

Isaiah foretells that even though the family tree of Jesse (David's father) has been reduced to a mere stump, nevertheless from that stump a new shoot will spring – a true king filled with the Spirit and endowed with all the virtues of his ancestors. The new king (the Messiah) will be a champion of the poor and will restore paradisaical peace. Matthew introduces John the Baptist as the herald, foretold by Isaiah, of the long-awaited Messiah, and the one who prepared the people to receive him. Matthew sees Jesus as fulfilling the Old Testament promises. Paul also sees Jesus as the one through whom God fulfilled his promises, and at the same time the reading from Roman continues the theme of peace and harmony of the First Reading.



“...And Jesus’ words to Martha are the words he wants to speak to your heart and mine: ‘You are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed.’ The “one thing” is not found in doing more. It’s found by sitting at his feet. Catch that: Mary sat at his feet...Her gift was availability. The only requirement for a deeper friendship with God is showing up with a heart open and ready to receive.”

Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World, Joanna Weaver
In the hustle and bustle of preparing for Christmas, make time with Jesus a priority. Give Him the one thing for which He asks. Sit at His feet and give him a heart open and ready to receive. After all, He is the Reason for the Season!
“Jesus asks nothing of you except to come be with him”. --St. Teresa of Calcutta



Envelopes are in the pews for anyone wishing to make a donation to the decorating of the Church for Christmas in Honor Of or in Memory Of a loved one. When complete, envelopes may be placed in the collection basket or brought to the Rectory. **PLEASE PRINT NAMES CLEARLY ON THE ENVELOPE.** Donations will be accepted through December 15th.



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 December 16th - 20th. 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.

Mass Schedule

Penance Services

Thursday, Dec 12: St. Alphonsus, 6:30 p.m.; with ADORE
Tuesday, Dec. 17: Sacred Heart, D'Iberville, 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec 18: St. Elizabeth Seton, 6:30 p.m.
Monday, Dec 23: Our Lady of Fatima – Biloxi, 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. – Mass for families with small children
Children’s Choir
6:00 p.m. – Mass with Contemporary Christmas Music
11:00 p.m. – Midnight Mass
Traditional “Adult Choir” Christmas Music
Prelude Music 10:30 p.m., Mass at 11:00 p.m.

Christmas Day: 9:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. (English)
Spanish Mass: 2:00 p.m.

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Tuesday, December 31: 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, January 1: 9:00 a.m.; 11:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
Spanish Mass: 2:00 p.m.

Pray for Vocations

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY DECEMBER 9
Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38
6:30 am Mathilde and Fernand Latour
8:15 am Mr. Lavalley C. Watson

TUESDAY DECEMBER 10
Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14
6:30 am Mr. Glenn Ryan
8:15 am Int. Jason and Jenny Krishnan

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 11
Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30
6:30 am Mr. Edward G. Dietrick, Jr.
8:15 am Mr. Richard Siemeck

THURSDAY DECEMBER 12
Rev 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:39-47
6:30 am Int. Ms. Eileen Burkhardt
8:15 am Ms. Susan “Sue” Cone

FRIDAY DECEMBER 13
Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19
6:30 am Mr. Dick Porterfield
8:15 am Int. Holy Spirit

SATURDAY DECEMBER 14
Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13
8:15 am Mr. Glen Skelton

4:00 pm Mr. Bobby Beaugez

SUNDAY DECEMBER 15
Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11
7:30 am Mr. James Starnes, Sr.
9:00 am Ms. Alice Mae Vogt
11:30 am Congregation
5:30 pm Mr. David Munger

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$12,793.75
Poor Collection.....\$ 4,158.69
Children’s Collection.....\$ 37.50
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, Walter Bolton, Bob & Ruth Boney, Glen Bosarge, Mercedes Bosarge, Carole Bourgeois, Sybil Burchinal, Arlene Burns, Carol Lee Cantin, Vicki Carter, Pat Cronin, Breanne Dalton, Gina Dasher, Marjorie DuBois, Betty Dugan, Jackie Endt, Fr. Bernie Farrell, Loretta Foster, LaJuan Fowler, Ree Frazier, Carmen Gaethe, Sandra Grantham, Danielle Gundlach, Doris Haynes, Donnie Hebert, Margaret Hebert, Melissa James, , Otis Kaufman, John Kiernan, Harby Kreeger, Daisie Laborde, Barbara Langan, Jacob Latil, Catherine Lawrence, Erik Marcussen, Gordon Mathieu, Bob Mayer, Cheryl Megie, Bernie and Phyllis McGinley, Marie Meyers, Edna Miguez, Iva Misko, Donna Necaize, Leonard Necaize, Peggy and Edward Necaize, Chandra Nicholson, Shirley and Travis Norman, Roger Parker, Michael Punziano, Sarah Robinson, Carter James Sanders, Harold (Jimmy) Saylor, Jr., Sandy Senseney, Dale Seymour, Joyleen Seymour, Raymond Spicuzza, Sylvia Spratley, Nell Stanton, Ron Stump, Eunice Tamdah, Mary Terry, Virginia Thompson, Ann Tootle, Dolores Trenouth, Edna Trochesset, Larry Tucei, Ted and Clara Ursu, Ashley Vickers, Jane Walker, and Thane Williams.
If someone in your family is in need of prayer, please contact the parish office to have their name placed on the list. We will keep the name on for at least two months unless otherwise notified.

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

Religious Education News

Chris Molino 228-860-8884; cmolino@osstalphonus.org
Rachel Weatherford 228-327-6183; youth@osstalphonus.org
Janie Sema 228-217-1392; jsema@osstalphonus.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 - Lifeteen: Sunday 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Dec 12: RCIA, ADORE, in Church
Dec 15: Religious Education Class for all Youth Programs (times above)
Adult Study Class, 10:15 a.m.; Jesus & the Jewish Roots of Mary
Children’s Church, 11:30 a.m. Mass for 3-6 year olds
Confirmation Class, 4:00-5:15 p.m., Parish Hall Meeting Room

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



Our Parish App is a great way to help celebrate the holy season and make the liturgical season more present in your daily life. A special Advent Reflections button has been added. These helpful reflections will aid you in reflecting on the Mass readings each day as we await Christ’s coming. Also – under FORMED, you are able to sign up for daily Advent Reflections. Just scroll down until you see the ‘envelope’ and enter your email address and you will receive daily devotions, new content and feature updates, and get the FORMED Daily sent directly to your inbox. **Don’t have the App or FORMED yet?** If you have either an iPhone or Android smart phone you can download the App by texting App to phone number 88202, or by visiting myparishapp.com. To gain access to FORMED – go to the website at www.formed.org and enter our Parish Code 1f15a9 (case sensitive) on the homepage, create an account with your user name/email and password.



The Gulf Coast Messiah Chorus’ 2019 Fall performances of Handel’s Oratorio *The Messiah* will be performed this Saturday (December 7th) at 7:00 p.m. at Holy Family Catholic Church (22343 Evangeline Rd, Pass Christian); and Sunday (December 8th) at 3:00 p.m. at MS Gulf Coast Community College Auditorium (Hwy 90 Gautier). Free Admission.



You are invited to come to a Marian Movement of Priest Cenacle Mass on Monday, December 9th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Church. Mass, Rosary, and Consecration



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



The Knights of Columbus will serve breakfast on Sunday, December 15th from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. in the KC Hall for \$6.00 a plate. Breakfast will include eggs & pancakes (to order), grits, bacon, sausage, biscuits, gravy, coffee and juice.



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of: Louis King, father of Tanya (Chris) Gipson of this parish, who passed away November 30th.
Gayle Debruge, a member of our parish family, who passed away December 2nd.
We extend our sympathy to both families and promise them a remembrance in our prayers. May God grant them eternal peace.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS
Your prayers are requested for the deceased priests who have ministered in the diocese, especially those who have died around this time of year:
Reverend Msgr. Gregory Kennedy, December 1, 1986
Reverend John Joseph O’Reilly, December 5, 1989
Reverend Remigius A. Kozak, December 18, 2013
Reverend Msgr. John T. Martin, December 20, 1978

ST. ALPHONUS SCHOOL

Dec 13: Children’s Mass, 8:15 a.m. / PK3, PK4, K Christmas Program

Grandparents: The new St. Alphonus Grandparents Club invites all Grandparents and Grandfriends of our students to join our organization. Your membership will help our students receive many benefits through our financial and spiritual support as well as our loving interaction with them through school activities. Enjoy our club social functions as well. Applications are available in the School Office or contact Mary Sablich at 875-0949 or 228-348-6092 for more details.

ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

Dec 9: Band and Choir Concert, 6:00 P.M.
Dec 11: ACT Practice Session, 3:05 pm / Football Banquet, 6:00 p.m.
Dec 14: ACT, 8:00 a.m.



The Altar Society will decorate the Church for Christmas on Monday, December 23rd at 1:00 p.m. Anyone wishing to help is asked to please meet in the Church.



2020 Diocesan Directory: The Gulf Pine Catholic publishes an annual diocesan directory with detailed information about our diocese, its priests, religious, laity, parishes, schools, ministries, councils and organizations. Pre-orders will be accepted through January 2nd with delivery in February 2020. To get your copy, send a \$10 check to: Gulf Pine Catholic, 1790 Poppys Ferry Rd, Biloxi, MS 39532.



Willwoods Married Couples Retreat: January 11th – 12th
Would you like to break away with your spouse and spend quality time enriching your marriage? Then join the upcoming Married Couples Retreat at the newly renovated St Joseph Abbey’s Retreat Center in Covington, La. A Married Couples Retreat does not mean that someone is failing but rather it is a falling into the arms of our Lord. It is a weekend dedicated to giving you and your beloved time to rest and grow stronger in your faith and in your love for God and each other! To register call (504) 830-3716 or visit www.FaithandMarriage.org. A suggested donation is requested but not required. Cost should never be a reason why a couple cannot make a weekend! Scholarships are available.



On Friday, February 14, 2020, all St. Alphonus parishioners who have been married 50+ years will be honored with a sit down meal by the Knights of Columbus in the KC Hall. A binder has been placed in the back of the church and we ask that you please fill out the requested information. Please put the time you would like the dinner to take place and we will go with the majority. We would also like your information even if you are not able to come so that we will be able to recognize you.



PRIESTS FOR THE FUTURE
The Church Is Alive!
The Knights of Columbus are selling “10-Week” drawing tickets for \$10 each with all proceeds benefitting the Seminarian Education Fund.
Each week, for nine weeks, a ticket will be drawn for \$50. Even if your ticket is pulled, for each of the remaining weeks the ticket is put back in the “barrel” for the remainder of the drawings with the final drawing being for \$100, \$200 and \$500. The first ticket will be drawn February 16, 2020. Tickets may be purchased by calling Carl Brochard at 228-327-0066 or coming by the rectory office during regular business hours.

REFLECTION

The bird of hope

Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune without the words,
And never stops at all.
And sweetest in the gale is heard;
And sore must be the storm
That could abash the little bird
That kept so many warm.
I’ve heard it in the chilliest land,
And on the strangest sea; Yet, never, in extremity,
It asked a crumb of me. (Emily Dickinson)