

The territory occupied by the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali (later known as Galilee) was the most northerly part of Israel. Because it bordered on pagan territory it would have been associated with darkness. It was the first province of Israel to be conquered by Assyria in 732 BC. Isaiah predicted future liberation for the people of that region. In his Gospel, Matthew sees Isaiah's prophecy as fulfilled in Jesus.



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@cableone.net or 875-5419).



If you have a loved one who is homebound and can no longer come to Mass or is sick and temporarily homebound – please call the Rectory with the information.



An Altar Server Training, for new and existing altar servers, is scheduled for Monday, February 3rd at 6:30 p.m. in the Church. All altar servers, and anyone wishing to become an altar server (must have already made First Holy Communion), are asked to please attend this training.



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) the week of February 10th – 14th. 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.



On Friday, February 14th, 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.



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of: Phyllis McGinley, wife of Bernie McGinley of this parish family, who passed away January 16th.

Eldon Bolton, Jr., brother of Buzzy (Laura) Bolton of this parish, who passed away January 18th. We extend our sympathy to both families and promise them a remembrance in our prayers. May God grant them eternal peace.



The Flowers on the Altar are in Memory of Louis and Rosalie Trebotich

**Altar Society Members for next week
Joan Burren and Juliana Skelton**

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	JANUARY 27
2 Samuel 5:1-7, 10; Mark 3:22-30	
6:30 am	Mathilde and Fernand Latour
8:15 am	The Butz Family
TUESDAY	JANUARY 28
2 Samuel 6:12b-15, 17-19; Mark 3:31-35	
6:30 am	Mr. Mark Melchert
8:15 am	Ms. Rosalie Trebotich
WEDNESDAY	JANUARY 29
2 Samuel 7:4-17; Mark 4:1-20	
6:30 am	Mr. Edward G. Dietrick, Sr.
8:15 am	Ms. Dorothy Tourelle
THURSDAY	JANUARY 30
2 Samuel 7:18-19, 24-29; Mark 4:21-25	
6:30 am	Ms. Theone G. Lawson
8:15 am	Mr. Chet Hemenway
FRIDAY	JANUARY 31
2 Samuel 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; Mark 4:26-34	
6:30 am	Mr. Dick Porterfield
8:15 am	The Melchert Family
SATURDAY	FEBRUARY 1
2 Samuel 12:1-7a, 10-17; Mark 4:35-41	
8:15 am	Mr. George Pitalo, Sr.
	Mr. Gregory Hebert
	Russ, Carley and Brittany Jordan
	Int. Mr. Julian Galloway
4:00 pm	Congregation
SUNDAY	FEBRUARY 2
Malachi 3:1-4; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40	
7:30 am	Mr. Carlus E. Chapman
9:00 am	Thanksgiving Masses
11:30 am	Special Intention
5:30 pm	Ms. Ligaya Camagong

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$9,935.94
Children’s Collection..... \$ 52.50
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, 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, Brenda Landrum, Barbara Langan, Jacob Latil, Catherine Lawrence, Erik Marcussen, Gordon Mathieu, Cheryl Megie, Bernie 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, Mary Terry, Virginia Thompson, Ann Tootle, Dolores Trenouth, Edna Trochesset, Larry Tucei, Ted and Clara Ursu, Ashley Vickers, Isabella Welch 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 – 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.

Jan 30: RCIA, Grace, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall Meeting Room,
Feb 2: 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).



The Fatima Promise: On December 10, 1925, Our Lady promised Sister Lucia of Fatima that she would “assist at the hour of death, with graces necessary for salvation, all those who on the first Saturdays of five consecutive months confess, receive Holy Communion, pray a Rosary and keep me company with the intention of offering me reparation.”
You are invited to join us as we begin the First Saturday Devotion on Saturday, February 1st at 7:45 a.m. (half hour before the 8:15 a.m. Mass) with Devotion, Consecration, Rosary and Benediction. Confession will also be available.



Women's GIFT will present a silent retreat, directed by Fr. Dominic Pham, based on the Spiritual Exercises of the St. Ignatius of Loyola at the William Kelly Retreat Center in Bay St. Louis the weekend of February 21st – 23rd. Openings are limited and the deadline for the payment is Friday, February 14th. For more information, contact Mildred Bolden at 228-547-0974 or email address: mil_476@yahoo.com.



Join parishioner Johnnie Bernhard in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Book Store on Sunday, March 22 at 12:30 p.m. as she signs copies of her latest novel, *Sisters of the Undertow*. National Council of the Humanities member, Adair Margo writes, "With both humor and depth, Johnnie Bernhard probes beneath the superficialities of life in *Sisters of the Undertow*, revealing an unexpected hero. I read it in one sitting and thoroughly enjoyed it." It is an excellent book to read during Lent as the story centers on the life-long relationship of two sisters and the beauty of forgiveness.



The Cursillo Movement of South MS is having a drawdown! In addition, there will be a silent auction the night of the drawdown. Tickets are \$50 each with 30 drawings of \$100 and 1 drawing of \$5,000. Your name never goes out of the drawings. Drawdown will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 18th at Sacred Heart Parish in Pascagoula. Contact Gay Camagong at (228)424-7722 to purchase your ticket(s).

PRAYER / REFLECTION

An instrument of his love

Lord, make me an instrument of your love. Where the darkness of loneliness reigns let me bring the light of friendship. Where the darkness of bitterness reigns let me bring the light of forgiveness. Where the darkness of hurt reigns let me bring the light of healing. Where the darkness of discord reigns let me bring the light of harmony. Where the darkness of sadness reigns let me bring the light of joy. Where the darkness of doubt reigns let me bring the light of faith. Where the darkness of despair reigns let me bring the light of hope. And where the darkness of hatred reigns let me bring the light of love. Amen.

ST. ALPHONUS SCHOOL

Jan 27-31: Catholic Schools Week
Jan 31: Children’s Mass, 8:15 a.m.

Grandparents, Please Join Us! The next meeting of the St. Alphonsus Grandparents Club will be on Thursday, February 6th, at 8:25 a.m. in the school cafeteria. We invite ALL Grandparents and Grandfriends of our students to come. Your membership will help our grandchildren receive many benefits through our financial and spiritual support as well as enjoying interaction with them through many school activities. For more information, contact Mary Sablich at 875-0949 or 348-6092.

ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

Jan 27-31: Catholic Schools Week
Jan 26: Junior High Girls Basketball Banquet, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Jan 29: ACT Practice Session, 3:05 p.m.
Jan 30: Mass, Junior Ring Ceremony, 9:40 a.m.



Blessing of Throats: Monday, February 3rd is the Feast of St. Blaise. The traditional blessing of throats will take place after all Masses the weekend of February 1st and 2nd.



Sacred Relics of The Saints: Treasures Of The Church: St. Alphonsus Parish presents a teaching and exposition of Sacred Relics on Friday February 7th at 6:30 pm. in the Parish Hall. Father Carlos Martins of the Companions of the Cross will be here with a very special

Vatican collection of over 150 relics, some as old as 2000 years. Among the treasures will be relics of St. Maria Goretti, St. Therese of Lisieux (the “Little Flower”), St. Francis of Assisi, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Thomas Aquinas, and St. Faustina Kowalska. In addition, there will also be present a portion of the veil of Our Lady, as well as one of the largest remaining pieces of the True Cross in the world. Those in attendance will be able to examine and venerate each relic. In the Church’s history many miracles and healings have been worked in the presence of relics, and many have been healed through this ministry. Please do not miss this opportunity. You are encouraged to bring your articles of devotion (such as rosaries, holy cards, etc.) and pictures of ill friends/family members which you will be able to touch to the reliquaries as a means of intercession.



St Alphonsus Knights of Columbus and the Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive on Sunday, March 1st. One Pint Saves Up to Three Lives! Donate blood and stay for the Pancake Breakfast. Sign up early to skip the lines at Redcrossblood.org. Contact Blake Elkins with any questions at StAlBloodDrive@gmail.com



“...But how do we get ourselves into the presence of Jesus? One way is to start your prayer time with worship. Set aside everything else that’s on your mind and focus on how wonderful Jesus is. Praise him for his power and mercy and love. Thank him for everything he has done...Fix your heart on all that is good and holy and beautiful about Jesus and you will drive out the fear, doubt, and anxiety that can keep you from knowing his presence...”

Taken from the January 17, 2020 mediation in The Word Among Us So often we enter our time before The Blessed Sacrament with numerous requests and concerns for Jesus. Jesus understands and knows what’s on our hearts. However, if we can start with acknowledging who He is and His Sovereignty over everything, our hearts and minds can begin to grow in peace and confidence in knowing He is present—truly with us and Lord of ALL things.

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

Pray for Vocations