

**The story of Jesus' baptism is an epiphany story: Jesus is revealed as the Son of God.** This is Matthew's main emphasis. John's baptism was a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins' (Mk 1:4). The fact that Jesus should undergo such a baptism was a source of embarrassment for the early Christians. Why did he undergo it? To give an example of humility, to raise John's baptism to a new level, to show solidarity with sinners, and to inaugurate his mission to sinners – a mission which is beautifully described by Isaiah (First Reading). Matthew also probably wanted to show what baptism means for Christians.



**The Altar Society will take down the Christmas decorations in the Church** on Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup> after the 8:15 a.m. Mass. Anyone wishing to help is asked to please meet in the Church around 9:00 a.m.



**You are invited to come to a Marian Movement of Priest Cenacle Mass** on Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the Church. Mass, Rosary, and Consecration



**An Altar Society Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall Meeting Room.**



**All are invited to come join us as we Pray for the Sick** on Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup> 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 January. (i.e. January 18<sup>th</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!



**The St. Alphonsus Knights of Columbus will hold their annual local KC Free Throw Contest** on Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup> in the St. Alphonsus Gym. All children between the ages of 9 and 14 are invited to participate. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. with shoot off starting at 9:00 a.m.



**There will be an estate sale at the home of Bishop Roger Morin** (2037 Englewood Drive, Biloxi 39532) on Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00 a.m. and on Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> beginning at 11:30 a.m. All proceeds will go to the Retired Priests and Bishops Fund.



**An Anointing of the Sick** will take place on Saturday, January 18<sup>th</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.



**Tax Statements for yearly contributions are available upon request.** These statements only reflect contributions made through the regular church collections and the special second collections if they have been made in an identifiable fashion (church envelope or loose check). Any loose cash contribution cannot be credited. Contributions to the Catholic Sharing Appeal will be acknowledged from the Diocese.

Please email or call the rectory office if you need a tax statement (stals@cablone.net or 875-5419).

Statements will be mailed by the end of the month.

**Altar Society Members for next week**

**Judi Anderson, Theresa Stuart & Mark Aultman**

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY JANUARY 13

1 Samuel 1:1-8; Mark 1:14-20

6:30 am Marge and Al Learned

8:15 am Mr. Jeremy Brannon

TUESDAY JANUARY 14

1 Samuel 1:9-20; Mark 1:21-28

6:30 am Mr. William "Bill" Gryder, IV

8:15 am Mr. Ron Fournier

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 15

1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20; Mark 1:29-39

6:30 am Mr. Anthony "Tony" Strauss

8:15 am Ms. Lucille "Lou" Young

THURSDAY JANUARY 16

1 Samuel 4:1-11; Mark 1:40-45

6:30 am Special Intention

8:15 am Mr. & Mrs. Neely Powers

FRIDAY JANUARY 17

1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mark 2:1-12

6:30 am Ms. Robin Beaugez Polk

8:15 am Mr. George Wavra

SATURDAY JANUARY 18

1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1; Mark 2:13-17

8:15 am Int. Mr. Julian Galloway

Ms. Anita Grace White

4:00 pm Ms. Marlyn Reaux

SUNDAY JANUARY 19

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6; 1 Corinthians 1:1-3; John 1:29-34

7:30 am Dorothy and Robbin McKinnon

9:00 am Mr. James Patterson

11:30 am Ms. Gayle DeBrue

5:30 pm Congregation

## WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$12,896.54

New Year's Day Collection.....\$ 4,221.69

Children's Collection...Sunday \$56.51..New Year's \$24.00

Poor Collection.....\$ 4,625.66

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, Julian Galloway, Sandra Grantham, Danielle Gundlach, Doris Haynes, Donnie Hebert, Margaret Hebert, Ron & Mary Jo Hoogstra, Melissa James, Otis Kaufman, John Kiernan, Daisie Laborde, Barbara Langan, Jacob Latil, Catherine Lawrence, Erik Marcussen, Gordon Mathieu, Cheryl Megie, Bernie and Phyllis McGinley, Marie Meyers, Edna Miguez, Iva Misko, Shannon Moran, 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, Mary Terry, Virginia Thompson, Ann Tootle, Dolores Trenouth, Edna Trochesset, Larry Tucei, Ted and Clara Ursu, Ashley Vickers, and Thane Williams.

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

Jan 16: RCIA, Our Father Prayer, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall Meeting Room,

Jan 19: Religious Education Class for all Youth Programs (times above)

Adult Study Class, 10:15 a.m., "The Origin of the Bible"

(Human invention or Divine Intervention) by Dr. Brant Pitre

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).**



**You are invited to come to a Marian Movement of Priest Cenacle** (Rosary and Message Reading - no Mass) on Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m. in the Assembly Room at the Villa Maria. All are invited.



**Lord, Teach Me To Pray** is a prayer series based on Ignatian Spirituality.

Part 1, "Praying Christian Virtues", helps deepen prayer life, and discover what to do for dryness and obstacles in prayer. It also introduces the different methods of Ignatian prayer, meditation, contemplation and

Consciousness Examen. A small group will meet with two trained facilitators for 1 - 2 hours once a week for 12 weeks to pray and faith share.

**Part 1 for Men begins on Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 p.m. in the Parish Hall Meeting Room.** There is a \$20 cost to cover materials.

To register contact Ivan Deroche at 228-238-2771 or Deacon Jim Gunkel at 228-297-5212.



**Holy Trinity Catholic Elementary School in Bay St. Louis (PreK – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade) is now accepting APPLICATIONS FOR PRINCIPAL FOR THE**

**2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR.** Requirements include having a Master's Degree in Educational Administration/Leadership 486 Administrative Certification or Ability to Obtain Certification and be an Active Member of the Catholic Faith. Go to [www.biloxidiocese.org](http://www.biloxidiocese.org) for an application and forward with resume and license to: Dr. Rhonda Clark, Superintendent of Education, 1790 Popps Ferry Road, Biloxi, MS 39532 or [rclark@biloxidiocese.org](mailto:rclark@biloxidiocese.org).

Applications accepted through February 1, 2020.



**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

Jan 13: Report Cards / Noon Dismissal / Parent-Teacher Conferences

Jan 14: State of the School PTO Meeting, 8:00 a.m. or 6:00 p.m.

Jan 17: Children's Mass, 8:15 a.m.

## ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

Jan 13: March for Life Parent/Participant Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

Jan 15: ACT Practice Session, 3:05 p.m.

Golf, Softball, and Tennis Parent Meetings, 5:30 p.m.

Jan 16: Mass, 9:40 a.m.



**"In a world gone astray from God there is no peace, but it also lacks charity, which is true and perfect love...Nothing is more beautiful than love. Indeed, faith and hope will end when we die, whereas love, that is, charity, will last for eternity."**

**Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati**

Our world and areas of our own lives have greatly strayed from God...both lack and seek peace and love. Time spent alone in silence with Jesus in Adoration – listening to Him, talking to Him, being in His Presence – will begin to bring us back into communion with God's love and will. His peace and love will then overflow into our hearts and through us to those we know and ultimately to the world. Make a commitment in this new year of 2020 to begin again making time for God in EVERY day. HIS LOVE IS PERFECT!

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



**The Knights of Columbus will serve breakfast** on Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. in the KC Hall for \$6.00 a plate.



**Our Parish App is a great way to help make the liturgical season more present in your daily life.**

These helpful reflections will aid you in reflecting on the Mass readings each day. 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](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 f1f5a9 (case sensitive) on the homepage, create an account with your user name/email and password.



**Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of: Jo Gill,** a member of our parish family, who passed away December 28, 2019.

**Harby Kreeger,** husband of Dianne Kreeger of this parish, who passed away January 3, 2020.

We extend our sympathy to both families and promise them a remembrance in our prayers. May God grant them eternal peace.

## REFLECTION

### Baptism

Baptism was not over and done with the day we were taken to the font. We are baptized by all that happens to us in life.

We are baptized by hardship; in its turbulent waters we are purified of all that is false and useless.

We are baptized by suffering; in its murky waters we grow in humility and compassion.

We are baptized by joy; in its gurgling waters we experience the goodness of life.

We are baptized by love; in its singing waters we blossom like flowers in the sun.

Baptism is like the planting of a seed. It will take a lifetime for this seed to grow and ripen.