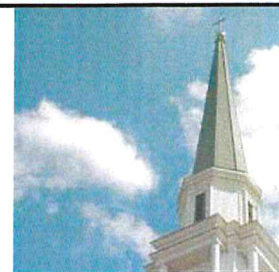


# Saint Aloysius Catholic Church

A Discipleship Parish

## March 1, 2026... Second Sunday of Lent



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Lent is our own “mountain climb” a time to step away from distractions, listen to God’s voice, and allow His presence to transform our hearts. As we continue our Lenten journey, may we embrace prayer, fasting, and acts of love, trusting that God is leading us toward renewal.

Today we celebrate second Sunday of lent This Sunday’s readings invite us to journey deeper into trust and transformation. In the first reading, we hear God’s call to Abraham a call to leave behind the familiar and step into the unknown, guided only by faith. In the Gospel, we witness

the Transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain, where his divine glory is revealed to Peter, James, and John. It is a moment of reassurance, reminding us that beyond the trials of life lies the promise of resurrection and eternal light. In the Transfiguration story in today’s Gospel, Jesus is revealed as a glorious figure, superior to Moses and Elijah. The primary purpose of Jesus’ Transfiguration was to allow Jesus to consult his Heavenly Father to ascertain His plan for His Son’s suffering, death, and Resurrection. The secondary aim was to make his chosen disciples aware of Jesus’ Divine glory, so that they might discard their worldly ambitions and their dreams of him as a conquering political Messiah, and that they might be strengthened in their time of trial.

On the mountain, Jesus is identified out of the Cloud by the Heavenly Voice (God the Father), as “My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased!” On Jesus, the Holy Spirit would also descend as a dove, confirming for John the identity of his cousin Jesus of Nazareth, as the Promised Messiah, as John publicly proclaimed. Thus, the Transfiguration narrative is, a manifestation or revelation of who Jesus really is. Describing Jesus’ Transfiguration, the Gospel gives us a glimpse of the Heavenly glory awaiting those who do God’s will by putting their trusting Faith in Him.

Transubstantiation in the Holy Mass is the source of our strength. In each Holy Mass our offering of bread and wine becomes the Body and Blood of Jesus under the appearances of bread and wine. Hence, just as the Transfiguration of Jesus strengthened the Apostles in their time of trial, each Holy Mass should be our source of Heavenly strength for resisting evil, when the evil one incites us to disobey the will of God and to choose to serve ourselves as gods turning our backs on God, rejecting His Love, Grace and salvation. The Holy Mass, then is the best defense against the bombardments of temptations for it provides us with and infinite source a source of grace for renewing our lives during Lent and of strengthened protection against temptations at repeated attacks of the evil one. ) Each Sacrament that we receive transforms us. Baptism, for example, transforms us into sons and daughters of God and heirs of heaven. Confirmation makes us the temples of the Holy Spirit. By the Sacrament of Reconciliation, God brings the sinner back to the path of holiness. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, received in Faith, gains for the recipient complete spiritual healing, forgiveness for all our sins and whatever kind of Physical healing God knows will be best for us at that time.

In the moments of doubt, pain and suffering, disappointment and despair, we need mountain-top experiences to reach out to God and listen to His consoling words: “This is my beloved son/daughter in whom I am well pleased Thank you and all the best for the parish mission.

Fr. George Nellikunnel, Pastor  
St Cabrini and St Aloysius

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



## Principal's Page

Mrs. Denise Reavis

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Gale Borders  
Blake Handley  
Dave Klestinski  
Mary Ann Mann  
Brad Mills (Chair)  
Joyce Zaffiri

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Paul Brown  
Karl Kohlrus  
Matt Noonan  
Ryan Spearie (Chair)  
Larry Tebrugge  
Earl Schroeder

### School Board

[schoolboard@santalloysius.org](mailto:schoolboard@santalloysius.org)

Joan Bestudik  
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

**Thank you** to all who helped make our Spaghetti Dinner such a success! A special thanks to Eric Danner for chairing this year's dinner and leading the kitchen crew and to Sarah Danner for running the drive thru! This event is successful only because of our volunteers – prepping salads and breadsticks, running dinners to the drive-thru, coordinating volunteers, serving dinners, and most importantly cooking the spaghetti! Thank you to all who put in the hard work!

**All-school Mass** will be Tuesday, March 3 at 8:20am. All are welcome!

**Special prayers and blessings** to our 2nd grade students as they received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time last Wednesday evening.

**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! New student registration begins on March 3rd. Thank you for your commitment and support!

Come see how you can be a part of the **St. Aloysius Family!** Call to schedule a tour of the school, meet the teachers, and see all the wonderful opportunities we have to offer your student! Please see the flyer in your bulletin.

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 Nelson Center in Springfield, celebrated by Bishop Paprocki and concelebrated by bishops/priests from across the state. (The mass is sold out!) Please join the 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, March 7 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.

**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		
March 1	7:00am		Morning Mass	<u>Week 31</u>	<u>February 8</u>	<u>Total to Date</u>
March 1	11:00am		Morning Mass			
March 1	7:00pm	Parish Mission (Luke Stories on the Road)		<b>Weekly Offertory</b>	<b>5,853.00</b>	<b>\$222,178.72</b>
March 2	1:00pm	Parish Mission (Salt and Light - Children)		<b>Shepherd one Student</b>	<b>\$120.00</b>	<b>\$12,152.00</b>
March 2	7:00pm	Parish Mission (Sermon on the Mount)		<b>Building Fund</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>	<b>\$27,468.00</b>
March 3	8:20am		Morning Mass			
March 3	7:00pm	Parish Mission (Hollywood vs Faith)		<b>Bingo</b>		<b>\$31,986.00</b>
March 4	7:00am		Morning Mass	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 February is \$40,000.00. We have received 62% of needed funding to meet essentials.		
March 4	9:00am		Legion of Mary			
March 4	5:30pm		Helping Hands	<b>Parish Community Tithe</b>		
March 5	7:00am		Morning Mass	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. January Tithe - \$2,815.00		
March 6	7:00am		Adoration			
March 6	5:00pm		Benediction	<b>Debt/Accrued Deficits</b>		
March 6	5:30pm		Stations of the Cross	Unpaid Diocesan Liabilities		
March 6	6:00pm		Evening Mass			
March 7	11:45am		Bingo			
March 7	3:30pm		Confession	Amount owed (February 25, 2026) <span style="float: right;">\$209,997.03</span>		
March 7	4:00pm		Evening Mass			
March 8	7:00am		Morning Mass	<b>Parish Ministry Schedule - March 7-8 (not available)</b>		
March 8	11:00am		Morning Mass	Saturday 4:00pm                      Sunday 7:00am                      Sunday 11:00am		
March 10	8:20am		All School Mass	Cantor		
				Lector		
				E.M.		
				Servers		
				In charity, please remember in your prayers... 2024... Steven Young Patricia Durako, Regina Rakers, Sandra Scott, David Daniels, Halfred Hildebrand, Jr., Joseph Perkinson, Charles Bedolli, Samuel and Bonnie Falzone, James Selinger, Tom Stevens, Frank Tucker James Bartlett. 2025... Larry Forbes, Marilyn Gustafson, Kenna Diaz, Kay Morrow, Judith Guinn, William Bredemeyer, Annette Raffa, David Jones, Judith Bregowy, August Egger, Patricia Cox, Rita Smarjesse. 2026... Caroline Dietrich, Judy Tucker, George Ann Madison, and Norma Capranica.		



# Parish Bulletin Board

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

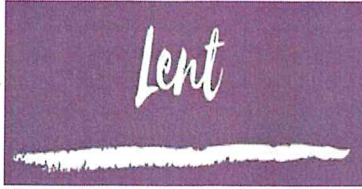
**Thank you**... The advertisements that appear in this bulletin completely defray all publishing costs which the church would otherwise incur. Please patronize the sponsors on the back of this bulletin and thank them for their kind generosity.

**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.



We have begun our **forty day journey** through the sacred desert of Lent. Lenten Regulations 1. Abstinence - Everyone 14 years of age and over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent. 2. Fast - Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 is required to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On these two days of fast and abstinence, only one full meatless meal is permitted. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength may be taken according to each person's needs, but together these two should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids (including milk and fruit juices) are allowed. (Persons with health concerns may adjust within the spirit of the fast). 3. To disregard completely the law of fast and abstinence is seriously sinful.

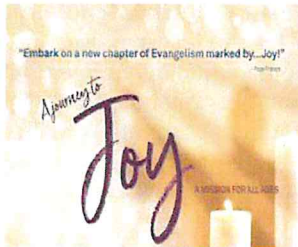


**Stations of the Cross** will be held every Friday at 5:30pm during Lent.

**Reconciliation during Lent**... As a reminder, confession is every Saturday from 3:30 - 4:00pm. An area penance service is being hosted at St. Cabrini on Sunday, March 22 at 2:00pm.

**A note from the music director**... During the Lenten season, 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.



**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 13-15th at St. Aloysius Catholic Parish. The cost for the weekend is \$40.00; which covers all retreat materials and meals. For more information please contact Betsy Vogt @ 217-320-1818 or ElizabethB.Vogt@gmail.com.

**Knights of Columbus Council #4175**... Be sure to visit the best Fish Fry in town this Lenten Season! The Knights of Columbus in Devereaux Heights has fantastic food for your Fridays from 4:30 -7:00pm.

This weekend the diocese is asking each Parish to support their local **Catholic Charities**. You may use the envelope from your packet This also counts as a Good Deed for Lent. As always, your generosity is needed and greatly appreciated.



## Mass Intentions

**March 2 Lenten Weekday**

**March 3 Lenten Weekday**  
St. Katharine Drexel  
8:20am All Souls +

**March 4 Lenten Weekday**  
7:00am James Bartlett+

**March 5 Lenten Weekday**  
7:00am William Bredemeyer +

**March 6 Lenten Weekday**  
6:00pm Joseph Perkinson+

**March 7 Lenten Weekday**

**March 8 Third Sunday of Lent**  
Sat 4:00pm Rita Smarjesse+

Sun 7:00am All Parishioners +

Sun 11:00am David Jones+

## 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).

Sign up to receive **diocesan pro-life newsletter**... Stay rooted in the Gospel of Life and connected to pro-life efforts across our diocese. Get quarterly updates on prayer opportunities, formation, advocacy, and human dignity issues, no fundraising, ever. Sign up today! Scan the QR code.



**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 now-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.

**Pope Leo's March Prayer Intentions**. For disarmament and peace Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence. Did you know that the Pope sets a schedule of monthly prayer intentions for his world wide prayer network-which is all of us! You can find the schedule here <https://www.usccb.org/prayers/popes-monthly-intentions-2026>.

You are invited to **Lenten Day of Recollection** in Springfield. Through conferences and personal prayer time, this Lenten Day of Reflection on Sunday, March 22 at the Villa Maria Retreat Center on Lake Springfield will help you to contemplate on and to experience more deeply the infinite and tender love of Christ for all of humanity. It will also help you prepare for Holy Week and Easter. Arrival is at 2:00pm, and it concludes at 7:00pm. The day includes conferences, adoration, time for prayer, the Rosary, confession, and dinner. The cost is \$25. Register by March 15 at [dio.org/events](http://dio.org/events).

**Bereavement Ministry**... Grief Share Cathedral Parish will be hosting Grief Share, a weekly, faith based, grief support group. If you, or someone you know, would like help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend, please join us beginning Tuesday, March 3, 1:00-2:30pm in the Cathedral School Library. (Enter through the atrium doors off 5th street parking lot) Grief Share runs for 13 weeks, but guests may join the series at any point and can pick up content they missed during the next cycle. For go to <https://www.griefshare.org/> or contact Berni Ely @ 899-6637 or [jackandberni96@yahoo.com](mailto:jackandberni96@yahoo.com) To register call 217/522-3342 or email Vicki at [vcomp-ton@cathedral.dio.org](mailto:vcomp-ton@cathedral.dio.org) All adults, of any or no faith background, are welcome!

**Triumph of the Heart**... Cathedral will be showing the powerful true story of St. Maximilian Kolbe who chose sacrifice over survival and love over hate in his final days in the Auschwitz death camp. Fr. Kolbe volunteered to die in place of a fellow prisoner, then spent his final days ministering to the other condemned men in the starvation chamber. This film is not suitable for young children. Sunday, March 15 @ 2:00 in the Cathedral Atrium. FREE

**Beyond High School Education Scholarship**. Four female 2026 high school graduates from the Springfield Diocese in IL who exemplify the SDCCW's MISSION will receive a \$2000 scholarship. Applications are available at the parish office. Applications must be postmarked by April 1st.

**Stewardship Reflection**... March 1, 2026. The Second Sunday of Lent. *"Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you."* GENESIS 12:1 God calls all of us to leave behind our old ways and to follow Him, placing our complete trust in Him. Some of the old ways that we struggle to leave behind might be materialism, selfishness and greed. Yet, God promises to show us a new land and a better way to live. Remember what St. Teresa of Calcutta said, "God does not call us to be successful, God calls us to be faithful."

Check out the diocese's **Lenten** webpage [dio.org/lent](http://dio.org/lent) where you can find inspiration, resources, and support for your Lenten journey

March 1, 2026

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## Second Sunday of Lent

Gen 12:1-4a | 2 Tim 1:8b-10 | Mt 17:1-9

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

What struck me when I first read this passage from the Book of Genesis, in which the Lord speaks to Abraham, is God's proclamation that it is through *his will* and *his work* that the blessings and goodness of Abraham's future will come about. It is not a vague statement, in which the subject is omitted. God clearly says, "I will make your name great." Abraham was a faithful servant of God and sought to obey God's will, but that is not what made his name memorable. It is due to God's will and generosity that Abraham's blessings came about. I sometimes struggle with giving up credit for the good things in my life. I want to believe that *my work*, *my talents*, and *my dedication* have brought about these good things. But the reality is that all of who I am and the skills that I have is a gift. I was created by God and formed by others to hone certain dispositions and talents that have led to my accomplishments. When we come to realize that all we have is a gift, we are able to offer our lives back to be transfigured and glorified by God, who creates and gives all things.

### **GO EVANGELIZE**

#### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Many scholars identify this moment of the Transfiguration as the climax of the narrative arc of the Gospels, after which Christ's actions lead to his suffering and death. In his passion, Christ demonstrates the ultimate submission to the will of God, taking on the weight of human sin in order to redeem us. In this moment of Transfiguration on the mountain, we glimpse the beauty of the glorification that will result from this perfect obedience to God's will. We, too, are called to surrender ourselves fully to God. Following Jesus' model of humble submission to the Father's will does not involve false humility, in which we are self-deprecating or overly critical of ourselves. Instead, we are called to acknowledge and celebrate our gifts and accomplishments, while also recognizing that who we are and the gifts that we have come from our generous and loving God.

### **REFLECT**

Reflect on the gifts and talents you have been given, as well as the accomplishments that have come about because of these gifts. Take a moment to thank God for all that he has given to you, and ask him to reveal how you can be a witness to his goodness through the prudent use and celebration of these gifts.



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Luke: Stories on the Road



**Sunday, March 1  
7:00 PM**

Sermon on the Mount



**Monday, March 2  
7:00 PM**

Hollywood vs. Faith



**Tuesday, March 3  
7:00 PM**

**EMMY-NOMINATED FRANK RUNYEON** has starred in over 1,000 TV shows in the last 30 years... opposite Meg Ryan on *AS THE WORLD TURNS*, on *SANTA BARBARA*, *FALCON CREST*, *GENERAL HOSPITAL*, *LA LAW* and *MELROSE PLACE*. Frank is Catholic, an honors graduate of Seminary and Princeton University.

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