

Just as an orchard is judged by the quality of its fruit, so a person's talk shows what kind of person he is. (First Reading) This links with what Jesus says in the Gospel: 'A tree is known by its fruit...the words of the mouth flow out of what fills the heart.'

In the Gospel it is no longer a question of love of enemies, but of love of one's brothers and sisters in the community. A Christian is his brother's keeper. But one cannot undertake to guide others unless one has found the way oneself. Hence, self-criticism must precede criticism of others. This applied especially to Christian teachers.

But it had even more relevance for prophets. There were many prophets in the early Church. These were people who had received this gift from God and more or less guided the community. But the community had to be careful because there were also false prophets.

Just as we judge a tree by its fruit, so we judge a prophet by his actions. Any prophet who teaches the truth is none the less a false prophet if he does not himself practice what he teaches. The true prophet is one who behaves in the Lord's way.



The Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday, March 5th for Mardi Gras.



Lent begins Wednesday, March 6th with a day of Fast and Abstinence. Four masses will be available on that day beginning with the usual morning masses at 6:30 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. The children from our elementary school will attend the 8:15 a.m. Mass. There will also be a 4:15 p.m. Hispanic Mass and an evening Mass at 6:00 p.m.



Stations of the Cross will be conducted each Monday morning immediately after the 8:15 a.m. Mass, each Friday afternoon by the schoolchildren at 2:30 p.m. (adults welcome), and Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. with the Way of the Cross followed by Mass.

Fasting: Catholics 18-59 years of age who are in good health are obliged to fast and abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On all the weekdays of Lent the U.S. Bishops strongly encourage the faithful to participate in Mass and to observe a self-imposed fast. The law of fasting allows only one full meal a day, but does not prohibit taking some food in the morning and evening. Customarily, the two smaller "collations," when considered together, should not equal the main meal – and ideally should be eaten only if needed to maintain one's strength.

Abstinence: All Catholics 14 years of age and older are obliged to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent. In their Penance and Abstinence pastoral, the U.S. Bishops declared: "the obligation both to fast and to abstain from meat, an obligation observed under a more strict formality by our fathers in the faith, still binds on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. No Catholic Christian will lightly excuse himself from so hallowed an obligation..." They also stated: "we preserve for our dioceses the tradition of abstinence from meat on each of the Fridays of Lent, confident that no Catholic Christian will lightly hold himself excused from this penitential practice."



The Knights of Columbus will sell Shrimp Po'boys and Fried Fish plates on Wednesday, March 6th (Ash Wednesday) in the KC Hall. Po'boys \$6.00; Fish \$6.00; Combination \$10.00



Carry out begins at 3:00 p.m. and Dine In from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. (or until run out). Tea will be available for dine in only



Fr. John Anglin O.F.M. will lead a three day Parish Mission here at St. Alphonsus Church March 18th – 20th. The theme will be Living the Joy of the Gospel: Day 1: A Loving God: The Cause of our Joy; Day 2: The Gift of Mercy; and Day 3: Caring for our Common Home, Mercy for our Brothers and Sisters and for all God's Creatures.

The mission Mass will be held with the 8:15 a.m. morning Mass and the mission service will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Church.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY MARCH 4

Sirach 17:20-24; Mark 10:17-27
6:30 am Ella and Simon Gilbert
8:15 am Mr. Tanner Fountain

TUESDAY MARCH 5

Sirach 35:1-12; Mark 10:28-31
6:30 am The Melchert Family
8:15 am Mr. Ron Fournier

WEDNESDAY MARCH 6

Joel 2:12-18; 2 Cor. 5:20—6:2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18
6:30 am Ms. Margaret G. Dietrick
8:15 am Mr. Chris Seymour

THURSDAY MARCH 7

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 9:22-25
6:30 am Special Intention
8:15 am Francis and Patricia Conway

FRIDAY MARCH 8

Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 9:14-15
6:30 am Mr. Roger Hardwick
8:15 am Mr. Taylor Lyons

SATURDAY MARCH 9

Isaiah 58:9b-14; Luke 5:27-32
8:15 am Thanksgiving to St. Jude & St. Anthony

4:00 pm Int. Dax and Bree Pitalo & Baby

SUNDAY MARCH 10

Deuteronomy 26:4-10; Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13
7:30 am Congregation
9:00 am Mr. Eugene Peresich Family
11:30 am Mr. Hunter Grantham
5:30 pm Int. Mr. Bill Miller

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$10,635.77
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, Glen Bosarge, Mercedes Bosarge, Carole Bourgeois, Sybil Burchinal, Carol Lee Cantin, Pat Cronin, Breanne Dalton, Gina Dasher, Marjorie DuBois, Betty Dugan, Jackie Endt, Fr. Bernie Farrell, LaJuan Fowler, Carmen Gaethe, Sandra Grantham, Danielle Gundlach, Doris Haynes, Donnie Hebert, Mary Jo and Ron Hoogstra, Melissa James, Anastasia Pitalo Jurich, Andre Kaufman, Otis Kaufman, John Kiernan, Harby Kreeger, Daisie Laborde, Jacob Latil, Catherine Lawrence, Erik Marcussen, Bob Mayer, Cheryl McGie, Bernie and Phyllis McGinley, Marie Meyers, Edna Miguez, Iva Misko, Donna Necaize, Leonard Necaize, Peggy and Edward Necaize, Chandra Nicholson, Shirley and Travis Norman, Judy Penton, David Seymour, Joyleen Seymour, Raymond Spicuzza, Ron Stump, Virginia Thompson, Ann Tootle, Dolores Trenouth, Edna Trochesset, Angela Troclair, Larry Tucei, Ted and Clara Ursu, Ashley Vickers, Jane Walker, Cooper Williams and Sonny Wynn.



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Myrna Misko, aunt of Glenn (Shannon) Williams of this parish, who passed away February 26th.

We extend our sympathy to each family and promise them a remembrance in our prayers. May God grant her 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, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
9th – 12th Grade - High School Youth: Sunday 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Mar 7: Reconciliation Practice, Church, 5:30 p.m.
RCLA, Sacramental/Devotion/Saints, Parish Hall Mtg Rm, 6 p.m.

Mar 9: First Reconciliation, Church, 10:00 a.m.

Mar 10: Religious Education Class for all Youth Programs (times above)
Adult Study Class, 10:15 a.m.; The Gospel of Matthew
Children's Church, 11:30 a.m. Mass for 3-6 year olds

June 17-21: SAVE THE DATE – CATHOLIC KIDS CAMP



Isn't spending time with someone the best way to get to know them? Come to know Jesus in a personal and intimate relationship through adoration of our Lord in the Eucharist. Experience Him in this time and place where you can speak to and listen to Him.

Beginning March 8-9 and continuing through ALL weekends of Lent, join us for an hour beginning Friday morning at 7:00 a.m. and ending on Saturday at 7:00 a.m. for 24-Hour Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel. You pick the time.

This hour might be the most peaceful and satisfying hour of your whole week. For more information, handouts will be passed out after Mass and will also be available in the Vestibule of the Church.

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



A **Baptism Class** will be held in the Rectory on Wednesday, March 13th (changed from March 6th due to Ash Wednesday) 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.



Lent is approaching and the St. Alphonsus Bookstore and Gift Shop has Lent calendars and prayer books to help you with your Lenten Journey.

The Bookstore will be closed for Mardi Gras on Tuesday, March 5th but will be open on Thursday from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m., after the Saturday Vigil Mass, and after all English Masses on Sunday.



Congratulations to Ernie Huffine - He was the second winner of the Knights of Columbus 10-Week drawing which was pulled last Sunday by Jerry Schmuck.

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

REFLECTION

Where to start

When I was young and fired with the love of God, I thought I would convert the whole world. But soon I discovered that it would be quite enough to convert the people who lived in my town, and I tried for a long time to do that, but did not succeed. Then I realized that my program was still too ambitious, so I concentrated on those in my own household. But I found that I could not convert them either. Finally, it dawned on me: I must work on myself. When people complain about what's wrong with the world, they are usually blaming somebody else. They should look at themselves first. That way, they will know they are making a difference in at least one life. We can't take anyone farther than we've gone ourselves.

School Subsidy Policy

Registration for the 2019/2020 School Year Going on Now

St. Alphonsus Finance Committee, in conjunction with the Parish Staff, wishes to reiterate the established policy concerning subsidy of our young people at St. Alphonsus Elementary School or St. Patrick High School. In order for students to receive subsidized tuition at St. Alphonsus Elementary School or St. Patrick High School, the following must be followed:

1. The Family must be registered in St. Alphonsus Parish
2. Contribute to the support of the parish through the regular use of the envelope system or some other agreed upon service.
3. The family MUST attend weekend Mass with the Parish Family at St. Alphonsus.

ST. ALPHONSUS SCHOOL

Mar 4-5: No School, Mardi Gras Holiday

Mar 6: Children's Mass 8:15 a.m.

Mar 7: Reconciliation Practice, Church, 5:30 p.m.

Mar 9: First Reconciliation, Church, 10:00 a.m.

ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

Mar 4-5: No School, Mardi Gras Holiday

Mar 6: Ash Wednesday Service 2:15 p.m. / Resume Workshop 3:15 p.m.

Mar 7: Varsity Cheer Banquet 5:00 p.m.

Mar 30: Shamrockin' the Coast Party & Silent Auction at the White House Hotel, 7 – 11 p.m. Each \$100 ticket admits two guests, entertainment - The Molly Ringwalds, enticing silent auction items and delicious food. Discounts are available for alumni. Contact Erin Rosetti at alumni@stpatrickhighschool.net for more information.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL REPORT: Each year the St. Vincent dePaul reports their income and gifts to the needy of our community to the Parish, so that you may know the good that your support to this worthy cause does for our community. This past year our Conference at St. Alphonsus provided over \$57,000 in financial support to the less fortunate of Ocean Springs area. This support went to families who needed temporary support with their utility bills, rent payments, and other miscellaneous expenses. Our Vincentians provided financial assistance to 423 families. In addition, our Associate Vincentians made 1913 home visits delivering Holy Communion to the sick and shut-in. The Associate Vincentians also made 400 hospital visits, and 1300 visits to people in home or eldercare, totaling 4,913 visits. All combined, we donated 16,685 hours of service last year and drove 21,478 miles in service to the needy and shut-ins.

This past fiscal year we contributed to, or assisted with: Rent \$21,298; Power Bills \$20,214; Water \$3,223; Gas \$987; Sundry Expenditures: Christmas Gift Cards to children we assisted during the previous year \$2,850; Drawdown prizes for winners \$3,000; College Scholarships to Underprivileged \$3,000; Support to St. Vincent dePaul Pharmacy \$1,000; Miscellaneous support to the needy (bus fares, motel room costs, food, etc) \$1,895. Total Contribution to the needy: \$57,467.

Each year we actively participate in the National "Walk-for-the-Poor" campaign. Walkers, sponsored by the St. Vincent dePaul Society, include individuals from the community as well as our Boy Scout Troop #211.

We thank our parishioners and friends who supported the important work of St. Vincent DePaul Society this past year. We can only accomplish this effort with your generous support. Donations come from a portion of the monthly collection for the poor, honorariums for deceased loved ones, and direct donations by generous parishioners. If you would like to further support our work in the community, please drop your gift in the collection plate with our name on it or make a check payable to the Society of St Vincent dePaul, St Alphonsus Catholic Church, 502 Jackson Avenue, Ocean Springs, MS 39564.

If you would care to serve God as a Vincentian in our community, please call or come by the Rectory for more information.

Vincentians serve the poor cheerfully, listening to them and respecting their wishes, helping them to feel and recover their own dignity, for we are all created in God's image. In the poor, we see the suffering Christ.