

The Emmaus story is a sophisticated eucharistic catechesis: a 'liturgy of the Word' is followed by a 'liturgy of the Eucharist'. The expression 'breaking of bread' is a technical term for the Eucharist. Luke deliberately uses eucharistic language: Jesus *took* bread, *blessed*, *broke*, *gave* it to them.

By the time Luke wrote his Gospel half a century had gone by since the Lord's death and resurrection. So his readers might look back with envy at the people who were fortunate enough to have seen the risen Lord with their own eyes. But in this story Luke makes the point that those who were in that enviable position did not truly know Jesus until the Scriptures were expounded and the bread was broken.

The Christians of Luke's time had those same means of recognizing the Lord – the Scriptures and the breaking of the bread. And so have Christians ever since, for the Scriptures and the Eucharist are the essential components of our Sunday service. In the matter of encountering Jesus with faith, a past generation is no more privileged than the present one.

Congratulations to the final winners of the Knights of Columbus 10-Week Drawing: \$100 – August Taconi, pulled by Castin Mehon; \$200 – Peggy Closson, pulled by Arbon Harris; and \$500 – Carolyn Castleman, pulled by Tina Evans. Thanks to all who supported this fundraiser. They were able to give \$2,200 to the Seminarian Education Fund.

Save the Date: We hope to have Catholic Kids Camp June 15-19, 2020. This year's theme is "Cathletics? Training to be Champions for Christ" the overall goal of this sports themed week-long program is to engage kids into the LIFE OF CHRIST with teachings from God's Word on the Commandments, the Beatitudes and the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. This will be for children in Kindergarten through the 5th grades.

2020 Catholic Sharing Appeal: Please remember to support the Catholic Sharing Appeal. This program supports the ministries of our Church and provides for many individuals in need each year. Every gift, regardless of size, is vital to the success of the Appeal. Please make all checks payable to the Catholic Sharing Appeal and mail directly to the Diocese. Our parish CSA goal for this year is \$59,603. We thank those who have already responded to help the less fortunate in our community.

Radio Maria - a Catholic Radio right here in Ocean Springs! You can listen to it on your radio at FM 88.1; livestream it on your computer at radiomaria.us; download the free app onto your smartphone; or by calling 1-712-832-8065. There are many good programs from inspirational Catholic speakers, programs about history, prayer, care giving, finding a job, Marian apparitions, conversion stories, and many others! Plus there is great music. Let us be grateful to God for this sublime gift to us, for His mercies endure forever! Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer. (Romans 12:12)

REFLECTION 1

Jesus: life's companion

All through life's day, you walk with us, Lord. But often we don't recognize you, for we are blinded by work and worry, doubt, confusion and fear, and so you remain a stranger to us. Before the day's end we will ask many questions, experience many sorrows and disappointments. And then, suddenly, whether we are young, middle-aged, or old, we will find that night is approaching. In that moment we pray, that, like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, our eyes will be opened, and that we will recognize you. And you will not vanish from our sight, but stay with us to guide us to the Father's house.

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$6,030.30
 Poor Collection..... \$ 825.70
 May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY APRIL 27
 Acts 6:8-15; John 6:22-29
 Private Mass Simon and Barbara Latour
 Private Mass Ms. Leona Emily Mihal

TUESDAY APRIL 28
 Acts 7:51—8:1a; John 6:30-35
 Private Mass Ms. Ann Doyle
 Private Mass Mr. Leo Noble

WEDNESDAY APRIL 29
 Acts 8:1b-8; John 6:35-40
 Private Mass Mr. Edward G. Dietrick, Sr.
 Private Mass Int. Mr. Manuel Severino

THURSDAY APRIL 30
 Acts 8:26-40; John 6:44-51
 Private Mass Int. Barbara and Talley Pollard
 Private Mass Ms. Mary Lynn Necaise

FRIDAY MAY 1
 Acts 9:1-20; John 6:52-59
 Private Mass Special Intention
 Private Mass Mr. & Mrs. Neely Powers

SATURDAY MAY 2
 Acts 9:31-42; John 6:60-69
 Private Mass Mr. James Herren
 Private Mass Mr. George Pitalo, Sr.
 Private Mass Mr. Gregory Hebert
 Private Mass Russ, Carley and Brittany Jordan

SUNDAY MAY 3
 Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Peter 2:20b-25; John 10:1-10
 Private Mass Mr. Lee Wilson
 Private Mass Ms. Sylvia Marie Cronin
 Private Mass Mr. Andrew Justin Striegel
 Private Mass Congregation

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, Fred Dale, 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 Necaise, Leonard Necaise, Peggy and Edward Necaise, 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.

Pray for Vocations

****School Subsidy Policy****

Registration for the 2020/2021 School Year Going on Now

St. Alphonsus Finance Committee, in conjunction with the Parish Staff, wishes to reiterate the established policy concerning subsidy of our young people at St. Alphonsus Elementary School or St. Patrick High School.

In order for students to receive subsidized tuition at St. Alphonsus Elementary School or St. Patrick High School, the following must be followed:

1. The Family must be registered in St. Alphonsus Parish
2. Contribute to the support of the parish through the regular use of the envelope system or some other agreed upon service.
3. The family MUST attend weekend Mass with the Parish Family at St. Alphonsus.



Parishioner Registration: When planning a baptism, marriage, or to obtain subsidized tuition rates for our Catholic Schools, you must be able to demonstrate that you are a practicing Catholic and that you do attend Mass.

It is the Church, not just this parish, which insists that signs of good faith commitment be present on these occasions. Using envelopes helps maintain a record of contributions and Mass attendance. Parish registration forms may be obtained on the Parish Website, in the Vestibule of the Church or at the Parish Office during regular office hours.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

What does it take for our eyes to be opened? Every day, a man laboriously walks down Main Street of town. With great difficulty but graceful determination, he places one foot in front of the other, uses a crudely made staff for support, and walks. His pace is slow, but he walks. What does he hope to see? Where does he want to go? What does he find? We all walk through life. The type of "walking" life requires is not always physical but is most assuredly emotional and spiritual. We walk, we look, we encounter, and we seek. How we do these things and what we actually find is determined by what we carry and what we allow ourselves to discover along the way.

If walking is too challenging for us, we may choose to isolate and stay alone. If we are afraid to walk, we may become overly dependent on others providing for us and abandon the journey. We can walk and pay attention only to what is in front of our feet and never notice the immensity of what is happening around us. The road is never the same twice. The journey is always different. What kinds of things do you notice as you walk through life? It seems that the disciples of the Road to Emmaus missed a lot at first. We do as well.

We are called to walk with purpose, to listen, and to notice things that may not at first be apparent. We have to allow the One who has a special claim on our soul to enlighten, instruct, and inspire us. The incarnate mystery of God is pulsating in and through all of creation, where the presence of the Word who became flesh can be discovered. He has been with us all along. How could we have missed Him? Our journey brings us back to the breaking of the bread, and something begins to stir within us. We begin to understand, and things look differently. Bread, body, wine, and blood bring us to see that everyone and everything is a "Eucharistic" encounter. We become what we eat and we see what we eat. We continue to walk. Our eyes are now opened, and we recognize Him. Our hearts burn. Stay with us. Please stay with us.

REFLECTION 2

How to recognize the Lord

If you wish to have life, do what the disciples did. They offered him hospitality. The Lord looked set on continuing his journey but they detained him. At the end of their journey they said to him: 'Stay with us, for the day is far spent.' The Lord revealed himself in the breaking of bread. Hospitality restored to them, what lack of faith had taken away. So, if you wish to recognize the Savior, take in the stranger. Seek the Lord in the sharing of bread. (St. Augustine.)



Please show your support for your parish by also supporting our advertisers. We wouldn't be able to bring you our bulletin every week without them, and right now they need your help more than ever. Please encourage and remind others to show their support and shop local during these hard times!

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A Note from The Lord Is My Help:

Dear St. Alphonsus Church, On behalf of *The Lord Is My Help* employees, volunteers, patrons, and board members, we thank you for your monetary donations and ongoing support. We appreciate your generosity as our ministry operates almost entirely through the contributions of caring individuals, churches, businesses, and organizations. Your contributions are especially significant as we continue our food services for the needy during the COVID-19 crisis. The *Feed the Need* fund raiser, which provides much needed funds to our ministry, had to be postponed from April to sometime this fall because of the virus. Faithful employees and volunteers working in our kitchen and pantry are providing hot lunches and groceries Monday through Friday to those who are needing assistance during this very difficult period. Number of meals served is averaging 4,215 per month at a cost of \$2.73 per meal, with 66% of these meals being delivered by volunteer drivers to homes of elderly, ill, and/or disabled individuals. The other 34% are served to people who are receiving take-out meals at our facility. Average number of households receiving assistance from our food pantry is 243 per month, representing an average of 607 persons. Donated food is always welcome and will be used for the hot meals when possible. Our pantry is stocked by generous donations of non-perishable food items. Canned meats are in high demand and especially needed. Contact us with any questions you might have about *The Lord Is My Help* at 872-2331. —Mary Bayne, Board Secretary.

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