simrayh III, USN, Japan	David Borkowski, USN, Mississippi	Virginia Beach, VA
Alex Sullivan, USA, Italy	Joseph R. Pociask, USMC, San Diego	And all who serve our country.
Kevin Parker, USA, Fort Campbell	Jacob Christine, US Navy, Guatemala	

“A Time to Die” —

The military and innocent civilians who have died in the war.

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



Weekly Offering

April 25 & 26, 2015

Week's Need	\$12,869.00
Sunday's Collection	\$ 8,183.91
Electronic Fund (EFT)	\$ 1,067.13
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$ 3,617.96)
Fiscal Year to Date	
Surplus (Deficit)	\$18,933.72
Last Year's weekly	
Collection	\$ 7,451.00

Thank you for your support of our parish.

THE PARISH DIRECTORY IS HERE!!

If you were photographed for the directory, please pick up your copy at the Parish Office.

LOOPS OF LOVE MEETING

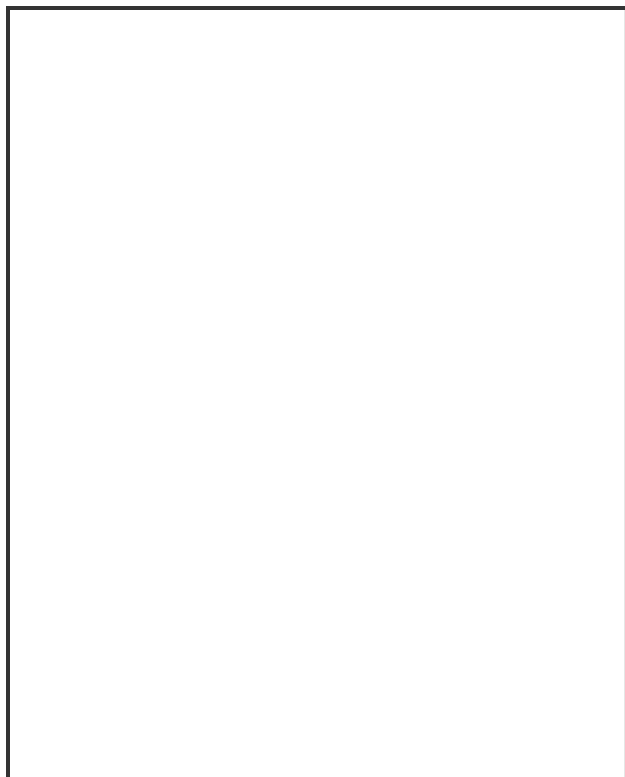
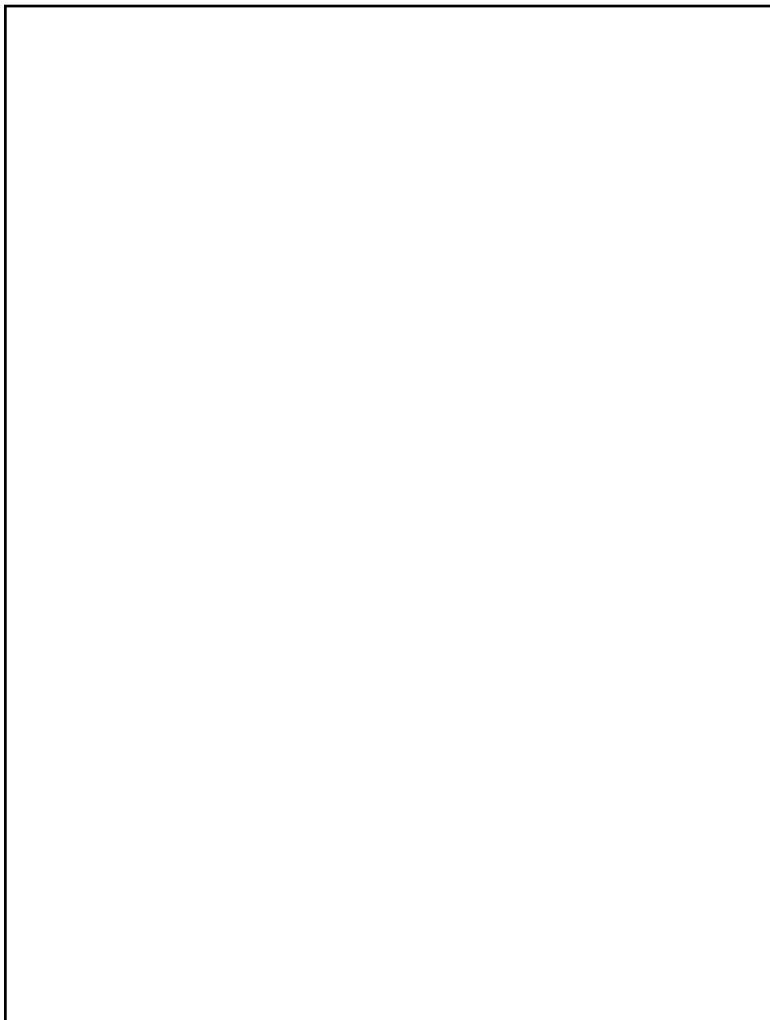


Remember that the Knit and Crochet Group meets the first Wednesday of each month at Nancy Zuccarelli's house at 1350 Overton Drive in Lemont. If you have not joined us before-no problem-come just the same. If you have joined us before or are a regular, we look forward to seeing you on May 6th at 7:00

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 and supporting those who are ill. Please don't feel it is a bother to inform us.



You are important to us.



Mass Intentions

Saturday, May 2
 5:00 pm James Hadley, Jr *Family*
 Bernie Kucharski *Mary Kucharski*
 Edward A. Perkey, Sr. *Betty Israel*
 Marie Gancarz *Family*

Sunday, May 3
 7:30 am Parishioners of St. Alphonsus
 9:00 am Mildred & Orville Tessuto *Lynn Eldred*
 Philomena Padalik *Padalik Family*
 Blessings for the Fairclough Family *Friend*
 11:00 am Lorraine Daukus *Mike & Debby Mikus*
 Philip Dupont *Smith Family*
 Stanley Sapyta *Ted & Carol Bernaski*

5:00 pm Parishioners of St. Alphonsus
 (Mass at St. Patrick Church)

Monday, May 4
 7:30 am Michael Marusarz *Family*

Tuesday, May 5
 7:30 am Patricia A. Goode *Tony Goode*

Wednesday, May 6
 7:30 am Marion Lynch *Pat Browne*

Thursday, May 7
 7:30 am Frank E. Lesniewski *Florence McGury*

Friday, May 8
 7:30 am Janice Macfarlane *Florence McGury*
 Sam Israel *Betty Israel*

Saturday, May 9
 5:00 pm All Living & Deceased Mothers of St. Alphonsus
 Sunday, May 10
 7:30 am All Living & Deceased Mothers of St. Alphonsus
 9:00 am All Living & Deceased Mothers of St. Alphonsus
 11:00 am All Living & Deceased Mothers of St. Alphonsus
 5:00 pm All Living & Deceased Mothers of St. Alphonsus
 (Mass at St. Patrick Church)

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 14:5-18; Ps 115:1-4, 15-16; Jn 14:21-26
 Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28; Ps 145:10-13ab, 21; Jn 14:27-31a
 Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6; Ps 122:1-5; Jn 15:1-8
 Thursday: Acts 15:7-21; Ps 96:1-3, 10; Jn 15:9-11
 Friday: Acts 15:22-31; Ps 57:8-10, 12; Jn 15:12-17
 Saturday: Acts 16:1-10; Ps 100:1b-3, 5; Jn 15:18-21
 Sunday: Acts 10:25-36, 34-35, 44-48; Ps 98:1-4; 1 Jn 4:7-10 or 1 Jn 4:11-16; Jn 15:9-17 or Jn 17:11b-19

Liturgical Ministers Schedule

Date	Time	Lector	Ministers	Servers	Music	Gather Hymnal
May 9	*5:00 pm	L. Jankowski	C. Levas B. Rogers J. Pickering D. Jospehitis (C) A. Pascente (C)	Pickering Family	Bell Choir & Children s Choir	Mass Of Angels & Saints
May 10	7:30 am	B. Betley	D. Betley R. Meyer P. Malak	Wollenberg Family A. Kaye		Holy, Holy #375
	9:00 am	G. Klaff	D. Rittenhouse G. Rittenhouse A. Padalik	Meeks Family J. Klaff	Keyboard & Cantor	Memorial Acclamation #376
	11:00 am	J. Chiaramonte	D. Chiaramonte D. Dabney C. Levas	A. Ascolani E. Todner A. Fidanzo	Parish Choir	Great Amen #377
	5:00 pm Lemont Tri-Parish Mass at St. Pat s					Lamb of God #388

* Communion under both species

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