

Saint Leo the Great Catholic Church

Rev. Fr. George Maniangattu

July 25, 2021 The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Mass Intentions	Last Week's Offertory
Sunday, July 25 9AM St. Leo 12PM St. Francis	7/18/21 St. Leo \$2,095.00 St. Francis \$851.00
Lector Schedule	
9:00AM July 25 Jan McDonald August 1 Denise Duke	

A Reflection on St. Alphonsa (†1946) St. Alphonsa of the Immaculate Conception was born in Kudamalur, India on August 19th, 1910, of the ancient and noble family Muttathupadathu—and of whom Father George is a descendant. As the Vatican stated in St. Alphonsa's canonization-biography, "From her birth, the life of St. Alphonsa was marked by the cross, which would be progressively revealed to her as the royal way to conform herself to Christ." Indeed, her entire life—a total of 36 years—involved remarkable suffering and illness, both physical and mental, that followed one after another. These included typhoid fever, double pneumonia, hemorrhages, a dramatic nervous shock that incapacitated her for a year, and finally, in the last year of her life, a tumor that caused violent convulsions and vomiting up to forty times a day. Despite these intense sufferings, St. Alphonsa was known for the "grace and charm of her countenance, the brightness of her glance, and the ever-cheerful smile which characterized her to the end of her life." Rt. Rev. Thomas Pothacamury, Bishop of Bangalore, once stated that "the narrative of her life bears testimony to many of her spiritual qualities, her utter unselfishness and her love of suffering. The keynote of her life was death to self and life to Christ and in Christ." She grounded all her suffering in St. Paul's teaching that "as Christ suffered for us, we too must suffer for one another and thus make up what is wanting in the sufferings of Christ [Colossians 1:24]." As a simpler way of explaining the merit and power behind uniting our suffering to Christ's, St. Alphonsa once wrote, "It is when grapes are pressed that we get the juice, the wine; they do not yield wine of themselves. When God, by suffering, purifies us, we become like good wine." And when we are transformed into good wine—as St. Alphonsa was—we give glory to God! For "the glory of God is man fully alive," as St. Irenaeus once declared.

St. Alphonsa's saintliness not only extended into the sphere of mental and physical suffering, but also into her love of others—which requires us to die to ourselves. In her spiritual diary, St. Alphonsa once wrote: "I do not wish to act or speak according to my inclinations...I want to be careful to never reject anyone. I will only speak sweet words to others...I will ask pardon of the Lord for every little failure, and I will atone for it through penance. No matter what my sufferings may be, I will never complain and if I have to undergo any humiliation, I will seek refuge in the Sacred Heart of Jesus." Simply amazing! In reflecting on the lives of saints, such as St. Alphonsa's, Thomas Dubay recognized that "marriage, priesthood, and religious life are blessed vocations when the men and women concerned are deeply converted and enjoy profound intimacy with the Trinity. They are incomparably happier than those who are not. There is no bickering among them, no grudges, no scandals, no battles, physical or verbal. Major sins and minor pettinesses, cold silence and pouting disappear. When spouses disagree with each other, mutually receptive listening and amiable discussion replace impatient and snapping arguments. There is a genial pliability in nonessential matters, and when one slips, a generous forgiveness heals the momentary hurt. Am I describing an unreal utopia? No, indeed. Why am I so sure that the deeply converted are so happy? Three rock-like facts: (a) divine revelation: 'rejoice in the Lord always'; (b) the lives of married, priestly, and religious saints; (c) my own experience with contemporary persons in all three states of life—both those who are living them fully and faithfully, and those who are not" (*Deep Conversion, Deep Prayer*, 58-60). Therefore, let us all become like St. Alphonsa! St. Alphonsa, pray for us! - Sem. Collins Hess

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Daily Mass

Starting Wednesday, July 28, Fr George will be offering 5:00 PM daily Mass on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Hispanic Bible Study on Wednesdays

Wednesday, July 28th will be the last meeting of the Hispanic Bible study at 4 pm.

Young Adult Movie Night and Discussion

Mary Hays is hosting a movie and discussion of *The Chosen*. *The Chosen* is a TV series that follows the ministry of Jesus Christ and the calling of His disciples. If you are a high school graduate and are interested in joining the **Young Adult Group**, please contact Mary at DRE@stleo.info.

Altar Server Training

Altar server training is being held Monday, July 26 at 5:00 PM. The training is available for children who have received their First Communion. Current altar servers are requested to attend this training. Training will last approximately 2 hours.

Farewell, Seminarian Collins!

Sem. Collins will be returning to the seminary to continue his studies. He has been such a light to our community and has worked tirelessly to bring energy to the parish. Join us for coffee and donuts following 9:00AM Mass this Sunday to say farewell and thank you to Sem. Collins.

2021 Catholic Charismatic Conference
Sponsored by
Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the Diocese of Birmingham

I CAN DO
ALL THINGS
THROUGH
CHRIST
WHO STRENGTHENS ME
PHILIPPIANS 4:13

SPEAKERS
 • Father Paul Asih
 • Father Gray Bean
 • Father Frankline Fomukong
 • Father James Hedderman
 • Olga Coburn
 • Jeff Anderson
 Music provided by: Cawlings

July 30th & 31st, 2021

Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church Family Life Center
1828 Oxmoor Road • Homewood, AL 35209

For more additional information call Ray Makofsky at 205-999-8947 and to register, please go to our website: www.catholiccharismaticrenewal.org • EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

CELEBRATE
THE YEAR OF THE PARISH & EUCHARIST

Behold, I Make All Things New

AUGUST 13-14, 2021

ON THE GROUNDS OF THE
SHRINE OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
HANCEVILLE, ALABAMA

Friday | 6-10pm

- Eucharistic adoration
- Eucharistic procession on the grounds

Saturday | 9am-3:30pm

- Celebration of the Mass with Bishop Steven J. Raica
- Morning and afternoon speakers with English and Spanish language tracks

Featured Speakers

Dr. Scott Hahn
 Dr. John Bergsma
 Msgr. Eugene Morris
 Mother Adela Golindo
 Fr. Pedro Núñez

Free Admission & Parking | Food Trucks | Vendor Area
Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama