

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: 4:00 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—3:00 to 3:30 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

January 17, 2016
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

**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

A Year of Mercy

The year 2016 has been designated Pope Francis and the Roman Catholic Church as "**Jubilee Year of Mercy**". It is a time in which we try to realize God's mercy in our own lives and, in turn, share His compassion of Jesus Christ towards one another in everything we do. The atmosphere at St. Alphonsus Church has been one that has focused on being merciful and compassionate.

One of the most powerful sacraments of mercy took place this weekend. 2nd Graders from our St. Alphonsus Religious Education Program and St. Alphonsus St. Patrick School participated in the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** for the very first time.

Through expressing their mistakes and receiving a penance and absolution, our young boys and girls promise to make a change in their lives for the future. As they continue on their journey of faith, they will grow in a wonderful way and be prepared to receive the Eucharist the first time in April.

Speaking of the celebration of the Eucharist, St. Alphonsus Church offers an opportunity to receive the Eucharist in a Gluten-free form. If you have a medical condition and would prefer to receive the Eucharist in this form, please approach the Eucharistic Minister on the right side (the Baptismal font side) of the Church.

Now that the weather is turning frigid, it usually marks the beginning of the cold and flu season. If you are sick or think you might be contagious, then it is a perfect opportunity to receive God's mercy and remain at home. Don't forget that you can watch the weekend Mass on TV, "**Sunday Mass at Mercy Home**" on WGN-TV, Channel 9 at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

Let us try to understand that we are called to have a faith that encourages us to be considerate of others and act in a merciful way. By doing so, we can practice our baptismal promises encourage us by loving God and our neighbor. Then we will truly celebrate "**Jubilee Year of Mercy**".

Annual Catholic Appeal

Next week, St. Alphonsus Church will participate in the Annual Catholic Appeal. We will hear a message from Archbishop Cupich about how our generosity helps the various programs in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

This year, the theme of the Appeal is "**The Hands of God's Mercy**". God provides each of us with many gifts and a responsibility not only to recognize these gifts but also to nurture them. As we contemplate His gifts to us, we also reflect on our gratitude for these gifts.

Your financial support for the work of our parish, our Archdiocese of Chicago and the Church throughout the world is, in fact, one way to express this gratitude. If you are able to do so, please give generously to the 2016 Annual Catholic Appeal. When our parish reaches its goal of 79% paid pledges, 100% of the additional funds received will be returned to St. Alphonsus for use in our parish.

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

Do whatever he tells you, is what today's Gospel suggests (John 2:5). Perhaps too pointedly, because it just may turn out that none of what he tells us is what we expect. Be that as it may, life does serve up new wine.

Yet as always the question remains: does anyone know what we are being told to do? How does one read the signs of personal times? A good marker, it would seem, is to pay attention to the gifts. It may not be the only marker, but certainly one not to be ignored. St. Paul writes that our strengths and talents come from the Spirit and that each is given for some benefit. Other talents are given for the common good, which seems to be a better way of putting it, because it broadens our view and from understanding in terms of personal benefit or preference. It may be that the old wine does not quench our personal thirst, but that the new wine is for the common good.

So when the old wine runs out and we are offered the new, we are considering whether we are being called to some new role in life. It may be that life is ratcheting up our participation, calling us to make some new contributions we have not even considered. And we may be surprised. It may enrich the taste of life.

On this day, then, raise a toast to God's new wine. The British say Cheers! The Germans, Prost, Na Zdrowie! In Spain, Salud! And Lithuanians, Sveikas! Believers, well, they say Alleluia! Rev. Joseph J. Juknialis Copyright ' 2012, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.

Living God's Word

It does seem that somewhere along the path of life, the wine runs out for each of us.

We get bored with jobs, or relationships, or maybe just the same four old walls.

We can lament the loss of old wine, or we can open a new bottle, and carry on God's work perhaps in a new way.

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Nations shall behold your vindication, and all the kings your glory.

Isaiah 62:2

SURPRISES

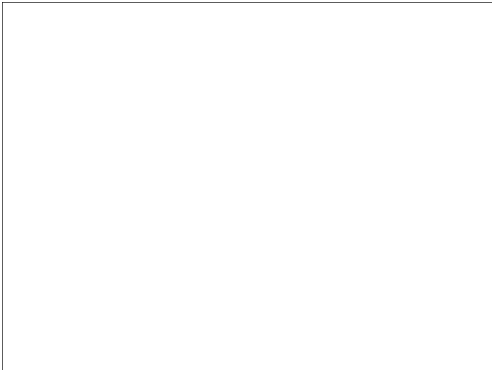
Life is full of surprises, some pleasant, some not. The scriptures are filled with stories of God's surprises cropping up when they are least expected: younger children obtain inheritance; the lowliest being seated highest; itinerant preacher, killed like a criminal, exalted to eternal, heavenly glory.

Anybody who has planned a wedding or similar event knows that they are filled with opportunities for surprises. For the groom in today's Gospel story, who has no direct contact with Jesus, the pleasant surprise came because he had paid attention and had faith in Jesus.

We may think that the point of today's familiar story of the Cana is that when we have faith in Jesus, our lives will be pleasantly changed. A Christian, however, has to broaden perspective and realize that to have faith in Christ means that somebody's life not his or her own will be surprised for the better.

Religious Education Update

NO SESSIONS THE WEEK OF THE 17TH



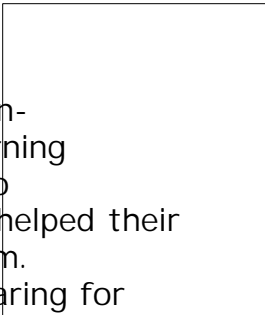
FAMILY SESSIONS – 1ST & 2ND GRADES The week of January 24th

The Sunday & Monday sessions will be in the classrooms.
The Wednesday session will be in the Church Hall.

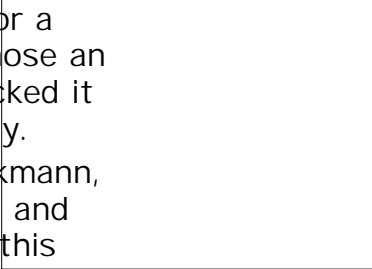


WHAT'S HAPPENING IN... SECOND GRADE

Lately, our 2nd Graders have been preparing for their First Reconciliation that they celebrated on Monday. They have been learning about the Sacraments of initiation beginning with Baptism. To help them learn about their own Baptism, their parents helped their child put together a poster for a poster and tell about their Baptism. They have met with 2nd Grade Prayer Partners who are preparing for a sacrament themselves Confirmation. Mrs. Christine s



Sunday class adopted a Lemont family for a Christmas service project. Each child chose an item on a list that the family needed, picked it up, and delivered it as a gift to the family. Thank you to Mrs. Christine, Mrs. Brueckmann, and Mrs. Loisi, aided by Miss Lepczynski, and Mr. Ihde for the love and faith they bring to this ministry during an important year in the children s faith formation.



LESSONS LEARNED FROM MARTIN LUTHER KING

Let your children know that Monday is more than a day off. Tell them about Martin Luther King. Following are five lessons that everyone can learn from King. (1) All citizens can make a difference. King was not an elected official but a citizen who took his responsibilities seriously and collaborated with others to help create a better world. (2) Respond positively when called upon to serve. King was reluctant to lead the civil rights movement but answered the call when leadership was needed. (3) Maintain clear ethical standards. King always promoted peace, love and goodwill rather than hate and violence. (4) Live a passion-driven life, emphasizing the importance of following dreams and pursuing interests and talents. (5) The right to have a voice, to stand up for beliefs and to not remain silent otherwise democracy is put at risk. Change starts with each of us.



St. Alphonsus-St. Patrick School News

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PLEASE NOTE:

In observance of the Martin Luther King holiday, parish offices will be closed on Monday, January 18th. We open on Tuesday morning, January 19th

From Palms to Ashes
The Rite of Burning of Palms for Ash Wednesday

To reinforce the origin and symbolism of the ashes used on Ash Wednesday we would like to invite all parishioners to attend the burning of Palms on Tuesday morning, February 2nd after the 7:30 a.m. Mass which will be held in the church and burning of palms on a front terrace of the church.

Bring in any blessed palms you may have at home to be used for this service. Baskets will be in the back of the church for you to place the palms in starting next weekend January 23rd & 24th.

After this service, a pot-luck breakfast will be served at Church Hall. Bring a hot or cold dish to share with everyone.



Jubilee Year of Mercy

January 17, 2016~Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mary, whom Catholic tradition names Mother of Mercy, at Cana interceded with her Son to show mercy toward the bridal couple: Son, they have no wine. But he does more! Jesus' transformation of water into wine is a sign (John's term for miracle) that God's marriage with the whole human race has begun in Jesus' person and ministry, a marriage that will be consummated on the cross. It is finished - we are saved! But before Jesus acts, Mary instructs the servers: *Prepare the way for Jesus' miracle of mercy: Do whatever he tells you.* During *this Jubilee Year of Mercy*, Mother Church, like Mother Mary, instructs us to share its manifold gifts, some of which Paul lists in today's second reading: *generous service to the human family.* Thus *we prepare the way for Jesus' new miracles of mercy, transforming life* sometimes stagnant water into refreshing wine of God's mercy.

Scagnelli, Copyright © J. SP Church Co., Inc.



Baby Shower January 23/24

In remembrance of the 43rd anniversary of Roe v Wade, our Lemont Respect Life Ministry will be hosting a Baby Shower to help benefit Woman's Choice Services, a new pregnancy crisis center recently opened in neighboring Bolingbrook. Please donate any item on their Wish List below and place in the playpen/crib in church on the weekend of January 23/24. These items are very much needed to assist mothers and their babies. Let us always pray to end abortion in this country.

- Diapers - all sizes (desperate need)
- Onesies/Socks
- Baby Wash/Shampoo/Wipes
- Baby Infant Clothing (Newborn to 4T)

Widowed Men & Women: Looking for a way to become Joyful again?

There will be a workshop/reunion **March 5 & 6** at Our Lady of the Angels House of Prayer (located in Lemont on Alvernia Manor's campus).

Being widowed is a special loss, and this program is designed to help the widowed find hope and joy again in life.

Includes overnight and meals. Space is limited - register early.

Ph: 708-354-7211 to register
www.joyfulagain.org to view video

SACRED HEART PARISH Presents: Rev. Bob Rohrich, C.M. "ANGER"

THE MISUNDERSTOOD EMOTION!

Is it a VIRTUE or a VICE???

Many have a mistaken Notion **ANGER** is always **WRONG**:
 or that it is **Not Christian** to Express it!
 On the contrary, it is necessary for **Healthy Relationships**

Anger Motivates to Action, Manages Control, Prevents being taken advantage of, Fuels Optimism, Enables Leadership, and Enhances Creativity

This presentation will explain: The Negative Aspects of Anger, Violence and Silence.

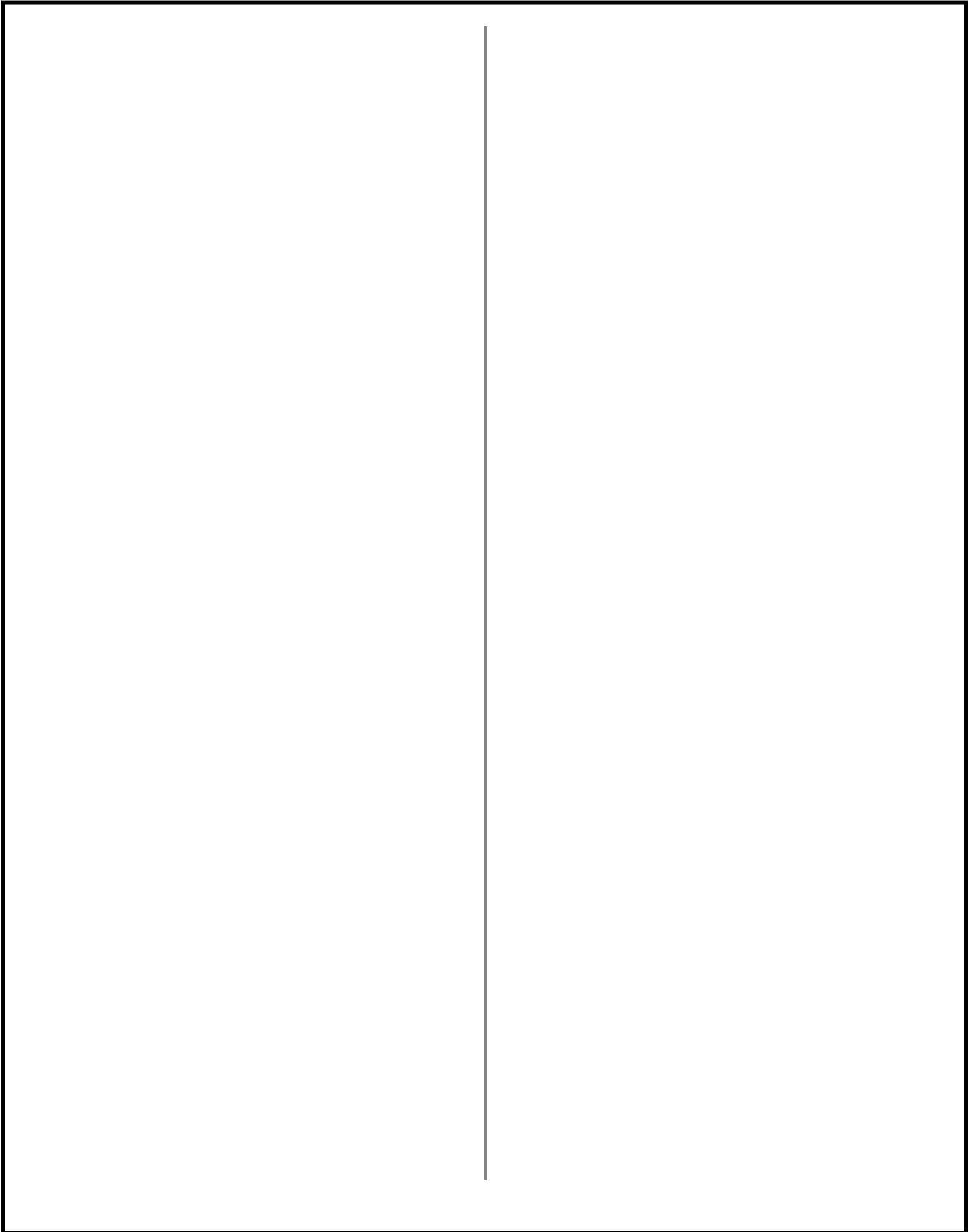
Plus the 6 Steps on How to Fight Fairly and at home - test on **ANGER** to see how well You deal with this Emotion in your own life.

Come join us for an interesting, informative & entertaining evening!

Monday — January 25th
7:30 pm to 9:00 pm
Sacred Heart — Ministry Center
8245 W. 111th Street
Palos Hills, IL 60465

708-974-3336
 Free Admission

For more information: Contact Bob or Mary at 708-598-7311



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

“A Time to be Born through Baptism” — Molly Clara daughter of Kevin & Alice Matthews

“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	Greg Hoger	Bonnie Posey	Tina Ruiz	Carson Lee Umentum
Nathan Parry	Kandice Marie Sasak	Ken Convalle	Ashley Smith Kitzer	Marilyn Ransford
Ray DeNardis	Baby Scarlett	Annamarie	Randy Nowak	David Nenn
Donna Murphy	O Neill	Challenger	Dan Herzing	Jim Kulikauskas
			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, New York Joseph R. Pociask, USMC, San Diego and all who serve our country.
 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.

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. In 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.

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



SENIOR KINDRED SPIRITS

To start the New Year, come join the Senior Kindred Spirits group for some good food and friendly conversations. Ali Tucker caters our lunch for a very reasonable fee of \$6.00.

Our meeting will be Tuesday, January 28th, at 11:30 am in the St. Alphonsus Parish Center. Please call Dee Holloman at 630-243-1805 by Thursday, January 21st if you are planning on attending this meeting.

**“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

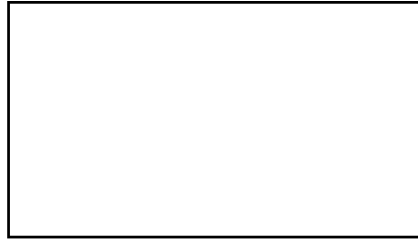
Contact Carrie Peters to place your order,
630-257-84-7844 ext.223
or carriepeters2@sbcglobal.net

Weekly Offering

January 9 & 10, 2016

Week's Need	\$12,869.00
Sunday's Collection	\$ 7,986.57
More Christmas/Holiday	\$ 2,538.00
Electronic Fund (EFT)	\$ 7,375.61
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 5,031.18
Fiscal Year to Date	
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 6,694.64
Last Year's weekly	
Collection	\$ 8,419.00

Thank you for your support of our parish.



THANK YOU

Thank you for your generous donations to the Collection for the Church in Latin America. Your support helps ensure that people have adequate catechesis, marriage and family life programs, and strong religious and seminarian formation among other programs. Thank you for taking this opportunity to share your faith. To learn more about how your donations are making a difference, please visit www.usccb.org/latin-america.

Income Tax Statements

Once again we will only send tax statements to those parishioners who request them, so if you need your statement for Income Tax purposes, please either fill out the form to the right 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 2015

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Envelope Number _____

2016 Annual Catholic Appeal "The Hands of God's Mercy"



Please spend some time this week reflecting on the Annual Catholic Appeal brochure that can be found on the credenza in the back this weekend. Please remember that the Annual Catholic Appeal is such different than a one-time special collection. It is a pledge campaign where you can make a gift payable in installments.

Pope Francis has called all of us to participate in the Jubilee Year of Mercy. The ACA theme, The Hand of God's Mercy, was selected to us that our contributions to the Annual Catholic Appeal enables the funded ministries and services to share God's mercy with others in our parish, our diocese and throughout the world.

Each pledge makes a difference because we all participate in the campaign and the gifts of many enable our Archdiocese to deliver needed ministries and services.

After our parish goal of \$39,799.00 is reached in cash, 100% of funds come back to our parish to help to fund our needs.

If you received your pledge form in the mail, please complete it back or bring it to Mass next weekend. For those of you that did not receive a mailing or have not responded to it, we will conduct our in-pew pledge process at all Masses next weekend.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 16		Saturday, January 23	
4:00 pm	Pat Urban <i>Fran Urban</i> Jim Belline— <i>Piekosz Family</i> Bernie Kucharski <i>Wife</i>	4:00 pm	Laura Hoster <i>St. Alphonsus Parish</i> Carl Skowronski <i>Joe & Judie</i> Grace Snyder— <i>Bev & Paul Malak</i> Muriel J. Cumber— <i>Rose Fidanzo</i>
Sunday, January 17		Sunday, January 24	
7:30 am	Parishioners of St. Alphonsus	7:30 am	Dolores (Sara) Ruppert <i>John E. Ruppert</i>
9:00 am	Barbara Maloney <i>Pat & Jim Browne</i>	9:00 am	Shirley Uram <i>Barb & Ray</i>
11:00 am	Anthony Loera <i>Julie & Paul Christin</i>	9:00 am	Mildred & Orville Tessum <i>Linn Eldred</i>
5:00 pm	Parishioners of St. Alphonsus (Mass at St. Patrick Church)	5:00 pm	Rosaline Reed— <i>Linn Eldred</i> Parishioners of St. Alphonsus (Mass at St. Patrick Church)
Monday, January 18			
7:30 am	Laura Murphy <i>Camille & Greg Kuhlman</i>		
Tuesday, January 19			
7:30 am	Joan Dusatko <i>Bev & Paul Malak</i>		
Wednesday, January 20			
7:30 am	Pat Slaboszewski <i>Bev & Paul Malak</i> John R. Ruppert <i>Sue, Eric & Dad</i>		
Thursday, January 21			
7:30 am	Michael Bromberek <i>Bev & Paul Malak</i>		
Friday, January 22			
7:30 am	Lorraine Cochran <i>Daughter</i>		

READINGS FOR THE WEEK	
Monday:	1 Sm 15:16-23; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mk 2:18-22
Tuesday:	1 Sm 16:1-13; Ps 89:20-22, 27-28; Mk 2:23-28
Wednesday:	1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10; Mk 3:1-6
Thursday:	1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7; Ps 56:2-3, 9-13; Mk 3:7-12
Friday:	1 Sm 24:3-21; Ps 57:2-4, 6, 11; Mk 3:13-19 <i>a number of readings for the Day of Prayer</i>
Saturday:	2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27; Ps 80:2-3, 5-7; Mk 3:20-21
Sunday:	Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; Ps 19:8-10, 15; 1 Cor 12:12-3 [12-14, 27]; Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

PLEASE NOTE : If you are celebrating a special event, 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	Gather Hymnal Glendalough Mass Gloria #261 Gospel Acclamation #262 Holy, Holy #263 Memorial Acclamation #265(B) Great Amen #267 Lamb of God #269
Jan. 23	4:00 pm	L. Jankowski	D. Josephitis A. Pascente G. Smith	A. Kaye C. King	Bell Choir	
Jan. 24	*7:30 am	KC Wollenberg	D. Betley M. Doherty C. Kuhlman G. Umentum(C) S. Kostas (C)	Wollenberg Family		
	9:00 am	K. Mars	L. Kerfin D. Czaja K. Lambrakis	S. Kerfin C. Mars	Parish Choir	
	11:00 am	M. Loisi	P. Loisi D. Kornacker D. Cerniuk	S. O Hara E. Todner R. Loisi	Keyboard & Cantor	
	5:00 pm Lemont Tri-Parish Mass at St. Pat s					

* Communion under both species

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