

*So great a cloud of*  
**WITNESSES**

*Hebrews 12:1*

Offering Transformational Encounters with Jesus  
**St. Alphonsus & Blessed Sacrament**

Grand Rapids, MI

August 17, 2025 | Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## 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 noon .....SAC  
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. (**begins Aug. 27**).....BSC

\*Note: No Confession Tuesday after Mass on Aug. 19

## Our Schedule

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

### Saturday, August 16

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

### Sunday, August 17 - Twentieth Sunday in OT

9 a.m. **Mass** | For the People, +Barbara Boyce, +Linda  
VandenBerge.....SAC  
10:30 a.m. **Mass** | +Kathy Vanderweg.....BSC

### Monday, August 18

5:45 p.m. Ladies Bunco .....BSC

### Tuesday, August 19

10 a.m. **Sew & Sews** .....SAC  
1 p.m. **Card Making Ministry** .....BSC  
4:30 p.m. **Confession** .....SAC  
5 p.m. **Supper House** .....SAC  
5:30 p.m. **Mass** | +Eugene MacKenzie.....SAC  
6 p.m. **Adoration** .....SAC

### Wednesday, August 20

10:30 a.m. Back to School Adoration.....BSC  
1:30 p.m. Confession .....SAC  
5:30 p.m. Mass | ASA Students & Staff.....SAC  
6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study .....SAC  
7 p.m. Knights of Columbus Meeting.....SAC

### Thursday, August 21

11 a.m. Confession .....SAC  
12:15 p.m. Mass | Anthony Preston.....SAC  
7 p.m. Revive Ladies Basketball .....BSC

### Friday, August 22

11 a.m. Confession .....SAC  
12:15 p.m. Mass | Catholic Charities of West Michigan.....SAC

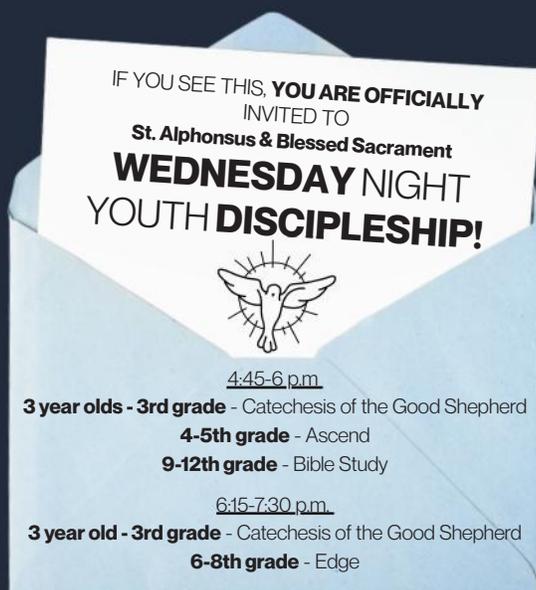
### Saturday, August 23

4 p.m. Mass | For the People, Special Intention.....SAC

### Sunday, August 24 - Twenty-First Sunday in OT

9 a.m. Mass | +Jennifer Albrecht, +Jim Storey, Richard  
Tarchinski.....SAC  
10:30 a.m. Mass | +Richard & +Rosemary Banka.....BSC

## Register for Faith Formation!



For questions, contact  
Whitney (MS & HS) -  
whitney@stalphonusgr.org  
OR  
Brittany (3 yr - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade) -  
brenne@asagr.org

Learn more and  
register online **BELOW**



## Come Holy Spirit: Our Future!

The question concerning the long-term plan for the clustering of St. Alphonsus and Blessed Sacrament has been brought forward, specifically to one pastor serving both parishes. While we cannot fully predict the future, we do have some known variables concerning this.

First of all, I am very grateful to serve both communities and I am excited about the unified vision for a pastoral plan between the two. I believe this model allows us to more effectively and efficiently leverage resources between the two parish communities to offer better ministry and operations.

We can presume that this collaboration will continue for at least six years, since my assignment that began on July 1 was a six-year term. However, it is very common for the assignment to be renewed for an additional six years (and sometimes longer). The stability of pastors is helpful to the stability of the parish. We also should keep in mind that the needs of the diocese are ever-changing, so there is no guarantee of the length of the assignment. In short, I think we move forward as if there will be no changes in the foreseeable future.

Regardless of pastoral appointments, the clustering is necessary at this moment in the diocese and we have a valuable opportunity to be an example of how this can work well in other places in our diocese and beyond. As it stands now, we have a lot of room for growth. Masses at 4 p.m. and 9 a.m. are about 60-65 percent capacity currently. The 10:30 a.m. is about 50 percent full. I want to encourage us to keep inviting and growing – let's fill the pews!

I dream of a moment where we are beginning to stuff the pews so much that we add a fourth weekend Mass. This requires the **culture of prayer** we are establishing as well as becoming a parish cluster **on fire to evangelize**. What the Holy Spirit wants to do is amazing and we are already seeing the beginning of the fruits. Praise God!

Pax,

Fr. Christopher

## 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.



### Pray for a seminarian

This week please pray for  
**Charlie Leidel**



## Daily Mass Times Update

Tuesday 8:30 a.m. Mass at Blessed Sacrament is canceled effective immediately. Mass is offered at 8:30 a.m. Tuesdays at St. Jude. Wednesday 10:30 a.m. Mass resumes on Aug. 27 on school days at Blessed Sacrament. We are discerning a new daily Mass schedule between the parish locations and anticipate a Wednesday Mass option will remain year round at Blessed Sacrament next summer.

## Blessed Sacrament Card Ministry

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

## Backpack to School Drive: Thank You!

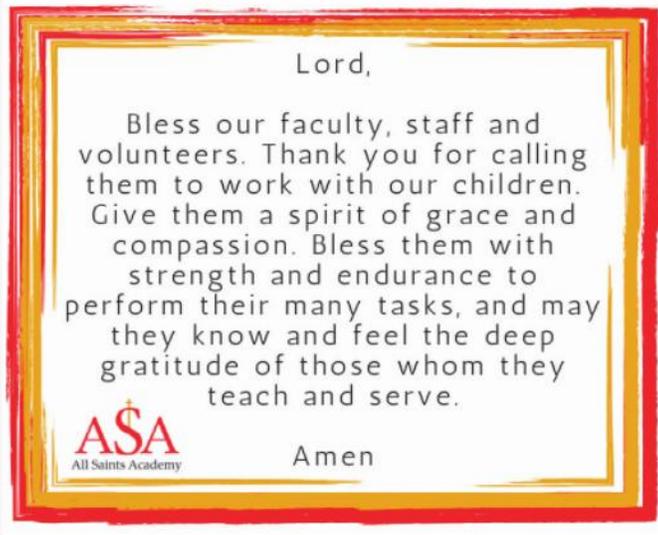
Catholic Charities West Michigan would like to thank you for joining us for our 2025 Backpack-to-School Supply Drive! Your generosity helped us to prepare more than 400 children in our services with school supplies. As we work to provide help and create hope for those in need, we are grateful for the incredible support of our parish communities. Thank you for helping us allow our clients to return to school feeling prepared and confident! We could not do it without your support.

## St. Alphonsus Arts & Environment Ministry

We're looking for people who are interested in decorating St. Alphonsus for the various liturgical seasons. Please contact Jodi Deschaine at [jdeschaine@comcast.net](mailto:jdeschaine@comcast.net) for more information or to get involved.

## All Saints Academy Prayer

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



## 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.



Contact Jacob: jacobblundy033@gmail.com

## New Event System

We have a new system to secure spaces around the St. Alphonsus and Blessed Sacrament campuses.

Event requests are now made **annually**, running for the school year. Any previous events on our calendar are being removed effective at the end of August. Therefore, **the calendar will now "reset" after Labor Day**. To reiterate, all events past August 31 are being removed, except for Mass/sacraments.

To make requests, please go to our new webpage and follow the instructions. Use the website below or scan the QR code for easy access to the form.

[www.stalphonsusgr.org/eventprep](http://www.stalphonsusgr.org/eventprep)



## There's a seat at the table for you!

Alpha is a series of presentations exploring life's big questions and giving space for open and honest discussion. Alpha helps bring people together to encounter Jesus. Every session begins with a meal, followed by a short video presentation and time for group discussion. There's nothing you can't ask and everyone is welcome!

**Who can attend?** Anyone over the age of 18 is welcome!

**Where will we meet?** We will meet weekly in the St. Alphonsus Parish Center Lounge on Thursdays at 6 p.m. beginning Sept. 25. Sessions will run through Nov. 13.

**How much does it cost to attend?** There is no cost to attend, however a free-will donation is accepted.

If you attended one of the three sessions that were offered last year, think about who you would like to invite!

# Alpha

For more information and to register, go to our webpage

<https://www.stalphonsusgr.org/alpha?rq=alpha>

## Contact - Carol Fedewa

[cfedewa@stalphonsusgr.org](mailto:cfedewa@stalphonsusgr.org) or call (616) 451-3043 x5305

YOU'RE INVITED TO  
*Alpha*  
FALL 2025

REGISTER ONLINE!

Alpha

Next Session Begins September 25  
6-7:30 P.M.  
Connection, Conversation and Dinner

## Baptized in Christ!



**Noah Piechowski** - Baptized July 19 - St. Alphonsus

**Amelia Crawford** - Baptized July 20 - Blessed Sacrament

**Benjamin Brouwer** - Baptized Aug. 3 - Blessed Sacrament

**Lexi Feldpausch** - Baptized Aug. 10 - Blessed Sacrament

KENDRA  
TIERNEY



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or Scan the QR Code

## Want to make an announcement?

Bulletin, Flocknote and Social Media submissions  
send to: [communication@stalphonusgr.org](mailto:communication@stalphonusgr.org)

## All Saints Academy invites you...

Join us for School Mass at Lower Campus (Blessed  
Sacrament) - Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. and Upper Campus  
(St. Jude) on Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. beginning August 21 & 27

## CSA Pledge Update

St. Alphonsus Parish

Blessed Sacrament Parish



**GOAL**  
**\$167,551**

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**\$147,496**



**GOAL**  
**\$95,049**

**PLEGGED**  
**\$64,355**

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Catholic Services Appeal

## St. Alphonsus - Knights of Columbus

**Pantry Item for August:**

Canned Corn & Canned Green Beans



### Pastor - Fr. Christopher Epplett

[cepplett@stalphonusgr.org](mailto:cepplett@stalphonusgr.org)

### Evangelization & Discipleship

Adults - Carol Fedewa  
Youth - Whitney Doane

### Christian Service

Michelle Hatfield

### Finance

Brenda Ormstad

### Pastoral Care

Marie LeMire  
Deacon John Falicki

### Maintenance

Pat Needham  
Gary Rowen  
Liz Vainavicz, Mike Boelens

### Worship/Music/Liturgy

Gabe Groh  
Katie Jandernoa, Mary Frey

### Administrative Assistants

Catherine McKenzie & Kim Kayser  
616-451-3043 Ext. 5300  
[office@stalphonusgr.org](mailto:office@stalphonusgr.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.

St. Alphonsus - 224 Carrier NE Blessed Sacrament - 2275 Diamond NE | Grand Rapids, MI 49505

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