

A clear theme runs through all three readings: God's mercy to sinners. In the First Reading we have the beautiful words God spoke to his people: "I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you." The shame of sin and the darkness of slavery are behind them. The years of wandering in the desert are over; they have come home to the promised land. A new era was about to begin. They mark their homecoming by celebrating anew the feast of Passover.

This reminds us of the homecoming of the prodigal son (Gospel). His shame also is behind him. His years of wandering are over and he returns home to a warm welcome and a great feast. A new and bright future lies ahead of him. Jesus told the parable in response to the criticism of the Pharisees that he was too lenient towards sinners. They were meant to see themselves in the older son. For Luke the 'Pharisees' are righteous Christians, for whom God's mercy to sinners is unfair and scandalous. The Second Reading stresses how God has reconciled us to himself through Christ, not holding our faults against us. The task of the Church is to bring the benefits won by Christ to all people.



A **Baptism Class** will be held in the Rectory on Wednesday, April 3rd 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.

Upcoming Lenten Penitential Services

- Apr 9:** Sacred Heart, D'Iberville 7:00 p.m.
- Apr 10:** St. Elizabeth Seton 6:30 p.m.
- Apr 11:** St. Alphonsus 7:00 p.m.
- Apr 15:** Our Lady of Fatima, Biloxi 7:00 p.m.
- Apr 16:** Nativity BVM Cathedral, 6:00 p.m.



The **Altar Society** is accepting donations for the decorating of the Church on **Easter Sunday**. Parishioners may donate the flowers in memory of or in honor of a loved one. Envelopes are in the pews. When complete, envelopes may be placed in the collection basket or brought to the Rectory. Please print names clearly on the envelope. The deadline for making a donation is Sunday, April 14th.



In today's Scripture we hear of God's immeasurable love in the act of giving His Son for the life of the world. Let us pray to the Lord Jesus to keep us always aware of His love for us and our call to extend His love to the world through our daily lives of prayer and good works. 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.



"Heavenly Father, increase our faith in the Real Presence of Your Son Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist... We need your peace in our hearts and among nations. We need conversion from our sins and the mercy of Your forgiveness. May we obtain this through prayer and our union with the Eucharistic Lord." --Saint Pope John Paul II
A special 24-hour Adoration in the Chapel is being held every weekend during Lent beginning at 7:00 am Friday mornings and ending at 7:00 am Saturday mornings. Please join us by choosing a time that is convenient for you. All are welcome.
"Jesus asks nothing of you except to come be with him". --St. Teresa of Calcutta



Congratulations to David Morano - He was the sixth winner of the Knights of Columbus 10-Week drawing which was pulled last Sunday by Mary Beth Geiser

Altar Society Members for next week
Mary Ann Bounds, Linda Denehie & Lois Ravera

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	APRIL 1
Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54	
6:30 am	Mr. RJ Domingue
8:15 am	Int. Ms. Jackie Endt
TUESDAY	APRIL 2
Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-16	
6:30 am	Khay Do Ngoan Nguyen Family
8:15 am	Mr. Marshall Fayard
WEDNESDAY	APRIL 3
Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30	
6:30 am	Mr. Nolan Fremin
8:15 am	Bill and Dot Collins
THURSDAY	APRIL 4
Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47	
6:30 am	Special Intention
8:15 am	Ms. Claire Cresson
FRIDAY	APRIL 5
Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30	
6:30 am	Ms. Margaret Gillespie
8:15 am	Joseph and Roseline Bellande
SATURDAY	APRIL 6
Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-53	
8:15 am	Mr. George Pitalo, Sr. Mr. Gregory Hebert Russ, Carley and Brittany Jordan
4:00 pm	Mr. Maurice Michaud
SUNDAY	APRIL 7
Isaiah 43:16-21; Philippians 3:8-14; John 8:1-11	
7:30 am	Congregation
9:00 am	Int. Fr. Michael McFall
11:30 am	Mr. Tommy Jones
5:30 pm	Mr. Randy Trahan



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.

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$10,477.06
Black & Indian Mission Collection.....\$ 1,230.52
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 Belsion, Elaine Belsion, 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, Loretta Foster, 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 Megie, Bernie and Phyllis McGinley, Marie Meyers, Edna Miguez, Iva Misko, Donna Necaie, Leonard Necaie, Peggy and Edward Necaie, 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.

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.

Apr 4: RCIA 3rd Scrutiny/Eschatology, Parish Hall Mtg Room, 6:00 p.m.
Apr 7: Religious Education Class for all Youth Programs (times above)
Adult Study Class, 10:15 a.m.; The Jewish Roots of Holy Week
Children's Church, 11:30 a.m. Mass for 3-6 year olds
RCIA 3rd Scrutiny Mass, 5:30 a.m., Sponsors Attend

June 17-21: SAVE THE DATE – CATHOLIC KIDS CAMP
"A Wilderness Adventure Through the Sacraments"



All are invited as we officially welcome **Fr. Tomasz Golab to St. Alphonsus Parish on Sunday, April 7th from 8:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. in the KC Hall.** Pancakes, eggs, grits and sausage will be served. Please come and welcome Fr. Tomasz to the parish.

Meet and Dine Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction Saturday, April 6th for Mater Redemptoris House of Formation in LaCrosse, WI from 6pm-8pm at 733 34th Street Gulfport, MS. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Sponsored by K of C Bishop Gunn 1583. Local Katherine Lingenfelder spent two years at the House discerning religious life thanks to the generosity of so many throughout the diocese! The sisters and aspirants are coming to say thank you for the countless prayers and financial generosity. All are invited to join to meet the sisters and aspirants! Money raised will support the expenses of the house. Tickets may be purchased from Gay Camagong at 228-424-7722 or at the door.

Come and Chat for Women Sunday, April 7th: Women 16 and up that are curious about religious life are invited to join the Diocese of Biloxi Office of Vocations for an afternoon with the Sisters and Aspirants from the Mater Redemptoris House of Formation in LaCrosse, WI! The Sisters are from the Franciscan Sisters of the Martyr Saint George and the Aspirants are young women from around the country that are aspiring to do God's will and discerning religious life. There will be a time to listen to them share stories and advice, ask questions, chat with others and prayer! It will be an afternoon of joy, laughter and maybe a few tears! Come and Chat Sign-in/Registration is from 1:00pm-1:30pm and will be from 1:30pm-4:00pm Location: The Diocesan Pastoral Center, 1790 Popp's Ferry Road, Biloxi.
To register: visit <http://signup.com/go/vgYOmXi> or contact Katherine Lingenfelder 228-860-5062 or k.lingenfelder@yahoo.com.



St. Joseph Church in Poplarville will have an Inaugural Golf Tournament on Friday, May 3rd at The Oaks Golf Club, 24384 Clubhouse Drive, Pass Christian. Entry fee is \$400 for a foursome and includes 18 holes of golf, chances to win a new Ford vehicle and a custom fit Callaway iron set, morning coffee and donuts, lunch (hamburger buffet) and 1st, 2nd and 3rd place trophy presentations at the end of the day. 9:00 a.m. shotgun start (4 man scramble). To register, send your check to: St. Joseph Church, Post Office Box 202, Poplarville, MS 39470 by April 26th. Questions? Contact John Albasini at jalbasini@att.net. Registration forms available in the rectory office during regular business hours.



The St. Alphonsus Bookstore and Gift Shop is offering Fr. John Noone's new booklet and CD entitled "250 Questions about CONFESSION". This 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.

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

Apr 5: 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

- Apr 4:** Mass 9:40 a.m.
- Apr 5, 12, 13:** Spring Drama Production (Sister Act), 6:30 p.m.
- Apr 6:** Prom 6:00 p.m.
- Apr 7, 14:** Spring Drama Production (Sister Act), 2:00 p.m.
- Mar 30:** Shamrockin' the Coast Party & Silent Auction

St. Patrick's Drama Guild to present Sister Act: This year we are offering \$5 tickets for our regular performances to the students in our partner schools if they present their St. Patrick Athletic Pass and are accompanied by an adult who has purchased a regular priced ticket. Regular tickets at the door are \$15. Call the school to purchase tickets (228-702-0500), purchase online through the Fighting Irish Spirit Store, or reach out to Gail Trahan at gtrahan@stpatrickhighschool.net.

UPCOMING TRAVELS:



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.



Fr. Henry at Our Lady of Fatima in Biloxi is leading a group to Ireland, leaving on June 2nd, 2019 and returning on June 13 (11 days.) A valid passport is required and cost is \$3,999.00 per person, sharing.

If interested please call Fr. Henry at 388-3887 or go online, <https://caragrouptravel.com/fr-henry-tour-of-ireland-june-2019/>.

REFLECTION

Loved in our sins

The prodigal son came home empty handed. He had no trophies to show his father, no achievements with which to earn his praise, his welcome, and his love. He was a failure. Worse – he was a sinner. He deserved to be punished – and he knew it. Yet punishment was the last thing he needed. To punish him would be like pouring water on a dying fire. What happened? When the father saw his lost son coming towards him, his heart went out to him, and next minute they were in each other's arms. It is an extraordinary experience to be loved in one's sinfulness. Such love is like a breeze to a dying fire, or rain falling on parched ground. Those who have experienced this kind of love, know something about the heart of God.