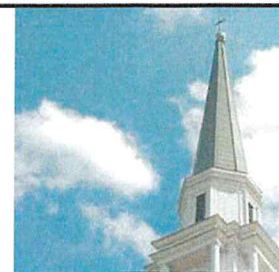


Saint Aloysius Catholic Church

A Discipleship Parish

December 7, 2025... Second Sunday of Advent



Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus

"Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight His paths."

As we enter the second week of Advent, we light the candle of Peace, remembering that Christ comes to calm our restless hearts and bring wholeness to a broken world. Today's readings call us to prepare the way of the Lord not only in our surroundings, but deep within our lives. In the first reading, Isaiah speaks of a promised King who will rule with justice and righteousness, bringing harmony

even to creation itself. Isaiah speaks of a branch growing from Jesse's stump. It is a sign of hope. God is doing something fresh. The old ways are ending. A peaceful king will come. Justice and harmony will grow again. Even nature will change.

Paul reminds us to live in unity, encouraging one another as we wait in hope. God is faithful to His promises. Jews and Gentiles are both part of His plan. We are called to live in peace with one another.

In the Gospel, John the Baptist appears. He tells the people to repent. Turn around. Get ready. Someone greater is coming. He will bring the Holy Spirit and fire. John reminds us that real faith shows in our actions. We must bear good fruit.

May this season be a time of holy preparation where our hearts are softened, our relationships restored, and our lives aligned with the peace Christ offers. As we worship today, let us open ourselves to the One who is coming and who is already here among us.

Dear friends, We need to prepare for Christ's coming by allowing him to be reborn daily in our lives: Advent is the time for us to make this preparation by repenting of our sins and renewing our lives through prayer, penance, and the sharing of our blessings with others. e German mystic Angelus Silesius says *"Christ could be born a thousand times in Bethlehem but all in vain until He is born in me"*. He means that Jesus must be reborn in our own hearts during this season of Advent and every day of our lives, radiating through our living his love, kindness, mercy, forgiveness, and spirit of humble service to the world.

We need to answer the call for a change of life. We must correct our relationships with others, mend ruptures, soothe frictions, face family responsibilities, work honestly, and treat our employers/employees justly. Let us share our love with others as selfless and humble service. *"Do small things but with great love"* advise St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa). Thank you for your kind support and prayers

Fr. George Nellikunnel, Pastor

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)

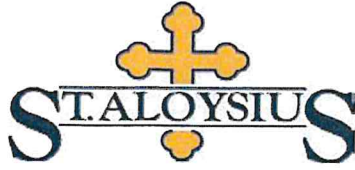
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 3:30pm

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





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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

Many blessings this Advent Season.



Year to year we get caught up in the hustle and bustle of shopping, putting up holiday decorations, baking, planning for parties and get togethers. All the distractions that take us away from the real meaning of Christmas. Let us spend this season praying and preparing our hearts for Christ coming.

All-school Mass will be Tuesday, December 9 at 8:20am. All are welcome!

Children's Advent Penance Service... Wednesday, December 10 at 9:00am.

St. Aloysius Fall Frenzy \$5,000 Raffle. Congratulations to Eric and Sarah Danner the winner of the \$5,000.00 raffle. Thank you to everyone that purchased a ticket. Also thank you to UCB Bank for sponsoring the tickets.

THANK YOU! to all of our Magic Match Sponsors. 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.

Weekly Mass Attendance and Tuition rate... To qualify for the Saint Aloysius active parishioner rate, your family must attend Mass at Saint Aloysius for 51% of the weeks. Attendance is tracked for the calendar year, so your attendance in 2025/2026 determines the tuition rate for the '26/'27 school year. Each family will be asked to submit an attendance card each Saturday evening, Sunday morning, or Holy Day of Obligation Mass that you attend at St. Aloysius. The slip is to be given to the Priest after Mass by one of the children. Please write the date, your family name, and your child's name on the card. There will be extra slips in the back of church.

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 worshipping 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.



St. Aloysius School Christmas Program... Thursday, December 18th @ 6:00pm. Join the students of St. Aloysius School at the present *Santas 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 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 13 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.



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

— Parish Data —

PARISH CALENDAR			Weekly Offering		
December 7	7:00am	Morning Mass			
December 7	2:00pm	Advent Penance Service	<u>Week 21</u>	<u>November 23</u>	<u>Total to Date</u>
December 7	11:00am	Morning Mass	Weekly Offertory	\$4,801.00	\$130,139.82
December 8	8:20am	Morning Mass (Holy Day)	Shepherd one Student	\$530.00	\$7,904.00
December 9	8:20am	All School Mass	Building Fund	\$370.00	\$23,368.00
December 10	7:00am	Morning Mass	Bingo	\$142.00	\$16,057.00
December 10	9:00am	School Advent Penance Service	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 61% of needed funding to meet essentials.		
December 10	9:00am	Legion Of Mary			
December 11	7:00am	Morning Mass			
December 12	7:00am	Adoration			
December 12	5:00pm	Benediction			
December 12	5:30pm	Rosary			
December 12	6:00pm	Evening Mass			
December 13	8:30am	Street Ministry (St. Cabrini)			
December 13	11:45am	Bingo			

Special Prayers and Blessing

Please pray for the repose soul of
Patricia Cox
Fr. Joseph Ring

Eternal Rest Grant to him. O Lord and let perpetual light shine on them.

Parish Community Tithe

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 29-30

Sat 4:00pm	Sun 7:00am	Sun 11:00am	Total
16	24	82	122

Debt/Accrued Deficits

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

Parish Ministry Schedule - December 13-14

	Saturday 4:00pm	Sunday 7:00am	Sunday 11:00am
Cantor			
Lector	Harvey Schrenk	Brad Mills	John Mehlick
E.M.	Harvey Schrenk Vikki Warren	Earl Schroeder Pam Tipps	Sherry Daniels, John Mehlick Matt Noonan
Servers	Rachel Schrenk	Earl Schroeder	Joseph Blakley Carter Chaudoin

In charity, please remember in your prayers... 2024... Steven Young Patricia Durako, Regina Rakers, Sandra Scott, David Daniels, Halfred Hildebrand, Jr., Joseph Perkinson, 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

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.



Advent Confessions... The Sacrament of Penance will be offered today, Sunday, December 7 @ 2:00pm in the Church. Several priests will be available for individual confessions.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception... Masses for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated on Monday, December 8 at: 8:20am and 6:00pm @ St. Cabrini.

Mass changes for this week... Tuesday, December 9 morning Mass @7:00am. Wednesday, December 10 @ 7:00am, Student Advent Penance Service at 9:00am.

Holidays and **Holy Day** of Obligation Mass Schedule... Immaculate Conception - Dec. 8th (Monday) 8:20am @ St. Aloysius. 6:00pm @ St. Cabrini. 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.



Angel Tree... Please take a tag off the tree and purchase a gift (or gifts) for a child or two children listed on the tag. Then bring the unwrapped gifts back to the church or church office by Tuesday, December 9. Additional donations of gift bags are appreciated. Thank you for your acts of love and caring.

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!

Church Cleaning Day... 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.

Parish Flowers... This weeks **flower intention** is in memory of Kenna Diaz.

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.

The Centennial Campaign... This weekend at all the masses the Centennial Campaign is being introduced. Every parish in the diocese is doing or has done the campaign to assist the parish and Diocesan projects. More details coming in January 2026.

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.



Mass Intentions

December 8 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
8:20am Megan O'Connor Eairheart +

December 9 Advent Weekday
7:00am All Souls+

December 10 Weekday
7:00am Annette Raffa+

December 11 Weekday
7:00am Kenna Diaz+

December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe
6:00pm Legion of Mary+

December 13 Weekday

December 14 Third Sunday of Advent
Sat 4:00pm All Parishioners+

Sun 7:00am Leonard Naumovich +

Sun 11:00am Steve Crouch+

Around the Church

St. Cabrini Nativity Festival... Sunday, December 7, 2025, 10:30am-3:30pm, Free admission and refreshments and entertainment.

St. Joseph Catholic Church (1345 N. 6th St. Springfield) 2025 Cookie Walk with Raffle Baskets. Sunday, December 7, after 7:30am Mass to 12:00pm.

Advent Taize Prayer... St. Cabrini Church, (1020 N Milton Ave.) today, Sunday December 7 at 6:00pm. Please bring a gift of food for the poor.

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

Peace in the Womb Christmas Caroling... Sunday, December 13, 2025 from 4:00-5:00pm at the Springfield Right to Life Office (519 North Bruns Lane). Song Sheets provided and lawn chairs welcomed. Refreshments will be available after caroling. For additional information call 217-523-2700.

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

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.

Stewardship Reflection... Second Sunday of Advent. *Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the re.*"



**STEWARDSHIP
CALLING**

Matthew 3:10 Do you bear good fruit for Jesus? Do you spend time in prayer or do you waste it with mindless activity? Do you use your talent to help others or are you too busy? Do you use your treasure to support the Church or do you buy more things that go unused. Our time, talent, and treasure are gifts from God. What we do with these gifts is our gift back to Him. What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season?

St. John Vianney Cookie Walk... December 13, 2025, at the St. John Vianney Activity Center, 902 St. John Drive in Sherman. Hundreds of beautifully decorated homemade cookies, candies and breads will be available for purchase. A raffle with top notch prizes from local merchants will be going on throughout the morning. Direct Sale Vendors will be available to help you finish your holiday shopping with cash and carry purchases. The jolly ole man himself, Santa, will be on hand from 8:30 -10:30 for "Selfies with Santa" with free will offerings being donated to the Holy Family Food Pantry. And for all our shoppers, complimentary refreshments will be served. Doors open at 8:30am.

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 10:00 and 1:00 starting on Jan 8, and running for 8 weeks. FREE and open to all women!

What's the story behind the **Advent wreath**? Each season in the liturgical calendar comes with its own local and regional rituals. During the Advent season, wreaths adorn church sanctuaries and family dining room tables. You may have said Advent wreath prayers in childhood or taken a turn lighting the candles. The Advent



wreath is full of symbolism about Christ and his coming at Christmas. The wreath is made of evergreen boughs, reminding us that the life of grace doesn't falter with the changing seasons. It always remains fresh and new. Similarly, a circular wreath reminds us of the eternal, never-ending nature of God's love. Candles remind us that Christ is the light of the world, the One who "shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." We use four candles to represent each week of Advent. Traditionally they come in the liturgical colors of the season. Whatever the color and whatever the day, the Advent wreath is a beautiful practice to focus our attention on Christ's coming at Christmas.

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.

December 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

Is 11:1-10 | Rom 15:4-9 | Mt 3:1-12

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

Today's Gospel is a challenging one, inviting us to consider how much spiritual fruit we are bearing in our lives. St. John the Baptist tells us, "Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance," reminding us that the depth of our conversion will be measured by our fruit. Speaking to the Pharisees and Sadducees, John says it is not enough to say that "We have Abraham as our father." If he were speaking today, John might put it this way: it's not enough to say "I'm Catholic!" or "I belong to X Parish." Our lives must show outward evidence of the inward conversion we have undergone. The good news for us today is that we can pause and take stock of how well we are bearing spiritual fruit. Pay attention to what areas might need pruning or fertilizing to ensure that when we come to the Lord's threshing floor at the end of our lives, there is a bountiful harvest he can gather into his barn.


GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Our first reading gives us a glimpse of God's kingdom: The Son of David will rule with wisdom, understanding, counsel, and knowledge, judging "the poor with justice" and striking "the ruthless with the rod of his mouth." In his kingdom "the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb" and yet "there shall be no harm or ruin." What a poetic way of describing the harmony and wholeness that God longs for in society! As disciples, this is our mission. We're called to work so that God's kingdom vision can become reality. As we work for peace and justice, we're doing our part in the Church's work of evangelization. As the U.S. bishops reminded us in their letter *Communities of Salt and Light*, "social justice is an integral part of evangelization, a constitutive dimension of preaching the Gospel, and an essential part of the Church's mission."


REFLECT

In the Gospel, John the Baptist says of Jesus, "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." Our ability to bear spiritual fruit comes from the power of the Holy Spirit within us. Take a moment to reflect on where you see the gifts (see the first reading from Isaiah!) and fruits of the Holy Spirit in your life. How might the Spirit of God be working to increase your spiritual fruitfulness this Advent?



[JESUS] WILL
BAPTIZE YOU WITH
THE HOLY SPIRIT
AND FIRE.

(MT 3:11)


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GO CHARGERS!

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