

The season of Advent prepares us for Christmas. In order to understand the message of Christmas we have to start at the beginning – with the history of salvation. The Advent liturgy relives in a microcosmic way the history of Israel, viewing it through the eyes of Christian faith. It shows that all of that history was pointing and leading towards Jesus. He was the one who fulfilled the messianic prophecies.

As for today’s readings – the First is a poem (written by a returned exile) entreating God to come and save his people. It recalls God’s past goodness, and candidly acknowledges the ingratitude and sinfulness of his people.

The Second Reading and the Gospel talk about the final coming of Christ, something the early Christians believed was imminent. For the faithful, the Lord’s coming is not something to fear. They are urged to live in such a way as to be always ready to meet the Lord. These words are addressed to us now.



‘TIS 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



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.



The Lord Is My Help needs volunteers to pack take-out lunches from 9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. and/or to serve lunch from 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (no cooking involved) during the coming week (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.



A Baptism Class will be held in the Rectory on Wednesday, December 6th 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.



Friday, December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and a Holy Day of Obligation. This is the Patronal Feast of the USA and is never dispensed from. Vigil Mass will be held on Thursday, December 7th at 6:00 p.m. Masses on Friday will be held at 6:30 a.m., 8:15 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. The Parish Office will be closed on December 8th in observance of this Feast Day.



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.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY DECEMBER 4

Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 8:5-11

6:30 am Mr. Joe Prejean

8:15 am Mr. & Mrs. William (Joyce) A. Staehle, Jr.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 5

Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24

6:30 am Mr. Terry Miller

8:15 am Ms. Karen Mary Pisarich

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 6

Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37

6:30 am Mr. Bruce Kruger

8:15 am Mr. Tony Davidson

THURSDAY DECEMBER 7

Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27

6:30 am Ms. Margaret G. Dietrick

8:15 am Mr. Ricky Riviere

Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38

6:00 pm Mr. Robert “Bob” Mitchell

FRIDAY DECEMBER 8

6:30 am Ms. Kathleen LeBlanc

8:15 am Mr. Bill Eckert

6:00 pm Ms. Melissa Roberts Lee

SATURDAY DECEMBER 9

Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

8:15 am Mr. Nolan Fremin

Ms. Connie Seymour

Mr. Donald Cole

4:00 pm Mr. Lavelle C. Watson

SUNDAY DECEMBER 10

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9:11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

7:30 am Congregation

9:00 am Int. Jason and Jenny Krishnan

11:30 am Ms. Peggy Dessommes

5:30 pm Ms. Ligaya Camagong

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$9,131.44

May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support.

**Altar Society Members for next week are
Janell Alliston and Juliana Skelton**



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.



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of: Deacon Tom Miller, a former deacon here at St. Alphonsus Church, who passed away November 18th in Columbia, Missouri.

Robert Carter Jr., MD, father of John (Lori) Carter of this parish, who passed away November 28th.

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

Religious Education News

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

Dec 4: New Wine, Parish Hall, 6:00 p.m.

Dec 7: RCIA, Parish Hall Meeting Room, 6:00 p.m.

Dec 10: 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

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

3 & 4 year olds are 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.



The Board and Staff of “The Lord Is My Help” cordially invites all volunteers to their Annual “Volunteer Appreciation Christmas Party” on Thursday, December 7th from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at The Lord Is My Help. Refreshments will be served.



St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church invites you to their Advent Revival starting Monday, December 11th through Wednesday, December 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Life Center (1715 Telephone Road, Highway 613, Pascagoula).

The speaker will be Evangelist Richard Lane.

The theme is “Prepare the Way...Are You Ready?”



Envelopes are in the pews for anyone wishing to make a donation to the decorating of the Church for Christmas in Honor Of or in Memory Of a loved one.

PLEASE PRINT NAMES CLEARLY ON THE ENVELOPE.

Donations will be accepted through December 17th.



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.



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 after all Sunday (English) Masses.

ST. ALPHONSUS SCHOOL

Dec 8: Children’s Mass 8:15 a.m.

ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

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

Dec 8: Mass 9:40 a.m. / Fall Drama Production 6:30 p.m.

Dec 9: ACT 8:00 a.m. / Fall Drama Production 6:30 p.m.

Dec 10: Fall Drama Production 2:00 p.m.

Concerning our Our Lady of Perpetual Devotion on Tuesday’s after the 8:15 a.m. Mass: Popular devotions of the Christian people, provided they conform to the laws and norms of the Church, are to be highly recommended, especially where they are ordered by the Apostolic See.

Devotions proper to individual churches also have a special dignity if they are undertaken by order of the bishops according to customs or books lawfully approved.

But such devotions should be so drawn up that they harmonize with the liturgical seasons, accord with the sacred liturgy, are in some way derived from it, and lead the people to it, since in fact the liturgy by its very nature is far superior to any of them.

–Vatican II, *Sacrosanctum concilium*



You are invited to come enjoy a traditional Polish Christmas dinner at Holy Spirit Catholic Church Community Center (6705 Jim Ramsay Road, Vancleave) on Saturday, December 16th at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are available at the Parish Office or by calling 228-283-5252.

\$30 per person / \$50 per couple



Kelsey Gunkel (daughter of Deacon Jim & Toni Gunkel) has been accepted to serve as a volunteer with NET (National Evangelization Teams) Ministries in 2018. Net is a peer-to-peer Catholic youth ministry organization that encourages young

people to love Jesus and embrace the Church. Kelsey will serve on a team with NET Ministries in Australia from January – November 2018. This is not government funded, therefore Kelsey is responsible for raising \$7,200 (of the \$13,000 needed for each missionary) prior to beginning her ministry. If you would like to help Kelsey reach her goal, you may donate at netministries.com/au/sponsorship – this link goes directly to the Sponsorship Page where you will be able to insert Kelsey’s name. If you have any further questions or wish to know more about this mission work, you may contact Kelsey directly at 228-219-1155 or kelsey.gunkel@gmail.com.



The St. Vincent de Paul Society wishes to thank all who supported the “2017 Thanksgiving Home Giveaway”. Along with raising money for the council and conferences, they feel they were able to raise awareness of the Society and draw attention to the real mission of helping all of God’s People. Congratulations to Scott Leslie – he was the winner of the cash prize of \$100,000.



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.

As you plan upcoming vacations, visit www.MassTimes.org for Mass times and locations for the areas you will be visiting.

Parish Website: To view a copy of the weekly Church bulletin on our website just type in “St. Alphonsus Parish Ocean Springs, MS 39564”. It will contain a copy of the weekly Church bulletin.