

The Book of Job confronts the problem of suffering. The common explanation was that suffering was a punishment for sin. But, though Job is a good man, he suffers greatly. His suffering causes him to take a gloomy view of life (First Reading).

This sets the scene for the Gospel. However, what we see in the Gospel is not Jesus' answer to the question 'why suffering?', but his response to actual suffering. He heals the sick and proclaims the good news of salvation. The Gospel also shows the urgency with which he dedicated himself to preaching the Gospel, something we see exemplified also in Paul (Second Reading).

In the midst of his activity Jesus found time to pray in quiet places. It was during these hours of solitude that he maintained and fostered the most important thing in his life – his relationship with the Father. Here lay the secret of his successful ministry.



A Note from Fr. Mike:

Friends in Christ,

It is the flu season. The Sign of Peace can be given in many ways, such as a hand shake, a nod of the head, hand waving or with the peace sign using your fingers. Please respect those who do not wish to make the sign of Peace by shaking hands. Respect your neighbor's boundaries.



A Baptism Class will be held in the Rectory on Wednesday, February 7th at 7:00 p.m. Any parent with a child for baptism must attend this class prior to scheduling a baptism date. Godparents are also encouraged to attend. Class lasts a little over one hour. Baptisms are scheduled each month on the 4th

Sunday immediately after the 9:00 a.m. Mass. Please call the Rectory with information on the child prior to attending the class.

When parents have their children baptized they indicate their desire to have their children grow up and live as children of God and brothers or sisters of Jesus, and be guided by the Holy Spirit.

Through birth a child is given to parents; through baptism a child is given to God. At baptism the parents acknowledge that their parenthood is a participation in God's parenthood that all fatherhood and motherhood comes from God. Thus baptism frees the parents from a sense of owning their children. Children belong to God and are given to the parents to love and care for in God's name. It is the parents' vocation to welcome their children as honored guests in their home and bring them to the physical, emotional, and spiritual freedom that enables them to leave the home and become parents themselves. Baptism reminds parents of this vocation and sets children on the path of freedom.



The Lord Is My Help needs volunteers to pack take-out lunches from 9:15 - 10:30 a.m. and/or to serve lunch from 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (no cooking involved) during the week of February 12 – 16 (closed February 13). If you are able to volunteer your time on any of these days at either/both of the times, please call Norma Williams at 875-2636. Any help would be greatly appreciated.



The St. Alphonsus Knights of Columbus are now selling tickets for a "10 week" drawing for \$10.00 each. Each week, for nine weeks, a ticket will be drawn for \$50.00. The 'winning' ticket then goes back into the 'barrel' until the last week when a \$500.00, \$200.00, and \$100.00 winner will be pulled. First drawing will be February 18, 2018. For tickets contact Carl Brochard, 228-327-0066 or Chuck Nannery, 228-875-0267. All proceeds will benefit the Seminarian Education Fund.

Altar Society Members for next week

Janell Alliston and Juliana Skelton



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Kathy Petricca, niece of Tony and Jean Petricca of this parish, who passed away January 20th in Chicago.

We extend our sympathy to the family and promise them a remembrance in our prayers. May God grant her eternal peace?

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	FEBRUARY 5
1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13; Mark 6:53-56	
6:30 am	Mr. Theo Laborde
8:15 am	Spec Int – Families & Married Couples
TUESDAY	FEBRUARY 6
1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30; Mark 7:1-13	
6:30 am	Mr. Smokey Hill
8:15 am	Mr. Tony Davidson
WEDNESDAY	FEBRUARY 7
1 Kings 10:1-10; Mark 7:14-23	
6:30 am	Ms. Margaret G. Dietrick
8:15 am	Mr. Dennis Belson
THURSDAY	FEBRUARY 8
1 Kings 11:4-13; Mark 7:24-30	
6:30 am	Deacon Gregory Miller
8:15 am	Mr. Freddie Lusk
FRIDAY	FEBRUARY 9
1 Kings 11:29-32; 12:19; Mark 7:31-37	
6:30 am	Mr. Henry Morganthau
8:15 am	Int. Ms. Loraine Schneider
SATURDAY	FEBRUARY 10
1 Kings 12:26-32; 13:33-34; Mark 8:1-10	
8:15 am	Mr. Gregory Hebert
4:00 pm	Ms. Monica Goretski
SUNDAY	FEBRUARY 11
Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46; 1 Cor 10:31—11:1; Mark 1:40-45	
7:30 am	Ms. Irene Nelson Powers
9:00 am	Mr. & Mrs. Edward Brannon
11:30 am	Mr. Bill Eckert
5:30 pm	Congregation

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$10,514.82
 Missionaries of the Holy Infant of Jesus.....\$ 4,290.00
 May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support.



Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends:

Glen Bosarge, Mercedes Bosarge, Quinn Boudreaux, Carole Bourgeois, Gregory Brou, Valerie Brou, Clarence Brown, Sybil Burchinal, Sally Fero Conklin, Pat Cronin, Breanne Dalton, Gina Dasher, Betty Dugan, Tyler Eldridge, Marthann Ello, Jackie Endt, Jeremy Forehand, Loretta Foster, Nora Foster, Joey Fountain, Carmen Gaethe, Doris Haynes, Ron Hoogstra, Margaret Betty Horton, Lucia Hourihan, Most Reverend Joseph L. Howze, Earline Huster, Tommy Jones, Theresa Jones, Clarence Jordan, Anastasia Pitalo Jurich, Andre Kaufman, Audrey King, Ann Eleece Kouns, Jeff Kouns, Harby Kreeger, Daisie Laborde, John Langan, Nathaniel LaSalle, Catherine Lawrence, Bob Mayer, Bernie and Phyllis McGinley, Mary Mendenhall, Patricia Merlau, Edna Miguez, Eunice Misko, Margaret Murray, Leonard Necaize, Peggy and Edward Necaize, Chandra Nicholson, Travis Norman, Charley Nowel, Luke Nudson, Edwin O'Connor, III, Henry Parker, Judy Penton, Amy Petitjean, Anna Raley, Brenda Sargent, Karen Skrmetta Smith, Dick Smith, Joe Souza, Edna Spell, Dani Stafford, Rust Stallings, Stan Stanton, Gertie Templet, Sharon Tilmon, Dolores Trenouth, Ted and Clara Ursu, Ashley Vickers and Jane Walker.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Religious Education News

Pat Cronin – 872-2652; pcronin@cablone.net; www.stal.cc

Feb 5: New Wine, Parish Hall, 6:00 p.m.

Feb 8: RCIA, Parish Hall Meeting Room, 6:00 p.m.

Feb 11: No Religious Education / Adult Study Class
 Children's Church, 11:30 a.m. Mass for 3-6 year olds

Family and Youth Calendar

Jane Sema 228-217-1392 jsema@osstalalphonsus.org

This year will be the 41st annual **Youth Convention** held at the Gulf Coast Coliseum March 23rd – 25th. Youth groups from all the parishes within the Biloxi Diocese will come together to celebrate our faith through community, Mass, keynote speakers, and worship. The Diocesan Spirit Movers (10th – 12th grade peer ministry team) have planned the theme *ALIVE*, prepared activities, and will be the Masters of Ceremonies. Target age group for the youth Celebration is 9th – 12th grade. Our youth in 6th – 8th grades may also participate by attending the Junior High Rally from 2:00 -5:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 25th at the Coast Coliseum. Anyone interested in attending the convention or Youth Rally may text or contact Jane Sema at 228-217-1392 for more information.

As we build our youth programs we are looking for young adults and parents to help with activities for our youth. If you are interested in helping us build a **DYNAMIC YOUTH PROGRAM** contact Jane Sema at 228-217-1392.

Parent & Child Prayer and Fellowship

Come and join our group as we study The Saints. The group meets on the second and fourth Wednesday from September through May, in the Family and Youth office in back of the Parish Hall.



A new Bible Study will begin on Wednesday, February 21st at 9:00 a.m. on the Book of Revelation.

It is presented by Jeff Cavins and called Adventures in Revelation. This study will take place in the home of Sue Mihal, 13605 Paso Road (Gulf Hills). For more information or to register, please call Mrs. Mihal at 601-573-0020.



A Women's Cursillo weekend will take place February 22nd-25th.

Fr. Greg Barras will be the spiritual advisor. For more information, contact Melanie Moe 228-229-2956, mmeaux@thecolumbiagroup.com or Wanda Cole 228-669-5901, rwmax@cablone.net.



Johnnie Bernhard's novel, A Good Girl is currently available in the bookstore.

With its themes of mercy and forgiveness it is a great choice for the Lent Season. The book contains traditional Catholic prayers and a strong devotion to Our Mother, Mary.



The St. Alphonsus Bookstore and Gift Shop is open on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m., after the Saturday Vigil Mass, and after all English Masses on Sunday.

Come visit and see what we have. Consider giving Catholic gifts for birthdays, holidays and any occasion.



Parishioner Registration:

When planning a baptism, marriage, or to obtain subsidized tuition rates for our Catholic Schools, you must be able to demonstrate that you are a practicing Catholic and that you do attend Mass. It is the Church, not just this parish, which insists that signs of good faith commitment be present on these occasions. Using envelopes helps maintain a record of contributions and Mass attendance. Parish registration forms may be obtained in the Vestibule of the Church or at the Parish Office during regular office hours.

****School Subsidy Policy****

For the 2018/2019 School Year

St. Alphonsus Finance Committee, in conjunction with the Parish Staff, wishes to reiterate the established policy concerning subsidy of our young people at St. Alphonsus Elementary School or St. Patrick High School.

In order for students to receive subsidized tuition at St. Alphonsus Elementary School or St. Patrick High School, the following must be followed:

1. The Family must be registered in St. Alphonsus Parish
2. Contribute to the support of the parish through the regular use of the envelope system or some other agreed upon service.
3. The family **MUST** attend weekend Mass with the Parish Family at St. Alphonsus.

ST. ALPHONSUS SCHOOL

Feb 8: PreK3 Mardi Gras Parade 9:30 a.m.

Feb 9: Children's Mass 8:15 a.m.

ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

Feb 9: Progress Reports

Feb 10: ACT 8:00 a.m.



You are invited to come to a Marian Movement of Priest

Cenacle Mass on Tuesday, February 20th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Church. Rosary, Message reading, Consecration, Mass



The St. Alphonsus Church app is available to download for iPhone and Android smart phones.

Stay connected with our parish throughout the week with instant notifications regarding our parish life and an easy-to-access event calendar as well as many more great features such as daily Mass readings, Catholic news, prayers and prayer reminders, quick access to our weekly bulletin, Church website (osstalalphonsus.org) and FORMED. Download the app by texting App to phone number **88202**, or by visiting myparishapp.com.

It is easier than ever for you to enjoy your subscription to FORMED! Just download the FREE FORMED app and start enjoying great video and audio wherever you go (or if you are already signed up – you are able to access through the parish app). You will be able to stream hundreds of hours of inspiring movies and video series, read bestselling Catholic eBooks, and listen to audio presentations from the Church's most compelling speakers and is available from virtually any device...anytime, anywhere. St. Alphonsus has a purchased subscription from Formed.org, which gives St. Alphonsus parishioners' FREE access to high quality Catholic programs, movies, downloadable audios and downloadable e-books. To gain access to the website go to www.formed.org, enter our Parish Code f1f5a9 (case sensitive) on the homepage, create an account with your user name/email and password and start enjoying the best Catholic content all in one place. **Soon a "Button for Lent Reflections"** will be added to the St. Alphonsus Church app and **"Daily Lenten Reflections"** will be available through FORMED.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Your prayers are requested for the deceased priests who have ministered in the diocese, especially those who have died around this time of year:

- Reverend Herbert Mullen, February 12, 1984
- Reverend Patrick Hannelly, February 14, 1990
- Reverend Msgr. James Russell, February 15, 2002



The Flowers in front of the Altar are in Memory of Deacon Gregory Miller