



# St. Alphonsus Church

MAPLE GLEN, PA

Love God • Love Others • Make Disciples

## February 22, 2026

### The First Sunday of Lent

1567 Temple Drive, Maple Glen, PA 19002  
(215) 646-4600 • (215) 646-0180 (Fax)  
rectory@stalphonusparish.org  
www.stalphonusparish.org

**Rev. Msgr. Brian P. Hennessy, Pastor**  
Rev. Msgr. Michael T. McCulken, In Residence

**Deacon James (JT) Toth**  
**Deacon Peter Anninos**

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**Francis J. (Frank) Stieber**  
Director of Music Ministry  
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**Melissa Murphy**  
Director of Operations  
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#### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Friday 9:00 am — 5:00 pm

#### MASS SCHEDULES

Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm

Sunday 8:00 am, 10:15 am, 12 Noon

Tuesday – Saturday 9:00 am

#### BAPTISMS

Please contact the Rectory Office

#### CONFESSIONS

Saturday Morning

9:45 am — 10:30 am

Saturday Afternoon

3:30 pm — 4:30 pm

And by Appointment

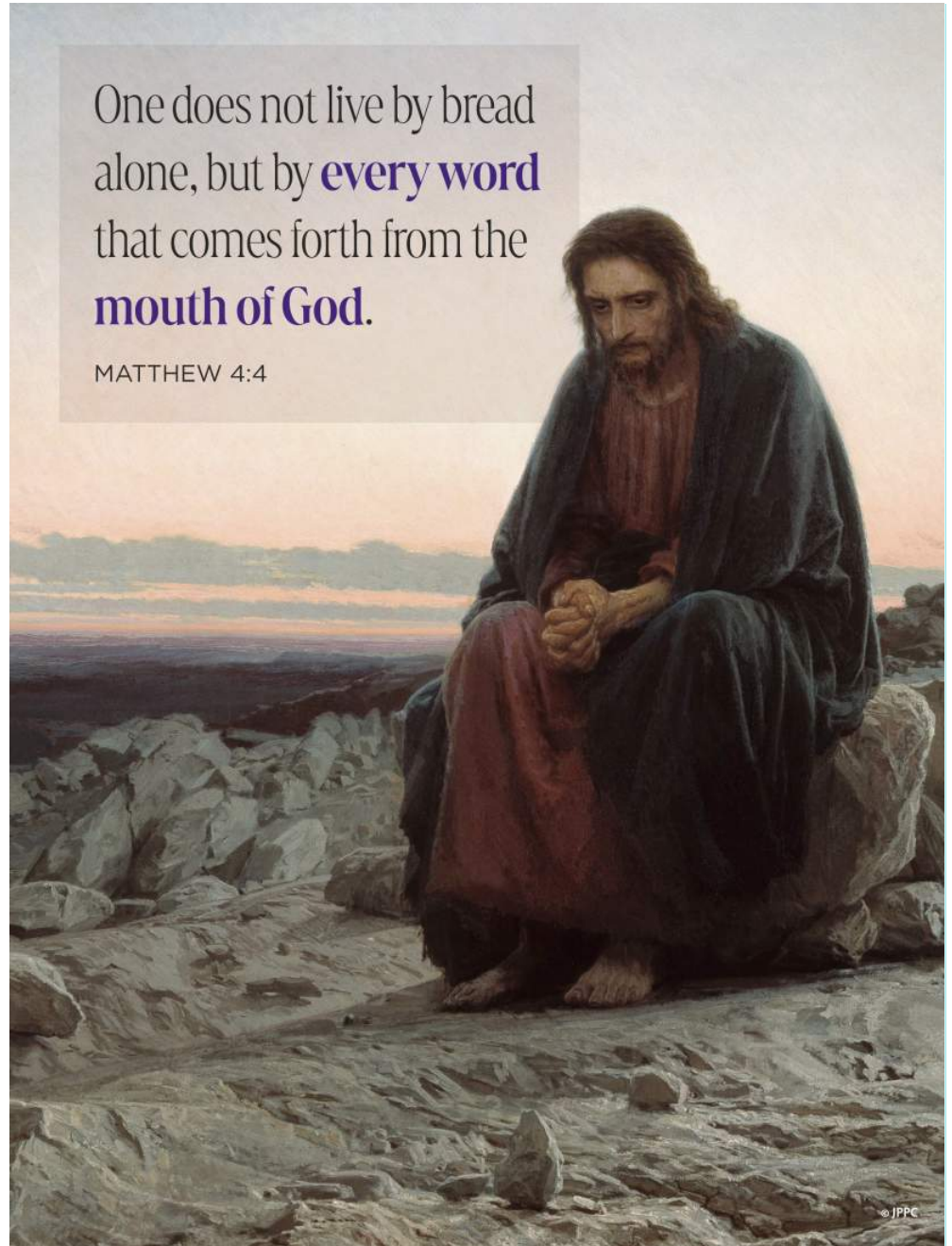
#### OUR LADY OF MERCY REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

**Mr. Bill Delaney**  
Principal

29 Conwell Drive  
Maple Glen, PA 19002  
(215) 646-0150  
www.OLMracs.com

One does not live by bread  
alone, but by **every word**  
that comes forth from the  
**mouth of God.**

MATTHEW 4:4



© JPPC

**MESSAGE OF POPE LEO XIV  
FOR LENT 2026  
*Listening and Fasting:  
Lent as a Time of Conversion***

*Dear brothers and sisters,*

Lent is a time in which the Church, guided by a sense of maternal care, invites us to place the mystery of God back in the center of our lives, in order to find renewal in our faith and keep our hearts from being consumed by the anxieties and distractions of daily life.

Every path towards conversion begins by allowing the word of God to touch our hearts and welcoming it with a docile spirit. There is a relationship between the word, our acceptance of it and the transformation it brings about. For this reason, the Lenten journey is a welcome opportunity to heed the voice of the Lord and renew our commitment to following Christ, accompanying him on the road to Jerusalem, where the mystery of his passion, death and resurrection will be fulfilled.

***Listening***

This year, I would first like to consider the importance of making room for the word through *listening*. The willingness to listen is the first way we demonstrate our desire to enter into relationship with someone.

In revealing himself to Moses in the burning bush, God himself teaches us that listening is one of his defining characteristics: “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry” (*Ex* 3:7). Hearing the cry of the oppressed is the beginning of a story of liberation in which the Lord calls Moses, sending him to open a path of salvation for his children who have been reduced to slavery.

Our God is one who seeks to involve us. Even today he shares with us what is in his heart. Because of this, listening to the word in the liturgy teaches us to listen to the truth of reality. In the midst of the many voices present in our personal lives and in society, Sacred Scripture helps us to recognize and respond to the cry of those who are anguished and suffering. In order to foster this inner openness to listening, we must allow God to teach us how to listen *as he does*. We must recognize that “the condition of the poor is a cry that, throughout human history, constantly challenges our lives, societies, political and economic systems, and, not least, the Church.”

***Fasting***

If Lent is a time for listening, *fasting* is a concrete way to prepare ourselves to receive the word of God. Abstaining from food is an ancient ascetic practice that is essential on the path of conversion. Precisely because it involves the body, fasting makes it easier to recognize what we “hunger” for and what we deem necessary for our sustenance. Moreover, it helps us to identify and order our “appetites,” keeping our hunger and thirst for justice alive and freeing us from complacency. Thus, it teaches us to pray and act responsibly towards our neighbor.

With spiritual insight, Saint Augustine helps us to understand the tension between the present moment and the future fulfilment that characterizes this custody of the heart. He observes that: “In the course of earthly life, it is incumbent upon men and women to hunger and thirst for justice, but to be satisfied belongs to the next life. Angels are satisfied with this bread, this food. The human race, on the other hand, hungers for it; we are all drawn to it in our desire. This reaching out in desire expands the soul and increases its capacity.” Understood in this way, fasting not only permits us to govern our desire, purifying it and making it freer, but also to expand it, so that it is directed towards God and doing good.

However, in order to practice fasting in accordance with its evangelical character and avoid the temptation that leads to pride, it must be lived in faith and humility. It must be grounded in communion with the Lord, because “those who are unable to nourish themselves with the word of God do not fast properly.” As a visible sign of our inner commitment to turn away from sin and evil with the help of grace, fasting must also include other forms of self-denial aimed at helping us to acquire a more sober lifestyle, since “austerity alone makes the Christian life strong and authentic.”

In this regard, I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbor. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace.

***Together***

Finally, Lent emphasizes the communal aspect of listening to the word and fasting. The Bible itself underlines this dimension in multiple ways. For example, the Book of Nehemiah recounts how the people gathered to listen to the public reading of the Law, preparing to profess their faith and worship through fasting, so as to renew the covenant with God (cf. 9:1-3).

Likewise, our parishes, families, ecclesial groups and religious communities are called to undertake a shared journey during Lent, in which listening to the word of God, as well as to the cry of the poor and of the earth, becomes part of our community life, and fasting a foundation for sincere repentance. In this context, conversion refers not only to one’s conscience, but also to the quality of our relationships and dialogue. It means allowing ourselves to be challenged by reality and recognizing what truly guides our desires — both within our ecclesial communities and as regards humanity’s thirst for justice and reconciliation.

Dear friends, let us ask for the grace of a Lent that leads us to greater attentiveness to God and to the least among us. Let us ask for the strength that comes from the type of fasting that also extends to our use of language, so that hurtful words may diminish and give way to a greater space for the voice of others. Let us strive to make our communities places where the cry of those who suffer finds welcome, and listening opens paths towards liberation, making us ready and eager to contribute to building a civilization of love.

I impart my heartfelt blessing upon all of you and your Lenten journey.

*From the Vatican, 5 February 2026, Memorial of Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr*  
**LEO PP. XIV**





*The Sanctuary Light Burns  
in Memory of  
Mary Bernadette Anninos  
from Deacon Peter & Sue Anninos*

*The Bread & Wine are Offered  
in Memory of  
Harry Sears  
from Pat Sears*



**Deceased Relatives & Friends**

Judy Funkhouser, Bill Finnegan,  
Antoinette Tutolo, & Dolores Kershaw

**Sick Relatives, Friends and the Homebound**

Jason Cummings	Jen Coleman
Karen Carroll	Gerald Taddei
Leslie M. Perryman	Mary Francis Glauber
Georgia Lynn Thatcher	Tyler Dunham
Claire Bennis	Jacqueline DeMatteo
Linda O'Donnell	Jimmy Cowman
Buddy Thatcher	Erin Gerst
Kenneth Binder	Patrick Murphy
Eli Peyton	Grace Marcozzi
Brian O'Connell	Brian Egan
Owen Hollingsworth	Regina Donnelly
Lisa Zinman	Aneyamma Job
Mary Dawson	Journey Riling
David Kopp	Susan Collins
Donna Iacona	Peg Rush
Arthur Huie	John Diamond
Patrick Smith	Susan Serianni
Bill Siddall	Kate Tornetta
Bruce Miller	

**PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS**



Austin Schultz, 2nd Lt., Captain Colleen McIntyre Osborne, Captain Andrew O'Grady, Sgt. First Class Kyle J. Mullen, Major Matthew Miller, 1st Lt. Ryan A. Schieber, Major Christopher Smith, Ensign Justin Price  
USN, Sgt. Michael Hiltwine, Captain Sean Milde, Daniel R. Plefka, USAF, Cpl. Matthew S. Leonardo, Lt. Christopher M. Boss, Capt. Thomas Nell, USMC, Eric Burns, Anthony Szczurek, Tania Szczurek, Matthew Trimborn, Major Gabriel J. Zinni, Ryan Greene, Michael McDonald, Col. John Sullivan, Lt. Commander Thomas Luft, Lt. James D. Voter, USN, Commander J. Milo Sowards, USN, Captain Andrew O'Grady, USA, Harry Kilpatrick, IV, USMC, Pvt. Joseph T. Donohue, USA, 1st Lt. Jeffrey Mann, 1st Lt. Stephen Geiss, Mark Elsetinow A1C, Capt. Matthew Shirey, USMC, Joseph Peter Wright 1st Lt. Army Ranger, Stephanie Ierardi 1st Lt., Jake R. Dianno, Lt. USN, & Patrick Clancy US Navy.

**Together as a parish we pray for their safety.**

Contact John Cavanaugh if you would like to add a name or for more information at [jjcav@comcast.net](mailto:jjcav@comcast.net) or 215-317-8310.

**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**Saturday, February 21st:**

**9:00 AM: Jim Stephan—**  
The Stephan Family  
**5:00 PM: The People of the Parish**

**Sunday, February 22nd:**

**8:00 AM: Dolores Thorne—**  
The Saint Alphonsus Choir  
**10:15 AM: Vincent J. Green, Jr.—**  
Jen Green  
**12:00 PM: Mary Bernadette Anninos—**  
Deacon Peter & Sue Anninos

**Tuesday, February 24th:**

**9:00 AM: John D'Amario—**  
Jim & Loretta Citro

**Wednesday, February 25th:**

**9:00 AM: Larry Glueck—**  
Kathleen Rodgers

**Thursday, February 26th:**

**9:00 AM: Elizabeth Sandoli—**  
The Family

**Friday, February 27th:**

**9:00 AM: Neil Fitzpatrick—**  
Eleanor Fitzpatrick & Family

**Saturday, February 28th:**

**9:00 AM: Kathleen Link—**  
The Rocks Family  
**5:00 PM: Michael Kelly—**  
Dan & Terry Murray

**Sunday, March 1st:**

**8:00 AM: The People of the Parish**  
**10:15 AM: Patricia Flaherty—**  
Ed & Pat Donovan  
**12:00 PM: Edward Seddon—**  
Bonnie Murphy & Family



**February 28th & March 1st**

**Next Sunday's Celebrants**

- 5:00 PM:** Monsignor Brian Hennessy  
*(Chamber Ensemble)*
- 8:00 AM:** Monsignor Brian Hennessy  
*(Junior Choir)*
- 10:15 AM:** Monsignor Brian Hennessy
- 12:00 PM:** Monsignor Brian Hennessy

Celebrants subject to change

<b>Stewardship Report</b>		
For the Week Ending:	1/31/2026	2/1/2025
Sunday Collection	\$6,939	\$14,277
ACH & Parish Giving (net of fees)	<u>15,854</u>	<u>12,294</u>
Total Weekly Collections	\$22,793	\$26,571
Fiscal YTD Collections	\$780,290	\$772,489

**Simple Lenten Meal**

Our annual Lenten tradition continues—please join us for an evening of fellowship, reflection, and a simple meatless soup supper at **5:00PM on Friday, February 27th in the narthex**. We will attend Stations of the Cross together immediately afterward.



If you are bringing soup, please prepare it meatless (no chicken stock) and deliver it in a crockpot by **4:00 PM** so it can warm. Please sign up using our SignUpGenius found by scanning the QR code or visiting our website so we can plan accordingly.

Questions? Contact Lisa Rodgers at **215-646-4600** or **lrodgers@stalphonsusparish.org**. We look forward to sharing this Lenten time with you.



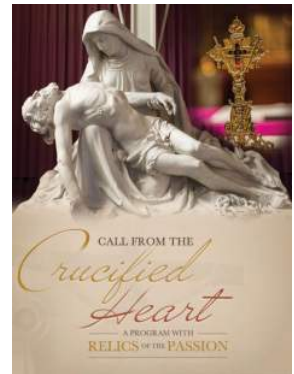
**Painting with a Prayer**

Join us at 6:30PM on Thursday, March 12th for a fun new Lenten event! Painting with a Prayer is a prayerful, guided painting experience inspired by a Lenten image of mountains, valleys, and the cross. Registration is limited to 25 participants and payment of \$35 per person (includes all materials and canvas) is being collected now. Register now by scanning the QR code or visiting our website.



**Relics of Christ's Passion**

Visit Saint Alphonsus Parish for an encounter with nine rare Relics of Christ's Passion on **Tuesday, March 3rd starting at 6:30PM**. Having the opportunity to meditate on the Passion in the presence of these holy relics is sure to enhance your Lenten experience.



Take advantage of what is likely to be a once in a lifetime opportunity to engage in a meditative walk to Calvary and venerate these rare and holy relics. This powerful program is a 90-minute meditational experience supported with Eucharistic Exposition, music and prayer, culminating in relic veneration.

**The Relics of the Passion collection includes:**

- A piece of the True Cross which was discovered by St. Helena
- A piece of the Holy Table from the room where the Last Supper took place
- A piece of the Column of Flagellation
- A piece of the Crown of Thorns
- A replica of the Holy Nail, fashioned using filings from the true nails
- A relic (bone) of St. Longinus, the centurion who pierced the side of Christ
- A picture of (the effigy of) the Veil of Veronica touched to the original with a Vatican seal attesting to the fact.
- A piece of the exterior wrapping for the Shroud of Turin
- Relics of the Holy Apostles

### Culture Heritage Celebration



Join us for Mass on **Saturday, April 11, 2026, at 5:00PM**, followed by fellowship and a sharing of foods from the many cultures within our parish.

This Mass will not only recognize the unique heritage of our parishioners, but also affirm the unity that binds us together as one body in Christ. It will be a meaningful opportunity to give thanks for the generations who have shaped our community and to rejoice in the living traditions that continue to strengthen and inspire our parish today.

We warmly invite parishioners to volunteer to represent their cultural community by participating in the liturgy—through readings, music, the offertory, or other roles—and by sharing a dish that reflects their heritage, as we come together to celebrate our shared faith and diverse traditions.

If you can help, please complete the form found by scanning the QR code or visiting our website. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Rodgers at **215-646-4600** or [lrodgers@stalphonusparish.org](mailto:lrodgers@stalphonusparish.org).



### Sisters of Life Collection



The Respect Life Committee is organizing a collection for the Sisters of Life. The Sisters of Life are a Catholic religious community of women consecrated for the protection of human life. Their current needs are listed on the SignUpGenius link found by visiting our website or scanning



the QR code. Please return donations to the table in the narthex. Thank you for your generosity!

### Save the Date!

Join us on **Friday, May 1st**, for a trip to the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster for their production of Joshua. More information and registration coming soon!



### Catholic Charities Appeal

This weekend, we will celebrate In-Pew Commitment Weekend for the 2026 Catholic Charities Appeal, which is one of the most important fundraising efforts for the Catholic Church of Philadelphia. At its heart is the mission of "Giving Hope to All" - sustaining charitable ministries that benefit 1 in 5 people across our five-county

SCAN HERE TO GIVE



region. Through your support, children are welcomed into Catholic schools, families receive vital food assistance, elderly neighbors are supported with dignity, and retired and infirmed priests are upheld with gratitude. Thank you for your faith, your kindness, your prayerful consideration, and your generosity. Pledge envelopes are available in the Narthex and Chapel entrance.

## THE NURSE'S CORNER

*Brought to you by the Health & Wellness Ministry*

### Beating the Winter Doldrums

Now that the hustle and bustle of the holidays is behind us and January is finally in the rearview mirror, you might be wondering... now what? Winter is still going strong, bringing bitter cold, wind chills, snow, and those long stretches of gloomy, gray days. And if you believe the groundhog, we've got six more weeks of winter ahead! It's no surprise that this time of year can leave many feeling down, blue, or just plain blah. The good news? There are some simple things you can do to help shake off the winter doldrums!

**Scan the QR code for ideas on how to beat the *Winter Doldrums!***





OUR LADY OF MERCY

Regional Catholic School

Our Lady of Mercy Regional Catholic School  
29 Conwell Drive, Maple Glen  
215-646-0150

## OLM Happenings

### Open House Postponed to 2/22/26

NEW DATE: Sunday, Feb. 22, 2026

TIME: 11am – 1pm



For more information contact Julie Bebey at [jbey@olmracs.com](mailto:jbey@olmracs.com) or at school at **215-646-0150**. Please note, there is currently a waiting list for the PreK and Kindergarten for 26-27 school year.

### Run for Mercy 5K & 1-mile Fun Run

Registration is NOW OPEN

EARLY BIRD PRICES THRU 2/9/26

DATE: Saturday, March 21, 2026

TIME: 10am

Scan QR code to register.



Yes, there is snow but

### Camp Mercy Registration is NOW OPEN

Camp Date: June 15 to August 14, 2026

Register today at [tinyurl.com/CampMercy2026](http://tinyurl.com/CampMercy2026)

For more information email [Camp@olmracs.com](mailto:Camp@olmracs.com)



### Lenten Youth Group

Lenten  
YOUTH GROUP



Calling all 7th and 8th grade parishioners - please join our special new Lenten Youth Group! Members will be meeting with our new HUB missionaries for some fun, reflection, prayer, and more. Meetings will take place **Sunday mornings 9-10:00AM** on **February 22, March 8, and March 22nd**. Please contact Michele Gordon

([mgordon@stalphonsusparish.org](mailto:mgordon@stalphonsusparish.org)) if your child is interested.

### Support *The Little Mermaid JR.* at OLM – Become a Sponsor!



Rehearsals are in full swing at OLM, and we couldn't be more excited to bring *The Little Mermaid JR.* to the stage in April 2026! A huge thank you to everyone for your incredible support so far – especially the parents of our more than 160 student cast members – it truly means the world to us. There are so many ways to help make this production a success, and we'd love to have you involved in any way you can! We're currently seeking families and local businesses to help sponsor *The Little Mermaid JR.* Sponsorship is a wonderful way to support the musical while enjoying great perks in return. If you're interested in learning more, please scan the QR code to view our sponsorship form and explore the different levels and benefits.



### A Sunday Night Spaghetti Extravaganza!

The OLM **8th Grade Class** is excited to host its **First Annual Spaghetti Dinner** for our parish communities! Join us for an evening of good food, fellowship, and fun while supporting the OLM 8<sup>th</sup> grade class.

Enjoy a **heaping plate of spaghetti**, complete with **salad, drink, and dessert**. **This is a BYOB event.**

DATE: Sunday, March 8, 2026

TIME: Two seatings – 5:30 pm & 7:30 pm

PLACE: OLM Cafeteria

PRICE: \$10 per person, \$35 Family Cap  
(immediate family only)



Tickets may be purchased using QR code or by sending a check payable to **Our Lady of Mercy**. (c/o 8th Grade Dinner, Denise Schmalbach). Names of attendees & preferred seating time. Please be sure to include: We hope to see you there—thank you for supporting our OLM students!

Questions: [dschmalbach@olmracs.com](mailto:dschmalbach@olmracs.com)



# PILLARS OF LENT

## Prayer

*Prayer draws us into deeper friendship with God. During Lent, Catholics are invited to slow down, listen more intentionally, and make space for God's voice. Whether through Scripture, quiet reflection, the Mass, or simple daily conversation with God, prayer opens the heart to renewal.*



## Fasting

Fasting is a practice of self-discipline that helps us let go of excess and refocus on what truly matters. By limiting certain foods or habits, we create room for spiritual clarity and greater dependence on God. Fasting is not about deprivation for its own sake—it's about freeing the heart from distractions.



## Almsgiving

Almsgiving turns faith into action. Through generosity, whether financial support, acts of service, or sharing our time—we express love for our neighbor and those in need. Almsgiving reminds us that Lent is not only inward looking but also outward reaching.



**Scan the QR code for Lent-friendly recipe ideas on our website!**



# OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALMSGIVING

## CRS Rice Bowl

CRS Rice Bowl is Catholic Relief Services' Lenten almsgiving program. Pick up a rice bowl and family Lenten calendar in the narthex, use them throughout the 40 days of Lent for prayers, reflections, and simple acts of charity, then return your bowl on Palm Sunday.

## Sisters of Life

Please consider giving to the Sisters of Life and view the SignUp Genius for their current needs.



# OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALMSGIVING

## Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent at 6:00 P.M.

## Adoration

Wednesdays during Lent & Holy Thursday into Good Friday.

## Saint Alphonus Library

Choose a spiritual book from our parish library to guide your Lenten prayer!



## Saint Alphonus Parish

# 2026 LENTEN GUIDE

As we celebrate the Season of Lent this year, use this guide as a reminder of the importance of spiritual growth and reflection. Through the practices listed inside, we hope you can deepen your faith, strengthen your relationship with God, and live more meaningfully and intentionally these forty days.

For more information and to stay up to date on Lenten Events around the Parish please check our bulletin, parish newsletter, and website, [www.stalphonusparish.org](http://www.stalphonusparish.org).

## Lenten Reconciliation Schedule

### The Sacrament of Penance

Saturdays after the 9:00 A.M. Mass  
and from 3:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.  
April 1st, 4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.  
April 3rd, 11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.  
April 4th, 11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

### Penance Service

March 24th, 7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

## Holy Week Schedule

### Palm Sunday, March 29th

Vigil Mass: 5:00 P.M.  
8:00 A.M., 10:15 A.M. and Noon

### Holy Thursday, April 2nd

Morning Prayer: 9:00 A.M.  
Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7:00 P.M.  
Adoration of The Most Blessed Sacrament will  
continue through the night following Mass.

### Good Friday, April 3rd

Morning Prayer: 9:00 A.M.  
Confession: 11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.  
Passion of Our Lord: 3:00 P.M.  
(Prelude Music begins at 2:45 P.M.)  
Stations of the Cross: 6:00 P.M.

### Holy Saturday, April 4th

Morning Prayer: 9:00 A.M.

### Easter Vigil Mass, April 4th

8:00 P.M.  
(Prelude Music begins at 7:45 P.M.)

### Easter Sunday, April 5th

Masses at 8:00 A.M., 10:15 A.M. and Noon

## Stations of the Cross

Fridays in the Church during Lent at 6:00 P.M.  
February 20, 27 - March 6, 13, 20, 27  
April 3

## Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesdays from 9:30 A.M. until  
Evening Prayer & Benediction at 6:00 P.M.



## LENTEN RESOURCES

Visit our Lenten Resource table in the Narthex. There you can find many materials to journey through Lent with including but not limited to the titles below!

### FOR ADULTS

- Lenten Gospel Reflections from Bishop Barron
- The Magnificat Lenten Companion
- The Word Among Us
- Walking With the Saints: Daily Devotion for Lent
- The Little Black Book
- Lent & Holy Week with Mary
- Lent & Holy Week with Joseph
- Sent Into Lent - Lenten Daily Devotional for Teens & Adults

### FOR CHILDREN

- Jesus is Always With You!: Lent 2026 for Kids
- Signs & Symbols of the Faith Children's Little Book
- The Little Kids' Book on the Eucharist



## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Painting With a Prayer

Create a guided Lenten painting with artist Jillian Speranza in a prayerful, reflective setting. \$35 includes all materials. Limited to 25 people.

Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M.



### Relics of the Passion

Visit Saint Alphonsus Parish for an encounter with nine rare Relics of Christ's Passion. Having the opportunity to meditate on the Passion in the presence of these holy relics is sure to enhance your Lenten experience.

Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 P.M.

### Simple Lenten Meal

Share a community meal in our Narthex before Stations of the Cross. You can bring any meat-free soup (fish is allowed) or just enjoy the meal provided by our hosts. Please see our website to register or visit <https://tinyurl.com/5epabfun>

Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 P.M.

### Lenten Prayer Journey

Take some time to experience a personal journey by participating in our Lenten prayer activity stations. Please scan the QR code below or visit our website to sign up for the 30-minute journey available during the following dates:

Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> & Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>



Visit [www.stalphonsusparish.org](http://www.stalphonsusparish.org)  
for more event information

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