

In Matthew's scene of the Last Judgement, Christ is portrayed as a stern King and Judge. But this image should not be over-emphasized. Ezekiel (First Reading) has a gentler image – that of a good shepherd who, while caring for all the sheep in his flock, shows particular care for the weak and wounded ones. This was the image Christ himself used to describe his person and his mission. And his followers show that they truly belong to his kingdom by their service of 'the little ones'. Paul says that at the end of time Christ will triumph over all evil, the last evil being death.



Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 2, 2017
8:00 - 11:00 am, Parish Hall
Santa will arrive at 8:30 am

Join us for pancakes, sausage, grits and eggs made by the Knights of Columbus! Children will have the opportunity to visit with Santa. Don't forget your camera! Tickets are \$6.00 each (children under 2 are free) and may be purchased at the door.



The first Sunday of Advent is December 3rd – Come shop the newest collection of Advent wreaths, candles, Christmas decorations and gifts now available.

The Bookstore and Gift Shop is open Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. and after the Saturday evening Vigil Mass and all Sunday (English) Masses.



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 December 4th – 8th.

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.



Our Penance Service for Advent will be held in the Church on Thursday, December 14th at 7:00 p.m. A number of local priests will be in attendance that night to expedite the waiting time. Please make the reception of the Sacrament part of your spiritual preparation for Christmas.

Other local Penance Service schedules:

Sacred Heart, D'Iberville – Tuesday, December 12th, 7:00 p.m.

St. Elizabeth Seton – Wednesday, December 13th, 7:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Fatima, Biloxi – Monday, December 18th, 7:00 p.m.



An Anointing of the Sick within Mass will take place on Saturday, December 16th during the 8:15 a.m. Mass in the Church. This is for all elderly parishioners, anyone with an illness, or parishioners with elderly or homebound family members that may wish to receive this Sacrament.



The Altar Society will decorate for Christmas on Saturday, December 23rd after the 8:15 a.m. Mass and Sunday, December 24th at 1:00 p.m. Anyone wishing to help is asked to please meet in the Church on either/both days.



The Flowers on the Altar are in Memory of Deceased Altar Society Members

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$9,884.83

Catholic Campaign for Human Development....\$1,635.12

May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support.

Altar Society Members for next week are Mary Ann Bounds and Lois Ravera

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY NOVEMBER 27

Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20; Luke 21:1-4

6:30 am Poor Souls

8:15 am Ms. Jean Pierre

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 28

Daniel 2:31-45; Luke 21:5-11

6:30 am Poor Souls

8:15 am Elvin Asher Family

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 29

Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Luke 21:12-19

6:30 am Mr. Theo Laborde

8:15 am Poor Souls

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 30

Romans 10:9-18; Matthew 4:18-22

6:30 am Poor Souls

8:15 am Ms. Marian Sullivan

FRIDAY DECEMBER 1

Daniel 7:2-14; Luke 21:29-33

6:30 am Claire, Margaret and Audrey Brou

8:15 am Int. Ms. Jean Hindmarch

SATURDAY DECEMBER 2

Daniel 7:15-27; Luke 21:34-36

8:15 am Mr. George Pitalo, Sr.

Mr. Gregory Hebert

Russ, Carley and Brittany Jordan

4:00 pm Mr. Nicky Caillavet

SUNDAY DECEMBER 3

Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37

7:30 am Ms. Dot McKinnon

9:00 am Ms. Rita Di John

11:30 am Int. James and Margaret Hebert

5:30 pm Congregation



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of: Brenda Szumigala, a member of our parish family, who passed away November 17th.

Deacon Tom Miller, a former deacon at St. Alphonsus Parish, who passed away November 18th in Columbia, MO.

We extend our sympathy to both families and promise them a remembrance in our prayers. May God grant them eternal peace.



Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends: Glen Bosarge, Mercedes Bosarge, Carole Bourgeois, Clarence Brown, Sybil Burchinal, Sally Fero Conklin, Pat Cronin, 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, 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, Karen Skrmetta Smith, Joe Souza, Edna Spell, Dani Stafford, Rust Stallings, Stan Stanton, Katie Swanson, Gertie Templet, Sharon Tilmon, Dolores Trenouth, Ted and Clara Ursu, Ashley Vickers and Jane Walker.

Religious Education News

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

Nov 27: New Wine, Parish Hall, 6:00 p.m.

Nov 30: RCIA, Parish Hall Meeting Room, 6:00 p.m.

Dec 3: Religious Education 10:10 a.m.

Adult Study Class, Parish Hall Meeting Room, 10:10 a.m.

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

Confirmation Class, Parish Hall, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

It is never too late to enroll your child in Religious Education.

3 & 4 year olds are also welcome to attend Religious Education on Sundays (must be potty trained). Excellent teachers and religious materials are available. Don't let your child miss out. Please avail yourselves of this opportunity.

Family and Youth Calendar

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

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.

Throughout the year, **Adore**, a local Catholic Group, holds Worship Teaching and Adoration for all ages. This year's Title is **Recalculating**. Their last performance will be December 6th at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Woolmarket. All are invited to attend.

Youth Activities

The Diocese will be taking a bus of high school students and adults to Washington D. C. January 17-21, 2018 for **March for Life**. If you are interested in participating in this rewarding experience, contact Jane Sema by November 18th at 228-217-1392 or jsema@osstalphonsus.org.

Parent & Child Prayer and Fellowship, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

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.



You are invited to join us in praying the Liturgy of the Hours before the 8:15 a.m. Mass (Monday – Friday) beginning December 4th at 7:45 a.m. in the Church.

Young Adults (ages 19-35) are invited to join the Young Adult Bible Study on Monday nights from 7:00-8:00 p.m. at the ACE House (506 Jackson Avenue – next door to the School). Never been in a bible study before? No worries! This is a great opportunity for you to grow in faith and fellowship. For more information call Kat Peek at 225-223-3574.



A **Faith Formation Conference** will be held at St. Elizabeth Seton from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. on November 30th for men and December 1st for women. The guest speaker will be Marcellino D'Ambrosio. Tickets are \$15 each. The themes are Spiritual Wellness and Advent a Reason for the Season. For more information please call Amy at 228-875-0654 or email amy@stelseton.com.



You are invited to the Gulf Coast Messiah Chorus 65th Season 2017 Fall Performances of Handel's Oratorio the Messiah.

This event is free and open to the Public.

Friday, December 1: Nativity BVM, Biloxi 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 2: Mary C. O'Keefe Cultural Center 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 3: Westminster Presbyterian Church, Gulfport 3:00 p.m.

ST. ALPHONSUS SCHOOL

Nov 29: Early Dismissal 2:00 p.m. / Christmas Tree Lighting

Dec 1: Children's Mass 9:00 a.m. / Jesse Tree

Dec 2: Breakfast with Santa 8:00-11:00 a.m.

ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

Nov 26: Swim Banquet at El Saltillo 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Nov 29: Varsity FB Banquet in Cafeteria 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Nov 30: Mass 9:40 a.m.

Dec 1: ACT Workshop (English, Reading, Writing) 3:05 - 4:30 p.m.

Dec 2: ACT Workshop (English, Reading, Writing) 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
ACT Workshop – Math 12:00 Noon

Dec 3: Blood Drive 12:00 Noon – 5:00 p.m.



'TIS (almost) THE SEASON: We prepare for everything we consider important in life. And that includes Christmas. We visit family and friends, bake cookies, decorate our trees, and

shop for gifts until we are ready to drop.

This year prepare for Christmas in a different way. Join our parish for **Best Advent Ever**, a free email program from Dynamic Catholic that will help you slow down and focus on what matters most during Advent. Each day, you will receive an email with...

- Short inspirational videos from leading Catholic voices Matthew Kelly and Dr. Allen Hunt
- Practical tips for your everyday life
- Real-life stories of hope

To sign up, visit: BestAdventEver.com/BeautifulHope

Pope Francis: The Mass needs silence, not 'chit-chat'

Pope Francis called out the common habit of chatting with people around you before Mass, stressing that this is a time for silent prayer, when we prepare our hearts for an encounter with the Lord.

"When we go to Mass, maybe we arrive five minutes before, and we start to chit-chat with those in front of us," the Pope said November 15th. However, "it is not a moment for chit-chat. It is a moment of silence for preparing ourselves for dialogue, a time for the heart to collect itself in order to prepare for the encounter with Jesus," he said, adding that "silence is so important."

Continuing his new catechesis on the Eucharist, the Pope recalled his message the week prior, that the Mass is not a show, but a place where we encounter the Lord. In this encounter, he said, silence is what "prepares us and accompanies us."

But to really understand this, first we have to answer a question, he said, And that is: What is prayer?

Prayer is, "first and foremost dialogue, personal relationship with God," he said. And in prayer, just like in any dialogue, it needs moments of silence "together with Jesus." This, he said, is because it is only the "mysterious silence of God" that his Word can resound in our heart.



At St. Alphonsus Church we are pursuing opportunities to foster a stronger parish life and better engage the New Evangelization. As part of these efforts - St. Alphonsus Church has its own app for Apple and

Android phones.

Our app will allow us to send you useful and important messages throughout the week regarding our parish life and events, and allow you to reply to messages or RSVP for events (if applicable). There will be no need for parishioners with smart phones to remember to silence their phones before Mass. The app will send you a reminder to silence your phone 20 minutes before the Mass you select. Many more great features will be a help to all of us, such as daily Mass readings, Catholic news, prayers and prayer reminders, as well as quick access to our weekly bulletin, Church website (osstalphonsus.org) and FORMED.

Download the app by texting App to phone number 88202, or by visiting myparishapp.com.