



*Take up your cross and*  
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Offering Transformational Encounters with Jesus

**St. Alphonsus & Blessed Sacrament**

Grand Rapids, MI

**September 7, 2025** | Twenty-Third 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 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 1 p.m. ....BSC

## Our Schedule

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

### Saturday, September 6

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

### Sunday, September 7 – Twenty-Third Sunday OT

9 a.m. **Mass** | +George & Evelyn Steffens, Bishop David Walkowiak .....SAC  
10:30 a.m. **Mass** | +Maribeth Garzelloni, For the People .....BSC

### Monday, September 8 – Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary

1 p.m. **Book Club** .....BSC  
5 p.m. **Pickleball** .....SAC

### Tuesday, September 9 – Memorial St. Peter Claver

9 a.m. **Pickleball** .....SAC  
10:45 a.m. **Rosary Group** .....SAC  
12 p.m. **Stitched with Love** .....BSC  
4:30 p.m. **Confession** .....SAC  
5:30 p.m. **Mass** | Michelle Piccolo .....SAC  
5:30 p.m. **Bridge** .....SAC  
6 p.m. **Eucharistic Adoration** .....SAC

### Wednesday, September 10

10:30 a.m. **School Mass** | Fr. David Sacha .....BSC  
11 a.m. **Adoration** .....BSC  
11:15 a.m. **Confession** .....BSC  
4:30 p.m. **Confession** .....SAC  
5:30 p.m. **Mass** | David Snoop .....SAC  
6:30 p.m. **Young Adult Bible Study** .....SAC  
6:30 p.m. **Becoming Catholic** .....SAC

### Thursday, September 11

11 a.m. **Confession** .....SAC  
12:15 p.m. **Mass** | +Fritz & Mary Hormuth .....SAC  
7 p.m. **Revive Ladies Basketball** .....BSC

### Friday, September 12

11 a.m. **Confession** .....SAC  
12:15 p.m. **Mass** | Bill & Carol Brewis .....SAC

### Saturday, September 13

4 p.m. **Mass** | Special Intention, +Evelyn & George Steffens, +Mark Pospiech .....SAC

### Sunday, September 14 – Exaltation of the Holy Cross

9 a.m. **Mass** | For the People, +Barbara Boyce, +Robert Keeney .....SAC  
10:30 a.m. **Mass** | +David Dodge .....BSC

Jesus said to his disciples:

**"I have come to set the earth on fire,  
and how I wish it were already blazing!"**

Fourth – 12th graders: join us for

## Youth Discipleship Formation

every Wednesday  
and let your heart be set on fire for the Lord.

**Confirmation students** will attend Edge on  
Wednesdays in addition to five Sunday classes.  
Register to learn more!

**Register Online** by September 15

Whitney (Fourth to 12th grade)  
whitney@stalphonsusgr.org  
or  
Brittany (3-year-old to third grade)  
brenne@asagr.org



# Making God's love known



**Fr. Christopher Epplett**

Pastor

On his feast, I quoted St. Augustine at daily Mass with some of his most poetic and famous words from his "Confessions." They certainly struck a chord that day, so I share them now:

"Late have I loved you, O Beauty ever ancient, ever new, late have I loved you! You were within me, but I was outside, and it was there that I searched for you. In my unloveliness I plunged into the lovely things which you created. You were with me, but I was not with you. Created things kept me from you; yet if they had not been in you they would not have been at all. You called, you shouted, and you broke through my deafness. You flashed, you shone, and you dispelled my blindness. You breathed your fragrance on me; I drew in breath and now I pant for you. I have tasted you, now I hunger and thirst for more. You touched me, and I burned for your peace."

These words show St. Augustine reflecting on his conversion and seeing God's presence in retrospect. God was there, but it took St. Augustine a good portion of his life to see God and accept him in his heart. God is in his creation, but we can easily miss that the beauty and intricacy of it all points us to him. Indeed, God is constantly pursuing all of us, every heart...and more of our hearts. He never stops pursuing us and it's never too late – our encounter with Jesus propels us to an even deeper union and intimacy.

I don't know about you, but I find this exciting and challenging in the best way possible. It reminds me that my entire life is meant to be a growing intimacy with God. For as often as I don't recognize his presence, he never stops making it known. For as often as I take for granted his love for me, he loves me the same: "I said I love you, I mean I love you, and I'm not changing my mind!"

It is easy for us to get distracted and to misuse and misinterpret God in his creation, in his communicating with us, in his love for us, in his mercy for us – in his constant pursuit of our hearts. Still, when we see it as it truly is, the beauty and magnitude overwhelms us. May we grow in such an intimacy that we cry tears of joy!

## In gratitude: Funeral luncheon volunteers

Both parishes are blessed with amazing parishioners dedicated to serving families in their time of mourning through our funeral luncheons. We are grateful to **Kathy Eardley** and **Merrilyn Thompson** for 65-plus years of dedication at St. Alphonsus. These ladies have announced their retirement after having dedicated years to shopping, preparing meat trays, making baked beans, potatoes, and whatever else was needed. Thank you for living out the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, Kathy and Merrilyn!

## Pantry news

St. Alphonsus Food & Clothing Pantry is closed for maintenance on Sept. 10-11. Operations will resume the following week. We want to express our gratitude to Michelle Hatfield for her nearly eight years of service to St. Alphonsus. May God bless Michelle in her next chapter!

## St. Al's 1970 Class 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  
Checks or money orders made out to:

Camille Erard  
4155 Sawkaw Dr NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49525

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.

**Bulletin submissions** – email:  
[bulletin@stalphonsusgr.org](mailto:bulletin@stalphonsusgr.org).

**give**  
SIMPLY

together, we can help end  
hunger in our community.

**double match day**  
**September 13**

**Double Match Day** to support St. Alphonsus Pantry - Knapp Meijer only

Double match means tripling contributions made Sept 13. Purchase the Simply Give card at **Knapp Corner Meijer** or online at this link (be sure to purchase on Sept 13 for maximum impact):

<https://www.meijer.com/shopping/product/simply-give-10-food-pantry-donation/70882088231.html>

# Name Tag Sunday

All Masses Sept. 13-14

To build up our parish communities, we are encouraging all parishioners and visitors to wear name tags during Mass the weekend of September 13-14. You can bring your own or use the ones we will provide at the entryways. Let's make this small gesture to build community. Refreshments will be served after each Mass during the weekend.



**the**  
**RESCUE**  
**project**

**Wednesdays 6:30-8 p.m.**  
**Sessions begin October 1**  
St. Alphonsus Parish Center Lounge

## Adult Choir for 10:30 a.m. Mass

Those wanting to join the 10:30 a.m. choir, we practice every Tuesday and sing at the 10:30 a.m. Mass three Sundays of the month from September to May. For details or more information, please contact Gabe Groh, Worship Director, [ggroh@stalphonsusgr.org](mailto:ggroh@stalphonsusgr.org)

## Stitched with Love

From cozy quilts to tiny bibs, every handmade piece is crafted with care and shared with Help Pregnancy and St. Gianna's Baby Boutique—a little love in every stitch!

Meets on the 2nd & 4th  
Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m. at  
Blessed Sacrament



Contact: Marie LaMire at [mlemire@bsacrament.net](mailto:mlemire@bsacrament.net)

## BECOMING CATHOLIC

WEDNESDAYS 6:30-8 p.m.

Our next session is Sept. 10

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 evening at 6:30.



YOU'RE INVITED TO  
*Alpha*  
FALL 2025

REGISTER ONLINE!

**THURSDAYS**  
11:30 a.m. at Blessed Sacrament  
or 6 p.m. at St. Alphonsus  
beginning September 25

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

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

## PRAY FOR A SEMINARIAN

This week please pray for  
**Isaac A. Schneider**





## First Weeks of School

All Saints Academy has now finished the third week of school! We've had some great times on the playground, making new friends, seeing old friends, and learning new things.

Thank you to our parish families for your support, love and prayers as we started the 2025 - 26 school year.



616-447-2997  
[asagr.org](http://asagr.org)  
 Blog: [asatoday.blogspot.com](http://asatoday.blogspot.com)

### Pastor - Fr. Christopher Epplett

[cepplett@stalphonusgr.org](mailto:cepplett@stalphonusgr.org)  
[fr.epplett@bsacrament.net](mailto: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

### OFFICE HOURS

St. Alphonsus ...616-451-3043  
 Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
 Blessed Sacrament ...616-447-7554  
 Tuesday 9:00-11:30 a.m. & 12:00-3:00 p.m.

### Finance

Brenda Ormstad

### Administrative Assistants

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

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

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