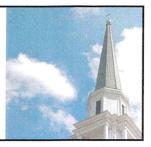
## Saint Aloysius Catholic Church

A Discipleship Parish

## September 14, 2025 - Exaltation of the Holy Cross



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We live in a world which, despite extraordinary advances in knowledge and technology, has forgotten its origin and destiny in the love of God. Because we are called to interact every day with society and to provide daily care for the world, we are in danger of forgetting the source of all being in God. We witness in the Church Christ and His Cross.

The Cross is not just the symbol of Christianity, it is the essence of Christianity. Every Orthodox Christian wears a cross around his neck and would never be without his cross.

Fr. George Nellikunnel (gnellikunnel@dio.org) 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 There is an old Russian saying, when someone misbehaves: "he acts like he doesn't have a cross." Every Orthodox Church has not just one but many crosses on its domes and towers, proclaiming the triumph of the cross and scattering the demons. The mystery of the Cross and Resurrection of Christ is what real Christianity is all about. It is precisely through the cross that we find Christ. It is impossible to follow Christ without carrying the cross.

As soldiers of Christ, we are called to combat the confusion and error ,by following ever more intently and wholeheartedly the Way of the Cross. The Cross is the sole reason for the Incarnation, for the Coming of God the Son in our human nature. Our Lord Jesus Christ was incarnate in the womb of the ever-Virgin Mary for one only reason, so that He might suffer and die for us on the Cross and so win for us the gift of everlasting life by His Resurrection. In His instruction to Nicodemus, during His public ministry, our Lord Jesus made it clear that He must die on the Cross in order that we might have eternal life. He told Nicodemus: "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life... For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him" (Jn 3, 14-21).

The crucifix is the sign of our salvation through the immeasurable love of God for us. It was that God inspired Saint Francis of Assisi to pray, upon entering a church: "We adore you, Lord Jesus Christ, here and in all your churches in the whole world, and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world." The crucifix is the great sign of our hope that we who die with Christ in baptism will also rise to everlasting life with Him.

As we celebrates the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, let us thank God for the gift of His very life which is ours in the Church. Let us rededicate ourselves to dwell always in the Heart of God through His only-begotten Son, our Savior. Let us embrace once again the Cross of the Savior in which alone we find our salvation.

Thank you for your prayers and contributions. May Blessed Mother Mary protect you all from all sickness and dangers.

Fr. George Nellikunnel Pastor





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Larry Tebrugge
Earl Schroeder

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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

## Principal's Page

Mrs. Denise Reavis

This **past week** we held Student Council elections and it was already mid-quarter of 1st quarter! Thank you Father George and Father Saji for blessing our classrooms. Special Blessings to all our Students on a Fantastic School Year filled with Faith and Learning!

**Family Mass...** Please plan on joining us as we celebrate the Mass as a school family! We will be celebrating our first Family Mass of the school year on Sunday, September 28th at 11:00am. Students will participate in all the ministries... lector, usher, server. Sunday Mass is a great way for our children to begin a faith filled week spiritually and reinforces the lessons taught at school.

Please note there is **no 8:20am Mass on Tuesday, September 16**. All-school Mass will be Tuesday, September 23 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.

**SHG Homecoming Parade**... SHG is hosting their annual Homecoming Parade on Sunday, September 28 at 4:00pm. The Catholic Grade Schools have been invited to participate in the parade once again this year. Following the parade will be the boys' volleyball game and girls' Powder Puff football game along with food, games, and family fun for everyone! We are looking for a few parents to coordinate! Please reach out to Tom Riech at AD@saintaloysius.org if you are interested in helping!

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 21 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!

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

Save the Date... **Family Parish Picnic**. Sunday, October 26 at Lincoln Park.

## - Parish Data -

	Marie Mallace de la constante	I all'isii			
	PARIS	H CALENDAR	Weekly Offering		
September 14	7:00am	Morning Mass	Week 9	August 31	Total to Date
September 14	11:00am	Morning Mass			
September 15	-18	Priest Convocation	Weekly Offertory	\$4,454.00	\$50,797.75
September 16	8:20am	No Morning Mass	Shepherd one Student		\$3,037.00
September 17	7:00am	No Morning Mass	Shephera one Stadent		\$3,037.00
September 17	9:00am	Legion of Mary			
September 19	7:00am	Adoration	Building Fund	\$250.00	\$17,848.00
September 19	5:00pm	Benediction		Section of the sectio	
September 19	5:30pm	Rosary	Bingo	\$97.00	\$8,822.00
September 19	6:00pm	Evening Mass	290	ψ37100	40,022.00
September 20	11:45am	Bingo			
September 20	3:30pm	Confessions	The budgeted amount is the mini		
September 20	4:00pm	Evening Mass	ployee benefits, utilities, and mai for debt payment, unbudgeted re		
September 21	7:00am	Morning Mass	Weekly Offerings budget for the	month of August	is \$40,000.00. We
September 21	11:00am	Morning Mass	have received 70% of needed fur	iding to meet esser	ntials.
September 23	8:20am	All School Mass	Parish Co	mmunity Ti	the
September 24	7:00am	Morning Mass	1 1 1 0 1	li Ti	10 11 0
September 24	9:00am	Legion of Mary	As you have read in the Catho vices Appeal has been discon		
September 24	6:00pm	Centennial Campaign Committee	its parishes on a monthly basi		
September 25	7:00am	Morning Mass	month to provide the needs o	f our diocesan cl	hurch. Please consid-
September 25	5:00pm	Liturgy Committee	er increasing your giving to the ously gave to ACSA, so that we have to account to the control of the control o		
September 25	6:00-7:3	0pm Family Night	as we-go obligation. Tithe - Ju		

Weekly Attendance - September 6-7				Debt/Accrued Deficits	
Sat 4:00pm	Sun 7:00am	Sun 11:00am	Total	Unpaid Diocesan Liabilities	
				Paid	
62	51	80	193	Amount owed (August 18, 2025)	\$239,997.03

#### Parish Ministry Schedule - September 20-21

	Saturday 4:00pm	Sunday 7:00am	Sunday 11:00am
Cantor			
Lector	Tom Kohlrus	Mikki Buhl	John Mehlick
E.M.	James Auth Harvey Schrenk	Earl Schroeder Pam Tipps	Patti Crouch, Sherry Daniels David Klestinski
Servers	Rachel Schrenk	Joshua Nielsen Megan Nielsen	Jayden Blakley Ryan Davidson

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 has begun!

A **playpen** will be placed in the vestibule of the church this weekend (September 13-14). 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!

St. Aloysius Senior Breakfast...We will meet for breakfast on Tuesday, September 16 @ King Pin Lane... 8:30am.

**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!

Parish Flowers... This weeks flower intention is in memory of Josephine Albright.

Parish Flowers... The flower calendar for 2025 can be found in church vestibule. You have the opportunity to honor a birthday, anniversary, or remember a loved one on their special day. Please put your name on the calendar with your remembrance, and \$40.00 in the envelope with the information requested, please write legibly. Your remembrance will be in the bulletin and a bouquet of flowers will be on the altar.

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 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.

**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!

**Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa**... The Church in Africa leads the way in healing wounds of division and conflict, preaching the Gospel, and reconciling people in hope for just and lasting peace. Your support of the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa empowers the Church to fulfill its mission as peacemaker to those who have most suffered fear and violence. There will be an envelope in your bulletin next weekend for this collection. To learn more about the collection... visit www.usccb.org/africa.

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.

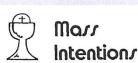
Thank you... The advertisements that appear in this bulletin completely defray all publishing costs which the church would otherwise incur. Please patronize the sponsors on the back of this bulletin and thank them for their kind generosity.

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

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.



September 15 Our Lady of Sorrows

September 16 St. Cornelius St. Cyprian

8:20am

no mass

September 17 7:00am

Weekday no mass

**September 18 Weekday** 7:00am no mass

September19 6:00pm

Weekday Tom Senalik+

September 20 St. Andrew Kim Tae-gön

September 21 25th Ordinary Sunday Sat 4:00pm Ruth Rogers + All Parishioners +

Sun7:00am Bill & Vikki Bredemeyer +

Sun11:00am Special Intention Sandra Scott+

## **Around the Church**

Our annual Summer Hunger campaign that helps to fund Catholic Charities Mobile Food Pantry Program. The Mobile Food Pantry reaches out to feed disadvantaged people facing poverty in rural communities across our 28-county diocese. Our 7 Mobile Food Pantry trucks deliver meat, fresh produce, dairy and nonperishable food items all year long to those in need. We humbly ask you to consider a gift to help us continue to feed God's children through our mission to "extend to all the healing and empowering presence of Jesus." Every gift you give, no matter how small, makes a difference. Donate today at: https://cc.dio.org/ways\_to\_give/donate

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

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.

2025 Respect Life Mass, Rosary Walk, and Luncheon Saturday, October 11. Join Catholics from across the Diocese of Springfield as we celebrate Respect Life Month with a morning of prayer, fellowship, and inspiration. The day will begin with the Respect Life Mass at 9:00am at Holy Family Catholic Church (2606 Washington Ave, Granite City). Following Mass, participants will take part in a Rosary Walk through the community, giving witness to the dignity of every human life. A complimentary luncheon will follow, featuring guest speaker Kristi Hofferber, Executive Director of A Beacon of Light. Kristi will share her powerful testimony and her work in helping women and families choose life, offering hope and support at every stage. All are welcome.. families, youth, clergy, parish staff, and members of the community. No registration or fees are required.

Stewardship Reflection... The Exaltation of the Holy Cross. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son." John 3:16. God created us to be in relationship with Him. Sin broke that relationship. Jesus come to earth so that we may reconcile our relationship with God. Following Jesus' example, we can be blessed with a joy-filled life on earth and eternal life in Heaven. These four points are known as the "kerygma" – the first proclamation of the Gospel. This core message is the basis of our Catholic faith. How do you live this out in your daily life?

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 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!

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

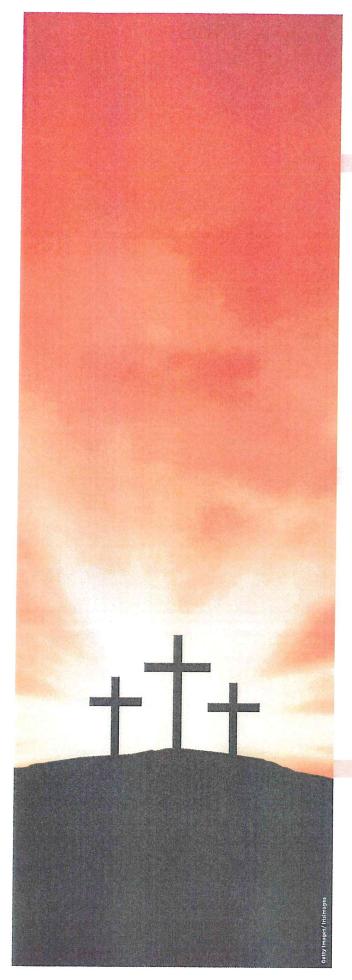
**Documents of Vatican II, Continued...** Mark your calendars for Sept 18 and Oct 23 as Fathers Brian Alford and Daniel McGrath discuss the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World. On Nov 20 and Dec 11, they will cover the remaining documents of the Second Vatican Council. Cathedral Atrium @ 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 Register at dio.org/events. Cost: \$30. Includes materials/food and drink. Deadline Oct. 1. Contact: gortiz@dio.org.

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

The **rosary** is prayed before each weekend Mass. Looking for help before the 11:00am Mass on Sundays. Please call the Parish office if you can help. Thank you!



September 14, 2025

# Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross

Written by THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

Num 21:4b-9 | Phil 2:6-11 | Jn 3:13-17

Although God had freed our ancestors in faith from their slavery in Egypt, today we find them grumbling against the Lord as they wander in the desert. Even after we've glimpsed so much of God's goodness, we, too, can begin to grumble in challenging moments of our lives. It's precisely then that we need to cling to faith. After serpents appeared and began to bite those who had grumbled against God, those who had been bitten only had to look at the serpent mounted on a pole and put their faith in God once again to be healed. Similarly, when we find ourselves in the trials of life, we need only look at the cross of Jesus with faith. "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." Amid the storms of our lives, we are called to put our trust in his

#### GO EVANGELIZE

#### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

cross, for through it we are saved and set free.

Paul tells us that God the Father "greatly exalted" Jesus for his humility in embracing the cross, and that ultimately, all creation will join the Father in glorifying Christ. We who know the gift of what Jesus did for us on the cross are called to praise him with our voices and our lives. We praise and glorify Christ first through our example. How might our day-to-day interactions give others a glimpse of the humble and self-emptying love of Jesus? Finally, think of the ways that knowing Christ's love has made a difference in your life. Has it made you more patient? Has it made you more hopeful? Think of ways that you could share this in conversation. Telling others about what God has done for you or the difference that he has made in your life is one way of exalting Christ.

#### PRAISE

Today, spend some time thanking and praising God for the gift of the cross and our salvation in Christ. You might wish to use this traditional prayer frequently used during the stations of the cross in Lent: "We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. Because, by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world."





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