

Jesus' action in cleansing the temple was a protest against the commercialization of religion and the description of the Temple. But it went deeper. It was a symbolic action, in the fashion of an Old Testament prophet (see Jer 7:11; Mal 3:1), through which he passed judgement on the Jewish sacrificial system. He was declaring that temple worship, with its ritual and animal sacrifices, was irrelevant and could do nothing to bring people to God. He was replacing sacrificial worship with spiritual worship. He was also protesting at the way religion had become narrow, nationalistic, and exclusive. Israel had failed to fulfill her universal mission to humankind. It was God's intention that the Temple should be a house of prayer 'for all nations'. But the Temple remained the jealously-guarded preserve of Israel. No Gentile dare venture, under threat of penalty and death, beyond what was known as the 'court of the Gentiles'. Jesus declared that salvation was not just for the Jews, but for all peoples. The First Reading is one of the two versions of the Decalogue. (The other is Deut 5:6-21). The Ten Commandments are a map of life for a people who enjoy a special relationship with God. They were to be seen as a gift, not a burden. However, Christians must not live by the Ten Commandments but by the 'law' of Jesus. He brought in a new and more exacting law – the law of love. He effectively reduced the commandments to two: love of God and love of neighbor.

**Catholic Sharing Appeal:** Lent is traditionally a time of Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving. In our journey with the Lord this Lenten season please pray that the Holy Spirit keeps our hearts and minds open to ways that we can help or be of service to those that are less fortunate than us and those who are struggling with their walk with the Lord. Your gift is very important. Every gift, regardless of size, is vital to the success of the Appeal. Our parish CSA goal for this year is \$60,997. Please make all checks payable to the Catholic Sharing Appeal and mail directly to the Diocese. We thank those who have already responded to help the less fortunate in our community.

The Diocese of Biloxi has encouraged all parishes to participate in CALLED BY NAME, a program of vocation awareness that begins this weekend.

This program offers us an opportunity to pray for vocations; to recognize gifts and potential for leadership and service in members of our parish; and finally, to call forth and encourage these members to share their gifts in priesthood or religious life.

Perhaps you know a single man or woman, who would, in your opinion, have qualities to become a priest, sister, brother, or deacon. Please recommend this person by filling out the response card found in church.

Next weekend, place the completed card in collection basket or return it to the parish office.



**Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of: Donnie Whittington**, brother of Joyce (Vito) Canizaro of this parish, who passed away February 20<sup>th</sup>.  
**Marthann Eilo**, a member of our parish family, who passed away February 22<sup>nd</sup>.  
**Lisa Segarra**, a member of our parish community, who passed away February 25<sup>th</sup>.  
 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**  
**Janell Alliston and Juliana Skelton**

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

**MONDAY MARCH 5**  
 2 Kings 5:1-15b; Luke 4:24-30  
 6:30 am Mathilde and Fernand Latour  
 8:15 am Elvin Asher Family

**TUESDAY MARCH 6**  
 Daniel 3:25, 34-43; Matthew 18:21-35  
 6:30 am Ms. Melissa Roberts Lee  
 8:15 am Mr. Christopher Seymour

**WEDNESDAY MARCH 7**  
 Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9; Matthew 5:17-19  
 6:30 am Mr. Edward G. Dietrick, Sr.  
 8:15 am Mr. Lealand Lewis Adler

**THURSDAY MARCH 8**  
 Jeremiah 7:23-28; Luke 11:14-23  
 6:30 am Ms. Maryalice Miner  
 8:15 am Ms. Linda Mayer

**FRIDAY MARCH 9**  
 Hosea 14:2-10; Mark 12:28-34  
 6:30 am Mr. Terry Miller  
 8:15 am Mr. Donald Cole


**SATURDAY MARCH 10**  
 Hosea 6:1-6; Luke 18:9-14  
 8:15 am Ms. Connie Seymour

4:00 pm Mr. Ken Reiling

**SUNDAY MARCH 11**  
 Exodus 17:3-7; Romans 5:1-2, 5-8; John 4:5-42  
 7:30 am Congregation  
 9:00 am Mr. Ricky Riviere  
 11:30 am Ms. Mary Skaar  
 5:30 pm Ms. Brandy Lesso Hebert

## WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$11,263.71  
 Black & Indian Mission Collection.....\$ 1,168.71  
 May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support.

 **Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends:** Chris Bellman, 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, Jackie Endt, Jeremy Forehand, Loretta Foster, Nora Foster, Joey Fountain, Ron Fournier, 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, Kyle Vaughn Kerbow, 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 Necaie, Peggy and Edward Necaie, Chandra Nicholson, Travis Norman, Charley Nowel, Luke Nudson, Edwin O'Connor, III, Henry Parker, Judy Penton, Amy Petitjean, Anna Raley, Brenda Sargent, Jimmy Senac, Larry Sladler, Karen Skrmetta 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.

## Religious Education News

Pat Cronin – 872-2652; [pcronin@cablone.net](mailto:pcronin@cablone.net); [www.stal.cc](http://www.stal.cc)

**Mar 5:** New Wine, Parish Hall, 6:00 p.m.  
**Mar 8:** RCIA, Parish Hall Meeting Room, 6:00-7:30 p.m.  
**Mar 11:** RCIA Second Scrutiny 9:00 a.m. Mass  
 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

## Family and Youth Calendar

Jane Sema 228-217-1392 [jsema@osstalphonusus.org](mailto:jsema@osstalphonusus.org)

This year will be the 41<sup>st</sup> annual **Youth Convention** held at the Gulf Coast Coliseum March 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>. 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 (10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Our youth in 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades may also participate by attending the Junior High Rally from 2:00 -5:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup> 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 Baptism Class** will be held in the Rectory on Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday immediately after the 9:00 a.m. Mass. Please call the Rectory with information on the child prior to attending the class.



**You are invited to join Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio** at St. Elizabeth Seton on March 7<sup>th</sup> and March 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. On Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> he will speak on 40 Days, 40 Ways and on Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup> he will speak on Personal Prayer Pathway to Joy.



**Daylight Savings time begins Sunday, March 11th at 2:00 a.m.**  
**Please remember to put your clocks forward one hour next Saturday night before you go to bed.**



**An Altar Server Training** is scheduled for Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. with lunch being served afterwards in the KC Hall. All altar servers, and anyone wishing to become an altar server (must have already made First Holy Communion), are asked to please attend this training. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be served for lunch—we ask that you call or email the Rectory Office (875-5419 / [stals@cablone.net](mailto:stals@cablone.net)) if your child plans on staying for lunch.



**You are invited to a Gumbo Dinner at St. Michael Church in Biloxi on Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.** The dinner will include gumbo (choice of seafood or chicken & sausage), potato salad, bread, dessert and a drink. Cost: \$10 per plate.

## \*\*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

**Mar 7:** Talent Show 1:00 p.m.  
**Mar 9:** Children's Mass 8:15 a.m. / Stations of the Cross 2:30 p.m.

## ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

**Mar 9:** Adoration in Chapel 7:00 a.m. / Mass in Chapel 7:30 a.m.  
 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat 8:30 a.m.

**A Women's Conference – Abundance** will be held at the First Baptist Church on Popps Ferry Road on Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Tickets can be ordered at the St. Alphonsus Book Store.



**Our Diocesan Vocation Office and St. Joseph's Seminary College is sponsoring a "Come and See Priesthood Discernment Retreat"** for all men 16 years and older. It is going to take place at St. Joseph Abbey in Covington, LA on March 23-25, 2018. There is no cost to you and transportation will be provided from Biloxi. If you have ever been considering Priesthood, please contact Fr. Adam Urbaniak, our diocesan vocation director, for more information about the retreat."



**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 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. for \$50/couple. Tickets are available by contacting KC Grand Knight Carl Brochard 228-327-0066, Barney Banks 228-424-9094 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, beer and wine.



**Congratulations to Haven McGuire** – She was the second winner of the Knights of Columbus 10-Week drawing which was pulled last Sunday by Aubrey Ladnier.

**Archived episodes of Father Joe Dilettuso's television program, Living Words: Scripture and Tradition**, can be viewed on the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi's YouTube page. Currently featured is a six-part series on The Passion Narratives with Father Austin Walsh, ST. This is a valuable and timely resource for the Lenten Season. We will continue to add additional episodes of this program in the future. A link to the YouTube page is also available at [www.biloxidiocese.org](http://www.biloxidiocese.org).

**The St. Vincent de Paul Society has produced a 10-episode series of 30-minute TV programs for EWTN TV** that will air every week over the next ten weeks starting Sunday March 4. The programs will be shown twice on Sundays, at 5:30 am & 3:30 pm CT, and then repeated again the following Saturday at 5 pm CT. These programs show the many different activities that Vincentians do to serve those in need around the country. Our St. Alphonsus parish has a very active St. Vincent de Paul Conference.