



St. Alphonsus
5960 W. Loomis Rd.
Greendale, WI 53129-1824

December 2019

Greetings!

Dear Parishioners,

A sabbatical is a sacred time of renewal. Fr. Aaron will be away from the parish and on sabbatical in the first part of 2020. He will focus his sabbatical on the topic of faith and beauty. This is also an opportunity for the parish to enter into a time of renewal. For some months, our ad hoc **Faith and Beauty Committee** has prepared events to parallel his journey.

We will begin this initiative on December 8, at the annual Christmas Concert, and will conclude on Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2020.

"...Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." ---Philippians 4:8

We invite you to join your fellow parishioners as we enrich our Faith by exploring and witnessing beauty in art, the written word, and music.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Aaron Esch and The Faith and Beauty Committee

Ed Block, Mary Helen Block, Sr. Eileen Kazmierowicz,
Mary Newell, Terry Piontkowski, Laurie Pledl, Pat Schulz
Bridget Lynch – Logo Design

SA January 18, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
"Musica Oramus"
Church

"Musica Oramus" a liturgical music ensemble directed by Julie Cucunato of Elm Grove, will present a concert of classical Sacred Music from Gregorian Chant to the present. If you haven't heard Gregorian Chant or polyphonic liturgical music, you'll be in for a genuine treat. **Refreshments served. No Registration needed.**



SU February 9, 11:00 a.m. Mass
All Saints Gospel Choir
Church

All Saints, a respected and well-known Parish Gospel Choir, makes their Mass performances unlike devotions you hear in most Archdiocesan churches. Join us at the 11a.m. Mass to experience their music. **Meet the Choir, share fellowship and refreshments, following Mass.**

TU March 3, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
The Faith and Beauty of Catholic Fiction
Community Room

This special book discussion, facilitated by Dr. Ed Block, will be open to a larger group of parishioners, including teens and young adults. Join other parish members as we read and discuss Willa Cather's classic, *Death Comes for the Archbishop*, a story of spiritual and physical heroism on the American frontier. **Registration needed. Call 421-2442 x 225.**

Besides urging participants to check out Public Library copies, the Faith and Beauty Committee will arrange to purchase some copies for the Parish Library.

SU March 29 thru SU April 5
Parish Art and Text Show
Community Room

"Painting is poetry that is seen rather than felt, and poetry is painting that is felt rather than seen."
(Leonardo da Vinci).

Become part of an exciting event. Express your ideas about the relationship of Faith and Beauty. Collaborate with other creative works and artists. Families! Create a work together. Be part of an exhibit of parishioners expressing their Faith through art. Attend a closing reception to celebrate art & text.

How: Choose one of the poetic texts from those provided in a bulletin announcement. Reflect on the text and what it says to you. Consider the various media you might use. Plan the work. Consider sharing a preliminary sketch or plan with someone you know. Create the work of art in response to the text.

When & Where: Bring your work of art to completion, and turn it in by February 15, 2020. Your work will be displayed in the Community Room March 29 to April 5, 2020, with a **closing celebration after 11:00 a.m. Mass on April 5.**



TU March 31, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Icon Spirituality
Community Room

As part of our ongoing Adult Learning series, Religious Educator and Spiritual Guide, Jim Gill, will be joining us to open our eyes to the beauty and meaning which inspires the art of religious icons. Refreshments served. **Registration helpful. Call 421-2442 x 225.**

SU April 19, 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
The Faith and Beauty of the Written/Spoken Word
A Time of Spirit-Inspired Poetry
Community Room

Join other parish members as we read/recite our favorite poems of faith and beauty. Compose your own or read a favorite author.

Everyone who wants to read a poem (of approximately thirty lines total) will have the opportunity. When all have read, an invitation to read another poem will be extended, until the end of the allotted time.

There is no minimum age for participants, but young people who wish to read/recite should share their work in advance with a parent or other adult.

You will be using a microphone in the Community Room. Look for an announcement of when there will be an opportunity to practice with the mic.

Refreshments will be served. No registration needed.

SU May 31, following 11:00 a.m. Mass
Closing Celebration
Community Room

Join us for a look back at the abundance of beauty shared in our parish, and celebrate the gifts we all bring.

A slideshow of the highlights will be presented as well as an offering of fellowship and encouragement to bring beauty to our lives every day!

Finding Faith

I awaken to the sound of bird-song and my heart rejoices.

A rainbow of color precedes the dawn and hope is reborn.

My mind's eye captures moments of my day.

I remember graces given and relive joy.

The wonder of nature surrounds my every day revealing
God's mercy, God's wisdom, God's love.

To capture a moment in song, in paint, in words, is to reflect
creation again within ourselves.

We pause to marvel at the life we are given and be filled with
a certainty that we are worthy, we are loved.

This then, is faith; to see the hand of the Creator in all things
and know that God is here.

Faith, once found must be celebrated. We are to bring
beauty into the world and show others the face of God.

--Mary Newell 2019

N. B. Program funding by the Memorial Fund.



Saint Alphonus Parish
Greendale, Wisconsin