

All three readings deal with the identity of ‘the One who was to come’. The identity of the child was vaguely glimpsed in the Old Testament. Isaiah talked about the coming of a very special child (First Reading). But there is no reason to believe that he knew just how special that child would be. No prophecy is fully understood until after its fulfillment. Matthew shows that Isaiah’s prophecy was fulfilled in Jesus, and in a far greater way that the prophet could ever have imagined. The New Testament reveals the true identity of this special Child (Jesus). The Second Reading and the Gospel make it clear that Jesus was the son of David. This was so because Joseph, his legal father, was descended from the line of David. But he is more than that. He is also the Son of God.



The St. Alphonsus Bookstore and Gift Shop is closed for the Christmas holidays and will reopen on Tuesday, January 7th at 9:00 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.

Mass Schedule

Penance Service

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.

Office Closed: December 24, 25, 26, 27, 31, January 1
Office Open: January 2, 2020 from 8:00 a.m. – 12 Noon
January 3, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. – 12 Noon



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, Ron & Mary Jo Hoogstra, Melissa James, , Otis Kaufman, John Kiernan, Harby Kreeger, Daisie Laborde, Barbara Langan, Jacob Latil, Catherine Lawrence, Erik Marcussen, Gordon Mathieu, Cheryl Megie, Bernie and Phyllis McGinley, Marie Meyers, Edna Miguez, Iva Misko, Donna Necaise, Leonard Necaise, Peggy and Edward Necaise, 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
Kay Brochard, Sue Garlotte and Norma Williams

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	DECEMBER 23
Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66	
6:30 am	Mr. Malcolm Latour, Jr.
8:15 am	Int. Mr. Robert Holt Foushee
TUESDAY	DECEMBER 24
2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:67-79	
6:30 am	Ms. Mary Edna King
8:15 am	Mr. Randy Trahan
Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25	
4:00 pm	Ms. Amy Bourg
6:00 pm	Mr. Matthew Peresich Lyons
Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14	
11:00 pm	Special Intention
WEDNESDAY	DECEMBER 25
Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18	
9:00 am	Ms. Alice Hire
5:30 pm	Int. Robert and Jane Sema Family
THURSDAY	DECEMBER 26
Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22	
6:30 am	Mr. Adelbert (Debbie) Catchot
8:15 am	Mr. Terry Miller
FRIDAY	DECEMBER 27
1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a & 2-8	
6:30 am	Ms. Joan Ryan
8:15 am	Ms. Edna Avena
SATURDAY	DECEMBER 28
1 John 1:5—2:2; Matthew 2:13-18	
8:15 am	Mr. & Mrs. Moreira Ms. Isabel Coello Mr. Trinidad Constnza
4:00 pm	Ms. Esther Marsh
SUNDAY	DECEMBER 29
Sirach 3:2-6,12-14; Colossians 3:12-21; Matt 2:13-15,19-23	
7:30 am	Ms. Jean Pierre
9:00 am	Congregation
11:30 am	Ms. Melba Eaton
5:30 pm	Albert Sr. and Eunice Misko

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$10,482.73
Children’s Collection.....\$ 44.50
May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of: Roger “Tupie” Necaise, brother of Edward (Peggy) Necaise of this parish, who passed away December 8th.
Bob Mayer, father of Debbie (Scott) Weatherford of this parish, who passed away December 18th.
We extend our sympathy to the family and promise them a remembrance in our prayers. May God grant him eternal peace.



A lovely flower arrangement on the altar area of the church on weekends is a beautiful way to honor a deceased loved one or to celebrate a special occasion.
If you would like to donate for a specific weekend, please call the Rectory at 875-5419. Donation amount is \$35.00.

Religious Education News

Chris Molino 228-860-8884; cmolino@osstalphonusus.org
Rachel Weatherford 228-327-6183; youth@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 - Lifeteen: Sunday 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Dec 26: No RCIA
Dec 29: 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.alphonusus.hsyg) and on Facebook (St. Alphonsus 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. These helpful reflections will aid you in reflecting on the Mass readings each day as we await Christ’s coming. Also – under FORMED, you will be able to stream hundreds of hours of inspiring movies and video series, read bestselling Catholic eBooks, and listen to audio presentations from the Church’s most compelling speakers and is available from virtually any device...anytime, anywhere.
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 flf5a9 (case sensitive) on the homepage, create an account with your user name/email and password.



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. Alphonsus 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.



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.

ST. ALPHONUS SCHOOL

Dec 23 – Jan 3: Christmas Holidays
Grandparents: The new St. Alphonsus 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 23 – Jan 3: Christmas Holidays



The Annual Irish Priest Reunion Mass will be held on Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church (720 East Beach Blvd, Long Beach). Presiding over the Mass will be Bishop Larry Duffy, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Clogher and the Very Rev. John McEvoy of Carlow College. Mass will be followed by a large reception, and Fr. Cuddy O’Connell invites everyone to attend.



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.



St. Alphonsus is happy to provide contribution envelopes for our Parishioners who would like to use them. If you are not receiving envelopes and would like to, or if you are receiving envelopes and would like to discontinue receiving them, please email (stals@cablone.net) or call the office (875-5419) and we will make the necessary adjustments to the mailing list.



Hospital Stays: Because of privacy concerns, it is difficult to find out who is in the hospital. Many parishioners can be there for an entire week (or more), yet their names never appear on the “Clergy List” that we get to see. This seems to happen especially to those who are admitted through the Emergency Room. Consequently we are reminding you that if you or a family member is going to be in the hospital and wish to be visited or receive communion while there, please call the Rectory at your earliest convenience.



A Special Parish Prayer Book is located on the south side of the Vestibule of the Church (front entrance). Anyone desiring prayers for any intention is requested to enter their intention on the Parish Prayer Book and they will be remembered in the Prayers of the Faithful at all weekend Masses.

Websites that may be good for people with problems, addictions, etc:
www.americanaddictioncenters.org; www.narcononcolorado.org;
www.al-anon.org; www.catholicdivorce.com;
www.cancersupportcommunity.org; www.rachelsvineyard.org;
www.catholicmenconquerporn.com; www.yourbrainonporn.com

REFLECTION

Christmas expectations

As Christmas approaches, people’s hopes soar. However, the substance of these hopes is often dictated by commercial interests. Little wonder, then, that when the sun goes down on Christmas Day, many feel disappointed. Those who pin their hopes on what the merchants promise will always be disappointed, not because they promise too little, but too much – of the wrong thing. What our hearts long for is a taste of what the angels announced to the shepherds: ‘Behold, I bring news of a great joy; today a savior has been born to you.’ This joy is the real hope of Christmas. Let us open our hearts to receive it.