

When Micah was writing (late eighth-century BC) Jerusalem was under siege and David's dynasty was in jeopardy. But salvation would come from a comparatively insignificant place – Bethlehem. From there a new leader would come to gather together the scattered exiles and unite the nation once more. Christians see this promise as foreshadowing the coming of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, who was born in Bethlehem and descended from the line of David.

The Gospel tells the story of Mary's visit to Elizabeth. Both are pregnant. Enlightened by the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth praises Mary and hints at the uniqueness of the child she has conceived.

The Second Reading states that Jesus did not come to offer the sacrifices of the old law, but to do the will of God. His sacrifice was essentially one of obedience (an obedience which meant accepting death on a cross). His one perfect sacrifice transcended and replaced all the former sacrifices. His sacrifice did what the sacrifices of the Mosaic Law were unable to do; it brought about reconciliation between God and his people.



“If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent an educator. If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist. If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist.

But since our greatest need was forgiveness, God sent us a Savior.” When God Whispers Your Name, Max Lucado
That Savior, Jesus Christ, The Son of God, is still with us. He is present in the tabernacle and in the Blessed Sacrament...every minute of every hour of every day. HE is our greatest need! In preparing to celebrate His Blessed Birth make time to sit before Him...O come let us adore Him!
“Jesus asks nothing of you except to come be with him”. --St. Teresa of Calcutta

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
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. (English)
Spanish Mass: 2:00 p.m.

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Monday, December 31: 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 1: 9:00 a.m.; 11:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m. (English)
Spanish Mass: 2:00 p.m.

 **The Altar Society will decorate the Church for Christmas on Monday, December 24th after the 8:15 a.m. Mass. Anyone wishing to help is asked to please meet in the Church.**

Altar Society Members for next week
Kay Brochard, Sue Garlotte and Norma Williams

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY DECEMBER 24

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:67-79
6:30 am Mr. Malcolm Latour, Jr.
8:15 am Special Intention

Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25

4:00 pm Msgr. Gregory Kennedy
6:00 pm Mr. Matthew Peresich Lyons

Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14

11:00 pm Ms. Beverly Cook

TUESDAY DECEMBER 25

Isaiah 62:11-12; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20
9:00 am Ms. JoAnn Wavra

Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18

5:30 pm Ms. Alice Hire

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 26

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22

6:30 am Mr. Adelbert (Debbie) Catchot
8:15 am Mr. Terry Miller

THURSDAY DECEMBER 27

1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8

6:30 am Int. Ms. Deborah Foushee
8:15 am Ms. Edna Avena

FRIDAY DECEMBER 28

1 John 1:5--2:2; Matthew 2:13-18

6:30 am Mr. Smokey Hill
8:15 am Int. McClellan Family

SATURDAY DECEMBER 29

1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35

8:15 am Mr. Nolan Fremin

4:00 pm Ms. Emogene Pierre

SUNDAY DECEMBER 30

1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Luke 2:41-52

7:30 am Congregation
9:00 am Mr. Wendell Casey
11:30 am Mr. Alson Young
5:30 pm Mr. Carl Kuluz

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$9,962.72

May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support.



Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends: Rita Allen, Regina Papania Bell, Chris Bellman, Anthony David Belson, Elaine Belson, 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, LaJuan Fowler, Carmen Gaethe, Walter Gary, Sandra Grantham, Danielle Gundlach, Doris Haynes, Mary Jo and Ron Hoogstra, Most Reverend Joseph L. Howze, Melissa James, Anastasia Pitalo Jurich, Andre Kaufman, Otis Kaufman, John Kiernan, Harby Kreeger, Daisie Laborde, Jacob Latil, Erik Marcussen, Bob Mayer, Bernie and Phyllis McGinley, Marie Meyers, Maurice Michaud, Edna Miguez, Leonard Necaize, Peggy and Edward Necaize, Chandra Nicholson, Shirley and Travis Norman, Edwin O'Connor III, Teresa O'Connor, Judy Penton, Gerard Rowan, Joyleen Seymour, Raymond Spicuzza, Ron Stump, Virginia Thompson, Ann Tootle, Randy Trahan, Dolores Trenouth, Edna Trochesset, Angela Trosclair, 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.

Dec 27: No RCIA

Dec 30: No Religious Education Class for all Youth Programs
No Adult Study Class / No Children's Church



The Parish Office will be closed Monday, December 24th, Tuesday, December 25th, Wednesday, December 26th, Monday, December 31st and Tuesday, January 1st.



2019 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 31st. The directory will be available in February 2019. To get your copy, send a \$10 check to: Gulf Pine Catholic, 1790 Pops Ferry Rd, Biloxi, MS 39532.



The Bookstore is closed for the Christmas holidays and will reopen on Saturday, January 5, 2019.



The annual Mass for Deceased Irish Priest will take place on January 8, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 720 East Beach Blvd. Bishop Roger Morin will be the principal celebrant. The homilist will be former St. Thomas pastor Fr. Louis Lohan, who is retired and living on his farm in Ireland. A reception will follow in the community center. All are invited.



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.



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 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 is happy to provide contribution envelopes for our Parishioners who would like to use them. If you are not receiving envelopes and would like to, or if you are receiving envelopes and would like to discontinue receiving them, please email (stals@cablone.net) or call the office (875-5419) and we will make the necessary adjustments to the mailing list.

Pray for Vocations

ST. ALPHONSUS SCHOOL

Dec 24-Jan 4: No School - Christmas Holidays

ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

Dec 24-Jan 4: No School – Christmas Holidays



You are invited to come join the Knights of Columbus Council 5654 in the St. Alphonsus Adoration Chapel each Wednesday from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. to pray for Religious Vocations.



Radio Maria - a Catholic Radio right here in Ocean Springs! You can listen to it on your radio at FM 88.1; livestream it on your computer at radiomaria.us; download the free app onto your smartphone; or by calling 1-712-832-8065. There are many good programs from inspirational Catholic speakers, programs about history, prayer, care giving, finding a job, Marian apparitions, conversion stories, and many others! Plus there is great music. Let us be grateful to God for this sublime gift to us, for His mercies endure forever! Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer. (Romans 12:12)



Parishioner Registration: When planning a baptism, marriage, or to obtain subsidized tuition rates for our Catholic Schools, you must be able to demonstrate that you are a practicing Catholic and that you do attend Mass. It is the Church, not just this parish, which insists that signs of good faith commitment be present on these occasions. Using envelopes helps maintain a record of contributions and Mass attendance. Parish registration forms may be obtained in the Vestibule of the Church or at the Parish Office during regular office hours.



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.

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

PRAYER / REFLECTION

Come, Lord Jesus

Lord Jesus, come into our weakness.

Come into our fears.

Come into our anxieties.

Come into our failures.

Come into our divisions.

Come into our grieving.

Come into our loneliness.

Come into our darkness.

Come into our doubting.

Come into our despair.

Come into our poverty of heart.

Come into our searching.

Come into our joys and hopes.

Come into our dying.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.