



# St. Alphonsus

Wheeling, WV

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

February 2, 2025

2111 Market Street  
Wheeling, WV 26003  
(304) 232- 4353

*Email:*  
[office@stalswheeling.org](mailto:office@stalswheeling.org)  
*Website:*  
[www.stalswheeling.org](http://www.stalswheeling.org)

***Pastor:***  
*Rev. Pen*  
[pmanikyalarao@dwc.org](mailto:pmanikyalarao@dwc.org)

***Parochial Vicar:***  
*Rev. John Soplinski*  
[jsoplinski@dwc.org](mailto: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



**St. Agatha (231-251) February 5**

“ Because He Himself was tested,  
through what He suffered,  
He is able to help those who are being tested.”

Hebrews 2: 18

## The Offertory Report

January 26

Envelopes = \$ 1753

Loose= \$ 617

Votive Candles= \$ 112

### Mass Attendance

5:30 pm— 89

## Minster Schedule

Feb 8 and 9

### Readers:

Sat.- Judy B.

Sun.- Mike K

### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

Sat: Jeanne V.

Mary Ellen P.

Lynn D.

Sun: Judy B.

Paul R.

Mark B.

## The Christian Mothers' Confraternity Ladies' Guild News

**Celebrating 140 Years! (1885-2025)**

**The next meeting will be  
Tuesday, March 11 at 6:00 pm  
St. Alphonsus Columbia Hall**



### **First Friday Masses at the Bishop's Chapel at Mt. Calvary Cemetery**

**February 7 and March 7**

**5:30 pm**

**Bereavement Gathering:** Grief from a faith perspective. If you or someone you know has lost a loved one and may benefit from a gathering for those grieving, please join us on the following dates this year at 6:00 pm at St. John Fellowship Hall in Benwood, WV. The facilitators are Deacon Doug Breiding and Deacon Tom and Michelle McFadden. 2025 Dates: Feb. 24, March 31, April 28, May 19, June 30, July 28, August 25, Sept. 29, Oct. 27,

***This week's cover photo*** is a vintage holy card of St. Agatha—a third century martyr celebrated by the Church on February 5. She was born in Catania on Sicily at about 231 AD, and was also martyred and buried there. According to tradition. When Agatha was 15 years old she made a vow of virginity to God as a Christian. Sometime later, the local Roman Prefect Governor of her region— his name was Quintianus, met her and became desirous that Agatha become his wife. She refused him, and this rejection infuriated Quintianus. Knowing Agatha professed to be a Christian, he decided to report her to the authorities of Emperor Decius, for it was against the laws of Rome to be a Christian. Quintianus hoped that Agatha would renounce her vow and her faith when faced with the possibility of imprisonment, torture and death. Agatha however, did no such thing. Instead she rejected him all the more and turning to God prayed, ***“Jesus Christ, Lord of all, you see my heart, you know my desires. Possess all that I am. I am your sheep: make me worthy to overcome the devil.”*** She was sent to a brothel, which had no effect in persuading her from her faith. Next she was tortured on a rack, burned with torches, raked with irons, whipped and her breasts were torn off with tongs. She survived these horrific punishments and was sentenced to be burned at the stake. However, a sudden earthquake prevented that sentence from being carried out. Agatha was sent to a prison where St. Peter is said to have appeared to her and healed her wounds. In 251 she died in prison, although it is unclear what was the exact circumstances of her death. She was canonized by St. Gregory the Great, and is one of several martyrs listed in the Canon of the Mass. We have one of her relics here on one of the panels of the High Altar. St. Agatha is often asked to intercede for protection against fires and breast cancer.

## **SECOND COLLECTIONS**

**February 9 & 10: Church Missions within the United States**

### 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.



**St. Gianna Prayer Group**

Who is St. Gianna, our Pro-Life Patron Saint?  
Born in 1922 in Magenta Italy, outside Milan, Gianna Beretta Molla was a pediatrician, mother of four, artist, athlete, and patron of the arts. She treated all, regardless of ability to pay. In 1962, while pregnant with her fourth child, she developed a significant uterine fibroma, a benign fibrous growth. Gianna was provided two options, both which would have ended her baby's life, so she and her husband chose a third, a risky surgery to remove the fibroma. The surgery was safe and successful, but eight days after delivery of her namesake, Gianna Emanuela, Gianna died from delivery complications. She clearly instructed that should any difficulties result in a choice between saving her life or the baby's, the baby should be saved. Gianna was beatified in 1994 and canonized in 2004, after two miracles in Brazil, both resulting in the birth of healthy babies. St. Gianna is the patron saint of mothers, physicians, and gestating infants, with a feast day on April 28th. A Catholic parish in Bucks County, PA is home to a shrine to St. Gianna, including a relic, St. Gianna's gloves. Many online resources provide information and inspiration about her. St. Gianna, lover of children and lover of life, please pray for us, that we may build a culture of life!

**Please join us for our next meeting, Tues., Feb. 4th at St. Alphonsus: 6:00 pro-life rosary in the church; 6:30 meeting downstairs.**

**Blessing of Homes**

Make an appointment with Fr. Pen or Fr. John to have your home blessed this year. It only takes 10-20 minutes! He can pray in any or all rooms of your house. There is no cost except your welcoming smile. A house blessing dismisses evil and invites the Holy Trinity to dwell with you. Your home will become a more peaceful place for family and friends to gather.  
**Call the parish office!**

***"Realize that you may gain more in a quarter of an hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament than in all other practices of the day."***

***-St. Alphonsus Liguori***

**St. Monica Prayer Group Meets after the 6:00 pm Mass Wednesday, February 5**

**Young Adult Bible Study** meets @ 7:30 pm at Cathedral Parish Offices Conference Room: Tuesday, February 4, and all Tuesday evenings!

**Everyone is welcome to bring in blessed palms from last year to be burned for ashes for Ash Wednesday, March 5!**

**Your opinions are requested:**

The diocese is asking all parishioners to complete a survey prepared by the Catholic Leadership Institute either online, in which a link will appear on our website, or on paper, which will be available in the vestibules beginning on January 7. This survey should be completed by **February 6, 2025.**

This is the link for your browser for St. Alphonsus Parishioners  
**<https://portal.catholicleaders.org/d/xd47b6>**

**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,  
Dorothy Jagaczewski, and Charlotte Jacovetty,  
and Robert Pavilky*

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





# February

<b>SAT</b> <b>1</b>	5:30 pm Mass for <b>Joseph Tomczyk</b> ( <i>Requested by Family</i> )
<b>SUN</b> <b>2</b>	9:00 am Mass for <b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>MON</b> <b>3</b>	No Mass
<b>TUE</b> <b>4</b>	8:00 am Mass for <b>Violet Pavilky +</b> ( <i>Requested by her husband Richard</i> )
<b>WED</b> <b>5</b>	6:00 pm Mass for <b>Lou Comer +</b> ( <i>9Requested by Sr. Jeanne</i> )
<b>THU</b> <b>6</b>	8:00 am Mass for <b>Samuel Cerra +</b> ( <i>Requested by Virginia Grilli and Family</i> )
<b>FRI</b> <b>7</b>	8:00 am Mass for <b>St. Alphonsus Mass Association</b>
<b>SAT</b> <b>8</b>	5:30 pm Mass for <b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>SUN</b> <b>9</b>	5:30 pm Mass for <b>Nicholas and Nimnoom Ghaphery+</b> ( <i>Requested by Family</i> )

## Events

- February 4 St. Gianna Pro-Life Group Meeting 6:00 pm @ St. Alphonsus
- February 4 Young Adult Bible Study @ Cathedral Offices 7:30 pm
- February 5 St. Monica Group Meeting 7:00 pm
- February 23 Community Breakfast after 9:00 am Mass