

Today, as we resume the reading of Mark's Gospel, we meet a controversy over ritual cleanness.

All three readings tie in with one another. In the First Reading Moses urges the people to be faithful to God's Law, without adding to it or subtracting from it. It is not a burden to be endured, but a source of life and wisdom. The Gospel shows what happened in practice. To the Law of God (given through Moses) they added their own traditions, which came to be regarded as equally authoritative and binding. Worse, they got in the way of God's Law.

Mark is making clear to Gentile Christians that being followers of Christ does not involve them in the observance of Jewish practices.

The Second Reading (the first of five from the Letter of St. James) shows the essential link between faith and love. Nothing could be more practical than this. Nowhere is the way to sanctity so clearly indicated.



When St. Teresa of Calcutta spoke of the Love of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament, she said, "When you look at the crucifix, you understand how much Jesus loved you. When you look at the Sacred Host you understand how much Jesus loves you now."

How precious is the feeling to know we are loved?! Jesus' Love is eternal. This Love transforms the world. Give Him your love by spending time in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

"Jesus asks nothing of you except to come be with him".

--St. Teresa of Calcutta



The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, September 3rd in observance of Labor Day.



The Baptism Class for September will be held in the Rectory on Wednesday, September 5th 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.

When parents have their children baptized they indicate their desire to have their children grow up and live as children of God and brothers or sisters of Jesus, and be guided by the Holy Spirit.

Through birth a child is given to parents; through baptism a child is given to God. At baptism the parents acknowledge that their parenthood is a participation in God's parenthood that all fatherhood and motherhood comes from God. Thus baptism frees the parents from a sense of owning their children. Children belong to God and are given to the parents to love and care for in God's name. It is the parents' vocation to welcome their children as honored guests in their home and bring them to the physical, emotional, and spiritual freedom that enables them to leave the home and become parents themselves. Baptism reminds parents of this vocation and sets children on the path of freedom.



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!!

Altar Society Members for next week

Mary Ann Bounds, Linda Denehie and Lois Ravera

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 3

1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Luke 4:16-30

6:30 am Ms. Mollie Davidson

8:15 am Mr. Ricky Riviere

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 4

1 Corinthians 2:10b-16; Luke 4:31-37

6:30 am Ms. Connie Seymour

8:15 am Int. Ms. Jackie Endt

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 5

1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Luke 4:38-44

6:30 am Mr. Edward G. Dietrick, Sr.

8:15 am Ms. Julie Banos Poitevent

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 6

1 Corinthians 3:18-23; Luke 5:1-11

6:30 am Ms. Inez Danise

8:15 am Int. Bhaktan and Lynda Krishnan

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 7

1 Corinthians 4:1-5; Luke 5:33-39

6:30 am Mr. Richard "Dick" Smith

8:15 am Mr. Nolan Fremin

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 8

Micah 5:1-4a; Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23

8:15 am Ms. Anna Marie Holifield

4:00 pm Mr. Ken Reiling

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 9

Isaiah 35:4-7a; James 2:1-5; Mark 7:31-37

7:30 am Ms. Dot McKinnon

9:00 am Mr. Bill Collins

11:30 am Artemio and Rosario Soliman

5:30 pm Congregation

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$10,733.81

May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support.



**The Flowers on the Altar
are in Memory Of
The Mayfield, Burkhardt & Seymour Families**



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, Carol Lee Cantin, 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, Anastasia Pitalo Jurich, Andre Kaufman, Otis Kaufman, John Kiernan, Harby Kreeger, Daisie Laborde, Nathaniel LaSalle, Bob Mayer, Bernie and Phyllis McGinley, Maurice Michaud, Edna Miguez, Eunice Misko, Leonard Necaize, Peggy and Edward Necaize, 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.

Pray for Vocations

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.

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

Sept 9: First day of Class for ALL grades (times above)



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 begin Thursday, September 6th** and will be held weekly each Thursday night from 6:00 to 7:30 PM in the Parish Hall Meeting Room. You may register or obtain additional information from Deacon Jim at dcjim@osstalphonsus.org or by calling the Religious Education Office at 872-2652.



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. Find 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.



St. Michael Catholic Church will be holding its annual Shrimp Raffle on September 23rd after their 10:00 a.m. Mass. Tickets are \$1.00 each/6 for \$5.00 for 25 lbs. of

fresh Gulf Shrimp. For more information, please contact St. Michael Church. Need not be present to win.



Men's Cursillo #276 September 27th – 30th at Dedeaux:

The Cursillo weekend is for Catholics who are looking to deepen their faith and love for Christ. Consider giving yourself a gift this year! For more information contact Skip Carroll at 228-547-6562 or skipcar52@gmail.com.



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.

ST. ALPHONSUS SCHOOL

Sept 3: Labor Day – NO School

Sept 7: Children's / Grandparent's Day Mass 8:15 a.m.

ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

Sept 3: Labor Day – NO School

Sept 5: Jr. / Sr. Parent Financial Aid Night 6:00 p.m.

Sept 6: Mass 9:40 a.m.

Sept 8: ACT 8:00 a.m. / SPCHS Alumni Assoc Mass & Social 7:00 p.m.

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.

Co-Ed Arise #8 Friday, October 26th – Sunday, October 28th, at the Kelly Retreat Center in Bay St. Louis. Arise is sponsored by the Cursillo Movement South Mississippi, another program of the Diocese of Biloxi. Whereas Cursillo is limited to Catholics, Arise is actually designed with the non-Catholic in mind. Arise is designed primarily for these groups of persons who would like to receive additional information about the Catholic faith in a short period of time (one weekend): Non-Catholic spouses of practicing Catholics; Catholics who have been away from the church for a while; Those without a current church/religion who are "searching" for a new one or more meaningful faith experience; Those taking instruction in the Catholic faith. For more information, contact Joseph Parker at [985705-6963](tel:9857056963) or Abby Crosby at [601466-1007](tel:6014661007), or you may visit the website at www.biloxicursillo.org.



February 10, 2019 has tentatively been set to honor our St. Alphonsus parishioners who have been married 50+ years.

A binder has been placed in the back of the church and we ask that you please fill out the requested information. We would like your information even if you are not able to come so that we will be able to recognize you.



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.



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.

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

REFLECTION

Cleanness of heart

Today pollution has become a big issue, and rightly so. People want clean water, clean air, and clean food. But we should be even more concerned about the most dangerous pollution of all, namely, evil. Pride, anger, hate, lust, greed, envy... all these are dangerous pollutants. So what must we do? We must purify the source; the heart is the source. It is the well-spring from which all our thoughts, words, and deeds flow. If the heart is clean, all that flows from it will be clean. Blessed are the clean of heart: they shall see God.