

**LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the week**

Do you understand the true spiritual meaning of hope? Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness. It is found when we place our trust in Christ's promises and rely not on our own strength, but on the help of the Holy Spirit. Hope, when seen in this way, doesn't set its sights purely on the things of this world but on the promises of God to come. Hope always is linked with faith and love. Often our hope can become too self-focused and something that is only about me and things that matter to me. Christ's resurrection reminds us that it is not ultimately for this purpose. What is the reason for your hope? Our Easter season provides the opportunity for us to again assess whether it is the kingdom of heaven and life eternal or something else.



**Congratulations Deacon Jim Gunkel and Deacon Jesus Arellano on your fourth year anniversary (May 21<sup>st</sup>) as Permanent Deacons. Thank you for your service to St. Alphonsus.**

**St. Alphonsus Parish Family:** Bishop Kihneman has consulted with health care professionals and the Priest Council on the opening of Churches for Public Mass. He has decided to allow local parishes to open next weekend (May 23/24) with the correct safety measures: 1. 6 feet social distance (families, couples, etc may sit together); 2. Must wear a mask; 3. The use of Sanitizers will be available; 4. No one will be turned away - All overflow of people will be diverted to the Parish Hall (the Mass will be streamed by WIFI); 5. If you are ill, vulnerable, have the virus, or just do not feel comfortable getting out yet - please stay home and give us a call and we will bring Holy Communion to you. Remember - Bishop Kihneman has dispensed us from the obligation of attending Mass. 6. Be patient as we work out the difficulties in reopening for public mass.

**Our Parish App is one 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.

**Thank You St. Alphonsus Parishioners:** Your generosity and spirit of kindness has shined through once again! Our recent request for travel size toiletry items to donate to The Lord Is My Help generated a wonderful response. The parish, in conjunction with St. Alphonsus School, were able to assemble more than 75 gallon size bags of personal toiletries. Thank you for your generous support of The Lord Is My Help.

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**  
Your prayers are requested for the deceased priests who have ministered in the diocese, especially those who have died around this time of year:  
Reverend Msgr. Patrick J. Carey, May 1, 1979  
Reverend Msgr. Patrick K. Bambrick, May 1, 2002  
Reverend John T. O'Brien, May 18, 2009  
Reverend Dominic Phan, May 28, 2019

**Pray for Vocations**

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>MAY 18</b>
Acts 16:11-15; John 15:26—16:4a	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Mollie Davidson
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Littie J. Dewitt
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>MAY 19</b>
Acts 16:22-34; John 16:5-11	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. John Tracy
8:15 a.m.	Clark and Amy Levi
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>MAY 20</b>
Acts 17:15, 22—18:1; John 16:12-15	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Edward G. Dietrick, Jr.
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Jane Wilson
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>MAY 21</b>
Acts 18:1-8; John 16:16-20	
6:30 a.m.	Int. Deacon Jim Gunkel
8:15 a.m.	Int. Deacon Jesus Arellano
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>MAY 22</b>
Acts 18:9-18; John 16:20-23	
6:30 a.m.	Mildred and Giles Foushee
8:15 a.m.	Mr. & Mrs. William Staehle, Sr.
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>MAY 23</b>
Acts 18:23-28; John 16:23b-28	
8:15 a.m.	Freddie and Vera Lusk
	Ms. Anita Grace White
	Ms. Kay Woods
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>MAY 24</b>
Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:17-23; Matthew 28:16-20	
7:30 a.m.	Thomas and Mary Kelley
9:00 a.m.	Ms. Clara Ursu
11:30 a.m.	Congregation
5:30 p.m.	Mr. Hunter Grantham

**WEEKLY OFFERING**

Sunday Collection.....	\$13,275.75
Online Collection.....	\$ 1,645.00
Poor Collection.....	\$ 1,888.00
Online Poor Collection.....	\$ 190.00

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, 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 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.



**Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Alice Smith,** sister of Susan Garlotte of this parish, who passed away May 8<sup>th</sup> in Lucedale. We extend our sympathy to the family and promise them a remembrance in our prayers. May God grant her eternal peace.



**Attention Graduating Seniors:** There are two \$500 Scholarships available from The Chris Nielsen Scholarship Fund to be given away by the Knights of Columbus. If interested in applying for this scholarship, please email Brian Sanderson at [bsanderson@cardinalgroupllc.com](mailto:bsanderson@cardinalgroupllc.com) to receive the requirements and registration form. **Deadline: August 15, 2020**



**A second collection will be taken up at all masses next weekend for Catholic Communications.**

**\*\*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:** We hope for many things: passing an exam, finding our true love, securing sustainable work, or surviving an illness. We often seek to have God be a part of what we hope for and desire, almost trying to convince Him that our agenda is what is ultimately important. While our particular hopes may appear to be what needs to be achieved in order for us to be happy, they really are not. Our lesser, more personal hopes can distract us from true hope.

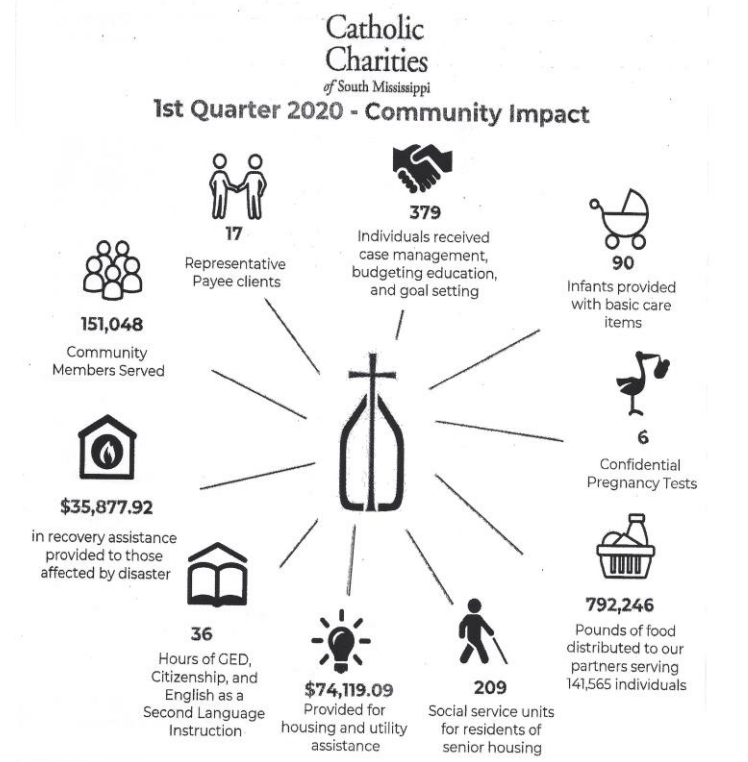
When God became a human being, a powerful message was sent: all that is authentically human is found in the divine. As the human Jesus lived and died in order to show us that he truly is the universal Christ, we have to keep our sight focused on our eternal truth and destiny and who we truly are. We have to be careful when we allow our earthly concerns to distract us. True hope is found when we place our trust in Christ's promises and don't rely on our own strength. True hope focuses on striving toward the fulfillment of God's promises and not simply on achieving what we think we need in this life. Hope always travels with two friends - faith and love. In this trio of virtues, we find the very presence of God born in every human being. These are God's greatest gifts, and they lead us to the fullness of His presence.

As with faith and love, we cannot see hope with just our human eyes. We don't carry this virtue within us to use solely for our own personal agenda. Hope is not something that simply comes with the human package. As with faith and love, hope is a gift that is given to us to draw us closer to our eternal truth. Faith, hope, and love are signs that there is something far greater going on in us and something greater to persevere in obtaining. The true divine gift of hope is what will endure any hardship we encounter, especially those that will come from authentically living the Gospel. With all that is happening in our lives, in our church, and in our world, what is the reason for our hope? Ask God for the fortitude to see His eternal gift as the reason we get up in the morning and do the things we do.



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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**Bethesda Free Clinic is currently serving patients' needs via a telemedicine system.** Anyone needing prescription refills or other basic needs can call the Clinic at 228-818-9191. If no one is available, you may leave your name and number and someone will return your call as soon as possible.