

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. 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

Tri-Parish Associate Pastor

Fr. Tom Hoffman

Resident

Fr. Robert Rohrich

Weekend Celebrant

Fr. Lou Zake

Diaconal Ministry:

Deacon Terry McGuire

Deacon Dan Rittenhouse

Director of Religious Education

Kevin Cody

Admin. Assistant for Religious Ed.

Melanie Terrazas

School Principal:

Renee Payne

Pastoral Associate:

Linda O Connor

Office Coordinator:

Roseann Lucas

Accountant:

Carol Levas

Music Director

Joseph Martorano

Music Staff

Diane Marelli

SPRED: Carol Levas

Parish Pastoral

Council Members

Mike Bruno

Bill Doherty

Diane Kaye

Deborah Kornacker

Sharon Kostas

Roy Tam

Terese Turner

James Zuccarelli

From Father Brian's Desk

Winter Schedule for Saturday Evening Mass

Two months ago, we turned our backs as we entered the winter season. Obviously, daylight seems shorter and the nights seem longer. For the last few years a number of parishioners have requested, for safety reasons, if we would possibly consider an earlier Mass for Saturday evenings so people could arrive at the church while there is still daylight.

After consulting with our St. Alphonsus Pastoral Staff and a number of parishioners who attend Mass on Saturdays, it has been decided that we will offer a "Winter Saturday Mass Schedule" beginning January 9th, 2016. St. Alphonsus Church Saturday Evening Mass will change from 5:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Confessions will take place at 3:00 p.m.

The Saturday 4:00 p.m. Mass will remain in effect until the beginning of June. We will then return to celebrating Mass on Saturday at 5:00 p.m. for the summer & fall months. Thank you for your cooperation. We believe that, by offering this Winter Schedule, we are providing assistance to those attend our Saturday evening Mass.

Holy Family

The **Feast of the Holy Family**, which is celebrated on the first weekend after Christmas, is a wonderful symbol of what Jesus, Mary and Joseph embodied: commitment, generosity and love. We have lived during the Christmas season to recognize how important our relationships with our families, neighbors and friends.

Just like the Holy Family, we all face some obstacles in life, but that doesn't mean we have to immediately surrender or stop what we are doing. It is our support for each other, understanding the power of forgiveness in our sharing our faith with others, that will allow us to continue on our journey. Let us try to realize that our celebration of our faith doesn't end with Christmas alive all year long through our relationships with our friends and families!

On the Feast of the Holy Family is a beautiful prayer from the **World Meeting of Families** with Pope Francis that occurred in Philadelphia this year:

**God and Father of us all,
in Jesus, your Son and our Savior,
you have made us your sons and daughters
in the family of the Church.**

**May your grace and love
help our families in every part of the world
be united to one another in fidelity to the Gospel.**

**May the example of the Holy Family,
with the aid of your Holy Spirit,
guide all families, especially those most troubled,
to be homes of communion and prayer
and to always seek your truth and live in your love.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Welcome Guests and Visitors. We are so glad that you are here and invite you to join us in thanksgiving for God's action 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

One of the all-time great Christmas movies *Wonderful Life!* The classic scene is the final one. The townspeople are gathering in George Bailey's living room. They are pouring into a table, all with the intention of rescuing George from financial ruin. It's not long before George's brother enters the picture. Having heard of the hard times George had been going through, he secured a leave from any, the pilot a plane, and flew all day and night to make it to Bedford Falls. He wanted to be of help. Seeing the pile of money, he raises his glass and toasts his brother, the richest man in the world!

George Bailey was rich, all right, but not because he was loaded with money. He was rich because he had family and friends who loved him and cared for him. There's much to be said for the benefits and blessings of

—Rev. Richard Zajac
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Living God's Word

*The feast of the Holy Family gives us pause to ponder the phenomenon of family.
If we can duplicate the love Mary and Joseph and Jesus had for each other,
there's no telling what the positive and rich effects might be.*

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*Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be
has not yet been revealed.*

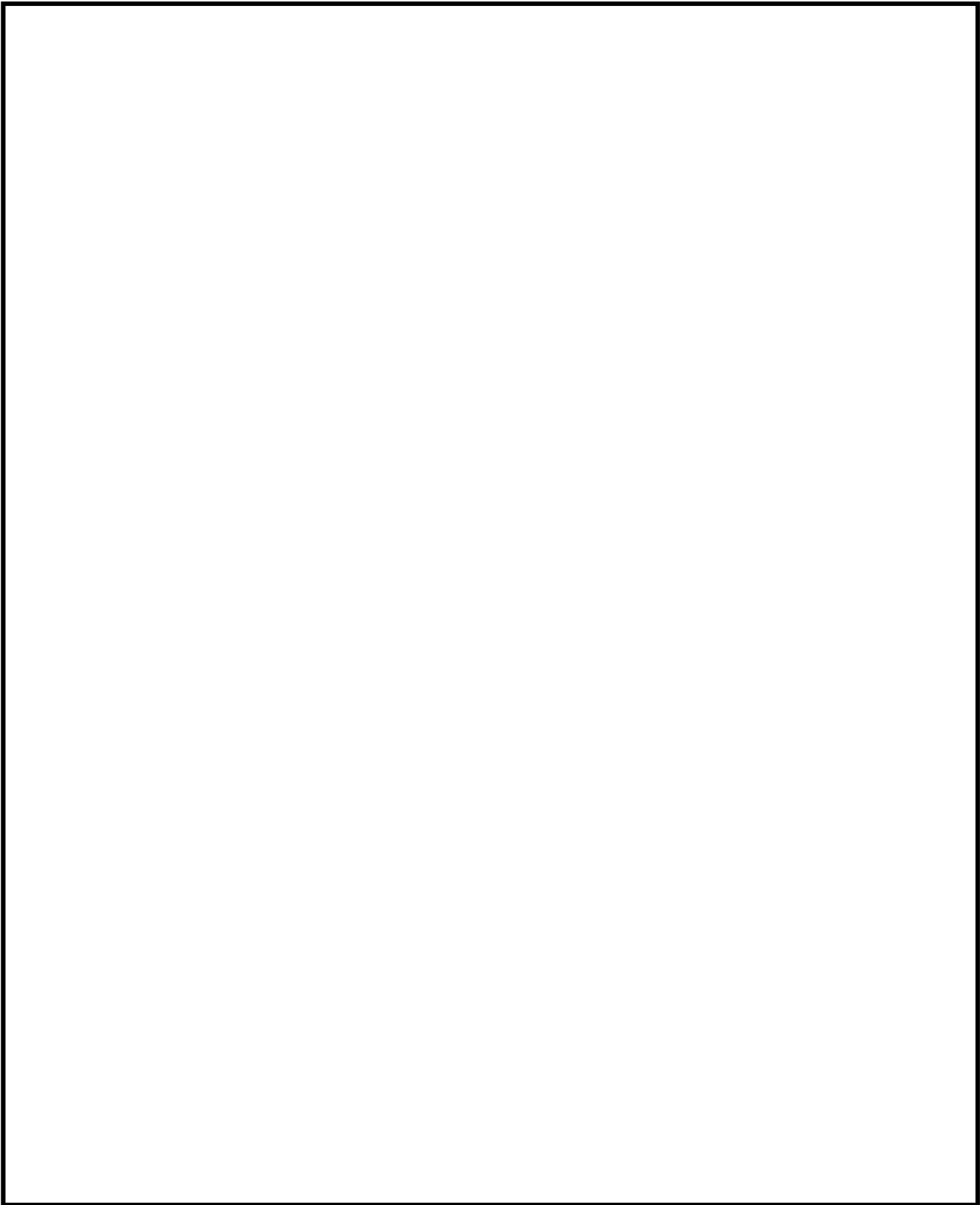
1 John 3:2a

FAMILY LIFE

Family life is sacred, but it is not without trial. Perhaps this is the most important message we can glean from today's readings. If Jesus, Mary, and Joseph can trip up sometimes can disconnect then we shouldn't find it surprising when such things happen to us. As parents everywhere (children, too) can probably relate to and take solace in the Gospel's account of Mary and Joseph after Jesus explained he stayed behind in the temple. They heard his words, Luke tells us, "But they did not understand what he said to them" (Luke 2:50). Amen! Nevertheless, Jesus does go back home with them, and continues to thrive under their care.

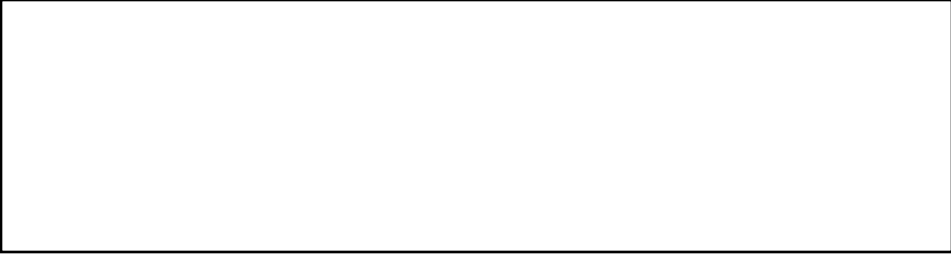
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Religious Education Update

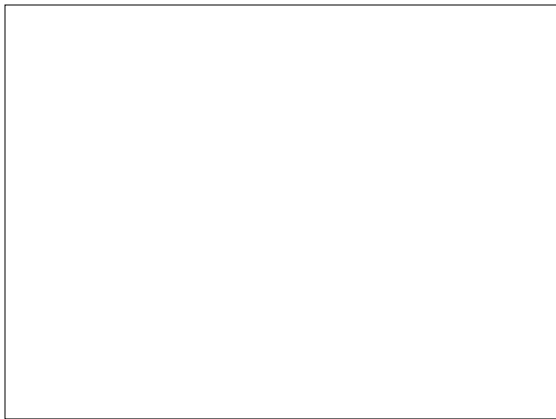


St. Alphonsus-St. Patrick School News

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



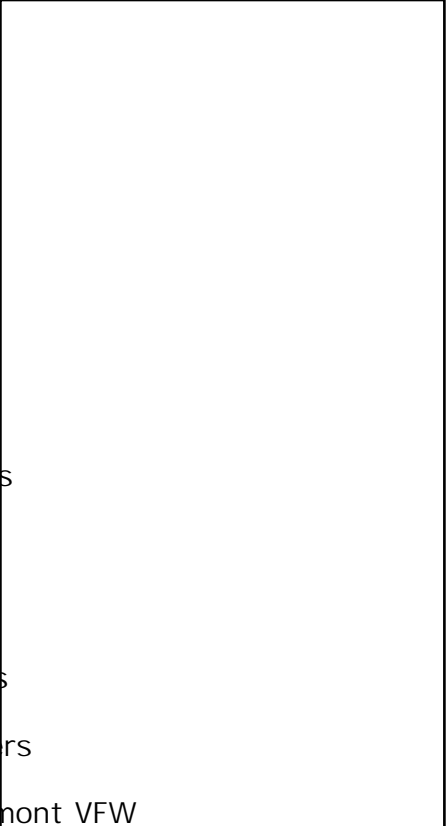
Patriot's Pen Essay Contest Winners 2015



St. Alphonsus/St. Patrick School students in Mrs. Bruno's sixth, seventh and eighth-grade English classes recently took part in the Patriot's Pen essay writing contest sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). This year's theme was, "What Freedom Means to Me." From out of over 300 entries, 16 local winners were chosen - six of whom

were our students! These talented writers were honored at the Lemont VFW Honor 22 Post 5819 on Sunday, December 6th. These students' essays will be submitted to represent our area in the competition, and hopefully be chosen from there to represent us in the regional and state competitions. The essays were judged on knowledge of the theme, development, and clarity of ideas.

Our award-winning writers this year include sixth graders Ryan S. and Matthew Z., seventh graders Jack M. and Abbie G., and eighth graders Billy D. and Kyle K. We are very proud of these students and their eloquent ability to express their admiration for country and its liberties. We congratulate them and wish them luck as they progress in the competition. We thank Lemont's VFW for its continued work in our community to support our youth!



Open House
January 13th
9:30 am - 11:30 am
20W145 Davey Road
Lemont 60439

ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH SCHEDULE OF SERVICES CHRISTMAS SEASON, 2015

TRI PARISH NEW YEAR S MASS SCHEDULE

NEW YEAR S EVE ~ T HURSDAY , DECEMBER 31st

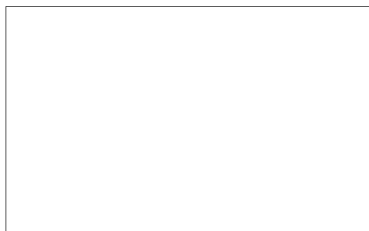
5:00PM Vigil Mass at St. Alphonsus

NEW YEAR S DAY ~ F RIDAY , JANUARY 1st

9:00AM Mass at St. Patrick

10:30AM Mass at Ss. Cyril & Methodius

Noon Mass at Ss. Cyril & Methodius



Parish offices will be closed Friday, January 1st through Sunday, January 3rd.

We will reopen on Monday, January 4th.

SAINT ALPHONSUS

*Journey of Faith:
Birth, Baptism, Belonging*

BAPTISM SEMINAR

If you are expecting a baby, family and friends have decorated you with gifts and you have no doubt furnished and decorated a nursery. In the same way your Catholic child, through the sacrament of Baptism, welcomes and of 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 2016 are January 9th, March 12th, May 7th, July 9th, September 10th and November 12th.

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

**Jubilee Year of Mercy
 December 27, 2015
 Feast of the Holy Family of
 Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**

Imagine: three New Year's celebrations in little over a month! In late November, Advent began the new liturgical year; December 8, the Jubilee Year of Mercy; this coming Friday, the New Year 2016. In today's Gospel, three days of anguish, Mary tells Jesus how desperately she and Joseph have been searching for him. Mary could be speaking for the whole human race. With persecutions raging, international and domestic conflicts seething, our families suffering various difficulties, not to mention our own personal problems, how much our world needs Jesus as our New Year veiled in mystery begins! As we pray for God's mercy to enfold our world and embrace each of us in 2016, let your New Year resolution be to live the Jubilee Year of Mercy by being for others, as a channel of God's mercy and an instrument of Christ's peace.

Peter Scagnelli, Copyright ' J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR ST. PATRICK'S SPRED GROUP 6-10

St. Patrick's Parish has open enrollment SPRED Program for special needs children ages 6-10.

SPRED is a program of religious education specifically designed to meet the spiritual needs of persons with developmental disabilities. Through the program, participants form a SPRED community of faith and experience of friendships on a one-to-one relationship. Participants and friends are better able to celebrate the sacraments and enter into the worshipping experience of the whole Church.

SPRED Community Sessions are scheduled to begin in 2016 and will be held every other Thursday from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Community Sessions will be held at St. Pat's ministry building located on Cass Street adjacent to St. Patrick's Church (200 East Illinois Street, Lemont, Illinois).

Anyone interested in enrolling their child in St. Patrick's SPRED program may contact the parish office at 630-257-6100.

Widowed?

Finding Holidays difficult?
 at Joyful Again Widowed Ministry
 we understand.

Workshop/retreat for the widowed
 January 16 & 17, 2016
 Our Lady of the Angels, Lemont
 Ph: 708-354-7211 to register
www.joyfulagain.org view video

**Religious Freedom and
 Sanctity of Life**

Join us every Wednesday at 3:00pm at St. Alphonsus Chapel to pray the Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy for both of the above. We are living in trying times so we must all try to do the most we can to protect our freedom and support life from conception to natural death. What is a better way to do it than to pray and then let God.

THE NAME FOR GOD

Mother is the name for God on the lips and in the hearts of little children.

William Makepeace Thackeray

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. For January we will collect personal toiletries such as toothpaste, shampoo, soap, deodorant 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

December 20

Dear St. Alphonsus Parishioners

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

Your generosity allows us to replenish the pantry so that our clients can prepare meals for their families. We are grateful for your compassion for those in our community who need a helping hand.

Thank you for your continued support of the Open Pantry.

Bethany Open Pantry Committee



**St. Alphonsus Women's Club
Annual Christmas Dance 2016
Dance! Dance! Dance!**

**Saturday, January 9, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.
In the Church Hall**

\$25.00 per person

(21 years and older are invited to attend)

Price includes dinner, dessert, beverages, DJ and dance instructions.

We will be revisiting some dances we've learned in previous years with an emphasis on Salsa and Swing dancing.

Feel free to dress up for the night or dress comfortably.

It's going to be a SWINGING great time!

Questions? Please contact Beth Burke @ 630-673-5457

Yes! I am coming for a fun evening of food, fun and dancing!

Please fill out this form and return it along with the amount due to the Church office to the attention of **Beth Burke** by **Monday, January 4, 2016.**

We will have open seating for dinner.

Name	No. attending @ \$25.00 per person	Amount Due
		\$
Phone		
Email		

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

“A Time to be Born through Baptism” — Julia Miriam daughter of Michael & Leah Bielski

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

“A Time to Heal” —

Joetta Karlos	Patty Baldrige	Dorothy Goushas	Melanie Williams	Patricia Dedek
Nora McDonnell	Baby Kenneth	Robert Trock	Karl Knasiak	Jim Musial
Mary Tadda	Bill Sullivan	Bonnie Posey	Tina Ruiz	Carson Lee Umentum
Nathan Parry	Greg Hoger	Ken Convalle	Ashley Smith Kitzer	Marilyn Ransford
Ray DeNardis	Kandice Marie Sasa	Linda Heeg	Randy Nowak	David Nenn
Donna Murphy	John Cacciato	Annamarie	Dan Herzing	Jim Kulikauskas
		Challenger	Mary Woods	Steve Counter

“A Time of War” --

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

“A Time to Die”

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

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

**“A Little Slice of Heaven”
Mount Assisi Alumnae Cookbook**

Over 400 recipes from the Sisters,
teachers, and alumnae.
The perfect gift for yourself
or others
Only \$15.00

Contact Carrie Peters to place your
order,
630-257-84-7844 ext.223
or carriepeters2@sbcglobal.net

**SEMI-RETIRED? RETIRED?
OPEN THE DOORS OF YOUR HEART**

The Ignatian Volunteer Corps may be for You! Members
of this Jesuit service program volunteer in poor and mar-
ginalized communities 2 days per week (September-
June), grow deeper in their Christian faith by reflecting
and praying in the Jesuit Catholic tradition and meet
monthly with other IVC members and a spiritual reflec-
tor. IVC members serve as tutors, employment counsel-
ors, food pantry volunteers, elderly companions, hospital
chaplains and more! Detailed information is online at
Www.ivcusa.org/Chicago.

To inquire, please contact Jacqueline Fitzgerald at
312-961-6206 or jfitzgerald@ivcusa.org

Counseling By Fr. Rohrich

Counseling services are available by Fr. Bob Rohrich at the DePaul Center, 212 Custer. Appointment times on week-
days are: 10 and 11 am and 5, 7, 8 and 9 pm.

Father Bob counsels the engaged and married, as well as individuals with depression, anxiety, grieving, separation, di-
vorce and other personal problems. The \$10.00 donation for each session. Please call, 630-257-9235.

Weekly Offering

December 19 & 20, 2015

Week s Need \$12,869.00

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.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Jn 1:5 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-3

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-1

Friday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28

Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Feast of the Epiphany

7:00 PM 8:00 PM
RE Advisory Brd
(RE)

6:00PM-7:30PM
RE in All Rooms

C Church	CH Church Hall
Chpl - Chapel	OC Office Center
PC Parish Center	RE Religious Ed Bldg.
PC/ABC Parish Ctr, Rm A,B,C	

Mass Intentions

<p>Saturday, December 26 5:00 pm Bernie Kucharski <i>Mary Kucharski</i> Parishioners of St. Alphonsus</p> <p>Sunday, December 27 7:30 am Bob Michalek <i>Don & Barb Betley</i> Margaret Graf <i>Joan Pejsa</i> Timothy Fangman <i>Judy & Tom Culcasi</i></p> <p>9:00 am Harriet Bromberg <i>Don & Nita Bromberg</i> Helen & Joseph McElligott <i>Tim & Pat McElligott & Anne Nolan</i> Mary L. Stanton <i>John P. Stanton, Sr.</i> Ed Perkey, Sr. <i>Rich & Cinda Boyce</i></p> <p>11:00 am Mary & Christopher Wheatley <i>Kathleen Mannix & Family</i> Raymond Hoinacki <i>Pat & Jim Browne</i> Marie Janega <i>Pat & Dave Galen</i> Alena Kaburov <i>Jarmila Batovski</i></p> <p>5:00 pm Parishioners of St. Alphonsus (Mass at St. Patrick Church) Monday, December 28</p> <p>7:30 am Ed Sternat <i>Vody Sternat</i></p> <p>Tuesday, December 29 7:30 am Gloria Dalpos <i>Carol Dalpos</i></p>	<p>Wednesday, December 30 7:30 am Stanley Bromberg <i>Bev & Paul Malak</i> Ernest Dalpos <i>Carol Dalpos</i> John Stephens <i>Bev & Paul Malak</i></p> <p>Thursday, December 31, Vigil Mass for New Year's Day 7:30 am Parishioners of St. Alphonsus 5:00 pm St. Alphonsus Church Parishioners of St. Alphonsus</p> <p>Friday, January 1, New Year's Day No Mass at St. Alphonsus 9:00 am St. Patrick Church 10:30 am Ss. Cyril & Methodius Noon Ss. Cyril & Methodius</p> <p>Saturday, January 2 5:00 pm Robert Welf <i>St. Alphonsus Parish</i></p> <p>Sunday, January 3 7:30 am Bob Kasak <i>Judy Langowski</i> 9:00 am Victor & Thelma Aleck <i>Wanda</i> 11:00 am Parishioners of St. Alphonsus 5:00 pm Parishioners of St. Alphonsus (Mass at St. Patrick Church)</p>
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PLEASE NOTE : The 2016 Mass book is .open

Liturgical Ministers Schedule

Date	Time	Lector	Ministers	Servers	Music	Gather Hymnal Glendalough Mass Gloria #261 Gospel Acclamation #262 Holy, Holy #263 Memorial Acclamation #265(B) Great Amen #267 Lamb of God #269
Dec. 31	5:00 pm	B. Betley	K. Lambrakis S. Kostas D. Betley	Kostas Family	Keyboard & Cantor	
Jan. 2	5:00 pm	P. Josephitis	J. August D. Josephitis B. Rogers	Gorski Family W. Tarazi	Keyboard & Cantor	
Jan. 3	7:30 am	R. Kaiser	G. Kaiser P. Malak D. Betley	Bozue Family		
	*9:00 am	K. Cody	C. Levas M. Roenitz P. Malak M. Bruno (C) C. Cacciato (C)	Meeks Family E. Todner	Parish Choir,	
	11:00 am	J. Chiaramonte	D. Chiaramonte T. Turner D. Creniuk	A., Mierzycki F. Kula	Treble Ensemble	
	5:00 pm	Lemont Tri-Parish Mass at St. Pat s	* Communion under both species			

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