

The First Reading is a message of hope and consolation addressed to the exiles in Babylon. Humanly speaking, at that time there was little ground for hope. Yet the prophet assures his people that God is about to come to their aid, and will lead them back to their own land in a new exodus. Even though the actual return from exile fell far short of the glowing picture painted here, Isaiah's words point the way to the messianic era.

This leads into the Gospel. Like a new Elijah, John appears in the desert and announces the coming of the redeemer – Jesus, the Christ and Son of God (two christological titles with which Mark begins his Gospel). Both readings issue a call to repentance: "Prepare a way for the Lord."

In the Second Reading Peter is talking about the second coming. The reason for the Lord's delay is to give everybody an opportunity to repent.



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



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.



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. When complete, envelopes may be placed in the collection basket or brought to the Rectory. **PLEASE PRINT NAMES CLEARLY ON THE ENVELOPE.** Donations will be accepted through December 17th.



The Altar Society will decorate the Church 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.

Mass Schedule

4th Sunday of Advent

Saturday, Dec. 23: Vigil 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 24: 7:30 a.m.; 9:00 a.m.; 11:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. – Mass for families with small children
Children's Choir
6:00 p.m. – Mass with Contemporary Christmas Music
8:30 p.m. – Hispanic Mass
11:00 p.m. – Midnight Mass
Traditional "Adult Choir" Christmas Music
Prelude Music 10:30 p.m., Mass at 11:00 p.m.

Christmas Day: 9:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY DECEMBER 11

Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26
6:30 am Mathilde and Fernand Latour
8:15 am Ms. Irene Nelson Powers

TUESDAY DECEMBER 12

Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:39-47
6:30 am Mr. Raymond Beaugez
8:15 am Ms. Linda Mayer

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13

Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30
6:30 am Ms. June Krohn
8:15 am Dr. & Mrs. Leon (Orpha) F. Striegel

THURSDAY DECEMBER 14

Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15
6:30 am Mr. Peter Kuluz, Sr.
8:15 am Mr. Glen Skelton

FRIDAY DECEMBER 15

Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19
6:30 am Mr. Andrew Cooper Clayton
8:15 am Mr. Joe Latil

SATURDAY DECEMBER 16

Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13
8:15 am Mr. Leland Lewis Adler
Mr. Wayne Alliston

4:00 pm Ms. Marguerite Mihojevich

SUNDAY DECEMBER 17

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thess 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28
7:30 am Mr. Walter Ryan
9:00 am Holy Souls in Purgatory
11:30 am Mr. Peter Benvenuti
5:30 pm Congregation

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$12,197.45
Poor Collection.....\$ 4,443.27
May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support.



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 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, Joe Souza, Edna Spell, Dani Stafford, Rust Stallings, Stan Stanton, Katie Swanson, Gertie Templeton, Sharon Tilmon, Dolores Trenouth, Ted and Clara Ursu, Ashley Vickers and Jane Walker.

If someone in your family is in need of prayer, please contact the parish office to have their name placed on the list. We will keep the name on for at least two months unless otherwise notified.

Religious Education News

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

Dec 11: New Wine, Parish Hall, 6:00 p.m.

Dec 14: RCIA, Parish Hall Meeting Room, 6:00 p.m.

Dec 17: Religious Education 10:10 a.m.
NO Adult Study Class (will resume after the New Year)
Children's Church, 11:30 a.m. Mass for 3-6 year olds

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.

Parent & Child Prayer and Fellowship

Dec 13: 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. (Will not meet December 27)

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.



We would like to acknowledge and thank the following members of the St. Vincent de Paul Home Ministry Team: Judith Anderson, Gail Banks, Sharon Barthes, Donna Beaugez, Toni Gunkel, Mary Haaf, Pete Halat, Sandra Halat, Dianne Kreeger, Sue Mihal, Dee Smelley, Martha Smelley, Theresa Stuart and Mocky van Thiel.

These individuals take communion to home bound parishioners weekly. If you know of someone who could benefit from this ministry, please call the Rectory office.

If you would like to help out with this ministry, or for more information, please call the Rectory office.



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?"



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



The Knights of Columbus will serve breakfast on Sunday, December 17th from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. in the KC Hall for \$6.00 a plate. Breakfast will include eggs & pancakes (to order), grits, bacon, biscuits, gravy, coffee and juice.



Come shop the newest collection of 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.

"Ironically, there is nothing more distracting from the mood of Advent than our culture's preparations for Christmas."

--Sr. Mary M. McGlone

**Altar Society Members for next week are
Judy Anderson and Jean Michaud**

ST. ALPHONSUS SCHOOL

Dec 13: Early Dismissal 2:00 p.m.

Dec 15: Children's Mass 8:15 a.m. / Pre-K Christmas Program 9:00 am

ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

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

Dec 11: Band: Christmas Concert 6:00 p.m.

Dec 13: Senior Retreat 8:00 a.m. / JH Football Banquet 6:00 p.m.

Dec 15: Midterm Exams



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.



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.



Fr. Louis Lohan invites you to join him in Ireland in April 2018. You will visit quaint little towns and villages, enjoy a cruise on the River Shannon, pray and celebrate Mass at the Basilica at Knock Shrine, celebrate Mass in Fr. Louis' home church – St. Patrick's in Newbridge, County Galway, and be fed at his home on the family farm. Each evening you will retire to the very best hotels along The Wild Atlantic Way and completely take over the elegant 14th Century Markree Castle, with a two-night stay, where you will enjoy an entertaining yet touching performance of an Immigrants Tale. If interested, email Fr. Louis at: Irelandwelcomesyou@gmail.com and he will send you the information.



Fr. Mike Austin invites you to join him on a Pilgrimage to Italy May 28-June 8, 2018. The Pilgrimage will take you to Venice, Florence, Siena, Assisi and Rome and include an Audience with Our Holy Father Pope Francis. The cost is \$4499 from New Orleans. For more information or to register, contact Fr. Mike Austin at 228-238-1050 or Mrs. Paula Spears at 228-697-7814 or email tourofitaly2018@gmail.com.

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

A copy of the weekly Church bulletin may be found on the "myParish" phone app and also on our parish website at "osstalphonsus.org".



Hospital Stays: Because of privacy concerns, it is difficult to find out who is in the hospital. Many parishioners can be there for an entire week (or more), yet their names never appear on the "Clergy List" that we get to see. This seems to happen especially to those who are admitted through the Emergency Room. Consequently we are reminding you that if you or a family member is going to be in the hospital and wish to be visited or receive communion while there, please call the Rectory at your earliest convenience.