

Isaiah uses the image of the desert, made fertile by rain, to portray the confident hope that God would restore his people, crushed by misfortune. Their most crippling disabilities – blindness, deafness and lameness – will be relieved when God sends salvation to his people. John the Baptist’s image of the Messiah was that of a stern judge who would execute a fiery judgement. But Jesus did not fit this image. Hence, John’s doubts about him. Jesus dispelled John’s doubts by showing that he was doing precisely the kind of things that had been predicted for the messianic times (by prophets such as Isaiah). Once again, Matthew sees Jesus as the one who fulfills the messianic prophecies. James is talking about the Second Coming of Jesus. He urges the kind of patience and hope farmers show in waiting for the harvest, and which the prophets of old showed as they waited for the promises to be fulfilled.



**“May each Christmas, as it comes, find us more and more like him, who at this time became a little child for our sake, more simple-minded, more humble, more holy, more affectionate, more resigned, more happy, more full of God.**

**Waiting For Christ, St. John Henry Newman**

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 this Sunday (December 15<sup>th</sup>).



**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 coming week (December 16<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>). 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

**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 16**

Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a; Matthew 21:23-27

6:30 am Ella and Simon Gilbert

8:15 am The Juraszek Family

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 17**

Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17

6:30 am Special Intention

8:15 am Vivian and Carroll Blanchard

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 18**

Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25

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

8:15 am Mr. John Magiros

**THURSDAY DECEMBER 19**

Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25

6:30 am In Thanksgiving

8:15 am Ms. Rosalie Trebotich

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 20**

Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38

6:30 am Mr. Roy Davis

8:15 am Ms. Lois Coquet

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 21**

Song of Songs 2:8-14; Luke 1:39-45

8:15 am Mr. Eddie Hire

4:00 pm Ms. Jane Walker

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 22**

Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

7:30 am Congregation

9:00 am Ms. Sylvia Marie Cronin

11:30 am The Collins Family

5:30 pm Ms. Ligaya Camagong

## WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$10,817.39

Immaculate Conception Collection.....\$ 3,433.00

SVDP Pharmacy Collection.....\$ 2,765.70

Children’s Collection.....\$ 61.25

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 Necaie, Leonard Necaie, Peggy and Edward Necaie, 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, 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**  
**Judi Anderson, Theresa Stuart & Mark Aultman**

## 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 – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Sunday, 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.**

**6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Edge: Sunday, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade - Lifteen: Sunday 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**Dec 19:** No RCIA

**Dec 22:** No Religious Education Class / Adult Study Class  
No Children’s Church

**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 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 December. (i.e. December 21<sup>st</sup>). 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, December 21<sup>st</sup> 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.



**The Altar Society will decorate the Church for Christmas** on Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>**

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](http://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.



**Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Joseph Marinovich, II,** brother-in-law of Wilfred (Sharon) Barry of this parish, who passed away December 6<sup>th</sup>.

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

## ST. ALPHONUS SCHOOL

**Dec 17:** Grades 1-6 Christmas Program in Church, 6:00 p.m.

**Dec 20:** Children’s Mass, 8:15 a.m. / 12:00 Early Dismissal / No Aftercare

**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 18-20:** Semester Exams



**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.



**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](http://myparishapp.com). To gain access to FORMED – go to the website at [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org) and enter our Parish Code flf5a9 (case sensitive) on the homepage, create an account with your user name/email and password.



**Parishioner Registration:** When planning a baptism, marriage, or to obtain subsidized tuition rates for our Catholic Schools, you must be able to demonstrate that you are a practicing Catholic and that you do attend Mass.

It is the Church, not just this parish, which insists that signs of good faith commitment be present on these occasions. Using envelopes helps maintain a record of contributions and Mass attendance. Parish registration forms may be obtained in the Vestibule of the Church or at the Parish Office during regular office hours.



**Radio Maria - a Catholic Radio right here in Ocean Springs!** You can listen to it on your radio at FM 88.1; livestream it on your computer at [radiomaria.us](http://radiomaria.us); download the free app onto your smartphone; or by calling 1-712-832-8065. There are many good programs from inspirational Catholic speakers, programs about history, prayer, care giving, finding a job, Marian apparitions, conversion stories, and many others! Plus there is great music. Let us be grateful to God for this sublime gift to us, for His mercies endure forever! Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer. (Romans 12:12)

### REFLECTION

#### A reed in the wind

John the Baptist was no reed swaying in the wind. A reed swaying in the wind is a symbol of those who are easily influenced, who go along with whatever is popular, and who have no convictions of their own. But the humble reed can teach us something. The fact that it is light means that it is at the mercy of every wind that blows. But it has great strength too. The greatest storm cannot uproot it. Even when giant oaks come crashing down, the slender reed still stands secure. Lord, teach us that there is strength in weakness and suppleness, and give us the wisdom to know when to bend and when to stand firm.