

SCRIPTURE NOTE

Now that David was king of a united country, with Jerusalem as the capital, he set about building a house (temple) for the Lord. (First Reading). But the Lord pre-empted David's plan. Instead it is the Lord who will build a dynasty for David, a dynasty that will last forever. When Jerusalem was destroyed in 587 BC it seemed that the promise would not be fulfilled. Still, the hope remained that a Messiah would come from the house of David. The expectation was fulfilled when Gabriel announced to Mary that she was to be the mother of the Redeemer, who, through Joseph, would be of the line of David. Gabriel's words echo the words of God's promise to David. In the Second Reading Paul says that the promises made in Old Testament times have been fulfilled in the person and life of Jesus.



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.

Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve: 2:00 p.m.; 4:00 p.m.; 6:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.
Due to limited seating in the Church, the 2:00, 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. Masse are full. Only families with prior reservations will be seated in the Church at these Masses. All overflow will be directed to the Parish Hall.
Christmas Day: 9:00 a.m.; 11:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
Spanish Mass: 2:00 p.m.
Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God:
Thursday, December 31: 5:00 p.m.
Friday, January 1: 9:00 a.m.; 11:00 a.m.; 5:30 p.m.
Spanish Mass: 2:00 p.m.

Office Closed: December 22, 23, 24, 25, 31, January 1
Office Open: December 29-30 from 8:30 a.m. – 12 Noon



The Bookstore and Gift Shop will be open this weekend (December 19/20) after each of the Masses. They are now set up to take credit cards. They will be closed December 22nd through January 3rd.



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of: William Boney – son of Bob and Ruth Boney of this parish, who passed away December 15th.
We extend our sympathy to the family and promise him a remembrance in our prayers. May God grant him eternal peace.

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**

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$8,655.51
Weekly Online Collection.....\$1,920.00
Immaculate Conception Collection.....\$1,328.00
St. Vincent de Paul Pharmacy Collection.....\$1,520.00
May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY DECEMBER 21
Son of Songs 2:8-14; Luke 1:39-45
6:30 a.m. Ms. Mollie Davidson
8:15 a.m. Ms. Janet Green

TUESDAY DECEMBER 22
1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56
6:30 a.m. Mr. Eugene Straight
8:15 a.m. Mr. John Bonk

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 23
Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66
6:30 a.m. Mr. Edward G. Dietrick, Sr.
8:15 a.m. Mr. Peter Medina

THURSDAY DECEMBER 24
2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:67-79
6:30 a.m. Special Intention
8:15 a.m. Mr. & Mrs. Neely Powers

Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25
2:00 p.m. Ms. Ligaya Camagong
4:00 p.m. Mr. Jeffrey Dees
6:00 p.m. Mr. Matthew Peresich Lyons
11:00 p.m. Ms. Mary Murphy

FRIDAY DECEMBER 25
Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18
9:00 a.m. Int. James A. Foushee
11:30 a.m. Ms. Kathleen Shirer
5:30 p.m. Mr. Andrew Justin Striegel

SATURDAY DECEMBER 26
Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22
8:15 a.m. Mr. Adelbert Catchot

4:00 p.m. Congregation

SUNDAY DECEMBER 27
Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Luke 22:22-40
7:30 a.m. Mr. Dick Porterfield
9:00 a.m. Holy Souls in Purgatory
11:30 a.m. Mr. Maurice Michaud
5:30 p.m. Special Intention - RG



Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends: Rita Allen, Beckett Bassenger, 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, Janette Williams and Thane Williams.

Pray for Vocations

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 24: No RCIA
Dec 27: No Youth Religious Education Class

BIBLE TIMELINE



Jeff Cavins The Bible Timeline:
Easy to understand Bible study by Jeff Cavins and Ascension Press beginning online Thursday January 7th at 6:30 pm.

Guaranteed to see the Bible like never before, better understand Mass and why be Catholic. Can't make it but want to know more? Attend as many as you can or register to receive recordings. To register or for more information, please contact Wanda Freeland at: wanda.biblestudies@gmail.com



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.



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.



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.

REFLECTION

Lonely at Christmas

You sometimes hear people say, "I always find Christmas Day a lonely day." I think what they are really saying is: "I always feel lonely on Christmas day." Loneliness is caused chiefly by two things: absence and emptiness. Let us spare a thought, a prayer, and maybe a visit for someone who will spend Christmas alone. And if while spending Christmas in the midst of others, we still feel lonely, let us not be alarmed. Our hearts are always longing for something more, or rather, for Someone else. In every human heart there is an empty chamber waiting for a guest. That guest is God.

Altar Society Members for next week
Sue Garlotte and Norma Williams

ST. ALPHONSUS SCHOOL
ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

Dec 21 - Jan 4: No School – Christmas Holidays

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE
ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH
ANNUAL REPORT

It is with pleasure that at least once each year the Society of Saint Vincent DePaul reports to our Parishioners our income and the assistance we provide to the less fortunate of our community. We do this so that you may know the good that your financial support brings to our neighbors. Thanks to your generosity, Saint Vincent DePaul provided \$43,359 in essential temporary assistance to families in our local community. Our assistance was in the form of utility bill payments, rent payments, and other essential expenses, as reflected below:

Power:	\$ 12,267
Rent:	\$ 16,876
Water:	\$ 2,227
Gas:	\$ 794
St Vincent DePaul Pharmacy	\$ 2,500
Christmas Gift Cards for Children (pre-teens)	\$ 2,500
3 College Scholarships for under-privileged	\$ 3,000
1 St. Alphonsus School Scholarship	\$ 1,000
Miscellaneous Support to the Needy (Bus Fares, Motel Room, Food, etc.)	\$ 2,195
Total Assistance Provided:	\$ 43,359
Total Receipts (Donations) for Fiscal Year:	\$ 56,267

Since March of this year we have adjusted the method of delivery of our services. We, like many, have moved to digital and phone contact only. We have limited one-on-one contact to an absolute emergency. Even with this change in method of delivery, we have continued to successfully serve those in our community who need it most. In almost 1200 in-person visits and phone calls, we provided support and services to a total of 787 persons in the last year. Our support comes from direct donations from individuals, honorariums for deceased loved ones, and a portion of the monthly collection for the poor. We would like to thank all of our parishioners who supported the very important work of St. Vincent DePaul Society this past year. If you would like to make a direct donation in support of our Godly cause, please make your check payable to the Society of St. Vincent DePaul, % St Alphonsus Catholic Church.



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.