

**WHY THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOU THINK** - THERE is one more sacred day that should not be lost in avalanche of the “winter holidays.” February 2 – the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord – deserves more attention than just being the absolute final day for the Christmas decorations. We celebrate the blessing of the candles for the year – Candlemas – on February 2, as well as the American secular news/meteorological event of Groundhog Day. Groundhog Day is what is foremost in many minds when February 2 is mentioned.

After celebrating the Nativity of our Lord, with its splendor in both the Church and the popular culture, it would be easy for one’s mind to drift and overlook the significance of the fortieth day after the Lord’s birth. But we should look beyond our hustling to banish the decorations to the attic, the obsession over the days remaining in this strenuous winter, and endless chatter about Super Bowl Sunday. Because the events set in motion with the Annunciation and Nativity continue with the significant presentation of our Lord in the Temple.

Joseph and Mary’s presentation of the baby was no pro forma event. The words of the prophet Malachi are fulfilled in the poor parents presenting their firstborn son along with their humble sacrifice of two turtledoves. *(Now I am sending my messenger— he will prepare the way before me; And the lord whom you seek will come suddenly to his temple; The messenger of the covenant whom you desire—see, he is coming! says the LORD of hosts.* Malachi 3:1) The mother of God – the Theotokos, in no need of ritual purification – and her husband did not set themselves above the Law.

In their conformation to the Law is God’s entrance into his Temple. Simeon and Anna, pious and elderly, having spent their lives in prayer and waiting in the Temple for the Messiah, have their “moment.” There is the glorious Nunc Dimittis of Simeon.

With Candlemas we celebrate the coming of the Light of the World. But a shadow also passes; a shadow foretelling the suffering that will precede the victory of the Light over darkness. Simeon not only proclaimed that he had seen his salvation, but also told the Mother of our Lord that her share would include a sorrow pierced heart. In *Redemptoris Mater*, Pope John Paul II wrote that Mary heard in Simeon’s words something akin to a second Annunciation, “for they tell her of the actual historical situation in which the Son is to accomplish his mission, namely, in misunderstanding and sorrow. While this announcement on the one hand confirms her faith in the accomplishment of the divine promises of salvation, on the other hand it also reveals to her that she will have to live her obedience of faith in suffering, at the side of the suffering Savior, and that her motherhood will be mysterious and sorrowful.”

This is where it starts to get ‘real’, i.e. moving past the holly, tinsel, and jolly carols. The tiny child snuggled in the crèche a few weeks ago is now revealed to be a sign of contradiction. His gentle obedient mother faces a future of sorrow. Simeon asked to depart in peace. What shall we ask of the Lord as we celebrate his Presentation? – By Ellyn von Huben



**“Do you realize that Jesus is there in the tabernacle expressly for you – for you alone! He burns with the desire to come into your heart.” –St. Therese of Lisieux**

Give Him the chance. He won’t come in unless you invite Him.  
“Jesus asks nothing of you except to come be with him”. --St. Teresa of Calcutta



**Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Emily Reed**, aunt of Fr. Mike Snyder, who passed away January 23<sup>rd</sup> in Rochester, Minnesota.

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



**The Flowers on the Altar are in Memory Of The Mayfield, Burkhardt & Seymour Families**

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

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 3</b>
2 Samuel 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13; Mark 5:1-20	
6:30 am	Ella and Simon Gilbert
8:15 am	Jurich, Pitalo and Wade Family
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 4</b>
2 Samuel 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30--19:3; Mark 5:21-43	
6:30 am	Mr. Taylor Lyons
8:15 am	Mr. Dennis Belson
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 5</b>
2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17; Mark 6:1-6	
6:30 am	Int. Deacon Jim Gunkel
8:15 am	Mr. Randy Trahan
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 6</b>
1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12; Mark 6:7-13	
6:30 am	Int. Ms. Maralou Guice Richards
8:15 am	Ms. Mary Edna King
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 7</b>
Sirach 47:2-11; Mark 6:14-29	
6:30 am	Ms. Joan Ryan
8:15 am	Ms. Charlotte Lamar
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 8</b>
1 Kings 3:4-13; Mark 6:30-34	
8:15 am	Mr. Freddie Lusk
	Ms. Ramona Bousqueto
	Int. Mr. Julian Galloway
4:00 pm	Mr. Bob Mayer
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 9</b>
Isaiah 58:7-10; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Matthew 5:13-16	
7:30 am	Congregation
9:00 am	Ms. Sylvia Marie Cronin
11:30 am	Ms. Melba Eaton
5:30 pm	Eunice and Albert Misko

## WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$10,418.25  
Children’s Collection..... \$ 14.00  
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, Eileen Burkhardt, 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, Catherine Lawrence, Erik Marcussen, Gordon Mathieu, Cheryl Megie, Bernie McGinley, Marie Meyers, Edna Miguez, Iva Misko, Donna Necaïse, Leonard Necaïse, Peggy and Edward Necaïse, 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, Nell Stanton, Mary Terry, Virginia Thompson, Ann Tootle, Dolores Trenouth, Edna Trochesset, Ted and Clara Ursu, Ashley Vickers, Isabella Welch and Thane Williams.

**Pray for Vocations**

## 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.**

**Feb 6:** RCIA, Theological Virtues, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall Meeting Room  
**Feb 9:** 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. Alphonusus Youth Group).**



**An Altar Server Training, for new and existing altar servers,** is scheduled for Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



**A Baptism Class** will be held in the Rectory on Wednesday, February 5<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. Alphonusus 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.



**Sacred Relics of The Saints: Treasures Of The Church:** St. Alphonusus Parish presents a teaching and exposition of Sacred Relics on Friday February 7<sup>th</sup> 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.



**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 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<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.



**On Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, all St. Alphonusus parishioners who have been married 50+ years will be honored with a sit down meal by the Knights of Columbus in the KC Hall. Social begins at 5:00 p.m. followed by the meal at 6:00 p.m.** A binder has been placed in the back of the church and we ask that you please fill out the requested information. We would also like your information even if you are not able to come so that we will be able to recognize you.

## ST. ALPHONUS SCHOOL

**Feb 6:** Grandparents Club Meeting, 8:25 a.m., Cafeteria  
All Grandparents and Grandfriends of our students are invited 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.  
**Feb 7:** Children’s Mass, 8:15 a.m.

## ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

**Feb 5:** ACT Practice Session, 3:05 p.m.  
**Feb 6:** Mass, 9:40 a.m.  
**Feb 8:** ACT



**Communion for the Homebound**  
**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.**



**PRIESTS FOR OUR FUTURE**  
**The Church Is Alive!**  
**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.



**Retreat**  
**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 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>. Openings are limited and the deadline for the payment is Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. For more information, contact Mildred Bolden at 228-547-0974 or email address: [mil\\_476@yahoo.com](mailto:mil_476@yahoo.com).



**Spend 24 hours visiting and praying with sisters from a variety of religious communities February 28-29.** Come experience community life while asking questions about discernment and getting answers in real time. Single Catholic women ages 18-40 are encouraged to participate. For more information, contact Sister Jean Rhoads, D.C., at [sisterjean.rhoads@doc.org](mailto:sisterjean.rhoads@doc.org) or 812-963-7556. Register now online at <http://called2.be/GCGSFeb20>.



**St Alphonusus Knights of Columbus and the Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** 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](http://Redcrossblood.org). Contact Blake Elkins with any questions at [StAlBloodDrive@gmail.com](mailto:StAlBloodDrive@gmail.com)



**St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Elementary School in Picayune** (PreK-8<sup>th</sup> Grade) is now accepting applications for Principal for the 2020-21 School Year. Requirements include Master’s Degree in Educational Administration/Leadership, 486 Administrative Certification or ability to obtain certification and be an active member of the Catholic faith. Complete application at [www.biloxidiocese.org](http://www.biloxidiocese.org) and forward with resume and license to Dr. Rhonda Clark, Superintendent of Education, 1790 Poppys Ferry Road, Biloxi, 39532 or [rclark@biloxidiocese.org](mailto:rclark@biloxidiocese.org). Applications will be accepted through March 1<sup>st</sup>.



**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.