

SCRIPTURE NOTE

The First Reading is a message of hope and consolation addressed to the exiles in Babylon. Humanly speaking, at that time there was little ground for hope. Yet the prophet assures his people that God is about to come to their aid, and will lead them back to their own land in a new exodus. Even though the actual return from exile fell far short of the glowing picture painted here, Isaiah's words point the way to the messianic era.

This leads into the Gospel. Like a new Elijah, John appears in the desert and announces the coming of the redeemer – Jesus, the Christ and Son of God (two christological titles with which Mark begins his Gospel). Both readings issue a call to repentance: 'Prepare a way for the Lord.'

In the Second Reading Peter is talking about the second coming. The reason for the Lord's delay is to give everybody an opportunity to repent.



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.



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. 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.

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$7,558.40
Weekly Online Collection.....\$1,335.00
May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	DECEMBER 7
Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Carlton Latour
8:15 a.m.	Jurich, Pitalo and Wade Family
6:00 p.m.	Mr. Terry Miller
TUESDAY	DECEMBER 8
Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38	
6:30 a.m.	Int. Dr. Randy Roth
8:15 a.m.	Intention JDA
12:00 p.m.	Int. William and Genevieve Odom
6:00 p.m.	Ms. Anna Mitchell
WEDNESDAY	DECEMBER 9
Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Glenn Ryan
8:15 a.m.	Msgt. Lavalley C. Watson
THURSDAY	DECEMBER 10
Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15	
6:30 a.m.	Ann and Cecil Wolf
8:15 a.m.	Eagan and Guerrero Family
FRIDAY	DECEMBER 11
Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19	
6:30 a.m.	Int. Ms. Marge K. Galle
8:15 a.m.	Int. Houle Family
SATURDAY	DECEMBER 12
Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:39-47	
8:15 a.m.	Int. Ms. Deborah Galle Foushee
	Int. Mr. Holt Foushee
4:00 p.m.	Mr. André Kaufman
	Albert Sr. and Eunice Misko
SUNDAY	DECEMBER 13
Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thess 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28	
7:30 a.m.	Ms. Carmen Gaethe
9:00 a.m.	Ms. Gayle DeBruge
11:30 a.m.	Ms. Marie Weidner
5:30 p.m.	Congregation



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 Necaie, Leonard Necaie, Edward Necaie, 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.

Altar Society Members for next week
Janell Alliston, Deni Helms and Pat Zuber

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 10: RCIA, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., Parish Hall Meeting Room
Dec 13: Youth Religious Education Class (times above)



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.



St. Vincent de Paul Community Pharmacy

St. Vincent de Paul Pharmacy Collection – December 12-13:

Though their operations have changed to adjust to COVID-19, the St. Vincent de Paul Community Pharmacy has continued to serve those in need each week. In the past year not a single client has gone without their medication, and they have continued to serve individuals walking in for one time help. Their volunteers have been amazing in their commitment to their Mission: To provide prescription medication and wellness education to those in need.



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: William "Neil" Gryder, V - son of Micha Gryder of this parish, who passed away November 24th. Harry Williams, a member of our parish family, who passed away November 27th.

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

REFLECTION

Lonely voices

The voice of John the Baptist was a lonely voice which many of his contemporaries ignored. There are many lonely voices in our world. Somewhere at this moment a child is crying – crying for love or maybe simply for bread. Somewhere a young person is crying – crying for a listening ear or an understanding heart. Somewhere an old person is crying – crying for a visit or a word from his/her children. There are a thousand unheard cries in our world, coming from the victims of injustice and neglect. Lord, help us to listen to these voices. Above all, help us to listen to your voice, whispering to us in the wilderness of our hearts, telling us that we are loved by you, and that we are to love one another.

Websites that may be good for people with problems, addictions, etc:
www.americanaddictioncenters.org; www.narcononcolorado.org;
www.al-anon.org; www.catholicsdivorce.com;
www.cancersupportcommunity.org; www.rachelsvineyard.org;
www.catholicmenconquerporn.com; www.yourbrainonpom.com

ST. ALPHONSUS SCHOOL

Dec 10: Children's Mass, 9:15 a.m., PK3, K, 2, 3, 4
Dec 11: Children's Mass, 9:15 a.m., PK4, 1, 5, 6

ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

Dec 7: Senior Retreat
Dec 8: Mass, 9:40 a.m.
Dec 9: Var Football Banquet, 6:30pm / Jr. High Cheer Banquet, 6:30 pm
Dec 11: Holiday Blood Drive, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Cafeteria



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