

The chief function of the season of Advent is to prepare us for Christmas. However, to understand Christmas we have to start at the beginning – with the history of salvation. God’s plan of salvation is centered in Christ and realized through him. Advent looks back at the promise of his first coming, when that plan was announced. And it looks forward to his second coming, when that plan will reach its complete fulfillment. And, of course, it celebrates his actual coming in time. The First Readings of the Advent Sundays (from Isaiah) are concerned with the Messiah and the messianic times. Isaiah kept the hopes of the people alive in very dark times. In today’s reading we have the theme of universal peace and salvation. The Gospel and the Second Reading deal with the Lord’s second coming, which the first Christians believed was imminent. Both readings convey a sense of urgency through phrases such as “Wake up”, “Stay awake”, “Stand ready”.

**Listen for Jesus speaking to your heart before the Blessed Sacrament:**  
*Dear One, thank you so much for visiting Me, I love you so and your companionship gives Me great joy! Come to Me...and I will refresh you! I will hold you and all of your loved ones and intentions in My Heart and Mind. Your loved ones are My loved ones, too. I will bring them to Our Father and send the Holy Spirit to strengthen you, and them.*

*All that concerns you concerns me. Tell Me everything! I am a good listener and have all the time in the world. Let Me fill you with love, joy and peace. Remember, I am always here for you. Please visit Me often and come again soon. I love you!*  
 Jesus knows all about you—where you are and what you need... Be still, be quiet, and know HE IS GOD!  
 “Jesus asks nothing of you except to come be with him”. --St. Teresa of Calcutta

**Training sessions for Extra Ordinary Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors and Altar Servers** will be held this coming week. Training will be held on Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> for Altar Servers, Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> for Extra Ordinary Eucharistic Ministers and Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> for Lectors beginning at 6:30 p.m. each day.

**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.

## 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.

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY DECEMBER 2

Isaiah 4:2-6; Matthew 8:5-11  
 6:30 am Dr. Malcolm Latour  
 8:15 am Ms. Lucille “Lou” Young

TUESDAY DECEMBER 3

Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24  
 6:30 am Mr. David Saunders  
 8:15 am Mr. Ron Fournier

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 4

Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37  
 6:30 am Ms. Margaret G. Dietrick  
 8:15 am Mr. Tom Brochard

THURSDAY DECEMBER 5

Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27  
 6:30 am Mr. William “Bill” Gryder, IV  
 8:15 am Mr. and Mrs. Neely Powers

FRIDAY DECEMBER 6

Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31  
 6:30 am Khay Do Ngoan Nguyen Family  
 8:15 am Mr. Charles Beaugez

SATURDAY DECEMBER 7

Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8  
 8:15 am Mr. George Pitalo, Sr.  
 Mr. Gregory Hebert  
 Russ, Carley and Brittany Jordan

4:00 pm Ms. Marlyn Reaux

SUNDAY DECEMBER 8

Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12  
 7:30 am Ms. Robin Beaugez Polk  
 9:00 am Mr. George Wavra  
 11:30 am Ms. Monica Goretski  
 Mr. Anthony Goretski  
 5:30 pm Congregation

## WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$9,253.25  
 Catholic Campaign for Human Dev. Collection....\$1,040.75  
 Children’s Collection.....\$ 43.00  
 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, Daise Laborde, Barbara Langan, Jacob Latil, Catherine Lawrence, Erik Marcussen, Gordon Mathieu, Bob Mayer, Cheryl Megie, Seymour 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, Jane Walker, and Thane Williams.

**Altar Society Members for next week**  
**Mary Ann Bounds, Linda Denehie & Lois Ravera**

## 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 – 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 - Lifeteen: Sunday 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**Dec 5:** RCIA, Mary our Mother, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall Meeting Room  
 Why do Catholics have a devotion to Mary? What role does she play in our lives? Come and see as we cover The Blessed Virgin Mary.

**Dec 8:** 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.alphonusus.hsyg) and on Facebook (St. Alphonsus Youth Group).**

**A Baptism Class** will be held in the Rectory on Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Any parent with a child for baptism must attend this class prior to scheduling a baptism date. Godparents are also encouraged to attend. Godparents who are not registered/active members of St. Alphonsus must present a letter from their pastor giving them permission to be a godparent. A godparent must be a Catholic in good standing with the church, receiving the sacraments on a regular basis. Class lasts a little over one hour. Baptisms are scheduled each month on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday immediately after the 9:00 a.m. Mass. Please call the Rectory with information on the child prior to attending the class. When parents have their children baptized they indicate their desire to have their children grow up and live as children of God and brothers or sisters of Jesus, and be guided by the Holy Spirit. Through birth a child is given to parents; through baptism a child is given to God. At baptism the parents acknowledge that their parenthood is a participation in God’s parenthood that all fatherhood and motherhood comes from God. Thus baptism frees the parents from a sense of owning their children. Children belong to God and are given to the parents to love and care for in God’s name. It is the parents’ vocation to welcome their children as honored guests in their home and bring them to the physical, emotional, and spiritual freedom that enables them to leave the home and become parents themselves. Baptism reminds parents of this vocation and sets children on the path of freedom.

**Our Parish App is a great way to help celebrate the holy season and make the liturgical season more present in your daily life.** Under the ‘Prayers button’ on your app, the “Blessing of an Advent Wreath” prayer has been added. A special Advent Reflections button will be added soon. 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](http://www.formed.org) and enter our Parish Code f1f5a9 (case sensitive) on the homepage, create an account with your user name/email and password.

### PRAYER / REFLECTION

**Encircling prayer**  
 In today’s second reading, we heard St. Paul say: “Let your armor be the Lord.”. Hence, we might pray as follows:  
 Circle me, Lord. Keep protection near; keep danger afar.  
 Circle me, Lord. Keep hope within; keep doubt without.  
 Circle me, Lord. Keep light near; keep darkness afar.  
 Circle me, Lord. Keep peace within; keep strife without.  
 Circle me, Lord. Keep love within; keep hate without. Amen.

**Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of: Fr. Antone Lynch**, a retired priest with the Diocese of Biloxi, who passed away November 21<sup>st</sup>. **Beatrice Mestayer**, aunt of Matthew (Kellie) Mestayer of this parish, who passed away November 21<sup>st</sup>. We extend our sympathy to both families and promise them a remembrance in our prayers. May God grant them eternal peace.

## ST. ALPHONUS SCHOOL

**Dec 2:** Christmas Tree Lighting  
**Dec 6:** Children’s Mass, 8:15 a.m. / Jesse Tree, after Mass  
**Dec 7:** Breakfast with Santa, Parish Hall, 8:00 – 11:00 a.m.

**Grandparents Join Us!!** 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

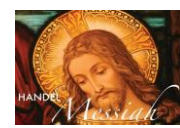
**Dec 4:** ACT Practice Session  
**Dec 5:** Mass, 9:40 a.m.  
**Dec 8:** Science Honor Society Blood Drive 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
 Junior High Cheer Banquet, 5:00 p.m.



**The next Ladies’ Cursillo** will be held December 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> at Dedeaux. Anyone interested in attending or requesting information should call Nancy Letort at 228-383-4824.



**St. Alphonsus School would like to invite you to Breakfast with Santa** on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Come out and enjoy pancakes and sausage while visiting with Santa. Don’t forget your camera! Tickets may be purchased at the door.



**The Gulf Coast Messiah Chorus’ 2019 Fall performances of Handel’s Oratorio The Messiah** will be performed on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Nativity BVM Cathedral in Biloxi; Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Holy Family Catholic Church (22343 Evangeline Rd, Pass Christian); and Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at MS Gulf Coast Community College Auditorium (Hwy 90 Gautier). Free Admission and Open to the Public. There will be a silent auction on Friday and Saturday nights.



**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 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.



**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.



**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. Tickets may be purchased by calling Carl Brochard at 228-327-0066 or coming by the rectory office during regular business hours.