Saint Aloysius Catholic Church

A Discipleship Parish

September 7, 2025 - Twenty-third Sunday Ordinary in Time



Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

St. Thomas More was the Chancellor, when Henry VIII was the King of England. More was a successful lawyer, a great linguist and a renowned spiritual and political writer. His book, Utopia, has become a classic. When he refused to take an oath supporting the Act of Succession, which a) recognized the offspring of Henry and his second wife Anne Boleyn as the heir to the throne; b) declared Henry's first marriage with Catherine as null and void. More was imprisoned in the Tower of London in the

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. Alovsius/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 year 1534. Thomas More could not, with honesty, approve Henry's second marriage to Anne, and he could not acknowledge the King as the supreme head of the Church of England. More's beloved daughter, Margaret, took an oath to persuade him to do so, in order that the family might visit him in prison. He spent fifteen lonely months imprisoned in the Tower of London in poor health, isolated from the other prisoners, deprived of his books and not even paper and pen were given to him.

Thomas More was convicted of treason, sentenced to death and, on July 6th, 1535, he was beheaded. On mounting the scaffold, Thomas More proclaimed that he was "the king's good servant but God's first." St. Thomas More paid the price for his discipleship by loving God more than his wife, children, even his life. (John Rose in John's Sunday Homilies). Today's readings challenge us to the true Christian discipleship of total commitment to the will of God, putting God first in our lives.

Dear friends, A true Christian discipleship requires to "renounce" both earthly possessions and possessions of the heart that is to renounce too much attachment to family by giving priority to God and His commandments. Break off the excessive attachment to possessions by leading a detached life by willingly sharing one's blessings with others. Accept the hard consequences of discipleship which include daily sacrificial service done for others and even the giving one's life for them. And calculate the cost involved in following Jesus. Using the two parables of the tower-builder and the king defending his country, Jesus says: think long and hard about Christian discipleship before a decision is made.

Friends, we need to accept the challenges of Christian discipleship with heroic commitment and practice it. We could do it, by sharing God's life through frequent and active participation in the Eucharistic celebration, by practicing the spirit of detachment and the renunciation of evil habits and by giving our time, talents and resources generously, for the Lord's work in the Church , and especially in our parish community.

Thanks to all those who love our parishes and do their part to make our parish of love and caring.

Fr. George Nellikunnel



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

Principal's Page

Mrs. Denise Reavis

The cooler temperatures have been a **blessing** for our 3rd week of school! We are all falling into our new routines, making friends, and working hard! We have had a great start to the school year.

We are pleased to **welcome** to our staff: PK 3/4 Ms. Sarah Kwedar. P.E. (Primary Grades) Mrs. Gina Bliss. Parish Music Director/Children's Choir Mrs. Sarah Williams.

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

All Are Welcome... When you registered your child at St. Aloysius you became part of an amazing family! Part of that family life happens in our church every weekend! Mass times are Saturday@ 4:00pm, and Sunday@ 7:00am and 11:00am. Every month at one of the weekend masses will be a Children's Liturgy. Students will participate in all the ministries... lector, server, usher, and choir! Our first Family Mass is Sunday, September 28th.

Parent Sacramental Meeting... An informational meeting for parents of students receiving their sacraments this year directly following Mass on Sunday, October 19 for those interested in the Sacraments for their children. Second Grade families with children preparing for Reconciliation should plan on attending, as well as Third Grade families with students preparing for Confirmation and First Holy Communion. All others wishing for their child to receive a sacrament this year are encouraged and welcome to attend.

School + Church = Parish Parentship. When you enroll your child in St. Aloys-



ius School, you also become part of our church family! The church and school together make up our parish. Did you know our parishioners generously support our school? Each student in Grades K-8 at St. Aloysius receives a parish subsidy that helps cover the difference between the cost of educating our students and the actual tuition charged! Our parishioners also pray for our students and worship with us at Tuesday Mass.

Magic Match Program... St. Aloysius School has a program that matches sponsors to classrooms and curriculum areas. If you or your business is willing to be a sponsor for one of our classrooms for the school year, contact the parish/school office at 544-4554.

A note from Rhonda Mills our **Bingo** Coordinator... Thank you to all the volunteers



for helping to make this fundraiser a great success! The program needs a few, steady workers for the summer months. 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 East Converse, on Saturday, September 13 at 11:45am for Early Bird games, 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 always needed. You can text or call Rhonda (217) 670-4458. This is a great way to help our school earn funds Thank you for your support!

With **school** being back in session it is a good time to be reminded to use caution when driving in our parking lot, 20th and 21st Street. Please always drive slowly and be alert!

— Parish Data —

				<u>arisn</u>	vata —		Equ.
PARISH CALENDAR					Weekly Offering		
Septemb		7:00am		rning Mass	Week 8	August 24	Total to Date
		11:00am					
~			m Morning Mass (All School Mass)		Weekly Offertory	\$6,380.00	\$46,293.75
		7:00am	3		Shepherd one Studen	\$150.00	\$3,037.00
•		9:00am					
		7:00am	Morning Mass		Building Fund	6425.00	647 40E 00
September 11 1:30pm					building rund	\$125.00	\$17,495.00
September 11 6:00pm School Bo							
September 12		7:00am	Adoratio		Bingo	\$267.00	\$8,725.00
I		5:00pm					
September 12 5:30pm Rosary					The budgeted amount is the minimal required to maintain services, employee benefits, utilities, and maintenance at current levels and provide		
September 12 6:00pm Evening Mass							
September 13 8:30am Street Ministry (St. Cabrini					for dear payment, and ageted repairs or improvements for the ransm		
September 13 11:45am Bingo				Weekly Offerings budget for the month of August is \$40,000.00. We have received 58% of needed funding to meet essentials.			
September 13 3:30pm Confessio							
September 13 4:00pm Evening Mass				Parish Community Tithe As you have read in the Catholic Times, the Annual Catholic Ser-			
September 14 7:00am Morning Mass							
September 14 11:00am Morning Mass				vices Appeal has been disco	ontinued. The dioc	ese will be assessing	
September 15-18 Priest Convocation				its parishes on a monthly ba	sis, based on 10%	of its income each	
September 16 8:20am No Morning Mass				month to provide the needs of our diocesan church. Please consider increasing your giving to the parish by the amount you previ-			
Declarated to the property of the contract of		7:00am	No Morning Mass		ously gave to ACSA, so that we can handle this new monthly, pay-		
Septembe	er 17	9:00am	Legi	on of Mary	as we-go obligation. Tithe -	June - \$3,845.00.	July - \$3,202.00.
V	Neek	ly Attendance	e - August 30-	31	Debt/A	ccrued Defici	ts
Sat 4:00pm		Sun 7:00am	Sun 11:00am	Total	Unpaid Diocesan Liabilities		
47			64		Paid		
		55		166	Amount owed (August 18, 2025)	u.	\$239,997.03
			Parish Mi	nistry Sch	edule - September 1	3-14	
					ay 7:00am Sunday 11:00am		
Cantor					*		
Lector	Gary McCandless		E	Brad Mills	Gre	Gregg Finigan	
E.M.	Tom Kohlrus			Mikki Buhl	Pau	Paul Brown, Sherry Daniels	
	Gary McCandless		Pam Tipps		David Klestinski		
Servers				Earl Schroe		Dom Guimking Brantley Riech	

In charity, please remember in your prayers... 2023... Bert Viola Jr., James Farrand, Mary Schroeder, Gene Adams, Virginia Broccardo, Mary Ellen Daniels, Joann Lee, Ron Hull, Florence Galassi, John Risse, Josephine Albright, Peter Campo, Mary McKibben, Michael Barnard. 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 and David Jones.

Parish Bulletin Board

The priests of our diocese will gather for the **Annual Clergy Convocation** September 15-18. No Mass will be offered Tuesday -Thursday. Mass and Adoration will take place as usual on Friday. Please remember to keep the priests of our diocese in your prayers as they gather for prayer, fraternity, and renewal.

Save the Date... **Family Parish Picnic**. Sunday, October 26 at Lincoln Park. Please see the flyer in your bulletin. RSVP will begin the week of September 21.

Weekend Mass Schedule... **Normal mass schedule has returned**. For those who do not do well with the heat you are welcome at our sister parish St. Cabrini. Daily Mass has returned to the church. The AC installation work should begin very soon! The company is waiting on some parts. Outside preliminary work has began.

St. Cabrini's Fall Festival is today, Sunday, September 7 from 11:00am to 4:00pm. There will be music, children's games, health fair, country store, food, drinks, and more. Raffle tickets are available at the Fall Festival. And admission is free!

St. Aloysius Centennial Celebration! Can you believe it? St. Aloysius Parish is turning 100 years old in September 2028. A century of faith, family, and community! We're kicking off the journey to this historic milestone, and we need your help to make it unforgettable. Join us for the next Centennial Planning Committee Meeting on Thursday, October 23 at 6:00pm in the Parish Meeting Room. Be part of the excitement, the planning, and the memories in the making!

During the Masses July 19th and 20th, Fr. Daniel Vogt was at our parish to make an appeal for the Apostolic Vicariate of Izabal in Guatemala as part of the Diocese's Annual **Missionary Co-op program**. Together, St. Aloysius and St. Cabrini parishes have contributed \$2,325 to this appeal. Thank you for your generosity!

National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children will take place on Saturday, September 13 from 10:00-11:00am. This inter-faith memorial service will start at the Two Hearts PRC building at 519 N. Bruns Lane and will then proceed on to the public sidewalk in front of Planned Parenthood just to the north. This event is co-sponsored nationally by the Pro-Life Action League, Priests for Life and Citizens for a Pro-Life Society.

Springfield Diocesan Council of Catholic Women 2025 Convention. All women are invited to the Springfield Diocesan Council of Catholic Women's annual convention on Wednesday, October 1, at St. Paul's Church and Trinity Hall, 1411 Main St., Highland, IL. The day begins with registration/refreshments from 8:00-9:00am, followed by the convention from 9:00am -3:30pm, including Mass at 11:00am with Bishop Thomas John Paprocki. This year's theme is "Let Yourself Be Loved" featuring speaker Claire Dwyer, author of This Present Paradise: A Spiritual Journey with St. Elizabeth of the Trinity. Registration forms are available @ dio.org/events and due by September 14.

A **playpen** will be placed in the vestibule of the church next weekend (September 14-15). Springfield Pregnancy Care Center needs these items in our playpen collection... All size diapers, baby wipes, all size clothing/sleepers, pacifiers, baby wash, lotion, shampoo and women's care products (shampoo, lotion, body wash). Thank you!

Calling all men juniors in high school and above! Join Bishop Paprocki and Priests of the Diocese for an Andrew Dinner at 5:00pm on Sunday, September 21 at Little Flower in Springfield. The Andrew Dinner is a simple/low key gathering where we will pray, share a meal, and have conversations about Priesthood and how best to discern what vocation God is calling you to. If you would like to attend, email Fr. Zach Samples at zsamples@dio.org. We hope to see you there!

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

September 8 Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

September 9 St. Peter Claver

8:20am Emma Brandon +

September 10 Weekday 7:00am Annette Raffa+

September 11 Weekday 7:00am All Souls +

September 12 Most Holy Name of Mary 6:00pm William Bredemeyer+

September 13/14 Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Sat 4:00pm Marilyn Gustafson+ Christine Kohlrus +

Sun7:00am Leonard Naumovich+ All Parishioners+

Sun11:00am Frank and Marian Camille+

Around the Church

Interested in becoming a **permanent deacon**? Join us after 10:00am Mass Sunday, September 7th at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Following Mass there will be an informational meeting in the atrium. Wives are welcome and encouraged to attend with their husbands. Please visit https://dio.org/diaconate/ for more information about the diaconate.

PSR for Extraordinary People will begin the 2025-2026 academic season on Wednesday, September 10, 2025. The first week will be a "Welcome" Mass at Blessed Sacrament starting at 5:30pm followed by dinner in the school cafeteria. Regular classes run from 6:30-7:30pm every Wednesday evening during the academic year. Class is held at Blessed Sacrament School. Our class is designed to meet the needs of developmentally youth & adults who want to grow in their Catholic faith and share fellowship with other like-minded people. Please call Jane Mosey-Nicoletta (217-971-4179) or Blessed Sacrament Parish (217-528-7521),

The Cathedral will again be hosting a Catholic book fair with access to the best in literature aligned with Catholic virtues. The **Ignatius Book Fair** will offer an incredible selection of Catholic and secular works that inspire and educate. Discover books that foster creativity, imagination, books that can edify, shape character, and deepen faith. September 11, 10:00-1:00 and 6:00-7:00. September 12, 10:00-2:00. September 13 and 14 after all Masses in the Cathedral school cafeteria.

The **KC #4175 ladies'** auxiliary is having a Barnyard Boogie dance on Saturday, September 20th from 7:00 - 10:00pm. Adults only, cash bar, light snacks provided, \$5.00 cover charge to help pay for the DJ. Come and have some fun dancing and socializing.

Married 50 Years or More? Let Us Celebrate You! Bishop Thomas John Paprocki invites all couples who have been married 50 years or more to a special Applyersary Mas

been married 50 years or more to a special Anniversary Mass on Sunday, September 21 at 2:00 pm at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield. This celebration honors your beautiful witness to the vocation of marriage. A light reception to follow. Contact Gracie Ortiz at: gortiz@dio.o or (217) 698-8500.

Stewardship Reflection... "Everyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:33 When we first hear this statement, it seems that Jesus is making an unrealistic demand upon us. How can we renounce all of our possessions? We need them to live. However, what we must renounce is the belief that they belong to us. Everything that we have belongs to God alone. All of our resources are entrusted to us not only for our own use, but also so that we can help others. Once we renounce the idea that we possess or are entitled to anything, it is much easier to share the many gifts that God has given us. Then we truly are His Disciples.

The **Parish office** will be closed on Thursday, Sept.11 and Friday, Sept. 12.

We invite everyone to participate in the **Bible study Jesus and the Eucharist**, a series of seven sessions that explores the mystery of the Eucharist as the source and summit of our faith. The meetings will take place on Mondays from 6:00 - 8:00pm in the Library of the Cathedral School of the Immaculate Conception, on September 8, 15, 22, 29; October 6, 20, and 27 (there will be no session on October 13 due to Columbus Day). All sessions will be conducted in **Spanish only**. All are welcome!

Documents of Vatican II, Continued... Mark your calendars for Sept 18 and Oct 23 as Fathers Brian Alford and Daniel McGrath discuss the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World. On Nov 20 and Dec 11, they will cover the remaining documents of the Second Vatican Council. Cathedral Atrium @ 7:00pm.

Catholic Men's Overnight Retreat, September 27-28, Villa Maria Retreat Center. Norbertine Father Herman Joseph Johanneck, O. Pream, presents the upcoming overnight retreat, "Sons of the Father, Men in Christ." The retreat begins at noon on Saturday, September 27 and concludes after lunch on Sunday, September 28. Visit dio.org/events for a more detailed schedule and to register. The cost is \$150 and includes overnight accommodations (single occupancy), meals, and retreat materials. Deadline to register is September 22. Contact events@dio.org with question.

Men's Leadership Summit taking place in Edwardsville October 18 - Do you feel like just another guy in a pew? You're not alone. The Diocese of Springfield in Illinois has invited John Edwards from Just a Guy in the Pew to host a Men's Leadership Summit on Saturday, October 18, 2025 at St. Boniface Church in Edwardsville (110 N Buchanan St.) to bring single and married men together to support one another, get inspired by their faith, gain and enhance leadership skills, and discuss best practices for men's ministry. John is a dynamic, inspirational spiritual leader who has a powerful witness story of hard drug use to finding Christ in a radical way. Register at dio.org/events. Cost: \$30. Includes materials/food and drink. Deadline to register is Oct. 1. Contact: gortiz@dio.org or 217-321-1124 for questions.

Annual Night at the Movies. Tuesday, September 16th 6:30pm. Lincoln Square Theatre (141 N. Main St., Decatur) "CARLO AUCTIS - Roadmap to Reality" Movie about Saint Carlo Acutis Carlo is God's Influencer and the first Millennial saint. Tickets \$5 each. For Your Tickets to this family movie. Please call WDCR 217-464-1099, or download a flyer @ wdcrradio.com

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

Eucharistic Adoration... • EVERY Friday • 7:00am - 5:00pm. Come spend an hour with the Lord.



September 7, 2025

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Written by THE

FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

Wis 9:13-18b | Phlm 9-10, 12-17 | Lk 14:25-33

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

I am particularly struck by this line from Solomon's prayer in today's first reading from the Book of Wisdom: "Or who ever knew your counsel, except you had given wisdom and sent your holy spirit from on high?" Solomon doesn't seem to be seeking direct answers to the questions he presents today, but rather, uses them as a sort of poem of praise to honor God in all his glory. In modern language, we could rephrase his questions: What do we know that God has not instilled into our minds? What wisdom do we have that was not infused by the Holy Spirit? There are many things that we cannot understand without the wisdom God gives us. May we, like Solomon, praise and thank God for this gift. Let us trust that where our feeble, corruptible humanity falters, our heavenly Father is our refuge in every age.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Today's Gospel is certainly one that we need God's wisdom to understand. This reading always makes me do a double take or a read-over. "What did Jesus just say?!" His words today are stark and can feel disconcerting. "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple." When I encounter a challenging Scripture such as this one, I try to immediately root myself in concrete truths about the Lord. First, I acknowledge that he is good and desires my good. He is all-knowing, all-powerful and all-loving. After centering on those realities, I can look at this Gospel again, but this time through a clearer lens. Ultimately, this Gospel is a piercing reminder of the radical renunciation desired by the Lord. It is a rubric for the narrow road and for sanctity. Jesus does not mince his words, nor does he seek to confuse or confound: to follow Jesus is to release our hearts from earthly attachments, to embrace our cross and to set our lives in proper order. Clear and direct? Certainly. Easy? Not at all. But doing this in union with Jesus? Absolutely possible.

REFLECT

Today, consider reflecting on your attachments - the places you cling to anything that is not Christ. As you go into these tender places, invite Jesus to gently reveal where he wants to grant you his freedom.





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TROY A. WASHKO, CPA

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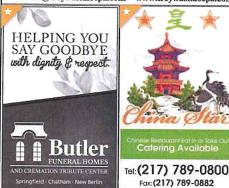
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