

The First Reading introduces the theme of covenant. In it we are told of the first in a series of patriarchal covenants which serve as a preparation for the covenant at Sinai. That in turn prepared the way for the new covenant God formed with humanity in Christ.

In the Gospel we hear of Jesus' victorious struggle against evil. Mark makes no reference to the fast of Jesus. In this first struggle Jesus is not God-forsaken as he will be at his last (15:34).

Like Noah, the Christian is saved by passage through water – the waters of baptism (Second Reading). It is through our baptism that we enter into the new covenant relationship with God, and that Christ's victory over sin and death is communicated to us.



Stations of the Cross will be conducted each Monday morning immediately after the 8:15 a.m. Mass, each Friday afternoon by the school children at 2:30 p.m. (adults welcome), and Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. with the Way of the Cross followed by Mass.



Altar Society Dues Envelopes are in the pews. Completed envelopes may be put in the collection basket.



A Lenten Painting Group "Into the Desert" will begin this Sunday (February 18th) and continue through Palm Sunday (March 25th) from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall Meeting Room. Participants will create an image inspired by the weekly Gospel reading and have an opportunity to share with other participants. Participants will need to bring their own paints, canvases and brushes as only a small supply of material will be available for group use. For more information contact Teresa Ballinger at 228-806-1909.



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



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.



An Altar Society Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 21st at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall Meeting Room.



You are cordially invited to attend Our Mother of Sorrows Parish's Lenten Revival February 26th-28th at 6:30 p.m. each night. Richard Lane will be the presenter. The theme is "Here I am, Lord." The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered the final night of the revival. Our Mother of Sorrows is located at 803 Division Street, Biloxi.



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of: Thomas "Coach" Ferrill, Sr., uncle of Joshua (Daisy) Ferrill of this parish, who passed away February 7th.
Richard "Dick" Smith, father of Shannon (Glenn) Williams of this parish, who passed away February 9th.
Joseph "Joey" Trebotich, son of Rosalie Trebotich of this parish, who passed away February 10th.
Ernestine Muller, aunt of Carl (Mary) Brochard of this parish, who passed away February 12th in Denham Springs, Louisiana. We extend our sympathy to each family and promise them a remembrance in our prayers. May God grant them eternal peace.

**Altar Society Members for next week
 Kay Brochard and Norma Williams**

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY FEBRUARY 19
 Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Matthew 25:31-46
 6:30 am Dr. Malcolm Latour
 8:15 am Mr. James W. Wilson

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 20
 Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15
 6:30 am Ms. Inez Danise
 8:15 am Mr. Vern Cole, Sr.
 Mr. Vern "Larry" Cole, Jr.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 21
 Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32
 6:30 am Ms. Molly Edwards
 8:15 am Int. Mr. Bob Mayer

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 22
 1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19
 6:30 am Spec. Int. Divine Intervention
 8:15 am Ms. JoAnn Wavra

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 23
 Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26
 6:30 am Mr. Taylor Lyons
 8:15 am Ms. Vera Lusk

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24
 Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48
 8:15 am Ms. Joan Kelly
 Mr. Jay Holtorf

4:00 pm Ms. Emogene Pierre

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25
 Gen 22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10
 7:30 am Mr. Joe Latil
 9:00 am Congregation
 11:30 am Mr. Alexander McLachlan
 5:30 pm Ms. Mary Ladnier Bosarge
 Mr. Bobby Bosarge

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$10,488.10
 May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support.



Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends: Anthony David Belson, Evelyn Bond, 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, Mary Jo 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 Necaise, Peggy and Edward Necaise, 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, Joe Souza, Edna Spell, Dani Stafford, Rust Stallings, Stan Stanton, Gertie Templet, Sharon Tilton, Dolores Trenouth, Ted and Clara Ursu, Ashley Vickers and Jane Walker.

Religious Education News

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

Feb 19: New Wine, Parish Hall, 6:00 p.m.

Feb 22: RCIA, Parish Hall Meeting Room, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Feb 25: Religious Education 10:10 a.m.

Adult Study Class 10:10 a.m.

Children's Church, 11:30 a.m. Mass for 3-6 year olds

RCIA Rite of Election at Nativity BVM Cathedral, 2:00 p.m.

Family and Youth Calendar

Jane Sema 228-217-1392 jsema@osstalphonus.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 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, rwmmax@cablone.net.

Adore Night with Bishop Louis Kihneman - Thursday, February 22nd at 6:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish in D'Iberville. "Recalculating" Series. Life is messy. We make wrong turns that turn out to be right ones. We make right turns that turn out as wrong ones. Sometimes we make wrong turns that just keep getting 'wonger'. Where is Jesus in all this? Does He really have a plan for me today? What about in the future? Will I be happy on His path? What if I'm not? Is following God just an oppressive monotony of constantly saying yes to things that I don't want to do?

You are invited to join in as they dive into the idea of living on purpose and being fully alive with powerful worship, a relevant teaching, and Eucharistic Adoration. The night is free and open to all ages and faiths. For more information visit www.facebook.com/adoregulfcoast.



The Knights of Columbus are hosting a Dinner and \$3,000 Drawdown event in support of St. Alphonsus' St. Vincent de Paul Society on Saturday, April 21st at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are available from any St. Vincent de Paul member after each Mass, by contacting KC Grand Knight Carl Brochard at 228-327-0066, or by coming to the Rectory Office during regular business hours. We invite you to come out, enjoy the great fun, parish fellowship, and help support the needy in our community. The dinner will include seafood gumbo, potato salad, coleslaw, rolls, soft drinks and wine.

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 23: Children's Mass 8:15 a.m. / Stations of the Cross 2:30 p.m.

ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

Feb 22: Mass 9:40 a.m.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PARISH:

Thanks to the generosity of you, our parishioners and other donors each year, the Society of Saint Vincent DePaul, the St. Alphonsus Conference provides needed assistance to families in our local community with their utility bills, rent payments, and other miscellaneous expenses. Families we serve live in the Ocean Springs area.

Our Vincentians provided financial assistance to 489 clients. Associates completed 1550 home visits, 150 hospital visits, and 550 elder-care visits last year. In all, Vincentians drove over 18,000 miles in service last year. This past fiscal year, like others, we have contributed to the following needs in our community:

Power Bills:	\$14,444
Rent:	\$26,454
Water:	\$ 3,558
Gas:	\$ 325
Hattiesburg St Vincent DePaul Tornado Relief:	\$ 1,000
Christmas Gift Cards for Children	\$ 2,500
Lord is My Help Thanksgiving	\$ 1,000
St Vincent DePaul Community Pharm.	\$ 1,000
College Scholarships for Under-privileged	\$ 3,000
Miscellaneous Support to the Needy (Bus Fares, Motel Room, Food, etc.)	\$ 783
Total Contribution to Needy:	\$54,064

We are actively involved in the annual National "Walk-for-the-Poor" campaign. Walkers, sponsored by our St. Vincent DePaul Conference, include individuals and the Boy Scout Troop # 211. This year with the tremendous turn-out and assistance from our Boy Scouts we raised over \$2,238.

We would like to thank all of our parishioners and friends who supported the very important work of the St. Vincent DePaul Society this past year. (1/3 of our monthly poor collection goes to support the SVDP). If you would like to make an extra donation in support of our work in the community, please make your check payable to the Society of St. Vincent DePaul, St Alphonsus Catholic Church, 502 Jackson Avenue, Ocean Springs, MS 39564.

If you would care to serve God as a Vincentian in our community, please call or come by the Rectory for more information.

Vincentians serve the poor cheerfully, listening to them and respecting their wishes, helping them to feel and recover their own dignity, for we are all created in God's image. In the poor, we see the suffering Christ.