

Now that David was king of a united country, with Jerusalem as the capital, he set about building a house (temple) for the Lord (First Reading). But the Lord pre-empted David's plan. Instead it is the Lord who will build a dynasty for David, a dynasty that will last forever. When Jerusalem was destroyed in 587 BC it seemed that the promise would not be fulfilled. Still, the hope remained that a Messiah would come from the house of David.

The expectation was fulfilled when Gabriel announced to Mary that she was to be the mother of the Redeemer, who, through Joseph, would be of the line of David. Gabriel's words echo the words of God's promise to David.

In the Second Reading Paul says that the promises made in Old Testament times have been fulfilled in the person and life of Jesus.



The Altar Society will finish decorating the Church for Christmas this Sunday (December 24th) at 1:00 p.m. Anyone wishing to help is asked to please meet in the Church.



The Parish Office will be closed Monday, December 25th, Tuesday, December 26th and Monday, January 1st.

Mass Schedule

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.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Saturday, December 30 and Sunday, December 31

Regular weekend Mass Schedule. Saturday Vigil 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 7:30 a.m.; 9:00 a.m.; 11:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.



Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends: Glen Bosarge, Mercedes Bosarge, Quinn Boudreaux, Carole Bourgeois, Gregory Brou, Valerie Brou, 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, Gertie Templet, 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.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	DECEMBER 25
Isaiah 62:11-12; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20	
9:00 am	Deacon Gregory Miller
Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18	
5:30 pm	Ms. Alice Hire
TUESDAY	DECEMBER 26
Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22	
6:30 am	Mr. Adelbert (Debbie) Catchot
8:15 am	Mr. Henry Endt, Sr.
WEDNESDAY	DECEMBER 27
1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8	
6:30 am	Mr. Malcolm Latour, Jr.
8:15 am	Mr. Craig Kortman
THURSDAY	DECEMBER 28
1 John 1:5—2:2; Matthew 2:13-18	
6:30 am	Mr. Edward G. Dietrick, Jr.
8:15 am	Ms. Mary Skaar
FRIDAY	DECEMBER 29
1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35	
6:30 am	Ms. Inez Danie
8:15 am	Ms. Molly Edwards
SATURDAY	DECEMBER 30
1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40	
8:15 am	Lawrence T. & Joan Kelly Mr. Jay Holtorf
4:00 pm	Mr. Gerard P. Michaud
SUNDAY	DECEMBER 31
Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Luke 2:22-40	
7:30 am	Congregation
9:00 am	Ms. Dorothy Page
11:30 am	William Harrison & Ruth Ann Marsh
5:30 pm	Ms. Mary Ladnier Bosarge Mr. Bobby Bosarge

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$15,943.90
Retired Religious Collection.....\$ 2,253.46
May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support.



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of: Ruby Morton, mother of Mary Ann (Craig) Bounds of this parish, who passed away December 14th.

Barbara Lott, a member of our parish community, who passed away December 17th.

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

**Altar Society Member for next week
Fern Kelly**



A lovely flower arrangement on the altar area of the church on weekends is a beautiful way to honor a deceased loved one or to celebrate a special occasion. If you would like to donate for a specific weekend, please call the Rectory at 875-5419. Donation amount is \$35.00.

Religious Education News

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

Dec 25: No New Wine

Dec 28: No RCIA

Dec 31: No Religious Education / Adult Study Class / Children's Church

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

Come and join our group as we study The Saints. The group meets on the second and fourth Wednesday (will not meet December 27), from September through May, in the Family and Youth office in back of the Parish Hall.



The bookstore is closed for the Christmas holidays and will reopen on Thursday, January 4th.



The St. Alphonsus Knights of Columbus are now selling tickets for a "10 week" drawing for \$10.00 each. Each week, for nine weeks, a ticket will be drawn for \$50.00. The "winning" ticket then goes back into the "barrel" until the last week when a \$500.00, \$200.00, and \$100.00 winner will be pulled. **First drawing will be February 18, 2018.** For tickets contact Carl Brochard, 228-327-0066 or Chuck Nannery, 228-875-0267. All proceeds will benefit the Seminarian Education Fund.



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.



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.



A Special Parish Prayer Book is located on the south side of the Vestibule of the Church (front entrance). Anyone desiring prayers for any intention is requested to enter their intention on the Parish Prayer Book and they will be remembered in the Prayers of the Faithful at all weekend Masses.

ST. ALPHONSUS SCHOOL

Dec 25-Jan 3: No School – Christmas Holidays

ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

Dec 25-Jan 3: No School – Christmas Holidays



2018 Diocesan Directory: The Gulf Pine Catholic publishes an annual diocesan directory with detailed information about our diocese, its priests, religious, laity, parishes, schools, ministries, councils and organizations. Deadline for orders is December 30th. The directory will be available in February 2018. To get your copy, send a \$10 check to: Gulf Pine Catholic, 1790 Popp's Ferry Rd, Biloxi, MS 39532.

UPCOMING TRAVELS



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.



The St. Alphonsus Church app is available to download for iPhone and Android smart phones. Stay connected with our parish throughout the week with instant notifications regarding our parish life and an easy-to-access event calendar as well as many more great features such as daily Mass readings, Catholic news, prayers and prayer reminders, 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.

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



Hospital Stays: Because of privacy concerns, it is increasingly 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.

Websites that may be good for people with problems, addictions, etc:
www.americanaddictioncenters.org; www.narcononcolorado.org;
www.al-anon.org; www.catholicsdivorce.com;
www.cancersupportcommunity.org; www.rachelsvineyard.org;
www.catholicmenconquerporn.com; www.yourbrainonporn.com