The background is a painting of a narrow, dark rock passage. Light streams in from the end of the passage, revealing a bright, hazy landscape with trees and a sky. The overall style is painterly and dramatic.

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Grand Rapids, MI

*Strive to
enter through the*
**NARROW
GATE**

August 24, 2025 | Twenty-First 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 ... 11:15 - 11:55 a.m.BSC
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 1 p.m.BSC

Our Schedule

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

Saturday, August 23

4 p.m. **Mass** | For the People, Special IntentionSAC

Sunday, August 24 - Twenty-First Sunday in OT

9 a.m. **Mass** | +Jennifer Albrecht, +Jim Storey, Richard TarchinskiSAC
10:30 a.m. **Mass** | +Richard & +Rosemary BankaBSC

Monday, August 25

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

Tuesday, August 26

4:30 p.m. **Confession**SAC
5 p.m. **Supper House**SAC
5:30 p.m. **Mass** | +Genevieve Tomaszewski, Clara MacKenzieSAC
6 p.m. **Eucharistic Adoration**SAC

Wednesday, August 27 - Memorial of St. Monica

10:30 a.m. **School Mass** | ASA Students & Staff, +Jane McQuillanBSC
11 a.m. **Adoration**BSC
11:15 a.m. **Confession**BSC
4:30 p.m. **Confession**SAC
5:30 p.m. **Mass** | +Theresa & Richard GravelynSAC
6:30 p.m. **Young Adult Bible Study**SAC

Thursday, August 28 - Memorial of St. Augustine

11 a.m. **Confession**SAC
12:15 p.m. **Mass** | +Genevieve TomaszewskiSAC
7 p.m. **Revive Ladies Basketball**BSC

Friday, August 29 - Passion of St. John the Baptist

11 a.m. **Confession**SAC
12:15 p.m. **Mass**SAC

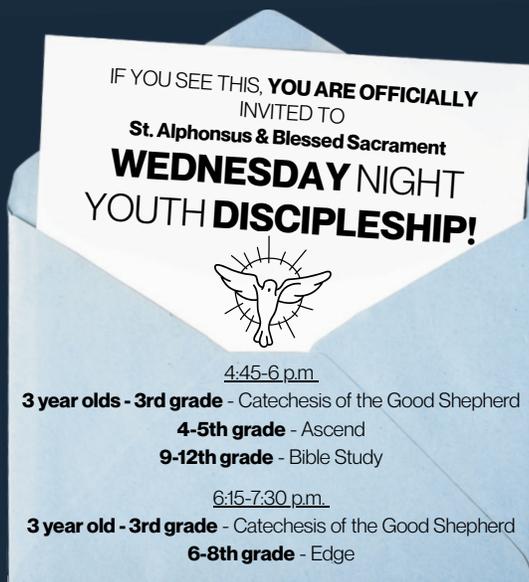
Saturday, August 30

4 p.m. **Mass** | +Ken Regan & +Tom ReganSAC

Sunday, August 31 - Twenty-Second Sunday in OT

9 a.m. **Mass** | For the PeopleSAC
10:30 a.m. **Mass** | +John & +Mary Kandra, +Frank & +Agnes Kandra, +Richard RantaBSC

Register for Faith Formation!



For questions, contact
Whitney (MS & HS) -
whitney@stalphonsusgr.org
OR
Brittany (3 yr - 3rd grade) -
brenne@asagr.org

Learn more and
register online **BELOW**



Narrow gate: Does hell exist?



Fr. Christopher Epplett

Pastor

Jesus is very clear in the gospel this Sunday that hell is real. Yet, in almost every age many of the faithful want to believe there is no hell. Often this comes in the form of a thought like, “God is too loving and merciful to condemn someone to hell.”

The problem with that statement is that it has a false premise. God does not condemn us to hell, we condemn ourselves by our actions, our lack of living in God’s love and grace in this life. At the end of our lives, it comes down to whether we lived a life of grace and have been transformed more and more into the image of our Creator. And if we find ourselves in mortal sin during our journey in this life, Confession is the remedy.

When we die, we may not be perfect (purgatory exists for this reason), but we need to be in a state of grace to receive the gift of salvation and go to heaven. In this regard, our judgment is made before we pass from this life to the next. As Venerable Fulton Sheen attests, we are the judge and jury upon our death, making God the one confirming the judgment and handing out the sentence.

Our judgment leads to “three possible destinies,” according to Sheen: “hell, which is pain without love; purgatory, pain with love; and heaven, love without pain.” And while we may want to deny there is a hell, Sheen warns us: “If there is any subject which is offensive to modern sentimentalists it is the subject of hell. Our unsoiled age wants a Christianity watered so as to make the Gospel of Christ nothing more than a gentle doctrine of goodwill, a social program of economic betterment ... Few today believe in either the devil or hell. Why don’t they believe in the devil when so much is devilish?”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church “affirms the existence of hell and its eternity.” Paragraph 1035 of the Catechism states: “Immediately after death the souls of those who die in a state of mortal sin descend into hell, where they suffer the punishments of hell, ‘eternal fire.’ The chief punishment of hell is eternal separation from God, in whom alone man can possess the life and happiness for which he was created and for which he longs.

“The affirmations of Sacred Scripture and the teachings of the Church on the subject of hell are a call to the responsibility incumbent upon man to make use of his freedom in view of his eternal destiny. They are at the same time an urgent call to conversion: ‘Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is easy, that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard, that leads to life, and those who find it are few.’”

May the grace of Jesus be with you!

Blessed Sacrament card ministry

Please remember in your prayers parishioner Angie Schmidbauer. She is home recovering from surgery. Cards to Angie may be sent to: 3511 Williamson NE, Grand Rapids, 49525.

Funeral thank you from McKay Family

On behalf of the Marilyn McKay family, our sincere gratitude to Fr. Christopher and the musicians for the beautiful funeral Mass. We are also deeply thankful to Phyllis Saganski and the funeral luncheon crew who supported us with the delicious food. All of the prayers and support by the wonderful people of St. Alphonsus are appreciated.

Bridge begins again

Friends from both parishes are invited to join our Bridge Club. Bridge meets every Tuesday from 5:45-8 p.m. beginning after Labor Day in the St. Alphonsus Parish Center. No cost for this opportunity to make new friends. Level of experience does not matter, nor is it required to bring a bridge partner. Bridge instruction is included. If you have an interest, contact Dave at 616-361-2038 dujawills@yahoo.com or Paul at pejljensen@comcast.net.

Daily Mass times update

Tuesday 8:30 a.m. Mass at Blessed Sacrament is canceled. **Note:** Mass is offered at 8:30 a.m. Tuesdays at St. Jude. Mass is offered each Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. on school days at Blessed Sacrament. We are discerning a new daily Mass schedule between St. Alphonsus and Blessed Sacrament, which should be announced soon and go into affect sometime this fall.



August 23 & 24
Second Collection:
Humanitarian relief and pastoral support for Gaza and the Middle East

Our Church mourns the terrible suffering of Christians and other innocent victims of violence in Gaza and surrounding areas who are struggling to survive, protect their children, and live with dignity in dire conditions. The Holy Father continues to call for a ceasefire and for aid to enter the territory, noting with great sorrow that “Gaza is starving.”

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



Our youth discipleship formation model

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a Montessori-style Catholic learning program for our little ones. CGS is an amazing approach to fostering the unique relationship that God Our Father has with children. Learn more about Catechesis of the Good Shepherd here:

<https://www.cgsusa.org/discover/cgs-approach/>

We are using Catholic resources from **Life Teen** for our 4-12th grade groups. Life Teen is a “Eucharist-centered movement within the Roman Catholic Church that leads teenagers and their families into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. With the Blessed Virgin Mary as our intercessor and guide, Life Teen seeks to unleash the fullness of the Sacramental power present within the young Church.” Learn more about Life Teen here:

<https://lifeteen.com/about/mission-ministry/>

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 or call (616) 451-3043 x5305

<p>YOU'RE INVITED TO</p>  <p>FALL 2025</p>	 <p>REGISTER ONLINE!</p>  
<p>NEXT SESSION BEGINS SEPTEMBER 25 6-7:30 P.M. CONNECTION, CONVERSATION AND DINNER</p>	

Wednesday Eucharistic Adoration is back



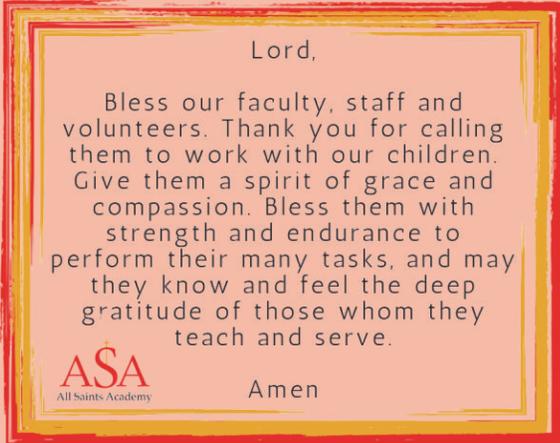
Join us each Wednesday after 10:30 a.m. Mass in the church at Blessed Sacrament for Eucharistic Adoration until 1 p.m. on school days. We are open to expanding another hour or two. Please email Marie if interested: mlemire@bsacrament.net

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.

ASA Blog

The ASA Today blog posts news and photos about campus life and events at least weekly during the school year. Recently, we have posted introductions of our new teachers! You can subscribe and follow our blog at asatoday.blogspot.com.



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 **Logan McGahan**

Want to make an announcement?

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

Pastor – Fr. Christopher Epplett

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

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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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