

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

When making decisions, we often struggle with what voice to follow. We acknowledge the presence of God, the existence of the Trinity, the priority of the Gospel, and the virtues and values they embody. Yet, even with all of that truth, knowledge, and tradition behind us, we think we know better. When confronted with a decision, we easily dismiss what we know we ought and need to do and entertain responses that stem from lesser desires and wants. We eventually may come around and realize that what God asks us to do is what we need to do, even if it wasn't our original intention. God accepts our return to Him with joy. What becomes dishonest is deceiving ourselves, God, and others by originally saying yes to what we know we need (and are asked to do) and willfully doing something else. That is blatant hypocrisy. ©LPi

SCRIPTURE NOTE

The parable of the two sons was addressed to the chief priests and elders of the people. Its purpose was to defend Jesus' invitation of sinners and outcasts to the Kingdom, in the face of the sneers of the religious establishment. The parable outraged the religious people. The first son represents sinners. Like him they originally chose to go their own way but then repented and took God's way, and so gained entry into the Kingdom. The second son represents the chief priests and elders. Like him they promised to work for God but failed to do so, and so have excluded themselves from the Kingdom. Repentance is a necessary disposition for entry into the Kingdom. The theme of sin and repentance is also dealt with in the First Reading. The parable also echoes a favorite theme of Matthew: the split in the religious person between saying and doing. Hence, its relevance for 'religious' people in every age.



You are invited to join us for the First Friday Devotion & Benediction on Friday, October 2nd beginning at 7:45 a.m. (prior to 8:15 mass).



You are invited to join us for the First Saturday Devotion on Saturday, October 3rd 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.



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 October 12th - 16th. 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.

Altar Society Members for next week

Mary Ann Bounds, Linda Denehie and Lois Ravera



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of: Katelyn Mitchell, granddaughter of Robert & Peggy Cox of this parish, who passed away September 14th.

David Bruno, father of Mike Bruno of this parish, who passed away September 15th.

Joseph "Mr. Joe" Cacibauda, brother-in-law of Dennis (Rosemary) Van Acker of this parish, who passed away September 21st.

Walter "Buzzy" Bolton IV, husband of Laura Bolton of this parish, who passed away September 22nd.

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



**The Flowers on the Altar
are in Memory of
Grace Arnold and
Lea Eagan**

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	SEPTEMBER 28
Job 1:6-22; Luke 9:46-50	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Carlton Latour
8:15 a.m.	Mr. & Mrs. Neely Powers
TUESDAY	SEPTEMBER 29
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; John 1:47-51	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Hung Nguyen
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Rosalie Guerrero
WEDNESDAY	SEPTEMBER 30
Job 9:1-12, 14-16; Luke 9:57-62	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Edward G. Dietrick, Jr.
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Charlotte Lamar
THURSDAY	OCTOBER 1
Job 19:21-27; Luke 10:1-12	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Tommy Mallett
8:15 a.m.	Special Intention - RG
FRIDAY	OCTOBER 2
Job 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5; Matthew 18:1-5, 10	
6:30 a.m.	Int. Ms. Lynn Fulkerson
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Jackie Endt
SATURDAY	OCTOBER 3
Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17; Luke 10:17-24	
8:15 a.m.	Mr. George Pitalo, Sr. Mr. Gregory Hebert Russ, Carley & Brittany Jordan
4:00 p.m.	Ms. Paula F. Wood
SUNDAY	OCTOBER 4
Isaiah 5:1-7; Philippians 4:6-9; Matthew 21:33-43	
7:30 a.m.	Bob and Linda Mayer
9:00 a.m.	Mr. John J. Codella, III
11:30 a.m.	Ms. Nadine Sekul
5:30 p.m.	Congregation

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....	\$7,305.48
Weekly Online Collection.....	\$1,665.00
International Seamen/Trucker Collection.....	\$ 145.00
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, Bob & Ruth Boney, Glen Bosarge, Mercedes Bosarge, Carole Bourgeois, Sarah Broussard,

Ellen Brown, Sybil Burchinal, Eileen Burkhardt, Arlene Burns, Carol Lee Cantin, Vicki Carter, Nettie Cirlot, Pat Cronin, Fred Dale, Breanne Dalton, Gina Dasher, Blake Donald, Marjorie DuBois, Betty Dugan, Henry Endt, Julian Galloway, Sandra Grantham, Donnie Hebert, Margaret Hebert, Mary Jo Hoogstra, Melissa James, Otis Kaufman, John Kiernan, Daisie Laborde, Barbara Langan, Catherine Lawrence, Erik Marcussen, Gordon Mathieu, Cheryl Megie, Bernie McGinley, Edna Miguez, Iva Misko, Donna Necaie, Leonard Necaie, Peggy and Edward Necaie, Shirley and Travis Norman, Della Faye Odom, Michael Punziano, Anne Purdy, Nancy Riedinger, Jamie Sablich, Carter James Sanders, Harold (Jimmy) Saylor, Jr., Sandy Senseney, Dale Seymour, Joyleen Seymour, Nell Stanton, Mary Terry, Ann Tootle, Dolores Trenouth, Edna Trochesset, Ted 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 – 5th Grade: 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
Confirmation Class: 4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.;
6th – 8th Grade – Edge: 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
9th – 12th Grade – Lifeteen: 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Oct 1: RCIA, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., Parish Hall Meeting Room
Oct 4: Youth Religious Education Class (times above)



2020 WEDDING ANNIVERSARY RECOGNITION:

We've all adjusted our lives since the onset of COVID-19 and are doing things a lot differently than we ever did before. The Wedding Anniversary recognition is one such thing. We will not celebrate together at the Cathedral as usual, but, we definitely want to remember the special wedding anniversaries being celebrated in 2020. If you are celebrating a milestone anniversary (25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 etc), please complete the form (available in the rectory office or by printing off the parish website under Forms & Applications) and mail it in by October 23, 2020. Couples will receive a certificate signed by Bishop Kihneman, a Renewal of Vows Ceremony that can be celebrated with family or friends and a commemorative program listing all the 2020 couples. Bishop Kihneman will also offer a Mass at the Cathedral for the celebrating couples.

GOSPEL MEDITATION Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

What prompts you to make the decisions you make? When confronted with a decision, whether one that is more trivial and mundane or one that is more significant and profound, we rely on guidance. That guidance can be the result of impulse and passion or the fruit of the interior voice of conscience. Decisions made on impulse and passion can be misguided and erroneous. Decisions based on conscience, or the moral voice within, will reflect the depth and maturity of our soul work. A more contemplative soul will make more contemplative decisions. A less developed conscience will make decisions based on the individual's level of development. Conversion and a change of heart are at the core of Jesus' message precisely because of this reality. We are works in progress. For the person on fire with the Holy Spirit and centered on God, life reflects an ever-deepening awareness and heightened sense of God's presence and a greater willingness to do God's will. What is happening internally is validated by what is witnessed externally. The hypocrite is the one who says yes when they really mean no. From the start, they had no desire to do the virtuous act but wanted to outwardly appear as if they did. Where are you on the road of integrity? Honesty is all that is required. God is good with that. It is okay to struggle with our decisions and wrestle with ourselves. Consciences on the path to maturity and greater depth are not always going to know what action is immediately best. We may, at first, say no to what we know is right and, after prayerful reflection and thought, come around to doing it. Conversion happens when our no changes to yes, regardless of how sinful or out of sync we may be at the time. God is anxious to welcome us to Himself. But we cannot embrace Him unless we want to. Learning to orient our gift of free will to what is of divine origin, right, and best is a discipline we must always tweak and perfect. ©LPi



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 in the Vestibule of the Church or at the Parish Office during regular office hours.

ST. ALPHONSUS SCHOOL

Oct 1: Children's Mass for Students/Faculty, 9:15 a.m. PK3,K, 2, 3, 4
Oct 2: Children's Mass for Students/Faculty, 9:15 a.m. PK4, 1, 5, 6

St. Alphonsus Catholic School will be hosting its **Annual Night of Neon** on Friday, October 30th. To-go hamburgers will be served as well. To sign up for this year's race or to make a donation supporting the event, please visit www.stal.org/night-of-neon-2020-2/. Sponsorships are also available, including public relations benefits. To inquire about sponsorship opportunities you may email pto@stal.org.

ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

Sept 30: Cap/Gown Fitting & Invitation Presentation, 8:30 a.m.
Oct 1: Mass, 9:40 a.m.

WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

The Tradition of Genuflection

Question: Why do Catholics genuflect?

Answer: Genuflection is an act of devotion that literally means "to bend the knee." For many Catholics, it's an almost automatic gesture that we perform before entering our pew or row of seats at Mass. But, like many of the symbols and gestures of our faith tradition, genuflecting can also be an invitation for deeper reflection.

The practice of "bending the knee" is an ancient way of recognizing the presence of someone greater than we are. It has been said that the practice dates back to the time of Alexander the Great, but it became a common part of etiquette in the royal courts of the Middle Ages. From throne rooms and palaces, it was a small step to genuflecting becoming part of the devotional lives of Christians, who used this secular gesture as a way of recognizing the presence of the One who is King of Kings, especially in the Eucharist.

Today, Catholics are asked to genuflect in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament (whether in the tabernacle or exposed on the altar during eucharistic adoration). So, while it has become second nature to genuflect before entering your seat in church, we should pay attention to where the Blessed Sacrament is kept in each church or chapel that we visit, and genuflect in the direction of the tabernacle where the Blessed Sacrament is kept. In churches or chapels in which the tabernacle is in a separate space, we are invited to simply bow toward the altar.

In addition to genuflecting before the Blessed Sacrament, we are also instructed to genuflect before the cross used for veneration on Good Friday (during the solemn celebrations of the Lord's Passion) and any time a relic of the True Cross is displayed for veneration. This long-standing tradition is a way of honoring the cross as the great sign of our salvation and of showing devotion to the passion of Jesus.



"The St James ProLife Billboard Initiative wishes to express their deep gratitude to all parishioners for their prayers & financial gifts. Through your ongoing support they have been able to place 19 billboards in 6 states, resulting in 5,245,147 total weekly impressions (views)!! Please continue to keep praying for the unborn & may God bless you all. To view a short video of our progress, please go to: www.saintjameschurchms.com and click on "ProLife Initiative".

All Life Is Precious: We are all aware that 'ISIS' is a real danger to all people everywhere. They plot mass murders and kill with abandon anyone who gets in their way, beheading their captives whether they are men, women or children.

But now I ask you. Are we any better than them? In 1973, our U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion. Since then, more than 62 million babies in the womb have been brutally murdered here in the United States alone. How in the world have we ever let this atrocity continue? As the saying goes, **'evil happens when good people do nothing.'**

We are now nearing the election of a new president. I pray we vote wisely for a candidate who is really and truly pro-life in words and action and can bring this evil to an end. All life is precious!

Ruth Weber, Davenport Iowa