

Today is Palm Sunday - For us, this event is commemorated by blessing palm branches at the beginning of each Mass and then distributed by the ushers to the congregation at the end of Mass. You are asked to take the palm branches home and place them in some prominent place as a reminder of the events we celebrate today.

Today is also the beginning of Holy Week, or Passion Week. The Passion according to Luke is read at all Masses today to remind us of all the events that transpired immediately after Jesus' arrival to Jerusalem. Events unfold quickly on this Holiest of weeks and you are asked to join us in remembering these events.

On Tuesday of this week all the priests of the diocese join the Bishop at the Cathedral (10:30 a.m.) for the annual Chrism Mass, which includes the renewal of vows and the blessing of the oils that are used in the parishes throughout the upcoming year.

The Triduum of Easter commences with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday night, a reminder of the institution of the Eucharist, Priesthood and the ceremony of the washing of the feet. This Mass concludes with the procession through the Church and the reposing of the Blessed Sacrament in the Altar of Repose. Until midnight you are asked to spend time in prayer in the Church just as Jesus asked his disciples to accompany him to the Garden of Olives and stay with him one hour.

Good Friday finds the Church bare and empty, to remind us of the absence of Jesus after his arrest and preparing for his death. The schoolchildren will conduct the Passion Play at 3:00 p.m. At 7:00 p.m., the Passion according to John is read followed by Veneration of the Cross and Communion Service. This service concludes quietly with no recession.

The Easter Vigil anticipates the joy of Easter. The 7:45 p.m. Vigil begins at dusk, outside the Church with the blessing of the Fire and the lighting of the Paschal Candle that leads the congregation into a darkened Church. The candle becomes the only source of light during the singing of the Exsultet, and the beginning of the first Old Testament Reading from Genesis speaking of creation. Other Old Testament Readings remind us of the power of God (parting of the Red Sea) and of our baptismal vows to turn aside from evil and to do good. These are followed by an Epistle and a Gospel selection. It is at this Mass that Catechumens/Elect are received into the Church by Baptism or Profession of Faith. The entire congregation also renews their baptism promises, renounces evil, and makes a Profession of Faith and then the congregation is sprinkled with the newly blessed Holy Water as a reminder of each one's Baptism.

Easter Triduum

NO Morning Masses Thursday, Friday or Saturday

Holy Thursday: 7:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper, Washing of the Feet. 9:30 -11:00 p.m. Reading of the Gospel and Adoration. Tenebrae in the Church from 11:00 – 11:30 p.m. The Altar of Repose will be in the Chapel at Midnight.

Good Friday: Passion Play by schoolchildren 3:00 p.m.; Reading of the Passion (St. John), Veneration of the Cross and Communion 7:00 p.m.; Good Friday is a day of Fast and Abstinence.

Easter Vigil: 7:45 p.m. Lighting of the Fire/Paschal Candle, Exsultet, Old Testament Readings, Blessing of Holy Water, Baptisms/Profession of Faith, Renewal of Baptism Promises, Profession of Faith of entire Congregation, Mass, Communion.

Easter Sunday: Mass at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m.; 11:30 a.m.; (Hispanic Mass 2:00 p.m.), and 5:30 p.m.



The Blessed Sacrament will not be exposed in the Chapel from 7:00 p.m. Thursday (April 18th) until after the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening. The Chapel will still be open for anyone wishing to make their Holy Hour.



The Parish Office will be closed on Good Friday (April 19) and Easter Monday (April 22). Office will reopen on Tuesday, April 23rd.



The Altar Society will decorate the Church for Easter on Saturday, April 20th. Anyone wishing to help is asked to please meet in the Church at 9:00 a.m.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY APRIL 15

Isaiah 42:1-7; John 12:1-11

6:30 am Mr. Theo Laborde
8:15 am Mr. Augustus "Stan" Stanton

TUESDAY APRIL 16

Isaiah 49:1-6; John 13:21-33, 36-38

6:30 am Menno, Mary and David Saunders
8:15 am Deceased Members Maurice Wagner Family

WEDNESDAY APRIL 17

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Matthew 26:14-25

6:30 am Ms. Inez Danise
8:15 am Ms. Holley Martin

THURSDAY APRIL 18

Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-15

6:30 am No Mass
8:15 am No Mass
7:00 pm Rosario and Artemio Soliman

FRIDAY APRIL 19

Isaiah 52:13—53:12; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1—19:42

6:30 am No Mass
8:15 am No Mass

SATURDAY APRIL 20

Genesis 1:1-2:2; Exodus 14:15—15:1; Isaiah 55:1-11; Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28; Romans 6:3-11; Luke 24:1-12

8:15 am No Mass

7:45 pm Int. Scott and Debra Weatherford

SUNDAY APRIL 21

Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-9

7:30 am Ms. Dorothy McKinnon
9:00 am Mr. Leo Noble
11:30 am The Collins Family
5:30 pm Congregation

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$15,147.21

Poor Collection.....\$ 4,579.78

May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support.



As we enter this week into Holy Week, let us be intentional in remembering and reflecting on Christ's Passion by making some time to adore and thank Him before the Blessed Sacrament. There is, never has been, nor ever will be a greater Love in heaven or on this earth.

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



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of: **Anthony Goretski**, husband of Berryl Goretski of this parish, who passed away April 5th.

Ina Mae Kelly, mother of Robert (Fern) Kelly of this parish, who passed away during the past week.

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
Judi Anderson, Theresa Stuart and Mark Aultman

Pray for Vocations

Religious Education News

Deacon Jim Gunkel – 872-2652; dcjim@osstalphonsus.org

Janie Sema – 228-217-1392; jsema@osstalphonsus.org

Apr 18: RCIA Holy Thursday, Parish Hall Meeting Room, 6:00 p.m.

Apr 20: RCIA Practice 10:00 a.m. / Easter Vigil

Apr 21: No Religious Education Class for all Youth Programs
No Adult Study Class.

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



A Penance Service will be held at Our Lady of Fatima in Biloxi on Monday, April 15th at 7:00 p.m. and Nativity BVM Cathedral on Tuesday, April 16th at 6:00 p.m.



The Knights of Columbus will sell Shrimp Po'boys / Fish Dinners on Friday, April 19th (Good Friday) in the KC Hall.



Take-outs will be available beginning at 3:00 p.m. Dine in from 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. \$6.00 for a Po'boy with Chips or a Fish plate with potato salad or french fries and green beans. \$10 Combo dinner includes Fish, Po'boy, potato salad or french fries, green beans and chips.



The St. Alphonsus Bookstore and Gift Shop will be closed April 19th through April 26th.



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 week of April 22nd – 26th. 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.



Divine Mercy Sunday: As we enter into Holy Week, let us also keep in mind that Easter Sunday is followed by Divine Mercy Sunday, instituted through the efforts of St. John Paul II. In preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday, we encourage you to say the Divine Mercy Novena and Chaplet which begins on Good Friday. Copies are available at the exits of the Church. Our Lord's promise to grant complete forgiveness of sins and punishment on the Feast of Mercy is recorded three times in the Diary of St. Faustina. "The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion will obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment (699).



As we near the end of our Lenten journey, we are grateful for your support of the 2019 Catholic Sharing Appeal. Your prayers and financial support helps the Church to continue the works of the Lord Jesus.

If you have not made a pledge or given a one-time gift to the CSA, pledge envelopes are at each of the exits of the church or you can give online at www.biloxidiocese.org. To date **130** pledges (out of 1080 registered families) have been made which total **\$49,893**. This leaves us a total of **\$10,620** to reach our parish goal of **\$60,513**. In the past St. Alphonsus Parish has always went above the goal that was set by the Diocese – please help us do so again this year. Remember – when our parish reaches its goal, all funds raised over our goal are returned to the parish for our use. Every gift, regardless of size, is vital to the success of the Appeal. We thank those who have already responded to help the less fortunate in our community.



Congratulations to Dick Eckert - He was the eighth winner of the Knights of Columbus 10-Week drawing which was pulled last Sunday by Fr. Tomasz.

A copy of the weekly Church bulletin may be found on the "myParish" phone app and also on our parish website at "osstalphonsus.org".

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 16: 6th Grade Retreat

Apr 17: Children's Mass 8:15am/Passion Play 9am/Progress Reports

Apr 18: Noon Dismissal – No Aftercare

Apr 19: No School / Passion Play 3:00 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. To sponsor or purchase tickets, please visit Stal.org and click on "store" in the top right corner.

ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

Apr 14: Spring Drama Production (Sister Act), 2:00 p.m.

Apr 17: Dance Parent Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

Varsity Men's Basketball Banquet, 6:30 p.m.

Apr 18: Lenten Skit, 9:40 a.m.

Apr 19: No School

Divine Mercy Sunday Celebrations – April 28, 2019

St. Elizabeth Seton, Ocean Springs – led by Deacon Michael Butler beginning at 2:30 p.m. with Adoration, Divine Mercy Chaplet and veneration of the image (no confessions).

Our Lady of Fatima, Biloxi – Confessions at 2:00 pm & Mass at 3:00 pm
St. Joseph, Gulfport – Begins at 3:00 p.m. and includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Rosary, Litany to the Divine Mercy and Benediction.

Our Lady of the Gulf, Bay St. Louis – Priests will be available for Confession from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet and solemn blessing of the Image of Divine Mercy will precede Holy Mass with celebrant Fr. Michael O'Connor. The ceremony will conclude with veneration of the Image.



Men's Cursillo 280 is now accepting applications for the next Cursillo Weekend to be held May 2nd - 5th at the Kelly Retreat Center in Bay St Louis. We are pleased to announce that God has

blessed us with a member of your parish, John Bourgeois, as a member of our leadership team for the weekend. If you are a confirmed catholic man age 18 or older and would like to know more about your church and God's plans for you, then please join us. Applications are available through John or visit our website www.biloxicursillo.org or Facebook page, Catholic Cursillo Movement of South Mississippi. We hope to see you there.



Bethesda Free Clinic will host its First Annual Duck Race to benefit the Clinic at Gulf Islands Waterpark on Saturday, May 4th. Race begins at 5:30 pm. The fun

begins as up to 6000 rubber ducks race to the finish line for a chance to win cash and prizes. First 5 Ducks to cross the finish line win cash prizes, 1st Place wins \$1,000 Cash! Adopt a Duck for \$5 or Adopt 5 Ducks for \$20. The Duck Race is Free and Waterpark admission is also available at a reduced rate with adoption of a duck.

For more information about Bethesda Free Clinic located in Ocean Springs and the Duck Race on May 4th please visit www.bfhcd.com.