

The First Reading is an extract from a long section which recounts God's actions on behalf of Israel during the Exodus from Egypt. It points out how the Israelites benefited from the very things by which the Egyptians were punished and thus set forth a historical basis for trust in God.

This fits in with the theme of the Second Reading, which deals with faith in God's promises. It extols various figures in the history of Israel, but especially Abraham, as examples of faith.

The emphasis in the Gospel is on readiness for the return of the Lord. Even though the disciples are only a 'little flock' in a hostile world, they must not be discouraged, but must look with confidence to the Father who has chosen them for his kingdom. They are like bridesmaids waiting for the bridegroom (Jesus) to return from the wedding feast. Since they do not know the exact hour of his return, they must maintain a constant watchfulness and faithfulness.

Though these words have relevance for all Christians, Luke was thinking especially of leaders in the community, and calling them to a selfless service of their Lord and of their fellow Christians.



"Few things bring us happiness like deeply rooted daily routines. There is something about healthy routines and rituals that leads the human person to flourish."
Matthew Kelly, *Rediscover the Saints*

Children thrive and flourish on routines. Adults do, too. As we reestablish school routines for our children in our homes, let's start one of our own...By making a daily routine of prayer a priority in your life, you will see your life become more focused and anchored in what matters most...GOD. Ask Jesus and our Blessed Mother Mary to help you make it happen. A weekly hour in Adoration would be a good place to start.

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



You are invited to come to a Marian Movement of Priest Cenacle (Rosary and Message Reading - no Mass) on Monday, August 12th, at 9:00 a.m. in the Assembly Room at the Villa Maria. All are invited.



You are invited to come to a Marian Movement of Priest Cenacle Mass on Tuesday, August 13th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Church. Mass, Rosary, and Consecration



Thursday, August 15th, is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and a Holy Day of Obligation. Our Vigil Mass will be Wednesday, August 14th at 6:00 p.m. Masses on Thursday will be at 6:30 a.m.; 8:15 a.m. (school children will attend), and 6:00 p.m.



The Rectory Office will be closed on Thursday, August 15th in observance of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



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 August 26th - 30th.

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.



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Charlotte Lamar, sister of Mocky van Thiel of this parish, who passed away July 31st in Madison, MS.

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

Altar Society Members for next week

Judi Anderson, Theresa Stuart & Mark Aultman



The Flowers on the Altar are in Memory of Bobby Beugez

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY AUGUST 12

Deuteronomy 10:12-22; Matthew 17:22-27

6:30 am Mr. Carlton Latour

8:15 am The Juraszek Family

TUESDAY AUGUST 13

Deuteronomy 31:1-8; Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14

6:30 am Special Intention

8:15 am Donald and Wayne Cole

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 14

Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Matthew 18:15-20

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

8:15 am Mr. Steve Sema

1 Chron 15:3-4,15-16;16:1-2; 1 Cor 15:54b-57; Lk 11:27-28

6:00 pm Ms. Esther Marsh

THURSDAY AUGUST 15

Rev 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Luke 1:39-56

6:30 am Mr. Glenn Ryan

8:15 am Ms. Dorothy "Dot" Collins

6:00 pm Mr. Nolan Fremin

FRIDAY AUGUST 16

Joshua 24:1-13; Matthew 19:3-12

6:30 am Int. Eileen and Wes Burkhardt

8:15 am Freddie and Vera Lusk

SATURDAY AUGUST 17

Joshua 24:14-29; Matthew 19:13-15

8:15 am Mr. Manuel "Johnny" Mabanta

4:00 pm Ms. Marlyn Reaux

SUNDAY AUGUST 18

Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10; Hebrews 12:1-4; Luke 12:49-53

7:30 am Mr. Dick Porterfield

9:00 am Ms. Sylvia Marie Cronin

11:30 am The Collins Family

5:30 pm Congregation

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$11,822.52

Poor Collection.....\$ 4,437.98

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, Bob & Ruth Boney, 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, Margaret 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, David McKenna, Marie Meyers, Edna Miguez, Iva Misko, Donna Necaize, Leonard Necaize, Peggy and Edward Necaize, Chandra Nicholson, Shirley and Travis Norman, Roger Parker, Michael Punziano, Barbara Rangan, Carter James Sanders, David Seymour, Joyleen Seymour, Raymond Spicuzza, Sylvia Spratley, Nell Stanton, Ron Stump, Virginia Thompson, Ann Tootle, Dolores Trenouth, Edna Trochesset, Angela Trosclair, Larry Tucei, Ted and Clara Ursu, Ashley Vickers, Jane Walker, Thane Williams and Lou Young.

Religious Education News

Deacon Jim Gunkel 228-297-5212; dcjim@osstalphonusus.org

Janie Sema 228-217-1392; jsema@osstalphonusus.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.

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

Aug 11, 18, 25: Registration for all grades held after each Mass in the Parish Hall. Registration forms are available on our website. Please have forms filled out prior to registration. Copies of both the Birth Certificate and Baptismal Certificate will be required for each child. If you have not already done so, please bring these with you to registration. Registration fee is \$35 per family.

Aug 25: Elementary Parent Meeting, 10:15 a.m., Parish Hall.

Sept 5: RCIA sessions begin, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall Meeting Room

Sept 8: All Religious Education classes begin. See above for times.



Have you ever stopped to think that "There has to be more to life than chasing my 'to do' list." Well, there is. Join a few other people for coffee or tea, bring your questions, and discover how Jesus has a plan for each one of us individually that leads to the fullness of a life well lived. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults or RCIA is the way by which we help people discover this freedom Jesus offers us. Inquiry sessions are informal and open to Catholics (who want to learn more about their faith) as well as non-Catholics who have an interest in exploring the Catholic faith. The RCIA team will present some basic tenets of the faith, but most of the sessions will be devoted to answering your questions about faith and helping you discern whether God is calling you into full communion with the Catholic Church. Sessions will begin Thursday, September 5, 2019 and will be held weekly each Thursday night at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall Meeting Room. To register or for more information, please contact Deacon Jim at dcjim@osstalphonusus.org or by calling 297-5212.

We invite you to keep up to date with all things involving the Youth Ministry by following us on Instagram (@st.alphonusus.hsytg) and on Facebook (St. Alphonsus Youth Group).



We are in need of volunteers to help with our Life Teen (High School) and Edge (Middle School) programs for the coming school year.

If you are interested in helping with either program or for more information, please email: youth@osstalphonusus.org.



All are invited to come join us as we Pray for the Sick on Friday, August 16th at 6:00 p.m. in the Church. This will be an hour of Adoration, Rosary, Prayer and Music. Confession will be available if needed.



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 in June. (i.e. August 17th). 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 Anointing of the Sick will take place on Saturday, July 17th 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.

Pray for Vocations

ST. ALPHONSUS SCHOOL

Aug 15: Children's Mass, 8:15 a.m.

ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

Aug 14: PTO Meeting, 7:45 a.m.

Aug 15: School Pictures 8:30 a.m. / Mass 9:40 a.m.

Aug 17: Back to School Dance for Grades 9-12, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

UPCOMING BIBLE STUDIES

Upon This Rock Scripture Study's Fall 2019/Spring 2020 Bible study program will be *Matthew: The King and His Kingdom* by Ascension Press. Jeff Cavins presents the 24-week study lesson in the DVD presentation. It focuses on Jesus as the fulfillment of the promises of the Old Testament and His establishment of the Church as the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. The Bible study will begin Wednesday, September 11, 2019 and will meet each Wednesday morning through March 25, 2020 from 9:15 - 11:15 a.m. at St. Mary Parish in Murry Hall on Woolmarket Road in Biloxi. The fee is \$39 and includes the study set book and DVD presentation. Payment by August 19th will ensure that you receive your materials on September 11th. For more information or to register, call Sharon Jones at 228-591-1069.

Jeff Cavins *Story of Salvation Bible Study (Online)*: Want to learn more about the Bible? Beginning Wednesday, September 11th from 7:15 pm to 9:00 pm, you are invited to attend a 23 week online study group. Each session includes an informative, easy-to-understand and well delivered DVD presentation of 12 color-coded periods of the Bible. You will learn how to read and understand the Bible in a way that will transform your life! Even if you miss a session, you will be able to access online materials to stay current. For more information and to register, contact Wanda Freeland w2jf2@att.net OR visit ascensionpress.com to view materials.

Sacred Heart Church in D'Iberville will offer a **24 week study on the Book of Matthew** with Jeff Cavins (DVD) followed by open discussions. The study will begin Thursday, September 12th from 9:15 am - 11:15 am in the Knights of Columbus room in the Church Office building. Jeff Cavins has a way of making the Bible come alive and offers insightful knowledge that helps us understand and learn to apply God's word in our world today. Come join us for a morning that will profoundly change your understanding of the Bible and our Catholic faith. For more information and to register, contact Wanda Freeland at w2jf2@att.net All are welcomed and the coffee is always hot! Come join us!



St. Peter Catholic Church in Bassfield is selling tickets for their 24th Annual 800 Club monthly drawing for \$50 each and are available in the St. Alphonsus Rectory Office (during regular business hours). All proceeds from this fundraiser are used to help the rejuvenation and up-keep of the parish facilities of St. Peter where Fr. Chinnappa Mark is pastor. Each month, beginning September 1, 2019 and ending August 30, 2020, four tickets will be drawn, \$500 for first ticket and \$100 for remaining three, and all winners are eligible to win again as the ticket will be put back in the 'barrel'. They thank you for your support.

REFLECTION - Beatitudes of Life

Blessed are the faithful; they are like safe anchors in a world of broken moorings.

Blessed are the just: they are to society what heaven is to bread.

Blessed are the generous: they keep alive our faith in the essential goodness of people.

Blessed are the caring: they shine like beacons in a world darkened by indifference.

Blessed are the genuine: they glow like gems in a world of falseness.

Blessed are those who are not afraid of sacrifice: on the day of the harvest they will sing for joy.

And blessed are those who refuse to look back: they will be found worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven.