



St. Alphonsus

Wheeling, WV

“All those who will ever pray here
in any trial whatsoever will be consoled.”

December 22-29, 2024

4th Sunday of Advent
and
Christmas 2024

Pastor:
Rev. Pen
pmanikyalarao@dwc.org

Parochial Vicar:
Rev. John Soplinski
jsoplinski@dwc.org

Mass Schedule
Sunday 9:00 am
Tuesday 8:00 am
Wednesday 6:00 pm
Thursday 8:00 am
Friday 8:00 am

Sacrament of Confession
Saturday 4:30-5:00 pm
Sunday 8:30-8:50 am

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Website:
www.stalswheeling.org



“Come to Me,
and let Me
make you holy!”

The Offertory Report

December 15

Envelopes = \$ 2117

Loose = \$ 1046

Votive Candles = \$ 124

Mass Attendance

5:30 pm— 75

9:00 am— 82

Every contribution matters!

Minster Schedule

Dec 28-29

Readers:

Sat.- *Monica T.*

Sun.- *Paul R.*

Extraordinary Ministers

of Holy Communion:

Sat: *Jeanne V. Sun: Tom M.*

Lynn D. Phyllis H.

Judy B. Mark B.

December 24 and 25

Readers: (24) *Jeanne V. and Phyllis H.*

(25) *Judy B.*

Extraordinary Ministers

of Holy Communion:

(24) (25)

Mary Ellen P. Lynn D.

Tom M. Phyllis H.

Paul R. Mark B.

The decorating the church for Christmas is planned for **Sunday, Dec. 22** after the 9:00 am Mass.

Help is needed!



My Enjoy COUPON BOOKS

Are now available!

\$40 each



These books contain a large assortment of discounts for local businesses such as restaurants, theaters, auto services, florists, dry cleaning, etc.



They make a great gift for local friends and family!

Get yours from the parish office.

Jesse Tree Devotional Readings for this week:

December 21 Jesus is the Radiant Dawn: Psalm 19:6-7
Symbols: sun rising or high in sky

December 22 Jesus is King of the Gentiles: Psalm 2:7-8;
Ephesians 2:14-20 Symbols: crown, scepter

December 23 Jesus is Emmanuel: Isaiah 7:14;
33:22 Symbols: tablets of stone, chalice and host

December 24 Jesus is Light of the World:
John 1:1 to 14 Symbols: candle, flame, sun

Christmas Masses

Tuesday, Christmas Eve

December 24

5:30 pm

Wednesday, Christmas Day

December 25

9:00 am

Masses for Mary, Mother of God

(Holy Day of Obligation)

Tuesday, December 31 @ 5:30 pm

Wednesday, January 1 @ 9:00 am

2025 Saint Alphonsus Mass Association .

Your dearly departed loved ones would benefit from the graces of all First Friday Masses celebrated at our parish. Enrollment forms are available in the vestibules. Please return them to the parish office by December 31. Your donation of \$50 is appreciated.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

December 24 and 25: Catholic Charities of West Virginia

Office of Safe Environment

To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services at 888-352-6513. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact the Diocese at 304-233-0880.

All Parishioners are invited to the

Epiphany Party

Saturday, January 4

In Columbia Hall at St. Alphonsus

A catered dinner will be followed by plenty of good cheer to put a sparkling finish to the Christmas season!

Reservations are required. Don't wait!

RSVP by December 27

Drop a note in the collection basket, or call or email the parish office with your reservation.



Pro-life inspiration from Elizabeth:

Faced with an unexpected pregnancy, Mary went to spend a few months with her relative, Elizabeth, who welcomed Mary with open arms and a recognition of the Lord within Mary.

We are called to greet people with unexpected pregnancies with the same open hearts and arms, and to recognize God's work in each one, even when it's not obvious to others.

Elizabeth shows us the way: be open, responsive,

An
Epiphany
Concert
will be held at
the Cathedral
on
Sunday,
January 6
at 3:00 pm

Catholic Charities
Help Those In Need.
Give to the second collection at Christmas Mass to support Catholic Charities.

"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed"
-Proverbs 11:25

Donate online at www.ccwva.org

Fish Fry Planning Meeting

Thursday, January 9

At 6:00 pm in Columbia Hall. Everyone interested in being a part of this fun fundraiser, please attend!

There will be a Healing Mass on Friday, **January 31 at 6:00 pm** in St. Alphonsus Church. The relics will be exhibited and the Mass intentions will be for those parishioners of St. Alphonsus and St. Joseph Cathedral Parishes suffering chronic or serious sickness. The **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick** will be available under the approved conditions which includes for persons suffering acute illness or awaiting upcoming surgery due to a serious condition.

Please pray for:

Mt. St. Joseph: Sr. Ann Marie Cole Good Shepherd: Janet Platt

Peterson: D. Moore and G. Weithie,

Morgantown: Leah Reinhardt

At home: L. Griffin, B. Blazier, M.K. Heller, N. Klamut, J. Gavarkavich,

B. & H. Henry, Donald Henning, Roberta Henning, Roxanne Geleski,

Bob Comer, & Dorothy Jagaczewski, Charlotte Jacovetty,

and Robert Pavilky

Dates in our
2025 Mass Intention
Book are available!
Suggested stipend per
intention is \$10.



December–January

Mass Intentions

SAT	12/21	5:30 pm	Mass for The People of the Parish	
SUN	12/22	9:00 am	Mass for Donald Breiding +	by family
MON	12/23	No Mass		
TUE	12/24	5:30 pm	Mass for Beverly Heller +	by Mary, Paul and Linda
WED	12/25	9:00 am	Mass for People of the Parish	
THU	12/26	8:00 am	Mass for Beverly Heller +	by Vickie Kelly Family
FRI	12/27	8:00 am	Mass for Beverly Heller +	by Chris Heller Family
SAT	12/28	5:30 pm	Mass for People of the Parish	
SUN	12/29	9:00 am	Mass for Todd Hager	by The Morgans & Kim
MON	12/30	No Mass		
TUE	12/31	5:30 pm	Mass for Joseph Francis Harris +	by his father
WED	1/1	9:00 am	Mass for The People of the Parish	
THU	1/2	8:00 am	Mass for Beverly Heller+	by the Shirley Milhorn Family
FRI	1/3	8:00 am	Mass for St. Alphonsus Mass Association	
SAT	1/4	5:30 pm	Mass for James U. Greene +	by his wife, Barbara
SUN	1/5	9:00 am	Mass for People of the Parish	

*“My Beloved Jesus,
You are the Bread of Angels
and my bread of eternal life.
Grant me a tender devotion to
your Holy Infancy.”*

–St. Alphonsus Liguori

Blessing of Epiphany Water

will take place
at St. Alphonsus Church
on Saturday, January 4 at 11:00 am.

Bring a vessel of pure water for your household and a container of salt to be blessed.
Epiphany water is a type of holy water blessed using a ceremonial rite that includes an exorcism.

This week's cover photo is a vintage Holy Card of the Christ Child saying, "Kommet zu mir, auf dafs leh euch fegnel." This phrase is German like the founding families of our parish. It means, "Come to Me, and let Me wash you and make you holy." This card is simple and beautiful, but yet full of symbolism that teaches us about the holy day of Christmas or "Christ's Mass." Jesus appears as a child, gentle and kind because we are to remember His human birth. He is wearing the stole of a priest and holding an ornate ciborium because He is a priest offering sacrifice. His holy fingers hold a consecrated Communion Host, as you can see surrounded by a halo. He is offering the Sacrament at the communion rail covered in a white cloth that collects any tiny fragments of the Blessed Sacrament that might fall while being received by communicants. Christ stands in front of a candlelit Christmas tree. The common use of a Christmas tree to decorate for the holiday is attributed to the German culture, and thus cleverly and appropriately used on this card. The tree tradition was carried over from Europe where evergreen trees were used for centuries as symbols of the trees in Paradise during "Miracle Plays." These plays were theatrical productions of Biblical events such as the Fall of Man and The Great Flood, designed to teach and entertain people as a form of catechesis. Apples decorating a tree denoted the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil, and a pear tree denoted the Tree of Life. A final observance is that the Christ Child stands having come out of His crib, which is also a feeding trough for stable animals. As He tenderly awaits us, we, his flock come to Him in humility and receive the graces He offers through the Blessed Sacrament on the holy remembrance of His birth. A Merry and Blessed Christmas to you!