



Offering Transformational Encounters with Jesus
St. Alphonsus & Blessed Sacrament

Grand Rapids, MI

August 10, 2025 | Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



**The Solemnity of
The Assumption
of the Blessed
Virgin Mary**

August 14 - 6:30 p.m. Vigil Mass
- Blessed Sacrament

August 15 - 12:15 p.m. Mass
- St. Alphonsus

Holy Day - Area Mass Options

St. Jude - August 14 at 7 p.m. Vigil | August 15 at 8:30 a.m.

St. Isidore - August 14 at 7p.m.
August 15 at 7 a.m., 12:10 p.m., 7p.m.

Pastor Installation Mass

Father Christopher will be formally installed at the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Aug. 17. Bishop Walkowiak will be at Blessed Sacrament for this special occasion. There will be a small reception after Mass. Contact Marie LeMire at 616-260-4685 if you would like to help with the reception.

Liturgical Schedule

Location Key: Blessed Sacrament Campus - **BSC** St. Alphonsus Campus - **SAC**

Weekend Masses

Saturday ... 4 p.m.SAC

Sunday ... 9 a.m.SAC

Sunday ... 10:30 a.m.BSC

Weekday Masses

Tuesday & Wednesday ... 5:30 p.m.SAC

Wednesday ... 10:30 a.m. (School Days Only).....BSC

Thursday & Friday ... 12:15 p.m.SAC

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday ... 4:30 - 5:15 p.m. & 6 - 6:30 p.m.SAC

Wednesday ... 4:30 - 5:15 p.m.SAC

Thursday & Friday ... 11 a.m. to noonSAC

First Saturday of month... 3:15 - 3:45 p.m.SAC

Eucharistic Adoration (Exposition)

Tuesday ... 6-7 p.m.SAC

Wednesday ... 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on school daysBSC

Parish Schedule

Location Key: Blessed Sacrament Campus - **BSC**
St. Alphonsus Campus - **SAC**

Saturday, August 9

4 p.m. **Mass** | + Mary AdamsSAC

Sunday, August 10 - Nineteenth Sunday in OT

9 a.m. **Mass** | For the PeopleSAC

10:30 a.m. **Mass** | +Richard & +Dolores Powers.....BSC

Tuesday, August 12

8:30 a.m. **Mass** | +Richard RantaBSC

Noon **Stitched with Love**BSC

4:30 p.m. **Confession**SAC

5 p.m. **Supper House**SAC

5:30 p.m. **Mass** | + Kevin Saunders.....SAC

6 p.m. **Adoration**SAC

Wednesday, August 13

4:30 p.m. **Confession**SAC

5:30 p.m. **Mass** | Mary Beth Wilmes.....SAC

6:30 p.m. **Young Adult Bible Study**SAC

7 p.m. **Knights of Columbus Meeting**.....SAC

Thursday, August 14 - St. Maximilian Kolbe

11 a.m. **Confession**SAC

12:15 p.m. **Mass** | Mae MitchellSAC

6:30 p.m. **Vigil Mass** | For the People.....BSC

7 p.m. **Revive Ladies Basketball**BSC

Friday, August 15 - Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

11 a.m. **Confession**SAC

12:15 p.m. **Mass** | + Aggie Burch, +Joe Tormala.....SAC

Saturday, August 16

4 p.m. **Mass** | +Helen & John Slezak, + Michaela Barton, +David & +Jason Biggerstaff.....SAC

Sunday, August 17 - Twentieth Sunday in OT

9 a.m. **Mass** | + Barbara Boyce, +Linda Van Den BergeSAC

10:30 a.m. **Mass** | +Kathy Vanderweg, Parish Family.....BSC

A Culture of Prayer

Prayer is the living waters which one's faith is nourished which overflows a life in Jesus Christ. Without prayer, our well runs dry and we rely merely upon human efforts. Human efforts are not enough.

Undoubtedly, prayer is difficult. And my recent homilies have not offered much practical advice on how to pray. While we need to "just do it," prayer is ever evolving and maturing for each individual. With that in mind, let me offer a few practical tips.

First, never underestimate the importance of Scripture – it literally is the Word of God. Undoubtedly, the Lord speaks to us when we open up the bible. My suggestion is to look ahead at the Sunday Mass readings (or at least the Sunday gospel). Take 10–15 minutes to read it two or three times, actively putting yourself into the scene. Begin with a short prayer like "Come Holy Spirit, open my mind and my heart to hear and know what you want me to." Then be open and actively engage your mind, eliminating any distractions and paying careful attention to every word. Sit in silence. If something is coming up, perhaps a word or phrase or some particular detail, sit with it. Then read again slowly. Is there something the Lord is speaking to your heart?

Another helpful guide to prayer is to come up with a basic format. First of all, decide how long you want to pray each day. Choose a place that is not distracting and remove distractions like your phone. Even 10 minutes a day would amount to an hour of prayer per week. That's a great start!

In 10 minutes, one formula you could follow more or less mimics the main points of the Our Father. It spells the word ACTS, like the Acts of the Apostles. Spending 2–3 minutes on each area is an easy way to spend 10 minutes in prayer:

- **A-Adoration.** Spend time offering God glory and praise for being the Lord and giver of life. Hearts lifted in Adoration bring peace and joy as we lift them to our Creator!
- **C-Contrition.** Spend a moment examining your conscience as well as anyone who you may need to offer forgiveness. Offer both your sorrow to God and express your mercy towards others.
- **T-Thanksgiving.** Offer God gratitude. Everything good is from God and is pure gift. Who and what are you thankful for—tell God. What talents and gifts has he given you for which you can express gratitude? This can be a moment of humility, peace, and generosity.
- **S-Supplication.** What kind of things do you want God to supply? This is a moment for petitions. Asking God for our needs (and wants) is something we are called to do in prayer. Offer petitions on behalf of others.

Lastly, as a means to encourage a Culture of Prayer among parishioners, both churches are open during the day. We are also working on opening a Day Chapel in one of the former classrooms in the Parish Center at St. Alphonse.

Peace,

Fr. Christopher

St. Alphonse Arts & Environment Ministry

We're looking for people who are interested in decorating St Alphonse for the various liturgical seasons. If you're interested in helping out or would like more information, please contact Jodi Deschaine at jdeschaine@comcast.net.

Blessed Sacrament Card Ministry

Please remember in your prayers parishioner Patricia Endres. Feel free to include a birthday wish as she is celebrating her birthday this month. Cards to Patricia may be sent to 4945 Hunsberger NE, Grand Rapids, 49525.

Daily Mass Times

With Fr. Eugene and Fr. Colin both receiving new assignments, we will not be able to offer daily Mass at two locations. Tuesday morning Mass at Blessed Sacrament is canceled, but we will be deciding on a new schedule to launch after Labor Day. Please be patient as we discern the best scenario

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experiences

Nurture your Sacrament of Marriage at a Worldwide Marriage Encounter experience! Upcoming experiences are being held Oct. 3–5 at Augustine Center in Petoskey, and Nov. 21–23 at St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center in Detroit. Apply today at wwme.org or contact Amy & Joe Kopacz at 517-667-0433 for more info.

Want to make an announcement?



Bulletin, Flocknote and Social Media Submissions send to: communication@stalphonusgr.org

ALL SAINTS ACADEMY PRAYER

We ask the parishioners of our founding parishes to pray for our faculty and staff as they return to school this week to prepare for students to return on the August 20.

Lord,

Bless our faculty, staff and volunteers. Thank you for calling them to work with our children. Give them a spirit of grace and compassion. Bless them with strength and endurance to perform their many tasks, and may they know and feel the deep gratitude of those whom they teach and serve.

ASA
All Saints Academy

Amen

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Alpha

FALL 2025



REGISTER ONLINE!



NEXT SESSION BEGINS SEPTEMBER 25
6:00-7:30 P.M.
CONNECTION, CONVERSATION AND DINNER

Prayer of Peace in the spirit of Taizé

August 11 at 7 p.m. at St. Mary Church, 423 1st St NW, Grand Rapids. If you are familiar with prayer in the spirit of Taizé, you know that its contemplative, musical nature opens a channel for a powerful experience of the divine. You remember how joy, surrender and hope can be nourished by the mantra-like singing and the moments of silence. And you understand how the use of candlelight and beautiful icons or simple symbols can be keys for a prayerful person to explore their deepest longings for God. If you are not familiar with this type of prayer, perhaps this description has sparked your interest. Parking is free for this event. Visit prayerofpeacegr.org.

Young Adult Ministry

Ages 21 -33

Tuesday Night Adoration & Social

6 - 7 p.m. Adoration (at St. Alphonsus)
Graydon's Crossing after Benediction
Come for one or both!

Wednesday Bible Study

In the St. Alphonsus parish lounge
6:30 - 8 p.m.

Questions please contact Jacob: jacobblundy033@gmail.com



St. Alphonsus & Blessed Sacrament

Youth Discipleship Registration

Join us Wednesday Nights!

4:45-6 p.m.

3 year olds - 3rd grade
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
4-5th grade Ascend
9-12th grade Bible Study

6:15-7:30 p.m.

3 year old - 3rd grade
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
6-8th grade Edge (youth group)



Register online!



For questions, contact

Whitney (MS & HS) - whitney@stalphonsusgr.org

OR

Brittany (3 yr - 3rd grade) - brenne@asagr.org



KENDRA TIERNEY

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17 September 2025 **6:00-8:00PM**
Doors Open & Appetizers - 6:00
Program Starts - 6:30

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Grand Rapids, MI 49503



FREE EVENT
Childcare is available - Requires RSVP
Please Register/RSVP on the Website: bit.ly/4n8hQZe
or Scan the QR Code



Knights of Columbus

Pantry Item for August: Canned Corn & Canned Green Beans.

Knight of the Month for July: Steven M. Sacha

Family of the Month for July: Rik & Lindsey Minnema Family.

The Knights of Columbus at Saint Alphonsus Parish is in search of men to bring Matthew 25 into action. Could this be you? We invite you to Prayerfully consider joining our ranks. The requirements for obtaining Knighthood, are you must be at least 18 years of age and a practicing Catholic. Feel free to contact Rod Cronin at (616) 481-7640 or any Knight for more information. You may also register at kofc.org, click Join. Remember to respond to the follow-up email.

Prayer for Vocations

O God, hear our prayer and let our cry come to You. Bless the Diocese of Grand Rapids with many vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life. Give Your sons and daughters the confidence to accept Your call, and the love to follow always in the footsteps of Your beloved Son with courage and dedication to Your will. Amen.

Weekly Offertory

St. Alphonsus

Weekly Collected \$12,718
Weekly Budgeted \$15,385

Blessed Sacrament

Weekly collected \$8,693.36
Weekly Budgeted \$11,826.92

Thank you for your generosity!

Meet a Seminarian!



Jonathan P. Jensen



College III
Basilica of St. Adalbert, Grand Rapids, MI
Parents: Joseph & Michelle Jensen
Siblings: Margaret, Christopher
Education: West Catholic High School
Hobbies: Fishing, Reading and drinking Tea.

Pastor - Fr. Christopher Epplett

cepplett@stalphonsusgr.org

Evangelization & Discipleship

Adults - Carol Fedewa
Youth - Whitney Doane

Christian Service

Michelle Hatfield

Finance

Brenda Ormstad

Marriage & Pastoral Care

Marie Lemire
Deacon John Falicki

Maintenance

Pat Needham
Gary Rowen
Mike Boelens

Worship/Music/Liturgy

Gabe Groh
Katie Jandernoa, Mary Frey

Administrative Assistants

Catherine McKenzie & Kim Kayser
616-451-3043 Ext. 5300
office@stalphonsusgr.org

OFFICE HOURS

St. Alphonsus ...616-451-3043
8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday

Blessed Sacrament ...616-447-7554
Tuesday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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