

The First Reading tells of God's promise to Abraham that he would have numerous descendants, and that those descendants would possess the land of Canaan. As a pledge of his fidelity God made a solemn covenant with him.

Our passage describes an ancient rite of covenant or treaty making. To ratify a covenant the contracting parties cut an animal (or animals) in two and walked between the divided parts, invoking the fate of the animals on themselves should they fail to observe the terms of the contract. Since God's covenant with Abraham is unilateral, only God (symbolized by the furnace and the torch) passes between the pieces. The birds of prey symbolize the forces hostile to Israel.

This covenant led to the covenant at Sinai, and culminated in the new and eternal covenant which Jesus sealed in his own blood on Calvary.

The chief significance of the Tabor experience was for Jesus himself, and this is what Luke emphasizes. The incident was meant to confirm him in the course he had taken. It comforted him to know that the road he was traveling was marked by the feet of prophets such as Moses and Elijah. The transfiguration also benefited the apostles. It prepared them for the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus, the Messiah.

Last Sunday was Commitment Sunday for the 2019 Catholic Sharing Appeal. The CSA is an Appeal from the Bishop, directly to the parishioners of the diocese, to ask for financial help in funding over 30 ministries that minister to the basic needs of many in Southern Mississippi. This year's appeal calls us to a quieter place in our world, our homes, and especially our hearts. As we enter into God's love more deeply through prayer, please remember those in our communities who long for God's love and presence in their lives. Help us to be perfect examples of His love to our brothers and sisters through our prayers, works and lives.

This year's parish goal for St. Alphonsus is \$60,513. Every gift, regardless of size, is vital to the success of the Appeal. Please make checks payable to the Catholic Sharing Appeal and mail directly to the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi at 1790 Popp's Ferry Road, Biloxi 39532. You may also donate online at www.biloxidiocese.org.

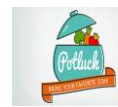


We welcome Fr. John Anglin O.F.M. to St. Alphonsus this weekend. He will lead a three day Parish Mission here this coming Monday - Wednesday (March 18th – 20th).

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.



An Altar Society Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 20th at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall Meeting Room.



Mark your calendar! Our next Parish Potluck Celebration will be held on Saturday, March 23rd at 5:30 p.m. in the KC Hall / Parish Life Center.

Bring your favorite dish to share: homemade or picked up! All parishioners are invited and encouraged to attend. Questions? Call Beth McMackin at 228-324-4188.



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Bookstore has some wonderful materials to offer for Lent. First and foremost, given the enormous importance of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we are offering Fr. John Noone's new booklet and CDs.

Entitled "250 Questions about CONFESSION", it will inspire you to embrace this wonderful Sacrament of HEALING. Proceeds from the sale of the booklet and CDs will go to the Missionaries of Our Mother of the Eucharist. The Booklet is \$8.00. The set of 4 CDs is \$15.00.

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.



Congratulations to Joe Sasser - He was the fourth winner of the Knights of Columbus 10-Week drawing which was pulled last Sunday by Becca Weatherford.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	MARCH 18
Daniel 9:4b-10; Luke 6:36-38	
6:30 am	Simon and Barbara Latour
8:15 am	Mr. George Wavra
TUESDAY	MARCH 19
2 Sam 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Matt 1:16, 18-21, 24a	
6:30 am	Mr. Richard "Dick" Smith
8:15 am	Vern, Larry and Lurline Cole
WEDNESDAY	MARCH 20
Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28	
6:30 am	Mr. Edward G. Dietrick, Jr.
8:15 am	Elvin Asher Family
THURSDAY	MARCH 21
Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-31	
6:30 am	Special Intention
8:15 am	Ms. Judy Catchot
FRIDAY	MARCH 22
Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46	
6:30 am	Ms. Jean Pierre
8:15 am	Mr. David Saunders
SATURDAY	MARCH 23
Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32	
8:15 am	Ms. Melissa Roberts Lee
4:00 pm	Ms. Oral Mae Senseney
SUNDAY	MARCH 24
Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15; 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12; Luke 13:1-9	
7:30 am	Mr. Carlus Chapman
9:00 am	Int. Fr. Joseph Francis LePage
11:30 am	Congregation
5:30 pm	Ms. Ligaya Camagong

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$11,429.95
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, 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, 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, Sylvia Spratley, Ron Stump, Virginia Thompson, Ann Tootle, Dolores Trenouth, Edna Trochesset, Angela Troclair, Larry Tucei, Ted and Clara Ursu, Ashley Vickers, Jane Walker, and Sonny Wynn.



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of: David Saunders, brother of Theresa Stuart of this parish, who passed away January 16th.

Brenda Straight, daughter-in-law of June Straight of this parish, who passed away March 4th.

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

**Altar Society Members for next week
Kay Brochard, Sue Garlotte and Norma 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, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
9th – 12th Grade - High School Youth: Sunday 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Mar 21: RCIA, 1st Scrutiny/Holy Orders/Marriage, P Hall Mtg Rm, 6 p.m.

Mar 24: Religious Education Class for all Youth Programs (times above)

RCIA 1st Scrutiny Mass, 9:00 a.m., Sponsors Attend

Adult Study Class, 10:15 a.m.; Guest Speakers

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

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

The guest speakers for the Adult Study Class on March 24th will be Danielle and Richard Borgman. They will give their Testimony (converts). They have spent 17 years living in the slums of French speaking Africa working in prisons and rehabilitating ex-prisoners in their home. Their conversion to the Catholic Church came after they began working in France, teaching Mercy for 13 years. They have now moved to the US and established a Training Center for the New Evangelization in Gainesville, Georgia and are based in Southern California. One of their children also converted, and has become a Priest! Ordained by St. John Paul II and also worked with him at the Vatican. He now is a Pastor in California. Come hear their exciting story!



“How many times has it happened that I went to make a daily hour of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament in a state of preoccupation or discouragement and without anything particular having happened, without saying or feeling anything special. I would leave with a quieted heart? The external situation was always the same. There were always problems to solve but the heart had changed, and from then on I could confront them peacefully. The Holy Spirit had performed its secret work.”

–Father Jacques Philippe, Searching for and Maintaining Peace

Experience the Peace that mere TIME before the Presence of God can bring despite your circumstances. Jesus can and will change your heart. A special 24-hour Adoration in the Chapel is being held every weekend during Lent beginning at 7:00 a.m. Friday mornings and ending at 7:00 a.m. Saturday mornings. All are welcome. Invite someone. You pick the time.

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



Co-Ed Arise #9 – Sacred Heart Retreat Center in Dedeaux, March 29th – 31st: Arise is sponsored by the Cursillo Movement of South MS. Whereas Cursillo is limited to Catholics, Arise is 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've 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 Karly Richardson at [\(228\) 219-2203](tel:228-219-2203) or Mike Lingenfelder at [\(228\) 354-8377](tel:228-354-8377), or you may visit the website at www.biloxicursillo.org for an application or more information

REFLECTION

An unquenchable longing

All of us can experience moments of great joy because in his goodness God allows us to taste on earth the joys of the world to come. However, moments of joy, no matter how wonderful, will never satisfy the human heart. What we long for is a permanent state of happiness. But that is unattainable here. So what must we do? Like desert travelers, we must go forward from one oasis to another, with the conviction that God has a homeland prepared for us at the end of our journey. This conviction will make it possible for us to travel onwards with an ache in our heart and an unquenchable longing in our soul.

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 20: Report Cards

Mar 22: Children's Mass, 8:15 a.m.; Stations of the Cross, 2:30 p.m.

Spring Soiree “Run for the Roses” Friday, May 3, at the Maritime and Seafood Museum. Live entertainment, Silent/Live Auctions, Raffles, Delicious Food, Signature Drinks. Tickets are \$50 each or \$100 a couple. Sponsorships are also available and all in the community are welcome! Please contact Marie Sanderson at 601-946-4529 or St.AIRunfortheRoses@gmail.com for more information.

ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

Mar 18: Cheer Parent Meeting, 5:00 p.m.

Mar 24: Men's Varsity Soccer Banquet, 1:00 p.m.

Mar 30: Shamrockin' the Coast Party & Silent Auction

White House Hotel, 7 – 11 p.m. \$100 ticket admits two guests, Contact Erin Rosetti at alumni@stpatrickhighschool.net for more information.

Lenten Missions:

Holy Family Church, 22342 Evangeline Rd, Pass Christian

March 18th, 19th, and 20th – 7:00p.m. each night.

“Learning Christ: The Spiritual Vision of St. Ignatius of Antioch”

Presented by Dr. Gregory Vall – Professor of Sacred Scripture, Notre Dame Seminary of New Orleans and Author of *Learning Christ, Ignatius of Antioch and the Mystery of Redemption*.

St. Rose de Lima Church, 301 South Necaize Ave, Bay St. Louis

March 25th, 26th, and 27th – 7:00 p.m. each night.

Presented by Redemptorist Father Maurice J. Nutt. The theme is “Become the Change You Want to See.”

Our Lady of Victories Church, 3109 Magnolia St, Pascagoula

Sunday Masses, March 30/31 - "Like the Father, like the Son"

6:00 p.m. each night: April 1 - "Jesus I trust you"; April 2 - "I believe, so easy to say"; April 3 - "I asked Jesus, "How much do you love me?" and Jesus said: 'This much.' Then He stretched out His arms on the cross and died." Confession will follow the presentation.

Willwoods Married Couples Retreat: March 30th – 31st: Would you like to break away with your spouse and spend quality time enriching your marriage? Then join the upcoming Married Couples Retreat at St Joseph Abbey's Christian Life Retreat Center in Covington, LA.

A Married Couples Retreat does not mean that someone is failing but rather it is a falling into the graces of our Lord. It is giving you and your beloved the opportunity to find rest, strength, and enrichment, which is something we all need! Attending a retreat once a year is a great habit that will deepen and renew your love for God and each other!

Sign up today for a great start to 2019! To register or for more info call Jason Angelette at (504) 830-3716 or visit www.FaithandMarriage.org. Suggested donation of \$275 is requested but not required.



You are invited to go on a Special Pilgrimage with The MIR Group for “the Young & Young at Heart” to **San Giovanni Rotondo and Medjugorje** with Fr. Mike Snyder as the Spiritual Director. Tour price is \$4,285 (double occupancy) out of New Orleans from June 4th – June 16th. For more information, contact Catholic Journeys at 800-715-6670 or online at catholicjourneys.com.