

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

Be watchful! Be alert! The core message of Advent cannot be more direct or simple. As those who are postured in a spirit of readiness and anticipation, we must always be attentive and vigilant. We have to be ready not only for the anticipated arrival of our Lord, but watchful and attentive to the unexpected visit as well. While we know that the Christ is coming, we also do not know the exact time. Cultivating this expectant attitude is the purpose of this season. It is easy to grow slack, inattentive, and too self-assured. We can easily deaden ourselves to the wonder and surprise of God's presence. We get so absorbed in so many other distractions that it can seem like Christ's second coming, and even Christ's coming in time are of lesser importance. When it finally dawns on us that we have wandered far away from where we need to be, and lost our attentiveness and focus, we will wonder how this all happened. We may even try to put the onus on God and blame God for a lack of involvement or presence. We are the ones, who through our own choice, put the distance in our relationship and lost touch. Now it's time to come back and perk ourselves up a bit! ©LPi

SCRIPTURE NOTE

The season of Advent prepares us for Christmas. In order to understand the message of Christmas we have to start at the beginning – with the history of salvation. The Advent liturgy relives in a microcosmic way the history of Israel, viewing it through the eyes of Christian faith. It shows that all of that history was pointing and leading towards Jesus. He was the one who fulfilled the messianic prophecies.

As for today's reading – the First is a poem (written by a returned exile) entreating God to come and save his people. It recalls God's past goodness, and candidly acknowledges the ingratitude and sinfulness of his people.

The Second Reading and the Gospel talk about the final coming of Christ, something the early Christians believed was imminent. For the faithful, the Lord's coming is not something to fear. They are urged to live in such a way as to be always ready to meet the Lord. These words are addressed to us now.



A Baptism Class will be held in the Rectory on Wednesday, December 2nd 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. Alphonsus 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 4th Sunday immediately after the 9:00 a.m. Mass. Please call the Rectory with information on the child prior to attending the class.

When parents have their children baptized they indicate their desire to have their children grow up and live as children of God and brothers or sisters of Jesus, and be guided by the Holy Spirit.

Through birth a child is given to parents; through baptism a child is given to God. At baptism the parents acknowledge that their parenthood is a participation in God's parenthood that all fatherhood and motherhood comes from God. Thus baptism frees the parents from a sense of owning their children. Children belong to God and are given to the parents to love and care for in God's name. It is the parents' vocation to welcome their children as honored guests in their home and bring them to the physical, emotional, and spiritual freedom that enables them to leave the home and become parents themselves. Baptism reminds parents of this vocation and sets children on the path of freedom.



You are invited to join us for the First Friday Devotion & Benediction on Friday, December 4th beginning at 7:45 a.m. (prior to 8:15 mass).



You are invited to join us for the First Saturday Devotion on Saturday, December 5th 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.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	NOVEMBER 30
Romans 10:9-18; Matthew 4:18-22	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Dan Wronko
8:15 a.m.	Poor Souls
TUESDAY	DECEMBER 1
Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24	
6:30 a.m.	Simon and Barbara Latour
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Annie Jane Morgan
WEDNESDAY	DECEMBER 2
Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Nolan Fremin
8:15 a.m.	Int. Ms. Della Faye Odom
THURSDAY	DECEMBER 3
Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Mary Bishop
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Ron Fournier
FRIDAY	DECEMBER 4
Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31	
6:30 a.m.	Int. Sarah and Charles Traylor
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Joicelyn Mayfield
SATURDAY	DECEMBER 5
Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8	
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Turner Straight, Sr.
	Mr. George Pitalo, Sr.
	Mr. Gregory Hebert
	Russ, Carley and Brittany Jordan
4:00 p.m.	Ms. Alice D. Hire
SUNDAY	DECEMBER 6
Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8	
7:30 a.m.	Congregation
9:00 a.m.	Mr. Walter "Buzzy" Bolton, IV
11:30 a.m.	Mr. George Wavra
5:30 p.m.	Mr. Joseph Balius

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....	\$6,222.50
Weekly Online Collection.....	\$1,225.00
Catholic Campaign for Human Dev Collection.....	\$ 250.00
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, 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, Ashley Jensen, Otis Kaufman, John Kiernan, Daisie Laborde, Barbara Langan, Catherine Lawrence, Albert Gregory Mansfield, Erik Marcussen, Gordon Mathieu, Cheryl Megie, Bernie McGinley, Edna Miguez, Iva Misko, Donna Necaize, Leonard Necaize, Edward Necaize, Shirley and Travis Norman, Della Faye Odom, Michael Punziano, Anne Purdy, Nancy Riedinger, Carter James Sanders, Harold (Jimmy) Saylor, Jr., Sandy Senseney, Dale Seymour, Joyleen Seymour, Nell Stanton, Warren Strayham, Eunice Tamdah, Mary Terry, Ann Tootle, Dianne Tootle, Dolores Trenouth, Edna Trochesset, Ted Ursu, Ashley Vickers, Isabella Welch, Harry Williams, Janette Williams and Thane Williams.

Religious Education News

Chris Molino 228-860-8884; cmolino@osstalphonsus.org
Rachel Weatherford 228-327-6183; youth@osstalphonsus.org
Janie Sema 228-217-1392; jsema@osstalphonsus.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.

Dec 3: RCIA, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., Parish Hall Meeting Room
Dec 6: Youth Religious Education Class (times above)



Come visit the Bookstore and Gift Shop for your Advent needs: Advent Wreaths, Candles, Nativity sets, decorative Christmas articles for the home and religious Christmas gifts for your family and friends.

The Bookstore and Gift Shop is open on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. and after all weekend Masses. They are now set up to take credit cards.



Parishioners of St. Alphonsus invite you to join them in praying a public rosary on Saturday, December 5th at 11:00 a.m. at the Villa Maria on Washington Avenue.



Tuesday, December 8th, is the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and a Holy Day of Obligation. Our Vigil Mass will be Monday, December 7th at 6:00 p.m. Masses on Tuesday will be at 6:30 a.m.; 8:15 a.m., 12:00 Noon, and 6:00 p.m.



The Rectory Office will be closed on Tuesday, December 8th in observance of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



We are now taking donations for the decorating of the Church for Christmas in Honor Of or in Memory Of a loved one. Donations will be accepted through December 14th and may be placed in the collection basket or brought to the Rectory. Please print names clearly.

The Altar Society will decorate the Church for Christmas on Wednesday, December 23rd after the 8:15 a.m. Mass. Anyone wishing to help is asked to please meet in the Church.



You are invited to join us each Thursday in the Chapel for the Gethsemane Hour of Adoration and Devotional Prayer to the Precious Blood of Jesus from 11:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m.



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of: Ray Fournier, brother of Carolyn (William) Anderson of this parish, who passed away November 15th.

Betty Jean Nutt, sister of Berryl Goretski of this parish, who passed away November 20th in Montgomery, Alabama.

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

REFLECTION

Advent: a time of hope

It is said that while there is life there is hope. This has an even deeper meaning in reverse: while there is hope there is life. Hope is strength. Hope sheds light into despairing hearts. It inspires the will to live. It is the doctor's most powerful ally. It is a shield against defeat and failure. It revives ideals and renews dreams. As long as there is hope, no situation is impossible. Advent summons us to wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. In the final analysis, he is our hope.

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

ST. ALPHONSUS SCHOOL

Dec 3: Children's Mass, 9:15 a.m., PK3, K, 2, 3, 4

Dec 4: Children's Mass, 9:15 a.m., PK4, 1, 5, 6

Dec 5: Breakfast with Santa (Crawfish House, downtown O.S.)

ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

Dec 2: Band & Choir Concert, 6 pm/Junior High Football Banquet, 6 pm

Dec 3: Sacrament of Reconciliation, 1:00 p.m.



Advent – A new Church Year: How about a new year's resolution? Give one hour of your time a month to help the Altar Society, male or female. No special talent – just a desire to HELP. Call Rose Skelton at 228-697-2892 for more information or to sign up.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve: 2:00 p.m.; 4:00 p.m.; 6:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

We are anticipating large crowds at the 2:00, 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. Masses. Due to the limited seating, only families with prior reservations will be seated in the Church at these Masses. All overflow will be directed to the Parish Hall. Reservations will be based on the order in which they are received. Please call the Parish Office during regular business hours to give the time and names of those who will be attending.

Christmas Day: 9:00 a.m.; 11:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

**Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments
In the Unexpected**

"What could happen next?" How many times have you asked yourself that question in the past year? Though we most often use that expression when things don't seem to be going our way, this year it has been an expression of the constant changes to our world which the COVID-19 pandemic has wrought. But we might use the same expression to explain our feelings of being overwhelmed by blessings and good things, when the stars seem to align just right.

No matter what, we can say with certainty that tomorrow will not go exactly as we envisioned. Our lives are influenced by so many factors and the world around us is increasingly complex. Rather than be surprised by the unexpected, maybe we should expect the unexpected.

Living in this manner causes us to cherish more deeply the gifts we have been given. It helps us to live in the present and become mindful of those around us. Our relationships deepen. Our sense of responsibility builds. Our stewardship way of life finds new meaning and purpose.

This Advent will not be the same experience as last Advent. It remains to be seen what the coming days and weeks have in store for each of us.

However, no matter what happens, Jesus Christ is there to welcome us to the unexpected. He will celebrate with us in joy and he will even feel our pain. You can count on the unexpected, but you can also count on Him to be there with you. He is now and forever, Emmanuel, "God with us." He is the expected in all things unexpected. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

What can you do with the Parish App?

See upcoming events
View the bulletin
Listen to an audio of the Rosary
Read the daily Scripture Readings
And much more...

Download our parish app at myparishapp.com
Or text App to 88202