

Saint Aloysius Catholic Church

A Discipleship Parish

December 14, 2025... Third Sunday of Advent



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus,

If the parish owns a rose-colored vestment, the congregation will be remind that this color suggests a more celebratory occasion than the violet of Advent. Even the hymns and introductory rites and collect highlight the joyous day, and we call "Gaudete Sunday".

In the first reading Prophet Isiah says, "Rejoice with joyful songs" It is an invitation to express feelings of great joy. But I wonder if I asked our parishioners the when

Fr. George Nellikunnel (gnellikunnel@dio.org)	Pastor
Fr. Sajimon Aarakkattu Kuriakose	Parochial Vicar
Mrs. Denise Reavis	Principal
Mrs. Debbie Mandeville	Parish Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Gail Smith	Business Manager St. Aloysius/St. Cabrini
Mrs. Angie Daniels	School Administrative Assistant
Mr. Rich Pitchford	Maintenance
Mrs. Sarah Williams	Liturgy & Music
Mr. Dave Klestinski	Homebound Ministry
Ms. Mikki Buhl	Ministry Schedule
(mikkimoose@clients.rotundasoftware.com)	

Mass Times: Saturday (vigil) 4:00pm
Sunday 7:00am & 11:00am
Holy Days: As announced

Daily Mass: Tues, 8:20am (School Year)
7:00am (Summer)
W, Th, 7:00am
Fri, 6:00pm (Rosary 5:30pm)

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 3:30pm

Eucharistic Adoration: Friday, 7:00am - 5:00pm

Parish Office Hours: M - F: 9:00am - 4:00pm
School Office Hours: M - F: 7:45am - 3:30pm
2000 E. Sangamon Avenue (mailing address: 2125 N. 21st Street) Springfield, Illinois 62702

Church: (217) 544-4554 Fax: (217) 544-1680
School: (217) 544-4553 Fax: (217) 544-1680

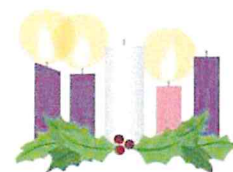
was the last time they rejoiced with joyful songs and gladness? we might be surprised to see that joy has been at a minimum in recent years. Are you very busy or too angry or preoccupied with our troubles? We cannot force anyone into rejoicing just because we say !

The central theme of today's readings is "Rejoice!" We are to do by realizing the presence of Jesus in our midst, by receiving Jesus into our lives through our repentance, our renewal of life, and by doing God's will. Today is called "Gaudete" Sunday because today's Mass begins with the opening antiphon, "*Gaudete in Domino semper*" ("Rejoice in the Lord always"). Today we light the rose candle of the Advent wreath, and the priest may wear rose vestments, to express our communal joy in the coming of Jesus as our Savior. We rejoice because we are celebrating the day of Christ's birth, and we recognize Jesus' daily presence in our midst, and also we wait for Christ's return in glory.

In the Gospel today, John the Baptist explains the secret of Christian joy as our wholehearted commitment to God's will. John challenges people to generosity and a sense of fairness so that others may have reason to rejoice. According to John, happiness comes from doing our duties faithfully, doing good for others, and sharing our blessings with others in need. John's call to repentance is a call to joy and restoration. *Repentance* means a change in the purpose and direction of our lives. John tells the people to act with justice, do charity, and relate honestly, letting their lives reflect their transformation. For us, that transformation occurs when Christ enters our lives, and it is to be reflected in our living in the ways John suggests.

So dear friends first, we should examine our relationships with others. We must mend disagreements, ease, frictions, face family responsibilities, work honestly, and treat others justly. Our domestic and social lives must be in order. Thank you for your generous support and prayers

Fr George Nellikuinnet, Pastor
St Aloysius and St Cabrini



THIRD SUNDAY
OF
Advent



Principal's Page

Mrs. Denise Reavis

Pastoral Council

Carl Affrunti
Gale Borders
Blake Handley
Dave Klestinski
Mary Ann Mann
Brad Mills (Chair)
Joyce Zaffiri

Finance Council

Deb Albright
Paul Brown
Karl Kohlrus
Matt Noonan
Ryan Spearie (Chair)
Larry Tebrugge
Earl Schroeder

School Board

schoolboard@santalloysius.org

Joan Bestudik
Eric Danner
Sarah Danner
Tom Paoni
Rachel Towner
Joel Washko (Chair)
Steve Washko III

Liturgy Committee

Sharon Jones
Steve Kehoe
Kim Lesko (Chair)
Rita Lesko
Mary Coady

During Advent

Happy 3rd week of Advent!



our students are learning about Jesus' family tree, lighting the candles on our Advent wreath, and completing acts of service. All these activities remind us that we are waiting in joyful hope and preparing our hearts for the birth of Jesus at Christmas. The Christmas spirit is contagious in our building! From children singing carols to our Advent displays and this week even a visit from St. Nick with treats in our shoes and random acts of kindness!

All-school Mass will be Tuesday, December 16 at 8:20am. All are welcome!

St. Aloysius School Christmas Program... Thursday, December 18th @ 6:00pm. Join the students of St. Aloysius School at the present Santa's Bethlehem Delivery. Our Christmas Program (Grades PS - 8) will be held in the school gym. Our students have been hard at work on the Christmas Program! The hallways are filled with the sound of holiday cheer.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Advent Prayer Walk! It was a truly special time as we walked together in quiet reflection, and prepared our hearts for the coming of Christ. We loved seeing so many smiles while everyone enjoyed the cookies and hot cocoa after our Prayer Walk. It was the perfect way to continue our Advent journey!

Thank you, Diocese of Springfield! St. Aloysius School has received \$4,264.00 from the Springfield Diocese "Harvest of Thanks, Springtime of Hope" Endowment to be used for tuition assistance. We are thankful to all in the diocese who make this gift possible.

Magic Match Sponsors are a tremendous help to our school. Sponsoring a classroom helps purchase items needed for students and teachers to thrive in their learning. A special THANK YOU! to all of our Magic Match Sponsors.

Thank you to all the volunteers for making **Bingo** a great success! The program needs a few, steady workers. I know that this will ensure the continued success of this most important fundraising event. Don't forget to join us for Bingo at Caritas Hall, 909 E Converse, Saturday, December 20 at 11:45am for Early Bird, other games begin at noon.



Play bingo during our times, help make this a fun and profitable activity for St. Aloysius School! Please consider volunteering. Volunteers are needed! You can text or call Rhonda (217) 670-4458. Thank you for your support. Also a very special thanks goes to Rhonda for managing this essential fundraiser every Saturday.

Families and Children Welcome! "Let the children come to me and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." - Luke 18:16 Families and children are always welcome at Mass at St. Aloysius. While we strive for a reverent liturgy, we appreciate children of all ages worshiping with us - they are the future of the Church. We warmly welcome large families, new families, new babies and new baptisms. Parents: If your child needs a break or if it makes you more comfortable, the cry room and vestibule are available.



*"Love is the True North
that always leads us home."*

Our next **Family Mass** is Saturday, January 24th at 4:00pm.

— Parish Data —

PARISH CALENDAR		Weekly Offering		
December 14	7:00am	Morning Mass	<u>Week 22</u>	
December 14	11:00am	Morning Mass	<u>November</u>	<u>Total to Date</u>
December 14	Noon	Church Cleaning	30	
December 16	8:20am	All School Mass	Weekly Offertory	\$5,122.00
December 17	7:00am	Morning Mass	Shepherd one Student	\$500.00
December 17	9:00am	Legion Of Mary		\$8,404.00
December 18	7:00am	Morning Mass	Building Fund	\$23,368.00
December 18	6:00pm	Christmas Program		
December 19	7:00am	Adoration	Bingo	\$16,057.00
December 19	5:00pm	Benediction	The budgeted amount is the minimal required to maintain services, employee benefits, utilities, and maintenance at current levels and provide for debt payment, unbudgeted repairs or improvements for the Parish. Weekly Offerings budget for the month of November is \$40,000.00. We have received 82% of needed funding to meet essentials.	
December 19	5:30pm	Rosary		
December 19	6:00pm	Evening Mass		
December 20	11:45am	Bingo		
December 20	3:30pm	Confession		
December 20	4:00pm	Evening Mass		

Special Prayers and Blessing

Please pray for the repose soul of
Fr. Daren Zehnle
Eternal Rest Grant to him. O Lord and let perpetual light shine on them.

Parish Community Tithes

As you have read in the Catholic Times, the Annual Catholic Services Appeal has been discontinued. The diocese will be assessing its parishes on a monthly basis, based on 10% of its income each month to provide the needs of our diocesan church. Please consider increasing your giving to the parish by the amount you previously gave to ACSA, so that we can handle this new monthly, pay-as-we-go obligation.

Weekly Attendance - November December 6-7

Sat 4:00pm	Sun 7:00am	Sun 11:00am	Total
68	43	91	202

Debt/Accrued Deficits

Unpaid Diocesan Liabilities	
Paid	
Amount owed (November 13, 2025)	\$209,700.65

Parish Ministry Schedule - December 20-21

	Saturday 4:00pm	Sunday 7:00am	Sunday 11:00am
Cantor			
Lector	Matt Noonan	Carl Affrunti	Pam Brown
E.M.	Richard and Serena Nurton	Erin Rachford Earl Schroeder	Paul Brown, Patti Crouch Sherry Daniels
Servers	Rachel Schrenk	Earl Schroeder	Brayden and Jayden Blakley

In charity, please remember in your prayers... 2024... Steven Young Patricia Durako, Regina Rakers, Sandra Scott, David Daniels, Halfred Hildebrand, Jr., Joseph Perkinton, Charles Bedolli, Samuel and Bonnie Falzone, James Selinger, Tom Stevens, Frank Tucker James Bartlett. 2025... Larry Forbes, Marilyn, Gustafson, Kenna Diaz, Kay Morrow, Judith Guinn, William Bredemeyer, Annette Raffa, David Jones, Judith Bregowy and August Egger.

Parish Bulletin Board

Holidays and **Holy Day** of Obligation Mass Schedule... Christmas Eve - Dec. 24th (Wednesday) 4:00pm @ St. Aloysius. 6:00pm @ St. Cabrini. Dec. 25th (Thursday) midnight and 7:00am @ St. Aloysius. 9:00am @ St. Cabrini. Thursday, Jan. 1st 7:00am @St. Aloysius and 8:00am @St. Cabrini. *Morning Mass the week of December 22nd and 29th will be at 7:00am. There will be no Eucharistic Adoration on Friday, December 26th and no Friday evening Mass at 6:00pm.



Church Cleaning Day... Today, Sunday, December 14 immediately after 11:00am Mass. This is an open invitation to parishioners wishing to donate some time and elbow grease to brighten up our church before Christmas. Bring your cleaning rags to clean and dust the inside of the church.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!!! For your very generous response to the Angel Tree. Many families in the Springfield area will have a Merry Christmas due to your generosity.

Thank you to Knights of Columbus #4175 for the new carpet in the choir loft that was installed last week. Also thank you to Dick Capranica for patching the ceiling in the choir loft from the AC installation. The AC work is completed and ready to go for next summer!

Parish Flowers... This weeks **flower intention** is in memory of Steve Crouch.

The **flower calendar** can be found in church vestibule. You have the opportunity to honor a birthday or anniversary, or remember a loved one on their special day. Please put your name on the chart with your remembrance, and \$40.00 in the envelope with your name. Your remembrance will be in the bulletin and a bouquet of flowers will be on the altar for your weekend.



Retirement Fund for Religious... This annual appeal assists nearly 25,000 elderly sisters, brothers and religious order priests nationwide. We are called to recognize that many of our senior vowed religious have dedicated their lives to service, usually receiving little pay in return. Consequently, their religious communities face a shortage of retirement savings. Compounding this challenge are rising health-care costs and decreased income. Religious communities find it increasingly difficult to meet the day-to-day needs of aging members, including their medical expenses, nursing assistance and other necessities. Your generous donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious provide vital financial support, enabling religious communities to care for their aging members. There is an envelope in your December packet for this collection.

Alton Catholic Children's Home. The mission of the Catholic Children's Home is to aid, protect and care for the needs, education and welfare of dependent, neglected, abused or otherwise hurting children and families without regard to poverty, riches, race, religion or national origin. Every year we depend on the Christmas Day collection as the most important part of our fundraising. What better day to remember the children who, through no fault of their own, are less fortunate than our own. Your monetary donation to the Catholic Children's Home is a wonderful way to ensure that we will continue to bring help to the most needy children and ensure that they have a brighter hope for the future.

Knights of Columbus Council 4175 (Springfield North Council) will have January fish fries on January 9, January 16, and January 30, 2026 from 4:30pm - 7:00pm.

Parish Calendar... Please let the parish office know of events, meetings, etc. for the church calendar to avoid scheduling conflicts. This includes the church basement.

Thank you... The advertisements that appear in this bulletin completely defray all publishing costs which the church would otherwise incur. Please patronize the sponsors on the back of this bulletin and thank them for their kind generosity.

St. Aloysius Prayer Chain... If you have a special intention or someone whom you would like prayers offered please email Mrs. Vikki Warren... whomper5@aol.com

Stewardship ... Gracious and loving God, we understand that you call us to be stewards of your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us to use your gifts wisely and to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship be the hallmark of our discipleship, a visible sign of our commitment to Christ. We pray with grateful hearts, in Jesus' name. Amen.



Mass Intentions

December 15 Advent Weekday

December 16 Advent Weekday

8:20am Kay Morrow +

December 17 Late Advent Weekday

7:00am Ferdinand Fulgenzi +

December 18 Late Advent Weekday

7:00am Linda Scott+

December 19 Late Advent Weekday

6:00pm All Souls +

December 20

December 21 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sat 4:00pm Tom Senalik+

Sun 7:00am Rose C+

Sun 11:00am All Parishioners+

Around the Church

St. Patrick Catholic School Christmas Breakfast...

Saturday, December 20th from 8:00-11:00am. Knights of Columbus 2200 Meadowbrook. Donations accepted for breakfast to support St. Pat's. Sponsored by Woodward Community Media. The Dublin Pub and the Knights of Columbus #364.

Prayer Warriors are welcome to pray in front of Springfield Planned Parenthood 601 N. Bruns Lane. For more information... www.springfieldrtl.org.

Extended Confession during Advent will be offered at the Cathedral on Friday, Dec. 19 noon - 6:00pm and Saturday, Dec 20 from 7:00am - 4:00pm.

Biblical Walk Through the Mass... The Mass is nothing short of amazing. Through it, we encounter God in the most intimate way possible as we hear him speak to us in the Liturgy of the Word and as we receive him Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Holy Eucharist. Join Cathedral Women's Bible Study to explore the extraordinary biblical roots of the Liturgy and reveals what it all means and why it all matters. This fascinating tour of the Mass will renew your faith and deepen your love for and devotion to the Holy Eucharist. Thursdays, Jan 8-Feb 5 @ 6:00pm in the Cathedral School Library. Order your workbook at ascensionpress.com.

Pray for peace... Practice the First Saturday devotion! It is essential for world peace and the salvation of souls. Go to www.bluearmy.com to learn about the First Saturday virtual pilgrimage for the 100th anniversary of Fatima.

Covenant Network Catholic Radio... Catholic Radio programs include Catholic teaching, prayers, and call-in programs. You can listen on a smart speaker, tell Alexa to play Covenant Network Catholic Radio, on our App, Covenant Network, online at OurCatholicRadio.org, or on your local Catholic radio station, AM 1080 and 92.7 FM.

Centennial Campaign Prayer... Loving and Gracious God, we come before you, acknowledging that all our gifts are from your generous hand. WE are grateful for your countless blessings and for the opportunity to serve you this Centennial (Capital) campaign. As our parish embarks on this journey, we ask for your wisdom and guidance in discerning how best to use our resources to advance your kingdom. May our hearts be open to your spirit, and may we be faithful stewards of the gifts entrusted to us. We pray through the intercessions of St. Aloysius that this campaign will be a testament to your grace and a source of blessing to our parish. May we work together in unity and faith, knowing that with your help, we can accomplish great things. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held every Friday from 7:00am - 5:00pm. Benediction and Rosary at 5:00pm. Evening Mass at 6:00pm.

Cathedral Women's Bible Study - Foretold. Perhaps you think God doesn't have a plan for you and your family. But Jesus is the Lord of History, yours included. Join Dr. Sean Innerst in *Foretold*, a new series from the Augustine Institute that weaves together the Old and New Testament stories, highlighting their connecting threads of prophecy and fulfillment. What was promised in the biblical story came to pass through Jesus, his apostles, and the Church. Ultimately, this biblical history is your history. Just as the prophecies of the Old Testament were fulfilled, you can trust that Jesus will care for you and your story. Encounter this profound mystery and reality for yourself in *Foretold*. Cathedral School Library, Thursdays at 10:00am and 1:00pm starting on Jan 8, and running for 8 weeks. FREE and open to all women!

Biblical Walk Through the Mass. The Mass is nothing short of amazing. Through it, we encounter God in the most intimate way possible as we hear him speak to us in the Liturgy of the Word and as we receive him Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Holy Eucharist. Join Cathedral Women's Bible Study to explore the extraordinary biblical roots of the Liturgy and reveals what it all means and why it all matters. This fascinating tour of the Mass will renew your faith and deepen your love for and devotion to the Holy Eucharist. Thursdays, Jan 8 - Feb 5 @ 6:00pm in the Cathedral School Library. Order your workbook at ascensionpress.com.

Interior Freedom Book Study Series... Join us for a four-week study of *Interior Freedom* by Fr. Jacques Philippe at the Villa Maria Conference Center with Father Herman Joseph O.Praem. This accessible and profound spiritual classic helps us learn how to experience inner freedom despite the many external and internal circumstances beyond our control. Copies of the book may be ordered online. Schedule... January 26, February 2, February 9, and February 16. Each night is 6:15pm - 7:45pm and includes a Rosary and discussion. Contact: events@dio.org. Register at: dio.org/events.

Stewardship Reflection... Third Sunday of Advent.



"You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand." JAMES 5:8 Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule; we like things to be convenient. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer God reveals to us what He wants us to do with the gifts He has given us. We are able to better align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.

"At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God's own love and concern." - St. Teresa of Calcutta

December 14, 2025

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Third Sunday of Advent

Is 35:1-6a, 10 | Jas 5:7-10 | Mt 11:2-11

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

One morning, I woke up feeling exhausted after a fitful night of sleep. I was achy and generally under the weather. Despite this, I made a to-do list because the day's work still needed to be accomplished. I was determined to not let this sickness interrupt my productivity, even though I *knew* I needed to rest. It occurred to me, then, that rest — and dependence on others and God — is sacred also. In today's psalm, we hear of the many ways the Lord provides: The *Lord* gives, the *Lord* raises, the *Lord* loves, the *Lord* protects, the *Lord* saves. We cannot accomplish our own salvation, but we can rest in the promise the Lord provides, and we can hope in the salvation offered in Christ. As we wait in joyful anticipation for the coming of Jesus at Christmas, let us find time to rest in his Word and his presence, trusting that our salvation does not depend on us and has already come to fruition in Christ.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

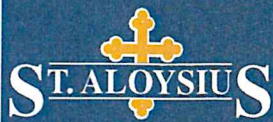
As we saw in our psalm, God is the one who takes initiative, who provides for our salvation. In our work to share the faith with others, sometimes our task is simply to help others become aware of the ways God is providing for them by pointing out the signs of his action in their lives. When the disciples of John came to Jesus asking if he was “the one who is to come” or whether they should “look for another,” Jesus reminds them of the evidence all around them: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, and the dead are raised. As we help others to see God's work in their lives, we are also leading them to greater faith and trust in him.

REST

We are more able to see the signs of God's providence in our lives when we take time to reflect. Make time to rest in God's presence this week. This could mean stopping into a chapel for a couple minutes of quiet prayer, reflecting on Scripture using *Lectio Divina*, or reading the story of Christ's nativity in the Gospel. These simple practices will prepare our hearts to recognize Christ's presence and goodness at each moment of our lives.

“Lord,
come and
save us.”

(Ps 146)



We thank St. Aloysius Faith Community

GO CHARGERS!


for supporting these generous sponsors who make our bulletin possible. Kindly thank them in person when you do business with them!

TROY A. WASHKO, CPA
 TAX PREPARATION & ACCOUNTING SERVICES
522-3300
 1924 E Sangamon Ave.
 (across from Sangamon Center North)
 Parishioner
 t.washko@troywashkopca.com • www.troywashkopca.com

FR. ERNEST A. BURTLE
 COUNCIL #4175
 Hall Rental for
 Business Meetings,
 Luncheons, Weddings
BINGO on
 Wednesday Nights at
 CARITAS HALL
 9th & Converse
 FOR INFORMATION
 Phone: **528-5740**
 kofc4175.com

**RESIDENTIAL AND
 COMMERCIAL
 WIRING**
 **TONY'S
 Electric
 Service,
 Inc.**
 — TRENCHING —
522-5349
 1304 GRIFFITHS

carX
 Auto Service
 Wayne Shures
 Owner
528-9700
 750 E Linton
 (Behind Burger King
 on south 6th)
COMPLETE AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE

HELPING YOU
 SAY GOODBYE
 with dignity & respect.
 **Butler**
 FUNERAL HOMES
 AND CREMATION TRIBUTE CENTER
 Springfield Chatham New Berlin
 217.544.4646
 Proudly Owned and Operated
 by S.C.J. Illinois Services, LLC.



 Chinese Restaurant Eat In or Take Out
 Catering Available
 Tel: **(217) 789-0800**
 Fax: **(217) 789-0882**
 1899 E. Sangamon Ave. Springfield, IL
 www.chinastar88.com
10% OFF WITH BULLETIN

 **Get this bulletin
 emailed to you
 every week.**
 Simply go to
 www.DM.CHURCH/1251 ...or scan 
 ✦ DISCOVERMASS

catholicmatch
 Illinois

 CatholicMatch.com/goll

**IN LOVING
 MEMORY OF**
 Conner Byrne

Eliminate the uncertainty and financial
 burden with the Staab Family & Associates.

STAAB
 1937
 Honoring Life
 Contact us for your personal visit to Plan Ahead.
 217.528.6461 or visit StaabFuneralHomes.com
 Springfield ♦ Sherman

**ADVERTISE
 HERE**
 Promote your Business
 AND Support your Parish.
April Paprocki
 apaprocki@diocesan.com
 612-867-9831
 EWTN.COM/RADIO
 **EWTN** Global
 Catholic
 Radio
 TUNE IN

**Consider
 Remembering
 Your Parish in
 Your Will**
 For further information,
 please call the parish office.

The Businesses listed above make this bulletin possible. Please support them when you can.

Sign up to get our bulletin in your email each week. Go to DiscoverMass.com/subscribe