

St. Alphonsus Rodriguez Catholic Parish

Year 2024 Chronicle

January 19 - March for Life.

The Knights of Columbus organized a bus trip for parishioners to go to Washington D.C. to participate in the National March for Life. However, the bus trip was cancelled due to the wintry weather forecast.

January 27 – “We Care” Prayer Walk:

St. Alphonsus parishioners joined the Baltimore County Police Department and two other churches (the New Vision For Life and Emmarts United Methodists) in their community outreach program.

Lenten Family Fridays (February 8th and succeeding Fridays to March 22nd)

Friday Lenten services included Mass at 5:30 pm and Stations of the Cross at 7 pm. In between, many partook of a poor-man's supper, consisting mainly of home-made meatless soups.

March 9 – Red Cross Blood Drive.

Thirty-two donors participated in the Blood Drive, which was sponsored by the Knights of Columbus with the Resurrection Church and the Granite Presbyterian Church.

March 11 - Family Ministry Mardi Gras Party

Over one hundred people attended and enjoyed jambalaya and King Cake! Multiple craft tables and games were set-up for the children. Given its success, Family Ministry plans to have this become an annual event.

March 16 - St. Patrick Day Celebration.

Many parishioners and friends enjoyed the Knights of Coumbus sponsored annual St. Patrick Day Dinner/Dance.

March 23 - Knights Mulch Madness.

The Knights of Columbus Mulch Madness for 2024 was a huge success. Bags of Mulch were delivered on March 23, 2024. Funds raised went directly to charities and institutions such as the Lazarus Caucus in Catonsville and Father Kongari missions.

March 24 - Palm Sunday Bake Sale

The Palm Sunday weekend bake sale of cakes and sweets, which parishioners had baked in their homes netted \$1900 toward the cost of the new Parish Center HVAC Air Conditioning System.

March 26 - Pascal Meal. Tuesday of Holy Week.

Many parishioners participated in the Pascal Meal which commemorates the Jewish Passover, Jesus' Last Supper, and the First Eucharist.

April 14 – Bereavement Expo: From Hurt to Healing, You are not alone

Thirty-eight parishioners attended the Bereavement Expo, in which experts presented information concerning end of life topics. Please refer to the Bereavement Expo Attachment for more information on the Bereavement Expo and on the topics that were presented and discussed.

April 20 – St. Alphonsus First Bingo

During the evening of April 20th, 165 parishioners and friends enjoyed the first Bingo evening at St. Alphonsus. The night also featured refreshments and a jewelry sale. The event netted over \$5000 for the cost of the new HVAC Air Conditioning System in the Parish Center.

April 28 - First Eucharist

Twenty children, ages 7-14, received their First Eucharist on April 28, 2024. Fr. Brian O'Donnell, S.J., presided and the children participated in the Mass in numerous ways including singing a song, bring up the offertory gifts, and lecturing,

May 4 - Confirmation.

Eighteen children, ages 13-15, received the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 4, 2024. Bishop Denis Madden presided over the Mass, which was attended by families and parishioners.

May 11 – Red Cross Blood Drive

Eighteen donors participated in the Blood Drive, which was sponsored by the Knights of Columbus with the Granite Presbyterian Church.

June 2 – Celtic Music Concert

The Knights of Columbus sponsored a free Celtic Music Concert featuring Celtic artists Charlie Zahm and Tad Marks.

June 16 - Father Brian O'Donnell's 50th Jesuit Anniversary

September 6, 2024 was Fr. Brian O'Donnell's 50th anniversary of entering the Society of Jesus. The parish joyfully celebrated this wonderful occasion with him by hosting a brunch after the 10:00 Mass on June 16th. Some members of the Society of Jesus were available to join the parish in congratulating Fr. Brian at this event.

June 24 – 28 – Vacation Bible School 2024

During the evening of September 28th, 135 parishioners and friends enjoyed a Bingo evening at St. Alphonsus. The night featured refreshments and door prizes. The event netted \$5,623.15 for the cost of the new HVAC Air conditioning System in the parish center.

August 10 & 11- Summer Festival

Many parishioners and friends enjoyed the two sunny Festival days, the chicken and ham dinner, and the other attractions. The Festival netted over \$38,000 for the church.

September 28 - Bingo

During the evening of September 28th, 135 parishioners and friends enjoyed a Bingo evening at St. Alphonsus. The night featured refreshments and door prizes. The event netted \$5,623.15 for the cost of the new HVAC Air conditioning System in the parish center.

October 5 - Oktoberfest

Parishioners enjoyed the German-style cuisine, which was free to parishioners in gratitude for their service to the Parish.

October 12 – Red Cross Blood Drive.

During the collaborative efforts between Granite Presbyterian Church and St Alphonsus, 14 interested donors pre-registered for the Blood Drive; however, a total of 19 volunteer donors participated.

It has been determined that our contributions have a potential for saving a total of 51 lives! Thank You to all who participated.

October 25 – Organ Concert

The Second Annual SAR Organ Concert featuring David Brian Lang , a prominent choral conductor, vocal coach professional accompanist and concert organist.

November 16 – Knights of Columbus Bull & Oyster Roast

The evening Roast was enjoyed by about 190 Knights, their families, and friends. The oysters were raw and fried and plentiful. The pit meat was outstanding along with all the fixings

November 17 – Sister Sudha Visit

Sister Sudha Varghese visited St. Alphonsus on November 17. She is a social worker, lawyer, and Catholic nun working in India with the Musahar women and children. Father Joe Lacey, S.J. collaborated with Sister Sudha while he served in India.

Sister Sudha spoke at the Sunday Masses and attended the Parish social afterwards. A collection was taken up which resulted in over \$2000.

November 21, 22, 23 – Parish Directory

The Universal Church Directory Company took pictures of 99 parishioners. The company will print the next St. Alphonsus Parish Directory. January 18th is the photo makeup date.

December 6 – Festival of Lessons and Carols

The Vocal and Instrumental Musicians of St. Alphonsus Church and Granite Presbyterian Church with the Embassy String Quartet presented an Advent-Christmas Concert with Reflections and Caroling.

December 8 - Advent Breakfast

Pancakes, Strohmer's sausage, and egg bites were served to over 250 guests. Mr. & Mrs. Santa made an appearance and posed with around 50 children. Santa's work shop was full of kids making crafts as family gifts. The religious education students hosted the bake sale and donated many items to the silent auction baskets before the event. Guessing jars continue to be a favorite with pages and pages full of guesses. All of this was done with the help of 40 volunteers spanning Saturday for setup and Sunday for the event.

December 10 - Gingerbread House Extravaganza

Twenty-five children and their families came to decorate gingerbread houses, listen to Christmas music, and enjoyed a pizza lunch. This was the third year we've held this event and it gets better every year!