

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

Let me take this opportunity to thank you all most sincerely from the bottom of my heart. First and foremost I prayerfully thank the Almighty God for sending me to serve you at St. Alphonsus. As I leave St. Alphonsus I would like to let you know how much I am going to miss you all. I have no words to express my feeling of gratitude for all your support in many ways, still, I am here to thank you with my limited words for your faithful support and valuable prayers.

I thank Fr. Mike Snyder who guided me spiritually and trained me through the year. I really enjoyed the days being with him as associate pastor at St. Alphonsus. He was a good friend to me, giving me the timely corrections and appreciations for my growth. I also sincerely thank Deacon Jim Gunkel Director of Religious Education, Deacon David Allen School Principal, Mrs. Shannon Williams Parish Secretary, Mr. Robert Sema Maintenance, Ms. Maria Peters Housekeeping, Mr. Carl Brochard, the staff and students of St. Alphonsus School and all the parish organizations that help the parish to be alive and active, especially the Knights of Columbus, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Altar Society, the Altar Servers and the Parish Choirs for their valuable support to me and their selfless service to the parish.

Once again I sincerely thank all our parishioners for all that you are to me. I really enjoyed being with you at St. Alphonsus. I assure you of my daily prayers and I ask that you please remember me in your humble prayers as I go to take up my new assignment as the Administrator of St. Peter’s Church, PO Box 10, Bassfield, MS 39421. I will be leaving St. Alphonsus on January 16, 2019.

I remain grateful.

Fr. Chinnappa Raj Mark

In the First Reading (Isaiah), the prophet assures the exiles in Babylon that God is coming to save them. The prophecy was fulfilled in the return from exile, but more especially in the coming of Jesus.

John the Baptist was clearly a prophet. Since the spirit of prophecy had long been absent from Israel, John’s appearance raised expectations. The question arose: Could he be the Messiah? John denied that he was the Messiah, but declared that the Messiah was at hand. Thus he prepared the way for Jesus.

Baptism was a defining moment in the life of Jesus – it marked the beginning of his public mission. Luke always presents Jesus as praying before making major decisions. It is no surprise then that we find him praying during his baptism. In response to his prayer, the Holy Spirit descends on him in bodily form at the beginning of his mission, just as it will come in visible form on the apostles at Pentecost at the beginning of their mission. The Father puts his seal of approval on Jesus and on the mission he is about to begin.



You are invited to come to a Marian Movement of Priest Cenacle (Rosary and Message Reading - no Mass) on Tuesday, January 15th, at 9:00 a.m. in the Assembly Room at the Villa Maria. All are invited.



An Altar Society Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 16th at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall Meeting Room.



All are invited to come join us as we Pray for the Sick on Friday, January 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the Church. This will be an hour of Adoration, Rosary, Prayer and Music. Confession will be available if needed.



An Anointing of the Sick will take place on Saturday, January 19th 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.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY JANUARY 14

Hebrews 1:1-6; Mark 1:14-20

6:30 am Mr. Carlton Latour

8:15 am Elvin Asher Family

TUESDAY JANUARY 15

Hebrews 2:5-12; Mark 1:21-28

6:30 am Special Intention

8:15 am Ms. Linda Mayer

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 16

Hebrews 2:14-18; Mark 1:29-39

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

8:15 am Ms. JoAnn Wavra

THURSDAY JANUARY 17

Hebrews 3:7-14; Mark 1:40-45

6:30 am Ms. Inez Danice

8:15 am Ms. Connie Seymour

FRIDAY JANUARY 18

Hebrews 4:1-5, 11; Mark 2:1-12

6:30 am Mr. Richard “Dick” Porterfield

8:15 am Ms. Judy Catchot

SATURDAY JANUARY 19

Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 2:13-17

8:15 am Khay Do Ngoan Nguyen Family

4:00 pm Ms. Marion Bedard

SUNDAY JANUARY 20

Isaiah 62:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; John 2:1-11

7:30 am Congregation

9:00 am Ms. Sylvia Marie Cronin

11:30 am Mr. Tommy Jones

5:30 pm Albert and Eunice Misko

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$12,358.55

Poor Collection.....\$ 4,531.80

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, LaJuan Fowler, Carmen Gaethe, Walter Gary, Sandra Grantham, Danielle Gundlach, Doris Haynes, Mary Jo and Ron Hoogstra, 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, Joyleen Seymour, Raymond Spicuzza, Ron Stump, Virginia Thompson, Ann Tootle, Randy Trahan, Dolores Trenouth, Edna Trochesset, Angela Troclair, Ted and Clara Ursu, Ashley Vickers, Jane Walker, Cooper Williams and Sonny Wynn.



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Bishop Joseph L. Howze, First Bishop of Biloxi, who passed away January 9th.

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

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.

Jan 17: RCIA, Grace, Parish Hall Meeting Room, 6:00 p.m.

Jan 20: Religious Education Class for all Youth Programs (times above)

Adult Study Class, The Footprints of God by Stephen Ray, 10:15 am

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

Surviving Divorce Class: Surviving Divorce features twelve video presentations that cover topics such as shock and grief, anger and forgiveness, money issues, dealing with children and a former spouse, and annulment and remarriage. This program is for the newly separated and divorced and those still struggling with issues many years later. It helps to find answers to questions, restore hope, and begin authentic healing.

The twelve-week Surviving Divorce program begins on **January 17, 2019 at 7:00 pm at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Fannon Hall.** The cost of the program for participants is \$25 and includes the Surviving Divorce Personal Guide and all program materials. Find comfort and counsel consistent with Catholic Church teachings. Call Amy at the church office at 228-875-0654, Gina Cazaubon at 228-326-4419, or visit www.stelseton.com to register for the session.



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. Jan. 19th). 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!



An Altar Server Training is scheduled for Saturday, January 26th from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. in the Church with lunch being served afterwards in the KC Hall. All altar servers, and anyone wishing to become an altar server (must have already made First Holy Communion), are asked to please attend this training. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be served for lunch - we ask that you call or email the Rectory Office (875-5419 / stals@cablone.net) if your child plans on staying for lunch.



Father Ron Hoye will lead a Mission of Faith, Hope and Forgiveness January 28th – 30th at 6:00 p.m. nightly at St. Michael Church in Biloxi. All are invited.



Want to learn to read the Bible in 12 Easy parts? If so – then you are invited to join Sacred Heart Church, D’Iberville on Thursday mornings January 31 – July 18 from 9:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. for Jeff Cavin’s *The Bible Timeline*. Study includes DVD, Study Guides and discussions. Attend one or all. For more information or to register, contact Wanda Freeland 228.355.0156 (call/text) or wanda.pariahconsultant@gmail.com

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 Patrick Tierney, January 9, 1991

Reverend Peter F. Mockler, January 30, 2014

ST. ALPHONSUS SCHOOL

Jan 14: Early Dismissal 12:00 Noon – Parent/Teacher Conferences

Jan 15: PTO Meetings 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Jan 18: Children’s Mass 8:15 a.m.

ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

Jan 17: Mass 9:40 a.m.



Sunday, February 10th all St. Alphonsus parishioners who have been married 50+ years will be honored with a sit down meal at 3:00 p.m. in the KC Hall. A binder has been placed in the back of the church and we ask that you please fill out the requested information (if you have not already done so). We would like your information even if you are not able to come so that we will be able to recognize you.



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 17, 2019. For tickets contact Carl Brochard at 228-327-0066. All proceeds will benefit the Seminarian Education Fund.



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.



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.



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.



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.

**Altar Society Members for next week
Judi Anderson, Theresa Stuart & Mark Aultman**

PRAYER / REFLECTION

Lord Jesus, touch our eyes so that we may see the signs of your presence in our lives and in the world. Touch our ears so that we may hear your word. Touch our tongues so that we may profess our faith. Touch our hands so that we may give and receive. Touch our feet so that we may walk in your paths. Touch our minds so that we may understand your ways. Touch our wills so that they may be in tune with your will. Touch our hearts so that we may bring your love to our brothers and sisters, to the praise and glory of God. Amen.