

Since God is holy, we are to be holy. We are holy when we imitate the generosity of God by not exacting vengeance, or bearing a grudge against another. In Leviticus, the commandment: "You must love your neighbor as yourself" is restricted to fellow-Israelites. But Jesus broadened it to include everyone, Gentiles as well as Jews, enemies as well as friends. Why? Because this is the way the heavenly Father acts. He shows equal love towards good and bad, not because he is indifferent to morality, but because he loves without limit.

Paul gives us a profound reason why we should respect one another: we are the Temple of God. Individually and collectively the Holy Spirit dwells in us. This is also the basis of our unity.



**A special 48-hour Lenten Adoration will be held in the Chapel EVERY Thursday from 7:00 a.m. thru Saturday at 7:00 a.m. beginning February 27<sup>th</sup>.**

**Please join in spending an hour each week with Jesus, Present in The Blessed Sacrament, during these times. Sign-up will be available after ALL Masses this weekend at the entrance of the Church. All are welcome!**

Imagine the joy on Jesus' Face and in His Heart when He sees the door open and you come in to see Him!!

Visit Jesus in the Adoration Chapel.

He is always there...day and night.

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



**The Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> for Mardi Gras.**



**Lent begins Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> with a day of Fast and Abstinence.** Four masses will be available on that day beginning with the usual morning masses at 6:30 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. The children from our elementary school will attend the 8:15 a.m. Mass. There will also be a 4:30 p.m. Hispanic Mass and an evening Mass at 6:00 p.m.



**The Knights of Columbus will sell Fried Fish Dinner Plates on Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> (Ash Wednesday) in the KC Hall.**

Dinners include fried fish, potato salad, hush puppies, green beans, and bread. Plates are \$7.00 each. Carry out begins at 2:00 p.m. and Dine In from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. (or until run out). Tea will be available for dine in only.



**Stations of the Cross** will be conducted each Monday morning immediately after the 8:15 a.m. Mass, each Friday afternoon by the school children at 2:30 p.m. (adults welcome), and Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. with the Way of the Cross followed by Mass.

All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence (abstaining from meat and meat products for those who are 14 years of age and older).

**Fasting:** Catholics 18-59 years of age who are in good health are obliged to fast and abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On all the weekdays of Lent the U.S. Bishops strongly encourage the faithful to participate in Mass and to observe a self-imposed fast. The law of fasting allows only one full meal a day, but does not prohibit taking some food in the morning and evening. Customarily, the two smaller "collations," when considered together, should not equal the main meal – and ideally should be eaten only if needed to maintain one's strength.

**Abstinence:** All Catholics 14 years of age and older are obliged to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent. In their Penance and Abstinence pastoral, the U.S. Bishops declared: "the obligation both to fast and to abstain from meat, an obligation observed under a more strict formality by our fathers in the faith, still binds on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. No Catholic Christian will lightly excuse himself from so hallowed an obligation..." They also stated: "we preserve for our dioceses the tradition of abstinence from meat on each of the Fridays of Lent, confident that no Catholic Christian will lightly hold himself excused from this penitential practice."

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY FEBRUARY 24

James 3:13-18; Mark 9:14-29

6:30 am Ms. Jene Pierre

8:15 am Special Intention - RG

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 25

James 4:1-10; Mark 9:30-37

6:30 am Mr. Carlton Latour

8:15 am Norman and Mildred Eckert

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 26

Joel 2:12-18; 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2; Matt 6:1-6, 16-18

6:30 am Mr. Edward G. Dietrick, Jr.

8:15 am Int. Mr. David Duncan

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 27

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 9:22-25

6:30 am Mr. Edgar P. Guice

8:15 am Ms. Kristan Cox Vincent

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28

Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 9:14-15

6:30 am Ms. Sally Parker

8:15 am Clark and Amy Levi

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 29

Isaiah 58:9b-14; Luke 5:27-32

8:15 am Int. Mr. Julian Galloway

Fr. Mike Kelleher

4:00 pm Ms. Edna Spell

SUNDAY MARCH 1

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

7:30 am Int. Ms. Jackie Endt

9:00 am Mr. William "Bill" Gryder, IV

11:30 am Congregation

5:30 pm Ms. Lucille "Lou" Young

## WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$9,946.30

Children's Collection.....\$ 23.00

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, Sarah Broussard, 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, Barbara Langan, Catherine Lawrence, Erik Marcussen, Gordon Mathieu, Cheryl Megie, Bernie McGinley, Marie Meyers, Edna Miguez, Iva Misko, Donna Necaie, Leonard Necaie, Peggy and Edward Necaie, Shirley and Travis Norman, 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 Ursu, Ashley Vickers, Isabella Welch and Thane Williams.



**The Flowers on the Altar are in Honor Of St. Alphonsus Parishioners**

## Religious Education News

Chris Molino 228-860-8884; [cmolino@osstalphonusus.org](mailto:cmolino@osstalphonusus.org)

Rachel Weatherford 228-327-6183; [youth@osstalphonusus.org](mailto:youth@osstalphonusus.org)

Janie Sema 228-217-1392; [jsema@osstalphonusus.org](mailto: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.

Feb 27: RCIA, Sacrament of Baptism, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall Mtg Rm

Feb 29: 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade First Reconciliation, 9:30 a.m., Church

Mar 1: Religious Education Class for all Youth Programs (times above)

Adult Study Class, 10:15 a.m. Parish Hall Meeting Room

All are welcome to attend.

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).**

## ST. ALPHONUS SCHOOL

Feb 24-25: Mardi Gras Holiday – No School

Feb 26: Children's Mass, 8:15 a.m.

Feb 28: Stations of the Cross, 2:30 p.m., Church

Feb 29: 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade First Reconciliation, 9:30 a.m., Church

St. Alphonsus School will host its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Spring Soiree-Run for the Roses on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at the Maritime Museum from 7:00 – 11:00 p.m. Tickets and sponsorships are available. For more information please contact Marie Sanderson at [pto@stal.org](mailto:pto@stal.org), [www.stal.org](http://www.stal.org) or 601-946-4529.

## ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

Feb 24-25: Mardi Gras Holiday – No School

Feb 26: Ash Wednesday Service, 2:30 pm; ACT Practice Session, 3:05 pm

Feb 28: Cheerleading Banquet, 6:00 p.m.

Mar 1: Varsity Women's Basketball Banquet, 4:00 p.m.



**St Alphonsus Knights of Columbus and the Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive next 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).



**The Sacred Heart Boys Youth Retreat** will be held March 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> at the Dedeaux Hilton. The retreat is open to all boys 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. For more information, please contact Melvin Ray, retreat director, at 228-861-5546.



**Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of: Douglas Aggregard**, cousin of Fr. Mike Snyder, who passed away February 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Patrick Gordon**, brother of Derek (Jenny) Gordon of this parish, who passed away February 13<sup>th</sup> in Michigan City, Indiana.

**Chandra Nicholson**, wife of Casey Nicholson, daughter of Kathleen Beaugez and niece of Philip and Lisa Beaugez of this parish, who passed away February 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Clara Ursu**, sister of Marian O'Connor of this parish, who passed away February 14<sup>th</sup>, in Richmond Heights, Ohio.

**Gasdis Mendoza**, a member of our parish community, who passed away February 15<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Altar Society Members for next week  
Kay Brochard, Sue Garlotte and Norma Williams**



**Join us as we Congratulate the following couples who have been or will be married 50 years or more this year. We hope you have many more years of happiness together.**

**70 years:** Edward & Peggy Necaie

**69 years:** Fred & Delia Schilling

**67 years:** Tony & Jean Petricca

**65 years:** Marion & Sarah Pitalo

**64 years:** Robert & Peggy Cox

**63 years:** Gerald & Carole Bourgeois, Charles & Janet Munger

**62 years:** Roland & Margaret Broussard, Skip & Darlene Murphy, John & Rita Porco

**60 years:** Richard & Liz Eckert, Joe & Jackie Shields, Edward & June Williams, Gene & Charlotte Williams

**59 years:** Mike & Virginia Mitchell

**58 years:** Carl & Mary Brochard, Billy & Mary Cruthirds, Allen & Barbara Kruger, Raymond & Doris Michel, Mark & Anne Toups

**57 years:** Ralph & Faye Balius, Raymond & Jeannine Dionne, Charles & Alice Goff, Gene & Charlotte Williams

**56 years:** William & Carolyn Anderson, Vito & Joyce Canizaro, Pete & Sandra Halat

**55 years:** Ralph & Robin Allen, Michael & Lucy Catchot, Sonny & Lucy Selman, Barry & Patricia Zuber

**54 years:** Bill & Ann Kortman, John & Barbara Langan

**53 years:** Mick & Sharon Barthes, John & Helen DeGeorge, Mike & Linda Staley

**52 years:** Barney & Gail Banks, Ron & Mary Haaf, Jesse & Mary Alice Kanode, Rich & Sue Mihal, Dennis & Betty Richardson

**51 years:** Robert & Ruth Boney, Leonard & Anne Tarrant

**50 years:** Wilfred & Sharon Barry, Bob & Sue Manley, Ken & Sharon Papania

**72 years:** (Bill) & Evelyn Hosey

**71 years:** (Leo) & Betty Noble

**69 years:** (Maurice) & Jeannine Michaud

**67 years:** John & (Armella) Mangin

**65 years:** (Hunter) & Sondra Grantham, Raymond & (Mary) Wronko

**64 years:** (Malcomb) & Nelda Latour

**63 years:** (George) & Olivia Slitam

**61 years:** (Ken) & Pat Reiling

**59 years:** Bernie & (Phillis) McGinley, (Richard) & Loretta Siemeck

**58 years:** (Ron) & Barbara Fournier, (Anthony) & Beryll Goretzki

**54 years:** (David) & Ana Luther

**51 years:** (Harby) & Dianne Kreeger, (Deacon Greg) & Margaret Miller (Bill) & Pam Rogers



**A Parish Pot Luck Celebration** is scheduled for Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the KC Hall. All parishioners are invited and encouraged to attend. Bring your favorite dish to share: homemade or picked up!

Questions? Call Beth McMackin at 228-324-4188.



**Congratulations to Glenn Williams, Sr.** - He was the first winner of the Knights of Columbus 10-Week drawing which was pulled last Sunday by Maura Culbertson.

### REFLECTION

#### Turning enemies into friends

When Abraham Lincoln was running for president of the United States there was a man called Stanton, who never lost an opportunity to vilify him. Yet when Lincoln won the election he gave Stanton a post in his cabinet. Why? Because he considered him the best man for the job. And Lincoln was proved right. Stanton gave him loyal service. Asked why he didn't destroy his enemies, Lincoln replied, "Do I not destroy my enemies when I make them my friends?"