A painting of a sunset over a body of water. The sky is a deep teal color with a bright orange sun low on the horizon. The water below is dark blue with white-capped waves breaking. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

The one who humbles himself

WILL BE EXALTED

Offering Transformational Encounters with Jesus

St. Alphonsus & Blessed Sacrament

Grand Rapids, MI

August 31, 2025 | Twenty-Second 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 - 11:45 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 30

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

Sunday, August 31 – Twenty-Second Sunday OT

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

Monday, September 1 – Labor Day

Parish Offices ClosedSAC/BSC

Tuesday, September 2

4:30 p.m. **Confession**SAC
5 p.m. **Supper House**SAC
5:30 p.m. **Mass** | Fr. Tony VainaviczSAC
5:30 p.m. **Bridge**SAC
6 p.m. **Eucharistic Adoration**SAC

Wednesday, September 3 – St. Gregory the Great

10:30 a.m. **School Mass** | Sheila DoaneBSC
11 a.m. **Adoration**BSC
11:15 a.m. **Confession**BSC
4:30 p.m. **Confession**SAC
5:30 p.m. **Mass** | Kelly DeVriesSAC
6:30 p.m. **Young Adult Bible Study**SAC

Thursday, September 4

11 a.m. **Confession**SAC
12:15 p.m. **Mass** | Annie LefereSAC
7 p.m. **Revive Ladies Basketball**BSC

Friday, September 5

11 a.m. **Confession**SAC
12:15 p.m. **Mass** | St. Alphonsus & Blessed Sacrament StaffSAC

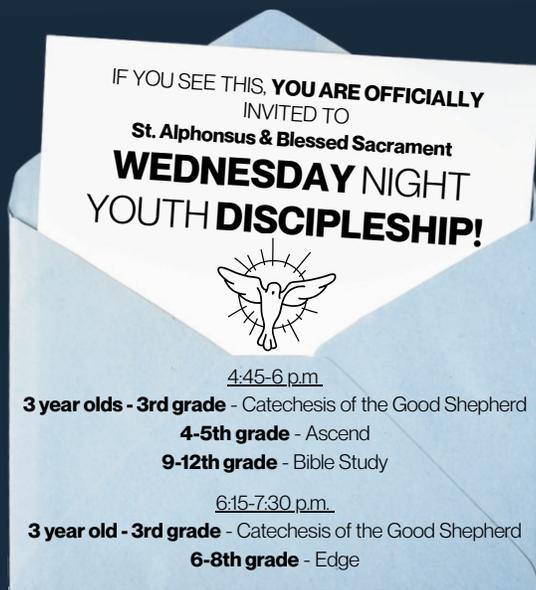
Saturday, September 6

3:15 p.m. **Confession**SAC
4 p.m. **Mass** | +Josephine & Andrew Slezak, Stanley & Maryann
Grzesiak, +Doug Prins, +Mel PospiechSAC

Sunday, September 7 – Twenty-Third Sunday OT

9 a.m. **Mass** | +George & Evelyn Steffens, Bishop David
WalkowiakSAC
10:30 a.m. **Mass** | +Maribeth Garzelloni, Parish FamilyBSC

Register for Faith Formation!



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

Learn more and
register online **BELOW**



Father, I have a question...



Fr. Christopher Epplett

Pastor

From time to time parishioners ask interesting questions concerning things at Mass, around the parish, faith...or even personal questions. With that in mind, I thought I would turn towards something lighter and highlight some FAQs this week. Here goes...

Question: I noticed sometimes one person receives the Precious Blood from the cup at the end of the communion line. Why is that?

Answer: Some folks suffer from celiac disease at varying levels of intolerance to gluten. While we offer low-gluten hosts, even those have a level of gluten too high for them to receive. Reception from the cup is the only no-gluten option, so they have arranged to receive in this way. Since either species (form of bread or wine) contains the fullness of the Eucharist, anyone could receive one or the other and fully receives the Eucharist in doing so. Hosts cannot contain zero gluten because it is no longer considered bread by definition, which is required for the validity of the sacrament (remember, proper form and matter are essential to every sacrament).

Question: Sometimes incense is used at Mass and other times it is not, how is this decided?

Answer: Incense can be used at every Mass. It is symbolic in many ways, including the rising of the incense showing the rising of our prayers, the sweetness of the smell to that of heavenly realities, and foggy mist that reminds us that the veil between heaven and earth is a thin one. The veil is the most thin when we are at Mass, since the worship on earth is going on in heaven with us at the same time! Indeed, the angels and saints in heaven are worshipping with us at Mass. Determining when incense is used is up to the priest, though I typically have a rule of using it to denote a higher celebration, such as a solemn feast. Therefore, we usually have incense for the Christmas and Easter seasons, Corpus Christi Sunday, All Saints, All Souls, Assumption, Immaculate Conception, etc. As a pastoral consideration to those who are sensitive to incense, I rarely use it on Saturday evenings and try to use low-allergen incense.

Question: Father, what do you like to do in your free time?

Answer: I like to write and also spend a lot of time reading books. I go hiking and enjoy running. For fun, I like to try new breweries and sometimes go bourbon tasting! As you should know, I am devoted to watching the Detroit Lions and usually make it to a game or two each season. I like coffee and usually make my own at home, but sometimes visit coffee shops. I also host a lot of priests at the rectory to create a deeper sense of brotherhood/fraternity. This often includes board games, card games, or watching movies (all of which are things I enjoy with friends).

Blessed Sacrament card ministry

Please remember in your prayers parishioner Mary Lou VeneKlase. She is unable to come to Mass. Cards to Mary Lou may be sent to Story Point Senior Living, 3121 Lake Michigan Drive NW, Apt. #211, Grand Rapids, 49504.

St. Alphonsus Class of 1970 Reunion

Saturday, October 18, 2025 5-9 p.m.
Eastern Avenue Hall, 506 Eastern NE

- Catered Buffet Dinner
- Cash Bar Available
- \$30 per person

RSVP/Payment Due by Sept. 15
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4155 Sawkaw Dr NE
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Please make sure your current address is included with your payment. If your last name was different while attending St. Alphonsus, please include that as well. Questions can be directed to Camille at 616-406-8934 or Maria at 616-745-0849. Please spread the word to any of our classmates you may be in contact with, not only those who graduated with us, but any who were part of our class at any time who transferred out before 1970.

Join us for Bridge Club

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 peiljensen@comcast.net.

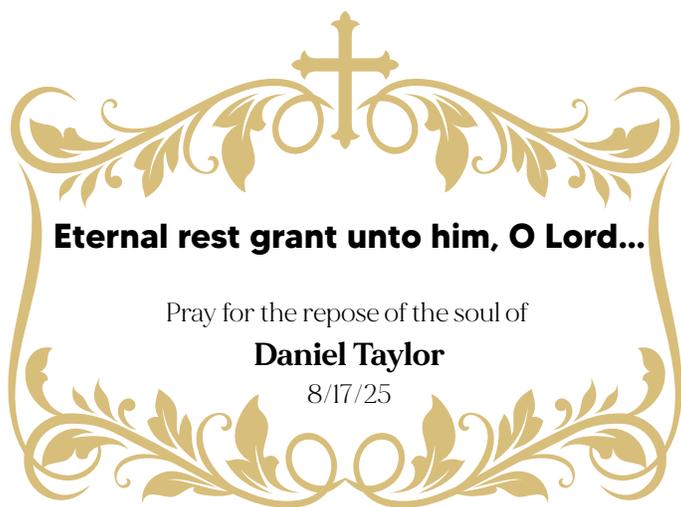
Our youth discipleship formation model

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/>



Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord...

Pray for the repose of the soul of

Daniel Taylor

8/17/25

Adult Choir for 10:30 a.m. Mass

Those wanting to join the 10:30 a.m. choir, please attend our first rehearsal this Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the multi-purpose room at Blessed Sacrament. We practice every Tuesday and generally sing at the 10:30 a.m. Mass on the three Sundays of the month from September to May. Bring a love for singing and enthusiasm! We sing mostly three-part and four-part choral selections in a variety of styles. High school students welcome!

For details or more information, please contact Gabe Groh, Worship Director, ggroh@stalphonusgr.org

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.stalphonusgr.org/alpha?rq=alpha>

Contact - Carol Fedewa

cfedewa@stalphonusgr.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>	

Eucharistic Adoration opportunity

Join us each Wednesday after 10:30 a.m. Mass in the church at Blessed Sacrament for Adoration til 1 p.m. on school days. Consider becoming an adorer/volunteer: mlemire@bsacrament.net

New event system

We have a new system to secure spaces on our campuses. To make requests, please go to our new webpage and follow the instructions. Scan the QR code for easy access to the form: www.stalphonusgr.org/eventprep.



All Saints Academy invites you...

School Mass at Lower Campus - Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.
Upper Campus - 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.



BECOMING CATHOLIC

WEDNESDAYS 6:30-8 p.m.

Sessions begin Sept. 3

Becoming Catholic is for adults considering becoming full members of the Catholic Church, including people seeking the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, and/or Confirmation and those coming from another faith. Weekly meetings take place every Wednesday and/or Thursday evening at 6:30. Contact Fr. Christopher for info (see below).

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
Aiden McGavin

Bulletin submissions: To submit announcements for the bulletin, please email: bulletin@stalphonusgr.org.

Other media (Flocknote, website, and social media) send to: communication@stalphonusgr.org.

Pastor - Fr. Christopher Epplett

cepplett@stalphonusgr.org
fr.epplett@bsacrament.net

Evangelization & Discipleship

Adults Director - Carol Fedewa
Youth Director - Whitney Doane
ASA Campus Minister - Brittany Renne

Pastoral Care

Marie LeMire
Deacon John Falicki

Worship/Music/Liturgy

Director - Gabe Groh
Katie Jandernoa
Mary Frey

Food & Clothing Pantry

Mary Beth Wilmes

Maintenance

Director - Pat Needham
SAC Manager - Gary Rowen
Liz Vainavicz, Mike Boelens

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

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

Finance

Brenda Ormstad

Administrative Assistants

Catherine McKenzie & Kim Kayser
Ext. 5300 - office@stalphonusgr.org

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