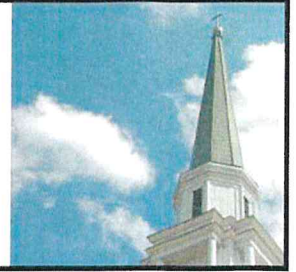


Saint Aloysius Catholic Church

A Discipleship Parish

November 30, 2025... First Sunday of Advent



Dear loving Parishioners,

The First Sunday of advent marks the beginning of a new liturgical year. So, we are starting Year 'A'. The word 'advent' means 'coming'. The world around us is absorbed by the feast of Christmas with gifts, parties, cards, and decorations, but I request you to spend some time reflecting on the mystery of Jesus coming to us as a human being. Then we will celebrate at Christmas. The second theme is, how all will come to an end of this world, with the 'Second Coming' of Jesus. We know that there is the coming of Jesus to everyone at the moment of our death. But Jesus 'comes to us'

whenever we are aware of his presence. So, I request you to repeat at any time as Advent prayer; 'Come, Lord Jesus'. I would encourage you to let the Advent wreath that we bless and light today to become a symbol and cause of our readiness for God's mercy. The most important part of the Advent wreath is not the color of the candles, which symbolize the hopeful spirit of the weeks, or the evergreens, which symbolize God's eternal love. The most important part is the flame, which symbolizes our prayerful vigilance for Christ's coming.

The flame of these candles symbolizes and remind us of the flame of desire we are called to have for 'Jesus' return and his full restoration in us. By means of the Advent wreath, we spiritually unite as a family to one another in anticipation of the Messiah. The Advent wreath, both here in Church and at home, is meant to help us to remain always ready vigilant for Christ's light to eradicate the darkness that is in our homes and in our entire lives. It is also a powerful reminder to us that even when we've sinned, there remains in us the sparks of a flame burning for reconciliation. It's a sign of vigilance, of not falling asleep, of not letting our faith in His love and our longing for him expire.

So, let's get practical about how we're going to live the gift of this Advent. first, go out to meet Jesus coming in his mercy in this Advent. Make the best confession of your life. And then come at least once a week throughout this Year to obtain that healing. 2dly, go out to meet Jesus coming in the Eucharist as often as you can throughout the Advent Season. This is where we receive the Body and Blood poured out for the remission of our sins. 3dly, go out to meet Jesus coming in prayer and through the study of the faith. Like reading Matthew Kelly's great book '*Rediscovering Jesus*'. Finally, go out to bring others to encounter Jesus' coming to meet them in his mercy, in his body and blood, and in prayer and study. The greatest gift you could give to someone at Christmas is 'Jesus'.

In the midst of a world that is trying to take Christ out of Christmas, it's crucial for us who believe in Him, who have received the gifts of his merciful love, to spread our love of him and keep him center not only in the way we spend our time this season, the way we prepare our souls, but also the way we imitate his generosity. Please repeat at least once a day in this Advent season 'Come, O Come Emmanuel'. May God find us ready and always waiting, in his daily encounter with us in his Word and Sacrament and at his second coming, amen. Thank you and God Bless you.

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

Fr. George Nellikunnel
Pastor





Principal's Page

Mrs. Denise Reavis

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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

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schoolboard@saintalloysius.org
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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

Our students and families are among our greatest **blessings** at St. Aloysius! We are so grateful for your support, for your sacrifice, and for your commitment to your child's Catholic education at St. Aloysius School.

Thanksgiving Lunch! **Many thanks** to Miss Ashlie and Mr. Dinardo for cooking us a delicious Thanksgiving feast to enjoy with our family and friends.

All-school Mass will be Tuesday, December 2 at 8:20am. All are welcome!

Advent Prayer Walk... Join us on Wednesday, December 3 at 6:30pm for an Advent Prayer Walk held inside the church. Together, we will move through a series of designated prayer stops, each offering a moment of reflection. Following the prayer walk everyone is welcome together for cookies and cocoa in the church basement. We look forward to sharing this meaningful start to Advent with you. All are welcome!



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 Saint 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 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.




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 2 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.



Father Yunker Lithuanian Student Assistance Fund... Applications are now being solicited for college scholarship grants under the Father Yunker Lithuanian Student Assistance Fund. Qualifications: Applicants must have Lithuanian ancestry and must be a practicing member of the Roman Catholic Church. Completed application must be received by the close of business on Monday, Dec. 1, 2025. Details and application can be downloaded from foundationforthepeople.org or dio.org/school.

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

— Parish Data —

PARISH CALENDAR				Weekly Offering		
November 30	7:00am	Morning Mass		<u>Week 20</u>	<u>November</u> <u>16</u>	<u>Total to Date</u>
November 30	11:00am	Morning Mass (Family Mass)				
December 2	8:20am	All School Mass		Weekly Offertory	\$8,914.00	\$125,185.82
December 3	7:00am	Morning Mass		Shepherd one Student	\$20.00	\$7,374.00
December 3	9:00am	Legion of Mary				
December 3	5:30pm	Helping Hands		Building Fund	\$5500.00	\$22,998.00
December 3	6:30pm	Advent Prayer Walk				
December 4	7:00am	Morning Mass		Bingo	(\$44.00)	\$15,915.00
December 5	7:00am	Adoration		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 33% of needed funding to meet essentials.		
December 5	5:00pm	Benediction		Parish Community Tithe		
December 5	5:30pm	Rosary		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. Tithe - August - \$2,632.00		
December 5	6:00pm	Evening Mass		Debt/Accrued Deficits		
December 6	11:45am	Bingo		Unpaid Diocesan Liabilities		
December 6	3:30pm	Confession		Paid		
December 6	4:00pm	Evening Mass		Amount owed (November 13, 2025)		\$209,700.65
December 7	7:00am	Morning Mass		Parish Ministry Schedule - December 6-7		
December 7	2:00pm	Advent Penance Service		Saturday 4:00pm	Sunday 7:00am	Sunday 11:00am
December 7	11:00am	Morning Mass		Cantor		
December 8	8:20am	Morning Mass (Holy Day)		Lector	Volunteer	Pam Tipps
December 9	8:20am	All School Mass		E.M.	Matt Noonan	Pam Tips
December 10	7:00am	Morning Mass		Servers	Rachel Schrenk	Earl Schroeder
						Earl Schroeder
						Joseph Blakely
						Brayden 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,		

Parish Bulletin Board

The **Centennial Campaign** focuses on strengthening the future vitality of our Parishes and Diocese for the next 100 years. The key Champaign priorities include: Missionary Discipleship & Evangelization (hospitality in our Parish) Campus Improvements Financial Stewardship & Parish Debt Reduction Long term Parish Vitality We have already implemented and completed several campus improvements for our church and school buildings including the church roof, outdoor and inside painting in the church, replacing air conditioning, adding new bleachers in the gym. While doing all this, the parish has paid down a significant portion of the Diocesan Debt. The Centennial Campaign Committee will be sharing a listing of the St Aloysius' Centennial projects, both currently completed and our Centennial Capital Champaign priorities to be completed from 2026 to 2028. Beginning in February 2026, we plan to engage our Centennial Champaign to improve long term parish vitality and focus on remaining capital improvements. In order for St Aloysius Parish to flourish over the next 100 years, we must all commit to expanding our parish fellowship and stewardship by offering our time, talents and treasures more frequently. Beginning this Advent at our mass celebrations we will be reciting a new Centennial Campaign Prayer. There will be a campaign prayer card in the pews, and copies in church to take and share with family and fellow parishioners. So, with your help, let us make St Aloysius' long term vitality prosperous; as a welcoming parish, let's create a stronger parish family though focused hospitality, prayer, service, formation and evangelizing in new ways.

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 Monday, December 8. Additional donations of gift bags are appreciated. Thank you for your acts of love and caring.

Christmas Choir Practice... Anyone interested in signing for Christmas midnight mass as part of the adult choir. Rehearsal dates will be as follows... Thursday, December 4th and 18th. All rehearsals will be in church. If you have questions please contact Sarah Williams @ 217-720-6233.

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 for Rock and Sherry Daniels anniversary. Happy Anniversary!

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.

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

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 1 Advent Weekday

December 2 Advent Weekday
8:20am Kay Morrow+

December 3 Advent Weekday
7:00am Judith Bregow+

December 4 St. Francis Xavier
7:00am James Bartlett+

December 5 Advent Weekday
6:00pm All Souls +

December 6 Advent Weekday

December 7 Second Sunday of Advent
Sat 4:00pm Marilyn Gustafson+

Sun 7:00am All Parishioners+

Sun 11:00am Bill & Vicki Bredemeyer+

Around the Church



St. Cabrini Nativity Festival... Friday, December 5, 9:00am - 11:00am, Saturday, December 6, & Sunday, December 7, 2025, 10:30am - 3:30pm. Free admission and refreshments and entertainment on Saturday and Sunday. St. Aloysius School choir will sing at 3:00pm on Sunday.

Advent Taize" Prayer... *Wait for the Lord.* Sunday, December 7 at 6:00pm. St. Cabrini Church. Please bring a gift of food for the poor.

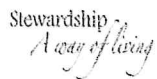
Prayer Warriors are welcome to pray in front of Springfield Planned Parenthood 601 N. Bruns Lane. For more information... www.springfieldrtl.org.

Peace in the Womb Christmas Caroling... Sunday, December 14, 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.

The Two Hearts Pregnancy Resource Center 2026 Pro-Life Calendar. Calendars are \$20 each and feature the artwork of local area students, grades 4 through 12. Proceeds of the sale of the calendars help support the Pro-Life activities of Two Hearts Pregnancy Resource Center. If you would like a calendar please contact Kim Lesko @ 217-416-5916.

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... 1st Sunday of Advent. *"Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come."* Matthew 24:42. People who have had health issues or near-death experiences generally have a greater appreciation for each day being a gift from God. The rest of us usually take for granted that we will be around tomorrow. But when you start to look at each day as a gift, you realize all the little miracles that happen daily and you begin to see God's active presence in your life. You grow in gratitude, each day, for all that we have been given.



Did You Know? That for each Sunday Mass we need 2 servers, 1 lectors, 1-2 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, 4 ushers/greeters and 1 sacristan at each Mass. That is at least 10 volunteers for each mass! How would you like to serve your parish? There are many openings at the weekend masses and upcoming holy days. Please contact Mikki Buhl or the parish office. Your parish needs you!

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.

Novena in Honor of the Immaculate Conception 7:00pm in Church... November 29 - December 7, the Cathedral will host the annual diocesan novena in honor of the Immaculate Conception, patroness of the United States, our diocese, and the Cathedral Parish. The novena will be celebrated each evening at 7:00pm. Each night will be a holy hour consisting of exposition, a liturgy of the Word, homily, Rosary, and benediction with the novena prayer and the recitation of the Litany of Loreto after reposition. Below are the themes with the accompanying readings

Advent Day of Recollection... Preparing Our Hearts for the Coming of Christ – Gift yourself an afternoon of spiritual reflection and prayer during this Advent season. Join Norbertine Father Herman Joseph Johanneck, O. Praem, at the Villa Maria Retreat Center in Springfield for an opportunity to personally encounter hope, peace, joy and love. Sunday, Dec. 7 from 2:00pm - 7:00pm. Cost: \$25 (retreat materials and dinner). Registration Deadline: November 30. Register at dio.org/events. Open to men and women.

St. Joseph Catholic Church (Springfield)... 2025 Cookie Walk with Raffle Baskets, Sunday, December 7, 2025 after 7:30am Mass - 12:00 pm. K of C Parish Breakfast from 8:00am - 11:00am, lovely raffle baskets - \$1.00 a raffle ticket or 6 chances for \$5.00. The Cookie Walk will be sold in bulk and other delights packaged such as pizzelles, delicious homemade popcorn balls, etc., of an amazing variety! Proceeds benefit our Centennial Campaign. Questions - contact the parish office @ 217-303-5805.

St. John Vianney Cookie Walk... Saturday, December 13, 2025, 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 - 10:30am for "Selfies with Santa" with free will offerings donated to the Holy Family Food Pantry. And complimentary refreshments will be served. Doors open at 8:30am.

Monday December 8th the traditional day of the **Immaculate Conception**. Holy Days that fall on Monday usually have the obligation removed. However, since this is the patronal feast day of the Diocese of Springfield, the obligation is not removed. St. Aloysius will have morning Mass at 8:20am and St. Cabrini will have evening at 6:00pm.

Prayer for the Beginning of Advent... Heavenly Father, as we begin this holy season of Advent, we prepare our hearts to welcome Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us the grace to walk in faith and hope, to be watchful in prayer, and to live in joyful expectation of His coming. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



November 30, 2025

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

First Sunday of Advent

Is 2:1-5 | Rom 13:11-14 | Mt 24:37-44

“It is the hour
now for you
to awake
from sleep.”

(Rom 13:11)

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

For many in the upper latitudes of the northern hemisphere, this is the darkest time of the year, the time when the duration of daylight is at its lowest. It's providential, then, that our first reading calls us to “walk in the light of the Lord!” Paul tells us that we do this by “throw[ing] off the works of darkness” and “put[ting] on the armor of light.” While we might not struggle with the vices listed in Paul’s Letter to the Romans, each of us has our own struggles against sin. As we begin this Advent season, let us take time to do a thorough examination of conscience to discern areas of weakness and sin – those “works of darkness” Paul talks about – in our own lives. Then, consider taking up practices that help you to foster the opposing virtues to arm yourself against these temptations. As you grow in these virtues, you’ll certainly be on your way up the mountain of the Lord and walking in his light!

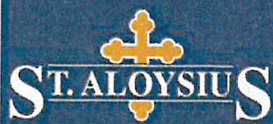
GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Today’s Gospel calls us to vigilance. Jesus tells us, “Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.” While he is speaking about our need to be ready to meet the Lord when he comes at the end of our lives, it’s also an invitation for us to always be ready to share our faith with others whenever the opportunity presents itself. As Scripture says, we should “always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you a reason for your hope.” (1 Pet 3:15) We never know the moment when someone will come to us in need of prayer, a word of encouragement, or with questions related to their own spiritual hunger. We must always be ready to meet them where they are and offer a word of hope.

PRAY

Take a moment to pray this week for those “divine appointments” – those individuals who might come your way – seeking encouragement or insight into the spiritual questions in their lives. Ask for the grace to be “awake” so that you’re ready to meet them when they come. We can’t always predict when these encounters will happen, but we can prepare ourselves to receive these persons as Christ and offer them our full attention and love.



We thank St. Aloysius Faith Community

GO CHARGERS!


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