

SCRIPTURE NOTE

In the First Reading, the writer (a post-exilic prophet) declares that he has been sent by God to usher in the age of salvation for Jerusalem and all God's people. Jesus used this prophecy to announce the program of his own ministry.

The subject of the Gospel is the same as that of last Sunday: the witness of John the Baptist to Jesus. John summons all to faith in Jesus. He declares that he himself is not the light, and tells the people that unbeknownst to them the light (Jesus) is already present among them.

In the Second Reading Paul takes a very practical line, telling the Thessalonians how they should live as they await the second coming of Christ.



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 this Monday, December 14th and may be placed in the collection basket or brought to the Rectory. Please print names clearly.



Our Advent Penance Service will be held on Thursday, December 17th at 7:00 p.m. in the Church. Please make the reception of the Sacrament part of your spiritual preparation for Christmas.



You are invited to come to a Marian Movement of Priest Cenacle Mass on Friday, December 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the Church. Mass, Rosary, and Consecration



OUR LADY OF SORROWS: You are invited to come and join us for the 8:15 Mass followed by the recitation of the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows (a rosary of repentance) on the third Saturday of each month. (i.e. December 19th). The purpose of our coming together is threefold: 1) To pray for all victims of sexual abuse 2) To pray, in reparation for all the vile sins committed against the Body of Christ, and 3) To pray for the graces of repentance, healing, conversion and salvation of ALL SOULS!



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.

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 (4:00 p.m. Mass is full). 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.

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. Gregory Kennedy, December 1, 1986
 Reverend John Joseph O'Reilly, December 5, 1989
 Reverend Remigius A. Kozak, December 18, 2013
 Reverend Msgr. John T. Martin, December 20, 1978

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	DECEMBER 14
Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a; Matthew 21:23-27	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. RJ Domingue
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Eddie Hire
TUESDAY	DECEMBER 15
Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Matthew 21:28-32	
6:30 a.m.	Int. Jason Carroll Family
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Chandra Nicholson
WEDNESDAY	DECEMBER 16
Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18, 21b-25; Luke 7:18b-23	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Edward G. Dietrick, Jr.
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Maria Theodore
THURSDAY	DECEMBER 17
Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17	
6:30 a.m.	Int. John Carroll Family
8:15 a.m.	Int. Dr. Michael Finan
FRIDAY	DECEMBER 18
Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25	
6:30 a.m.	Int. Margaret and Wolfgang Traylor
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Katherine Walker Hanning
SATURDAY	DECEMBER 19
Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25	
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Micala Hicks Siler
	Mr. Joseph Green
4:00 p.m.	Ms. Susie Jurich
SUNDAY	DECEMBER 20
2 Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38	
7:30 a.m.	Mr. Bobby Beaugez
9:00 a.m.	Mr. William "Bill" Gryder, IV
11:30 a.m.	Congregation
5:30 p.m.	Mr. Billy Joe Odom



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 Necaïse, Leonard Necaïse, Edward Necaïse, 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, Janette Williams and Thane Williams.

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$13,708.63
 Weekly/Monthly Online Collection.....\$ 5,305.00
 Poor Collection.....\$ 4,562.00
 May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support

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 17: RCIA, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., Parish Hall Meeting Room
Dec 20: No Youth Religious Education Class



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.



Retirement Fund for Religious – December 19-20: In good times and bad, senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have served our Church and world. Today, they pray for a world that is hurting. Yet hundreds of religious communities do not have enough retirement savings and struggle to provide for aging members. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious collection helps provide medications, nursing care, and more.



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: Roland Trebotich – brother of Kay Brochard of this parish, who passed away December 7th. We extend our sympathy to the family and promise them a remembrance in our prayers. May God grant him eternal peace.

REFLECTION

Joy and pleasure

There is a world of difference between joy and pleasure. Pleasure can be planned. Joy can't be planned; it comes unexpectedly, and is all the sweeter for that. Pleasure comes from saying 'yes' to ourselves. Joy comes from saying 'no' to ourselves. Pleasure is like a flare in the night: it brightens things up for a while, but when it's over, we feel darker and emptier than ever. Joy, on the other hand, is like a bright fire in the hearth; even when it dies down, it leaves a warm glow behind it.



DONATIONS NEEDED! Financial assistance is being sought for three families in need within our community who are struggling due to age or disability. St. Alphonsus seeks to help repair damages sustained to their homes during the past hurricane season. Please consider donating any amount to this cause. Cash and checks written to St. Alphonsus will be gratefully accepted. We also seek the help of any parishioner who has carpentry or home repair skills. Please call Ruth McPhearson at 228.324.3449 if you can assist.

Altar Society Members for next week
Judi Anderson, Theresa Stuart, Mark Aultman

ST. ALPHONSUS SCHOOL

Dec 16: Children's Mass, 9:15 a.m.
Dec 17: Children's Mass, 9:15 a.m.
Dec 18: 12:00 Noon Dismissal, No Aftercare

ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

Dec 15: Cross Country Banquet, 5:30 p.m.
Dec 16-18: Semester Exams



A Special Parish Prayer Book is located on the south side of the Vestibule of the Church (front entrance). Anyone desiring prayers for any intention is requested to enter their intention on the Parish Prayer Book and they will be remembered in the Prayers of the Faithful at all weekend Masses.



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 1-631-359-8743. 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)



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!



If you appreciate the ease of online banking and bill pay, you will be happy to know that you can easily offer a regular tithe with support to the Church through Direct Debit through our bank, Hancock Whitney (forms may be printed off on our website under "Forms and Applications" or by calling the Rectory Office) or by making one-time or recurring gifts directly on our parish website by clicking the "Online Donation" box. Stop worrying about weekly envelopes – you can turn your tithe into an automatic gift that gives when and how often you would like. Have questions? Call the Rectory Office during regular business hours and we will be happy to help you in any way.



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.

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

Pray for Vocations