

# Saint Aloysius Catholic Church

A Discipleship Parish

February 15, 2026... Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,

As we begin this season of Lent with Ash Wednesday on February 18, we turn our focus to six weeks of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Ash Wednesday, we begin the season of Lent, a season of reflection, conversion, and preparation for the joy of Easter by saying "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return". These familiar words spoken first by the Lord to Adam in the Book of Genesis will be spoken to each of you as you receive ashes on your foreheads placed there in the sign of the cross.

Fr. George Nellikunnel (gnellikunnel@dio.org) Pastor  
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

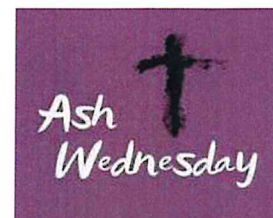
Church: (217) 544-4554 Fax: (217) 544-1680  
School: (217) 544-4553 Fax: (217) 544-1680

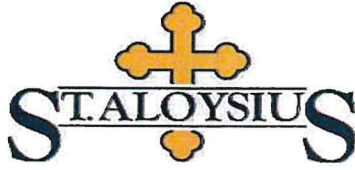
It is recognition that the human condition is affected by sin. It is not a put down but an acknowledgment of the reality of our limited human nature and of our mortality. Ashes on the forehead are an outward sign of our desire for interior conversion. After an Ash Wednesday service, a little boy asked his mother, "is it true that we are made of dust?" "Yes," she responded. "And is it true that we go back to dust again when we die?" "Yes, dear." We need to prepare for that last day but especially we need to recognize that life is precious and fragile, and life is always filled with change. The truth is that while we ought to pray for one another including our leaders, it is to Christ to whom we commit our lives. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. To accompany others takes time, Patience, and compassion. Lent offers us that time. Prayers and fasting help us practice patience. Alms giving which includes our valuable time, helps us grow in compassion-suffering with our brothers and sisters.

The season of Lent encourages us to remind ourselves that to dust we shall return. But we will do so in the bright light of the Resurrection if we have our life in order. Lent, therefore, is not a time for gloom but for hope. It is a time for reflection on how our lives are going, the health of our patterns of behavior, the strength of our relationships with one another, and the depth of our relationship with God. Such reflection ought to lead us to repentance.

Repentance is quitting not under pressure but because we choose to do so, yearning for the peace that comes with being one with encountering Christ personally in our hearts, knowing of his love and mercy for us. Each of us is faced with the tensions of how to balance often conflicting demands of body, mind, and spirit in morally appropriate ways. One tradition during Lent is to give up something, to fast from something to exercise self-discipline in a new way. Archbishop Fulton Sheen said "self-discipline never means giving up anything, for giving up is a loss. Our Lord did not ask us to give up the things of the earth, but to exchange them for better things." The better thing is a right relationship with Christ through His Church. One focus for our Lenten reflection this year, during change, might be how to better appreciate and take advantage of the gift of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church instituted by Christ to guide and support us on our journey to holiness. May these forty days be one of renewal and reconciliation for each of you. May Our Lady, Mother of Mercy, watch over you. Thank you for your care and love. Best wishes for a happy and holy Lent.

Fr. George Nellikunnel, Pastor  
St Aloysius and St. Cabrini





## Principal's Page

Mrs. Denise Reavis

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Joyce Zaffiri

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[schoolboard@santalloysius.org](mailto:schoolboard@santalloysius.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 annual **Spaghetti Dinner** is today, Sunday, February 15th! The Spaghetti Dinner is a north-end, St. Aloysius tradition that many enjoy! We are happy to be able to continue this tradition with dining room, carry-out, and drive-through dinner! The dining room will be open! Carry out and drive-thru will also be available. Tickets are \$12.00 per person. Each year we sell 50/50 raffle tickets to help support our annual dinner. 50/50 raffle tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 tickets for \$5.00.

**All-school Mass** will be Wednesday, February 18 at 8:20am. All are welcome!

**Thank you to the PTO** for a delicious lunch and the handwarmers during Catholic Schools Week! Thank you to all who helped make our Catholic Schools Week a true celebration of our school.

**Registration for the 2026-2027 school year opened last week.** Current families will have the opportunity to register early and ensure a spot for the 2026-2027 school year! Registration for returning students open on Wednesday, February 11th! When you register by February 25, you will receive a discounted registration rate and will be entered into a drawing to win \$1000 off tuition! THANK YOU for your commitment and support!

Sign up now for **Illinois Pro-Life Mass** and attend **Illinois Pro-Life March**.



Thursday, March 19, you are invited to join thousands of pro-life advocates, being a joyful witness to life and raising your voice for the voiceless at the Illinois Pro-Life Mass and March. The day begins with Mass at 10:00am at the Exposition Building on the grounds of the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield, celebrated by Bishop Thomas John Paprocki and concelebrated by bishops and priests from across the state. You must register for the Mass by going to [dio.org](http://dio.org). After the Mass, there is a rally at the capitol at 1:00pm with guest speakers, and then a march around the capitol at 2:00pm. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will also be going on at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception from noon to 5:00pm. Confessions at the Cathedral will also be available from 1:30 - 5:00pm. Last year, about 2,000 people attended the Illinois Pro-Life March, the vast majority being students from Catholic grade schools, high schools, and Newman Centers. Priests, seminarians, religious, and the lay faithful from every corner of the diocese and the state also showed up in strong numbers.


**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, February 21 at 11:45am for Early Bird, other games begin at noon. Play bingo during our times, help make this a fun and profitable activity for St. Aloysius School! Please consider volunteering. Volunteers are needed! You can text or call Rhonda (217) 670-4458. Thank you for your support. Also a very special thanks goes to Rhonda for managing this essential fundraiser every Saturday.

**Families and Children Welcome!** "Let the children come to me and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." - Luke 18:16 Families and children are always welcome at Mass at St. Aloysius. While we strive for a reverent liturgy, we appreciate children of all ages 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.



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

## — Parish Data —

PARISH CALENDAR				Weekly Offering	
February 15	7:00am		Morning Mass	<u>Week 29</u>	<u>January 25</u>
February 15	11:00am		Morning Mass		
February 15	12:00-6:00pm		Spaghetti Dinner	<b>Weekly Offertory</b>	<b>3,938.00</b>
February 16		No School (Presidents Day)		<b>Shepherd one Student</b>	<b>\$700.00</b>
February 17	7:00am		Morning Mass		<b>\$11,746.00</b>
February 18	8:20am	Morning Mass (Ash Wednesday)		<b>Building Fund</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>
February 18	9:00am		Legion of Mary		<b>\$27,318.00</b>
February 19	7:00am		Morning Mass		
February 20	7:00am		Adoration	<b>Bingo</b>	
February 20	5:00pm		Benediction		<b>\$31,986.00</b>
February 20	5:30pm		Stations of the Cross	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 January is \$40,000.00. We have received 62% of needed funding to meet essentials.	
February 20	6:00pm		Evening Mass	<b>Parish Community Tithe</b>	
February 21	11:45am		Bingo	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. December Tithe - \$5,315.00	
February 21	3:30pm		Confession	<b>Debt/Accrued Deficits</b>	
February 21	4:00pm		Evening Mass	<b>Unpaid Diocesan Liabilities</b>	
February 22	7:00am		Morning Mass	<b>Paid</b>	
February 22	11:00am	Morning Mass (Family Mass)		<b>Amount owed (January 20, 2026)</b>	<b>\$209,997.03</b>
February 24	8:20am		All School Mass	<b>Weekly Attendance - February 7-8</b>	
February 25	7:00am		Morning Mass	<b>Sat 4:00pm</b>	<b>Sun 7:00am</b>
February 25	9:00am		Legion of Mary	<b>Sun 11:00am</b>	<b>Total</b>
February 25	6:30pm	First Reconciliation (2nd Grade)		<b>87</b>	<b>40</b>
				<b>102</b>	<b>229</b>
<b>Parish Ministry Schedule - February 21-22</b>					
	<b>Saturday 4:00pm</b>	<b>Sunday 7:00am</b>	<b>Sunday 11:00am</b>		
Cantor					
Lector	Harvey Schrenk	Earl Schroeder	Students		
E.M.	James Auth, Harvey Schrenk Vikki Warren	Earl Schroeder, Pam Tipps David Klestinski	Paul Brown, Patti Crouch Sherry Daniels, John Mehlick		
Servers	Rachel Schrenk	Earl Schroeder	Students		
	<p>In charity, please remember in your prayers... 2024... Steven Young Patricia Durako, Regina Rakers, Sandra Scott, David Daniels, Halfred Hildebrand, Jr., Joseph Perinton, 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, August Egger, Rita Smarjesse. 2026... Caroline Dietrich, and Judy Tucker.</p>				

# Parish Bulletin Board

**Ash Wednesday**, February 18. Mass will be 8:20am at St. Aloysius and 6:00pm Mass at St. Cabrini. This is not a Holy Day of Obligation, it is an excellent way to begin your Lenten Journey! Let us begin to think about what we need to do to make this Lent a truly blessed one in our spiritual conversion.

**Lenten Regulations...** Everyone 14 years of age or older is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday. Everyone 18 or older, and under 59 years of age, is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, only one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. Catholics should not lightly excuse themselves from these prescribed minimal penitential practices.

**Stations of the Cross** will be held every Friday at 5:30pm during Lent.

Please note... **Daily mass** on Tuesday, February 17 will be at 7:00am and Wednesday, February 18 at 8:20am.

**St. Aloysius Senior Breakfast...** will meet for breakfast on Tuesday, February 17 @ King Pin at 9:00am. Please join us!

**A note from the music director...** As lent begins, we will switch to using the chant mass parts, which can be found beginning with #837 in the Breaking Bread. Choir rehearsals for Holy Week and Easter Sunday will commence soon. Look for an official rehearsal schedule in the bulletin in upcoming weeks.

**Parish Mission...** A Journey to Joy. Bringing scripture to Life. Frank Runyeon a national acclaimed performer will perform the Gospel of Luke, explore the Sermon on the Mount, and speak about Hollywood vs. Faith for three days, Sunday, March 1 - Tuesday, March 3, 2026. Each performance beginning at 7:00pm is an hour and will touch on one of the three topics. The three evenings will be both entertaining and eye-opening. Runyeon performs the famous parables in Luke's travel narrative, and then pauses to reflect on how we hear each story. There will be a light reception each evening.

Embark on a new chapter of Evangelism marked by...Joy!



**Volunteers are needed** to bring refreshments for the Parish Mission. Cookies, cake, brownies, pie and cheese and crackers for people who might be giving up sweets during Lent. Please call the parish office (217-544-4554) if you can help. Thank you.

The **Flower Calendar** is available in the vestibule of the church... You have the opportunity to honor a birthday or anniversary, or remember a loved one on their special day. Please put your remembrance on the chart, and put \$40.00 in the envelope with your name/remembrance and contact information on the index card. Your remembrance will be in the bulletin and a beautiful bouquet of flowers will be placed on the Altar for your weekend on your behalf.



Parish Flowers... This weeks **flower intention** is in memory of Thelma Titone.

**Knights of Columbus Council #4175** will have Fish Fries every Friday during Lent beginning February 20th from 4:30 -7:00pm.

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

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

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

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



## Mass Intentions

**February 16 Weekday**

**February 17 Weekday**  
7:00am Patricia Cox +

**February 18 Ash Wednesday**  
8:20am All Souls+

**February 19 Thurs. after Ash Wed.**  
7:00am Annette Raffa +

**February 20 Friday after Ash Wed.**  
6:00pm Judy Tucker +

**February 21 Sat. after Ash Wed.**

**February 22 First Sunday of Lent**  
Sat 4:00pm August Egger +

Sun7:00am All Parishioners+

Sun11:00am Caroline Dietrich+

# Around the Church

**Prayer Warriors** are welcome to pray in front of Springfield Planned Parenthood 601 N. Bruns Lane. For more information... [www.springfieldrtl.org](http://www.springfieldrtl.org).

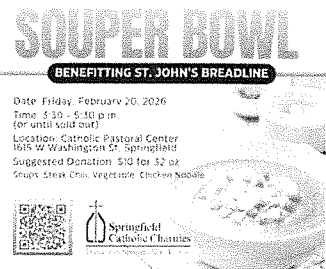
**The Chosen Season Five...** Episodes 1-4. St. Cabrini Parish will present season 5 of the series, *"The Chosen"* on Sundays at 2:00pm in the conference room of the parish hall. This season will be shown in two parts. Episodes 1-4 will be shown from February 22-March 15 and episodes 5-8 will be shown later this year. The theme is *"The Table is Set"* and focuses on the Last Supper. For more information call or text Anne Powers at 217-381-3847.

**A Pilgrimage to Italy...** Join Fr. George on a 10 day pilgrimage to Italy from October 5-15, 2026. Highlights include visits to the birthplace of St. Aloysius, and the shrine of St. Aloysius. Also a visit to the birth place of St. Francis Cabrini. The pilgrimage features daily Mass, first-class hotels, private luxury transportation, professional guides, and all admission fees. Cost is \$4,995.00 per person (includes round-trip airfare, taxes, meals, and more). For details or to register, visit Holy Land Tours LLC @ [holylandtoursllc@gmail.com](mailto:holylandtoursllc@gmail.com) or Jiryis Alyateem @1-503-866-5698. Registration is due by June 30, 2026.

**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](http://OurCatholicRadio.org), or on your local Catholic radio station, AM 1080 and 92.7 FM.

**The Dominican Sisters of Springfield...** the public is invited to a series of Brown Bag lunches offered at Sacred Heart Convent in February and March. The noontime events scheduled for February 24, March 5, and March 10 will apply principles of Catholic social teaching to timely challenges facing us today. The events are free; preregistration is requested for ample seating. Register at: [springfieldop.org/event/](http://springfieldop.org/event/). For more information call (217) 787-0481.

**Super Bowl fundraiser** benefitting Catholic Charities St. John's Breadline will be serving up fresh soups to go. These made-from-scratch soups will be available on Friday, February 20th at the Catholic Pastoral Center circle driveway, 1615 W. Washington Street from 3:30 - 5:30pm or until sold out. The soup options include; chicken noodle soup, vegetable, and steak chili. The suggested donation is \$10 for 32 oz. of soup. All proceeds will benefit the St. John's Breadline. Advanced orders may be placed on our website: <https://cc.dio.org/events/sjb-souper-bowl-spring-2026>.




**SOUPER BOWL**  
BENEFITTING ST. JOHN'S BREADLINE

Date: Friday, February 20, 2026  
Time: 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.  
(or until sold out)

Location: Catholic Pastoral Center  
1615 W. Washington St., Springfield

Suggested Donation: \$10 for 32 oz.  
Menu: Steak Chili, Vegetable, Chicken Noodle



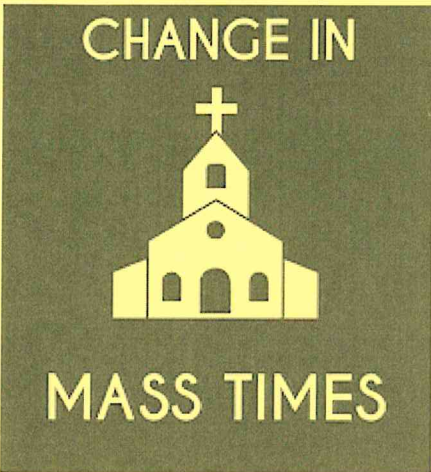
What is KOINONIA ? **"Koinonia"** is a Greek word for community. Koinonia is an adult Catholic retreat and an invitation to encounter Jesus while continuing life's journey. Koinonia brings the Paschal Mystery to life; the dying and rising of Christ are experienced in a real and powerful way. The weekend consists of talks, discussions, reflections, prayer, and liturgical celebrations. The experience is led by a team of lay people, clergy and religious. The Koinonia Community invites you to come and experience a retreat weekend! The weekend will be held on March 13-15 at St. Aloysius. The cost for the weekend is \$40.00; which covers all retreat materials and meals. For more information contact Betsy Vogt at 217-320-1818 or ElizabethB.Vogt@gmail.com.

**Heaven Meets Earth - A Journey through the Holy Mass - Step away from the busyness of life and enter more deeply into the mystery of the Holy Mass at the Springfield Diocesan Council of Catholic Women's Lenten Retreat, "Heaven Meets Earth: A Journey through the Holy Mass,"** held February 24-25 at Villa Maria Conference Center on Lake Springfield. Led by retreat director Sr. Margaret Schreiber, OP, PhD. This retreat offers spiritual presentations, prayer, Holy Mass, Confession, fellowship, and time for quiet reflection. All women are welcome, bring your sister, mom, or a friend. Registration forms with the cost and further information are available in your parish office or at [dio.org/events](http://dio.org/events). Deadline to register is February 14. For more information, contact Mary Ann Sullivan at 217-822-1928 or Janet Zimmerman at 217-494-4743.

**Diocesan Gospel Mass & Soul Food Dinner.** All are warmly invited to a Diocesan Gospel Mass followed by a Soul Food Dinner at St. Joseph Church, (1345 N. Sixth Street) on Saturday, February 28. Dinner pricing is \$20 for ages 13 and up, \$10 for ages 6 -12, and free for children 5 and under. RSVP by February 20 by scanning the QR code for full event details and dinner registration. Join us in prayer, music, and fellowship as we celebrate together as a diocesan community!



**Stewardship Reflection...** February 15, 2026... 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time. *"For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."* MATTHEW 5:20  
The Pharisees lived according to the letter of the law, and they used this to elevate themselves above the other people. Jesus is clear – it's the love that you have in your heart, for God and others, that will get you to heaven. Simply following church rules to the letter and not out of love, does not necessarily put you on the path to heaven. Attending Sunday Mass and then gossiping about a fellow parishioner on the parking lot is an example of being a modern-day Pharisee.



# ST. ALOYSIUS and ST. CABRINI Mass Time Proposal

Please watch for upcoming changes to the parish mass schedule at St. Aloysius and St. Cabrini. Prayerfully consider the three options below. Next weekend (February 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>) you will be asked to faithfully and gracefully vote on ONE option. Options may not be altered or combined. The new Mass schedule will begin on March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

<b>A</b>	
Saturday, 4:00 PM	St. Aloysius
Sunday, 8:30 AM	St. Cabrini
Sunday, 10:30 AM	St. Aloysius

<b>B</b>	
Saturday, 4:00 PM	St. Aloysius
Sunday, 9:00 AM	St. Cabrini
Sunday, 11:00 AM	St. Aloysius

<b>C</b>	
Saturday, 4:00 PM	St. Cabrini
Sunday, 7:00 AM	St. Aloysius
Sunday, 10:00 AM	St. Aloysius

February 15, 2026

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 15:15-20 | 1 Cor 2:6-10 | Mt 5:17-37

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

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that "unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven." In Matthew 23:3-5, Jesus says, "Do and observe all things whatsoever [the scribes and Pharisees] tell you, but do not follow their example. For they preach but they do not practice ... All their works are performed to be seen." What Jesus is inviting us to see is that to authentically live the commandments requires more than mere external compliance with the letter of the law. It's also not about putting on a show so that others think we're "holy." Rather, it's about the quiet, inner transformation of our hearts. The Gospel tells us it's not enough that we avoid murder; God wants to free us from anger and wrath. It's not enough to avoid unfaithfulness in marriage; God wants to give us hearts that are pure and free from lust. Our task is to open our hearts to the transforming power of his commandments which, if we live them, lead us to fullness of life.

### **GO** EVANGELIZE

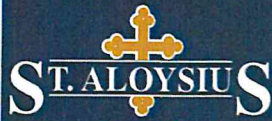
#### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In our second reading, St. Paul speaks about some challenges we face when sharing the faith with others. There are those who are unable to grasp God's wisdom, which is different from the wisdom of this age. God's wisdom is mysterious, hidden, and can only be understood and grasped through a revelation of the Spirit. This is an important concept for us as evangelizers. Sometimes no matter how hard we try, no matter how eloquent we are at explaining something, those who are not ready to receive what we have to share will not be able to receive it. In order for others to understand the Gospel, the Spirit must open their hearts to receive it. While we are responsible to share the Gospel as well as we're able, it is up to the person before us to respond to God's invitation.

### **PRAY**

Accepting the Lord's teaching in the commandments requires humility, and understanding their true meaning and depth is the result of the Spirit's work in our lives. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you true insight to live the commandments with your whole heart. Consider using these lines from today's psalm in your prayer: "Open my eyes, that I may consider the wonders of your law. Instruct me, O Lord, in the way of your statutes, that I may exactly observe them. Give me discernment, that I may observe your law and keep it with all my heart."





We thank St. Aloysius Faith Community

GO CHARGERS!


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

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