

The prophet Baruch delivers a comforting message to Sion (First Reading). Her sorrows are ended and her children will be restored to her from exile. God will level a highway to facilitate their return, and bring about a great restoration. Even though the actual return from exile fell far short of the picture painted here, it did point the way to the messianic era.

This leads into the Gospel where Luke introduces us to the Messiah and his herald, John the Baptist. To underline the universality of salvation, Luke sets the event within the framework of world history. In the manner of an Old Testament prophet, John undertakes to prepare the people for the coming of the Savior by calling them to repentance.

The Second Reading deals with the final coming of Christ. In his love for his fellow Christians, Paul urges them to prepare for the Second Coming by pure and blameless lives.



**You are invited to see and purchase handmade religious articles made by the Sisters of St. Elisabeth Convent (Belarus) this weekend (December 15<sup>th</sup>/16).** The Sisterhood of St. Elisabeth was founded in 1996 and their missionary began in National Mental Hospital located not far from the Convent. The Sisters take care of mentally challenged children and adults. In recent years a shelter and house of Labor for former drug and alcohol addicted people was organized twenty miles away from the Convent. A lot of homeless, struggling and lost people get a chance for a new start in life to find God.

In order to help these people, some workshops were organized on the premises of the Convent where vulnerable people have a possibility to express themselves in the form of art for God, working together with nuns and sisters, making icons, crosses, crucifixes, wood carvings, embroidered and ceramic gifts, rosaries and vestments. All these goods are made with love and prayer and bring blessings to their owners.



**The Lord Is My Help** needs volunteers to pack take-out lunches from 9:15 - 10:30 a.m. and/or to serve lunch from 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (no cooking involved) during the coming week (December 10<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>). If you are able to volunteer your time on any of these days at either/both of the times, please call Norma Williams at 875-2636. Any help would be greatly appreciated.



**You are invited to come to a Marian Movement of Priest Cenacle** (Rosary and Message Reading - no Mass) on Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m. in the Assembly Room at the Villa Maria. All are invited.



**Envelopes are in the pews for anyone wishing to make a donation to the decorating of the Church for Christmas in Honor Of or in Memory Of a loved one.** When complete, envelopes may be placed in the collection basket or brought to the Rectory. **PLEASE PRINT NAMES CLEARLY ON THE ENVELOPE.**

**Donations will be accepted through December 16th.**



**All are invited to come join us as we Pray for the Sick on Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. in the Church. This will be an hour of Adoration, Rosary, Prayer and Music. Confession will be available if needed.**

**Altar Society Members for next week  
Janell Alliston, Deni Helms & Pat Zuber**

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY DECEMBER 10

Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26  
6:30 am Mathilde and Fernand Latour  
8:15 am Int. Jason and Jenny Krishnan

TUESDAY DECEMBER 11

Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14  
6:30 am Special Intention  
8:15 am Mr. Alexander Stahlburg

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 12

Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:39-47  
6:30 am Mr. Richard "Dick" Smith  
8:15 am Ms. Anna Marie Holifield

THURSDAY DECEMBER 13

Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15  
6:30 am Int. Ms. Sarah G. Traylor  
8:15 am Mr. Glen Skelton

FRIDAY DECEMBER 14

Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19  
6:30 am Ms. Annette Galle  
8:15 am Ms. Mary Wronko

SATURDAY DECEMBER 15

Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13  
8:15 am Spec Intention for Families & Married Couples

4:00 pm Mr. Bobby Beaugez  
SUNDAY DECEMBER 16

Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18  
7:30 am Congregation  
9:00 am Mr. George Wavra  
11:30 am Mr. & Mrs. Morris (Anna) J. Rabe, Jr.  
5:30 pm Mr. Ricky Riviere

## WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$15,907.73  
Poor Collection.....\$ 4,371.99  
May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support.



**Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of: Beverly Cook**, a member of our parish community, who passed away November 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Roland Mestayer, Jr.**, father of Matthew (Kellie) Mestayer of this parish, who passed away November 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Ronald Fournier**, husband of Barbara Fournier of this parish, who passed away December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Augustus "Stan" Stanton, Sr.**, husband of Nell Stanton of this parish, who passed away December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Your prayers are requested for the deceased priests who have ministered in the diocese, especially those who have died around this time of year:

Reverend Msgr. Gregory Kennedy, December 1, 1986  
Reverend John Joseph O'Reilly, December 5, 1989  
Reverend Remigius A. Kozak, December 18, 2013  
Reverend Msgr. John T. Martin, December 20, 1978

## Religious Education News

Deacon Jim Gunkel – 872-2652; [dcjim@osstalphonsus.org](mailto:dcjim@osstalphonsus.org)

Janie Sema – 228-217-1392; [jsema@osstalphonsus.org](mailto:jsema@osstalphonsus.org)

Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Sunday, 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Edge: Sunday, 4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade - High School Youth: Sunday 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Dec 13: RCIA – Reconciliation, Parish Hall Meeting Room, 6:00 p.m.

Dec 16: Religious Education Class for all Youth Programs (times above)  
Adult Study Class, 10:15 a.m.

Children's Church, 11:30 a.m. Mass for 3-6 year olds



**On Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, Steven Eckert will be speaking on Radio Maria (88.1 FM) about the veneration of the St. John Vianney relic of his incorrupt heart, that was here at St. Alphonsus recently.** Radio Maria also has a free app, Radio Maria USA, which will carry the program online during that hour. There will be two 30 minute programs during that hour and at this time we are unsure if Mr. Eckert will start at 2:00 or 2:30 p.m. Regardless, the entire hour will be interesting.



**Advent Mission: Charge, Challenge, Choice**

December 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. each night. Blessed Francis Seelos Church, 360 Lameuse Street in Biloxi. Presented by Fr. Roy Lee, PhD. All are invited.



**OUR LADY OF SORROWS: Please come and join us for the 8:15 Mass followed by the recitation of the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows (a rosary of repentance) on the third Saturday of each month. (i.e. Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>).** The purpose of our coming together is threefold: 1) To pray for all victims of sexual abuse 2) To pray, in reparation for all the vile sins committed against the Body of Christ, and 3) To pray for the graces of repentance, healing, conversion and salvation of ALL SOULS!



**Our Penance Service for Advent will be held in the Church on Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** A number of local priests will be in attendance that night to expedite the waiting time. Please make the reception of the Sacrament part of your spiritual preparation for Christmas.

**Other local Penance Service schedules:**

Sacred Heart, D'Iberville – Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.

St. Mary, Gautier – Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

St. Elizabeth Seton – Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m.

Our Lady of Fatima, Biloxi – Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.



**An Anointing of the Sick** will take place on Saturday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3:30 p.m. (before the 4:00 p.m. Mass) in the Church. This is for all elderly parishioners, anyone with an illness, or parishioners with elderly or homebound family members that may wish to receive this Sacrament.



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

## Pray for Vocations

## ST. ALPHONSUS SCHOOL

Dec 12: Early Dismissal 2:00 p.m.

Dec 14: Children's Mass 8:15 a.m. / PreK Christmas Program 9:00 a.m.

## ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

Dec 13: Advent Skit 9:40 a.m.

Dec 14: Adoration XLT Service 9:40 a.m.



**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 31<sup>st</sup>. The directory will be available in February 2019. To get your copy, send a \$10 check to: Gulf Pine Catholic, 1790 Popp's Ferry Rd, Biloxi, MS 39532.



**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.



**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.



**“Advent is the great liturgical season of vigilance, of waiting, and watching. What practically can we do during this season of vigil keeping? What are some practices that might incarnate for us the Advent spirituality?”**

**I strongly recommend the classically Catholic discipline of Eucharistic Adoration. To spend a half hour or an hour in the presence of the Lord is not to accomplish or achieve very much – it is not really ‘getting anywhere’ -- but it is a particularly rich form of spiritual waiting.”**

**–Bishop Robert Barron, Advent Gospel Reflections**

Good things are often fruits of waiting. See what some quiet time before the Lord in the Adoration Chapel might bear. Remember, Jesus is looking for our open and willing hearts.

“Jesus asks nothing of you except to come be with him”. --St. Teresa of Calcutta

### REFLECTION

**A lesson from the trees**

Not long ago the trees were loaded with golden leaves. Though pretty to look at, they robbed me of the world beyond. But now that the leaves have fallen I am able to look through the skeletal branches to the deep blue sky beyond. Teach us, Good Lord, how to take care of our material needs without neglecting our spiritual needs; how to take care of ourselves without neglecting others; and how to live joyfully in this world without losing sight of the world to come.



**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 & 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 Neaise, Peggy and Edward Neaise, Chandra Nicholson, Shirley & Travis Norman, Edwin O'Connor III, Teresa O'Connor, Judy Penton, Gerard Rowan, Joyleen Seymour, Virginia Thompson, Ann Tootle, Randy Trahan, Dolores Trenouth, Edna Trochesset, Angela Troclair, Ted and Clara Ursu, Ashley Vickers, Jane Walker and Cooper Williams.