

The First Reading deals with a covenant-renewal ceremony that took place at Shechem shortly after the people had entered the promised land. Joshua called upon them to make a choice: to serve the God of their fathers or to serve other gods. All the tribes of Israel declared, "We will serve the Lord."

In a similar way Jesus called upon the people who had listened to his discourse on the Bread of Life to make up their minds whether or not they were going to believe in him and follow him. Sadly, apart from the Twelve, many deserted him. Even among the Twelve a traitor lurked. Even though Jesus was sad to see those people leaving him, he let them go. It was not great crowds that excited him. What mattered to him (and what should matter to the Church) was the authenticity and sincerity of those who stayed.

Just as Mark's account of the ministry in Galilee ends on a note of disbelief (Fourteenth Sunday), so it is here. And in Peter's reaction we have John's parallel to the synoptic scene at Caesarea Philippi (Twenty-fourth Sunday).



A note from Fr. Mark: I just wanted to say a big "thank you" to all our parishioners for the generous help and great support. It was most helpful in helping me get my car repaired. It is very much appreciated.



Jesus' words to St. Faustina in 1931, "...For them I dwell in the tabernacle as king of mercy. I desire to bestow grace upon souls...They have time for everything, but they have no time to come to me for graces."

Come. Adore Jesus dwelling among us and for us in the Blessed Sacrament day and night. We need His Mercy. We need His Graces. "Jesus asks nothing of you except to come be with him". --St. Teresa of Calcutta



There is an opening for Administrative Assistant in the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi, Department of Education. If interested, please call the rectory office for a job description and/or application.

Completed applications should be sent to Deacon Gayden Harper at ggharper@biloxidiocese.org no later than Friday, August 31st.



Walgreens will be offering Flu and Pneumonia shots in the KC Hall / Parish Life Center on Friday, September 14th beginning at 9:00 a.m. on a first come / first serve basis – no preregistration is required. No cash will be accepted, so please bring your insurance card or Medicare card with you.



The St Vincent de Paul Society is holding their annual "Friends of the Poor Walk" on Saturday, September 29th from 7:00 – 10:00 a.m. at the Ocean Springs-Biloxi Bridge. Our St. Alphonsus Conference, along with other Diocesan Conferences, will be walking/running again this year. We are asking fellow parishioners, families and friends to come join us at the Bridge! If interested you can register/donate on line at www.fopwalk.org or you may call the rectory or ask a member for more information on registering. If you would like to donate only - you may drop your donation in the collection basket (marked "Walk for the Poor") or bring to the rectory during normal business hours. **SEE YOU AT THE BRIDGE!!**

REFLECTION

Will you also leave me?

When many of his disciples were leaving him, Jesus turned to the apostles and said, "Will you also leave me?" These words are addressed to us too. It is not the Lord who leaves us, but we who may leave him. But why would we want to leave the Lord, who alone has the words of eternal life? We need to make our own Peter's profession of faith. Every Sunday we get a chance to do so. We need the Lord to strengthen our faith. We also need to confirm one another. Lord, confirm our decision to stay with you. Draw us closer to you in bonds of trust, so that we may follow you in love and freedom.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	AUGUST 27
2 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 11-12; Matthew 23:13-22	
6:30 am	Mr. R.J. Domingue
8:15 am	Int. Ms. Liz Eckert
TUESDAY	AUGUST 28
2 Thessalonians 2:1-3a, 14-17; Matthew 23:23-26	
6:30 am	Ms. Joyce Minasian
8:15 am	Ms. Jennifer Garey
WEDNESDAY	AUGUST 29
2 Thessalonians 3:6-10, 16-18; Mark 6:17-29	
6:30 am	Ms. Melissa Roberts Lee
8:15 am	Mr. Thomas LeBlanc
THURSDAY	AUGUST 30
1 Corinthians 1:1-9; Matthew 24:42-51	
6:30 am	Mr. Harry Leaghty
8:15 am	Int. Timmy and Gwen Noble
FRIDAY	AUGUST 31
1 Corinthians 1:17-25; Matthew 25:1-13	
6:30 am	Ms. Kelly Carter
8:15 am	Mr. Vernon Smith, Sr.
SATURDAY	SEPTEMBER 1
1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Matthew 25:14-30	
8:15 am	Mr. George Pitalo, Sr.
	Mr. Gregory Hebert
	Russ, Carley and Brittany Jordan
4:00 pm	Mr. Emmett Catchot
SUNDAY	SEPTEMBER 2
Deut 4:1-2, 6-8; Jam 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27; Mk 7:1-8,14-15,21-23	
7:30 am	Congregation
9:00 am	Int. Mr. John McLean
11:30 am	Int. Mr. Pat Cronin
5:30 pm	Ms. Ligaya Camagong

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....	\$9,864.92
Holy Day (The Assumption) Collection.....	\$2,407.00
Extension Society Collection.....	\$1,178.75
May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support.	



The Flowers on the Altar are in Memory of Marguerite Norman



Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends: Rita Allen, Regina Papania Bell, Chris Bellman, Anthony David Belson, Elaine Belson, Henry Bonney, Glen Bosarge, Mercedes Bosarge, Carole Bourgeois, Sybil Burchinal, Sally Fero Conklin, Pat Cronin, Breanne Dalton, Gina Dasher, Marjorie DuBois, Betty Dugan, Jackie Endt, Marshall Fayard, Ron Fournier, Carmen Gaethe, Walter Gary, Hunter and Sandra Grantham, Doris Haynes, Mary Jo Hoogstra, Most Reverend Joseph L. Howze, Melissa James, Tommy Jones, Clarence Jordan, Anastasia Pitalo Jurich, Andre Kaufman, Otis Kaufman, John Kiernan, Harby Kreeger, Daisie Laborde, Nathaniel LaSalle, Bob Mayer, Bernie and Phyllis McGinley, Edna Miguez, Eunice Misko, Leonard Necaie, Peggy and Edward Necaie, Chandra Nicholson, Shirley & Travis Norman, Edwin O'Connor III, Teresa O'Connor, Judy Penton, Joyleen Seymour, Stan Stanton, Ann Tootle, Randy Trahan, Dolores Trenouth, Ted and Clara Ursu, Ashley Vickers, Jane Walker and Cooper Williams.

Religious Education News

Deacon Jim Gunkel – 872-2652; dcjim@osstalphonsus.org
Janie Sema – 228-217-1392; jsema@osstalphonsus.org

Kindergarten – 5th Grade: Sunday, 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
6th – 8th Grade – Edge: Sunday, 4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.
9th – 12th Grade - High School Youth: Sunday 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Aug 26: Registration for all Grades in the Parish Hall
Sept 9: First day of Class for all grades



Have you ever stopped to think that "There has to be more to life than chasing my 'to do' list." Well, there is. Join a few other people for coffee or tea, bring your questions, and discover how Jesus has a plan for each one of us individually that leads to the fullness of a life well lived. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults or RCIA is the way by which we help people discover this freedom Jesus offers us. Inquiry sessions are informal and open to Catholics (who want to learn more about their faith) as well as non-Catholics who have an interest in exploring the Catholic faith. The RCIA team will present some basic tenets of the faith, but most of the sessions will be devoted to answering your questions about faith and helping you discern whether God is calling you into full communion with the Catholic Church. Sessions will begin Thursday, September 6, 2018 and will be held weekly each Thursday night from 6:00 to 7:30 PM in the Parish Hall. You may register or obtain additional information from Deacon Jim at dcjim@osstalphonsus.org or by calling the Religious Education Office at 872-2652.



Would you like to teach our young children about God and our Catholic faith? Is so - We would love to have you as a volunteer for the 2018-2019 Children's Liturgy program. It involves about 20 minutes of your time every six or so weeks spent teaching and having a fun time with our 3-6 year olds in the chapel during Liturgy of the Word at the 11:30 am Sunday mass. Please email Catherine Marsh at catherinecomiskeymarsh@gmail.com or contact the church office and Catherine will give you a call.



St. Alphonsus Church App - Don't have the App yet? If you have either an iPhone or Android smart phone you can download the app by texting App to phone number 88202, or by visiting myparishapp.com.

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.**

It is easier than ever for you to enjoy your subscription to FORMED! Just download the FREE FORMED app and start enjoying great video and audio wherever you go (or if you are already signed up – you are able to access through the parish app). You will be able to stream hundreds of hours of inspiring movies and video series, read bestselling Catholic eBooks, and listen to audio presentations from the Church's most compelling speakers and is available from virtually any device...anytime, anywhere. St. Alphonsus has a purchased subscription from Formed.org, which gives St. Alphonsus parishioners' FREE access to high quality Catholic programs, movies, downloadable audios and downloadable e-books. To gain access to the website go to www.formed.org, enter our Parish Code flf5a9 (case sensitive) on the homepage, create an account with your user name/email and password and start enjoying the best Catholic content all in one place.



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.

Altar Society Members for next week
Joan Burres, Fern Kelly and Juliana Skelton

ST. ALPHONSUS SCHOOL

Aug 28: PTO Meeting / Curriculum Night 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Aug 31: Children's Mass 8:15 a.m.

ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

Aug 26-27: Campus Ministry Retreat
Aug 29: Junior Ring Orders (during lunch)
Aug 30: Makeup School Pictures 8:30 a.m. / Mass 9:40 a.m.



All are invited to a Katrina Prayer Service at St. Michael Parish in Biloxi on Wednesday, August 29th at 6:00 p.m. Song, Quiet, Praise, Gratitude, Reflection on what we value and have gained.

Jesus Revealed: Do you know the Bible has more than a hundred names and titles for Jesus? St. Mary Church in Gautier will have weekly classes beginning Monday, September 10th at 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. and Thursday, September 13th from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Each of these (eighteen) sessions will focus on one of them, along with others that are closely related. For more information or to register, please call St. Mary's Parish office at 497-2364 by September 1st.



Calling all graduates of Notre Dame, Sacred Heart, Mercy Cross, St. John and St. Patrick: You are invited to celebrate and unite the Legacies on Saturday, September 8th with Mass beginning at 7:00 p.m. and a social to immediately follow with food and drinks. Family and friends are welcome to attend, and childcare will be provided. This event is sponsored by the SPCHS Alumni Association and is open to all alumni, even those who are not currently members of the Association. Please RSVP to alumni@stpatrickhighschool.net. There is no fee to attend.



St. Elizabeth Seton will be offering a twelve-week Surviving Divorce program beginning on September 20th at 7:00 p.m. The cost of the program for participants is \$25.00 and includes the *Surviving Divorce* Personal Guide and all program materials. FPind comfort and counsel consistent with Catholic Church teachings. Call Gina Cazaubon at 228-326-4419 or visit www.stelseton.com by September 7th to register.



The Cursillo Movement of South Mississippi is hosting the Fall 2018 Encounter on October 19-20 in Biloxi. Friday's event will take place at St. Michael

Church, Biloxi and Saturday's event will take place at Nativity BVM Sacred Heart Parish Life Center. Leaders and Cursillistas from the Cursillo Movements in Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina and North Carolina gather together for a weekend of food, fellowship, learning, sharing, prayer, Mass, rosary, and mutual support in friendship towards our common endeavor of bringing our friends to Christ in our own dioceses. Registration is \$40 per person (received by October 9 – early registration fee includes the event and a commemorative t-shirt) and \$40 at the door (must purchase t-shirt separately). Register early to be sure and get a commemorative t-shirt.

For information: email secretariat@southms-cursillo.org; Phone 228-382-3215 or visit Region VII website: www.cursilloregion7.org.



We are in need of volunteers to help in the Bookstore on Sunday mornings from 8:30 -10:00 a.m. If you are interested in helping, please contact Jane Sema at 228-217-1392 or jsema@osstalphonsus.org.



Mass for Family and Friends: You can have Masses offered for the Intention of family and friends as well as for the deceased. Mass cards are available at the Parish Office during regular business hours. The donation for each Mass is \$10.00.