

God revealed himself to the Jews through the Scriptures, and to the Gentiles through nature. Since the Magi were Gentiles, Matthew shows them receiving a revelation through astrology. The story highlights the paradox of how the Jews who have the Scriptures reject Jesus, while Gentiles come and, with the help of the Scriptures, find and adore him. For Matthew the story of the Magi becomes an anticipation of the fate of the Good News of salvation, a fate that he knew in the aftermath of the resurrection.

There is little to be gained by speculation where the Magi came from and what exactly the star was. The star was only the means by which a great mystery was revealed – the revelation of Christ as the Savior of the Gentiles too.

The Second Reading expresses the theological meaning of the feast: God invites Jew and Gentile to share on an equal footing the benefits of the salvation brought by Christ. The feast shows that election by God is not a privilege for some but a hope for all.



You are invited to come to a Marian Movement of Priest Cenacle Mass on Friday, January 12th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Church. Rosary, Message reading, Consecration, Mass



You are invited to the Rosary Rally/Mass/Walk for Life at Nativity BVM Cathedral in Biloxi on Sunday, January 14th. The Rosary begins at 1:00 p.m., Mass with Bishop Louis F. Kihneman III at 1:30 p.m. followed by the Walk for Life immediately following Mass to the Biloxi

Light House. For more information, contact Rev. Stephen Benden CSSR at 435-0007 or the Office of Youth Ministry at 702-2142.



An Altar Society Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 17th at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall Meeting Room.



Tax Statements for yearly contributions are available upon request. These statements only reflect contributions made through the regular church collections and the special second collections if they have been made in an identifiable fashion (church envelope or loose check). Any loose cash contribution cannot be credited. Contributions to the Catholic Sharing Appeal will be acknowledged from the Diocese.

Please email or call the rectory office if you need a tax statement (stals@cablone.net or 875-5419). Statements will be mailed by the end of the month.



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.



The St. Alphonsus Bookstore and Gift Shop is open on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m., after the Saturday Vigil Mass, and after all English Masses on Sunday. Come visit and see what we have. Consider giving Catholic gifts for birthdays, holidays and any occasion.

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$12,081.90
May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support.



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Ronald A. Balius, Sr., father of Ronald (Aline) Balius, Jr. of this parish, who passed away December 28th.

We extend our sympathy to the family and promise them a remembrance in our prayers. May God grant him eternal peace.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY JANUARY 8

Isaiah 55:1-11; Mark 1:7-11

6:30 am Mr. Carlton Latour

8:15 am Mr. A.J. Seymour, Sr.

TUESDAY JANUARY 9

1 Samuel 1:9-20; Mark 1:21-28

6:30 am Mr. David J. Munger

8:15 am Int. Jenny and Jason Krishnan

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 10

1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20; Mark 1:29-39

6:30 am Ms. Margaret G. Dietrick

8:15 am Mr. Bill Eckert

THURSDAY JANUARY 11

1 Samuel 4:1-11; Mark 1:40-45

6:30 am Ms. Katie Swanson

8:15 am Ms. Linda Mayer

FRIDAY JANUARY 12

1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mark 2:1-12

6:30 am Mr. Raymond Beaugez

8:15 am Mr. & Mrs. John P. Prior

SATURDAY JANUARY 13

1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1; Mark 2:13-17

8:15 am Ms. Connie Seymour

Mr. Nolan Fremin

4:00 pm Int. Ms. Evelyn Hosey

SUNDAY JANUARY 14

1 Sam 3:3b-10, 19; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; John 1:35-42

7:30 am Ms. Irene Nelson Powers

9:00 am Congregation

11:30 am Ms. Peggy Dessommes

5:30 pm Mr. & Mrs. Edward Brannon



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 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, 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.

Altar Society Members for next week Janell Alliston and Juliana Skelton

Pray for Vocations - For information, go to www.biloxidiocese.org

Religious Education News

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

Jan 8: New Wine, Parish Hall, 6:00 p.m.

Jan 11: RCIA, Parish Hall Meeting Room, 6:00 p.m.

Jan 12-14: SEARCH - Dedeaux

Jan 14: 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

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

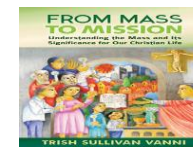
Family and Youth Calendar

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 from September through May, in the Family and Youth office in back of the Parish Hall.



St. Elizabeth Seton invites all men to attend a five session program, FROM MASS TO MISSION, on Monday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in Fannon Hall beginning this Monday (January 8th). In this program, you will learn

not only the parts of the mass and the meaning, but also why you go to mass and what you are called to do after mass. To register, call Jon Rivera at 327-1585 or the office at 875-0654. The cost for materials is \$3.00.



The next men's Cursillo weekend will be January 25th – 28th. Cursillo is a spirit filled weekend for those who would like to know more about the church and who are in search of a closer relationship with God. The weekend is filled with worship, song, love, laughter,

witness and blessings. Cursillo is open to any practical Catholic man ages 18 and over. If interested, you can obtain an application and instructions at biloxicursillo.org or for more information contact Johnny Beard at 228-990-7292. If no answer, please leave message.



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.

ST. ALPHONSUS SCHOOL

Jan 12: Children's Mass 8:15 a.m.

ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

Jan 10: JH Football Banquet

Jan 11: Mass 9:40 a.m.

Jan 14: Walk for Pro-Life 1:00 p.m.



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.

Admission testing, for prospective students who will be in 7th or 8th grade next year and are interested in attending Saint Stanislaus, is scheduled for Saturday, January 20th. Registration will be from 7:30 a.m. until 8:15 a.m. Students must be registered by 8:15 a.m. in order to test. The test results provide us an overview of the students' academic abilities.

In order to register for the admission test, please return the completed Admission Application before January 15th. Please also remember to bring in cash or a check in the amount of \$125, which will cover the \$100 Application Fee and the \$25 Admission Test fee. Parents may complete an application online on the Saint Stanislaus Admission page at www.ststan.com.

An Open House will be held on Wednesday, January 31st from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (last tour will begin at approximately 6:15 p.m.) Please join us to learn about our outstanding academic, extracurricular, and athletic programs that are rooted in our Catholic identity. Come experience the proud Rock-A-Chaw spirit, now 164 years old!

For more information, please call Richard Gleber, Admissions, at 228-467-9057, ext. 249 or send an email to richard@ststan.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.

UPCOMING TRAVELS



Ireland – The Wild Atlantic Way including a Pilgrimage to the Marian Shrine in Knock with Fr. Louis Lohan April 20-29, 2018. \$3,855 per person/two per room. For more information, email Irelandwelcomesyou@gmail.com.



Pilgrimage to Italy May 28-June 8, 2018 with Fr. Mike Austin. \$4,499 per person/two per room 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.



Medjugorje Pilgrimage with Fr. Mike Snyder June 8-16, 2018. \$3,299 per person/two per room from New Orleans. For more information or to register online: www.catholicjourneys.com/mir2018.



Visit Norway and Sweden with Fr. Louis Lohan September 14-23, 2018. \$4,963 per person/two per room. For more information, contact Paul at: experiencescandinavia@gmail.com or 228-697-7814

You may also pick up a brochure for any of these upcoming travels in the Vestibule of the Church.