

## SCRIPTURE NOTE

Leprosy is the clear theme of the First Reading and the Gospel. In biblical times lepers were treated as pariahs. Leprosy was the ultimate uncleanness. It made the victim an outcast not only socially, but also in the religious sphere.

Jesus broke through all the religious and social taboos and reached out a loving and healing hand to the leper. In this way we see how a Christian community should deal with sinners and people society rejects. Besides, a Christian is one who has been 'cleansed' by Christ in baptism, and who ought to spread the 'good news'.

In the Gospel we have an early instance of what scholars call Mark's 'Messianic Secret,' whereby Jesus seems to hide his identity as the Messiah and Son of God until it is apparent after his death and resurrection.



The Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> for Mardi Gras.

## The Lenten Season



Lent begins Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> with a day of Fast and Abstinence. Four masses will be available on that day beginning with the usual morning masses at 6:30 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. There will also be a 4:00 p.m. Hispanic Mass and an evening Mass at 6:00 p.m.

**Fasting:** Catholics 18-59 years of age who are in good health are obliged to fast and abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On all the weekdays of Lent the U.S. Bishops strongly encourage the faithful to participate in Mass and to observe a self-imposed fast. The law of fasting allows only one full meal a day, but does not prohibit taking some food in the morning and evening. Customarily, the two smaller "collations," when considered together, should not equal the main meal – and ideally should be eaten only if needed to maintain one's strength.

**Abstinence:** All Catholics 14 years of age and older are obliged to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent, unless the Friday is a solemnity (as on March 19 in 2021).

In their Penance and Abstinence pastoral, the U.S. Bishops declared: "the obligation both to fast and to abstain from meat, an obligation observed under a more strict formality by our fathers in the faith, still binds on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. No Catholic Christian will lightly excuse himself from so hallowed an obligation..." They also stated: "we preserve for our dioceses the tradition of abstinence from meat on each of the Fridays of Lent, confident that no Catholic Christian will lightly hold himself excused from this penitential practice."

**Flowers and Music:** During Lent, flowers are not to be used to decorate the altar, with the exceptions of the fourth Sunday of Lent, and the Solemnity of St. Joseph (March 19), and the Solemnity of the Annunciation (March 25); musical instruments are only to be played in order to support the singing, with the same exceptions.

**Gloria and Creed:** The Gloria and the Creed are sung/said on the Lenten solemnities. Note that when the Creed is said during the Mass on the Annunciation that all genuflect at the words, "and by the Holy Spirit, he was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man."

**Covering Crosses and Images:** Crosses and images should not be covered for the whole of Lent. The appropriate time to cover crosses and statues in purple is before the Saturday Vigil Mass of the Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 21 (after the Saturday morning Mass of that day). Crosses remain covered until the end of the Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday; other images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil.

**Holy Water:** Removing holy water from the fonts during the season of Lent (3and replacing it with sand, etc.) is not permitted; holy water is removed after the evening Mass Holy Thursday and refilled on Holy Saturday with water blesses at the Easter Vigil.

**Funeral Masses:** The celebration of a funeral Mass is not permitted on the Sundays of Lent and Easter, Holy Thursday, and the days of the Easter Triduum. However, when necessary, a "Funeral Liturgy Outside Mass" may be used.

**St. Joseph Tables (a.k.a. St. Joseph "Altars"):** While the preference is for a St. Joseph Table/Altar to be in another building or space, if a St. Joseph Altar is placed in a church it should be located outside the sanctuary, distinct from the Altar of Sacrifice.

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 15</b>
Genesis 4:1-15, 25; Mark 8:11-13	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Carlton Latour
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Glen Skelton
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 16</b>
Genesis 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10; Mark 8:14-21	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Lucille "Lou" Young
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Elizabeth Byrd
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 17</b>
Joel 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20—6:2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Kathy Dietrick
8:15 a.m.	Special Intention
6:00 p.m.	Congregation
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 18</b>
Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 9:22-25	
6:30 a.m.	Int. Mr. Alfred Gregory Mansfield
8:15 a.m.	Elvin Asher Family
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 19</b>
Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 9:14-15	
6:30 a.m.	Int. Ms. Margaret W. Foushee
8:15 a.m.	Int. Ms. Toni Gunkel
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 20</b>
Isaiah 58:9b-14; Luke 5:27-32	
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Bonnie Rabe
	Mr. Erling Rabe, Jr.
4:00 p.m.	Mr. Wilfred "Butch" Beaugez
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 21</b>
Genesis 9:8-15; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15	
7:30 a.m.	Mr. James Starnes, Sr.
9:00 a.m.	Congregation
11:30 a.m.	Int. Liz and Dick Eckert
5:30 p.m.	Souls in Purgatory



**Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends:** Rita Allen, Beckett Bassenger, Chris Bellman, Anthony David Belson, Elaine Belson, Virginia Bigelow, Bob & Ruth Boney, Glen Bosarge, Mercedes Bosarge, Carole Bourgeois, 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, Julian Galloway, Sandra Grantham, Donnie Hebert, Margaret Hebert, Serenity Higgins, Anne Hindmarch, Mary Jo Hoogstra, Melissa James, Ashley Jensen, Otis Kaufman, John Kiernan, Daisie Laborde, Barbara Langan, Catherine Lawrence, Albert Gregory Mansfield, Erik Marcussen, Gordon Mathieu, EJ McIntyre, Cheryl Megie, Edna Miguez, Iva Misko, Lee Molbert, Donna Necaie, Leonard Necaie, Edward Necaie, Shirley and Travis Norman, Della Faye Odom, Michael Punziano, Anne Purdy, Carter James Sanders, Harold (Jimmy) Saylor, Jr., Dale Seymour, Joyleen Seymour, Nell Stanton, Eunice Tamdah, Mary Terry, Ann Tootle, Dianne Tootle, Dolores Trenouth, Edna Trochesset, Ted Ursu, Ashley Vickers, Isabella Welch, J.W., and Thane Williams.

## WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....	\$11,078.12
Weekly/Monthly Online Collection.....	\$ 5,540.00
Monthly Poor Collection.....	\$ 3,824.00

May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support



The Flowers on the Altar are in Honor of Nony Raether

## 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 – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.**  
**Confirmation Class: 4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.;**  
**6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Edge: 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**  
**9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade – Lifeteen: 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**Feb 18:** RCIA, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., Parish Hall Meeting Room  
**Feb 21:** Youth Religious Education Class (times above)



Catholic Diocese of Biloxi  
2021 Catholic Sharing Appeal

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, February 20-21 will be Commitment Weekend for this year's Catholic Sharing Appeal in which we are all invited to share in the ministry of our diocesan Church. This important campaign has a tremendous impact on ministries and programs that help us lift up the name of Jesus and the mission of the Church at our parishes and throughout our entire diocese. At this opportunity to model charity, we look no further than our diocesan patron, St. Martin de Porres, who reflected generous stewardship to benefit people in need in his community. Every year, this Appeal raises much needed funds that directly support many vital ministries throughout our diocese. These programs include Catholic Charities, Seminarian Formation, Care of our Retired Clergy, and Faith Formation that serve adults and youth, as well as those men in the Diaconate discernment and formation process. As we celebrate this "Year of the Eucharist and the Parish," we can give thanks for what Christ has done for us by sharing our gifts with those in need in our communities. I ask you to prayerfully consider making a pledge, or giving a one-time gift to the 2021 Catholic Sharing Appeal. Each and every gift has the potential to be a blessing to someone in need of hearing and knowing the Lord Jesus. Please know that no gift is too small and that your gift, combined with others, really can make a difference in someone's life in our diocese.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Most Reverend Louis F. Kihneman  
Bishop of Biloxi



An Altar Society Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall Meeting Room.



During Lent, Stations of the Cross will be conducted each Monday morning immediately after the 8:15 a.m. Mass and Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. with the Way of the Cross followed by Mass.



**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. February 20<sup>th</sup>).** 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!



You are invited to pray the rosary on the lawn at the Villa Maria on Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. This is the Feast Day of the Fatima Seers and will pray for the conversion of sinners.

## \*\*School Subsidy Policy\*\*

### Registration for the 2021/2022 School Year Going on Now

St. Alphonsus Finance Committee, in conjunction with the Parish Staff, wishes to reiterate the established policy concerning subsidy of our young people at St. Alphonsus Elementary School or St. Patrick High School. In order for students to receive subsidized tuition at St. Alphonsus Elementary School or St. Patrick High School, the following must be followed:

1. The Family must be registered in St. Alphonsus Parish
2. Contribute to the support of the parish through the regular use of the envelope system or some other agreed upon service.
3. The family MUST attend weekend Mass with the Parish Family at St. Alphonsus.

## ST. ALPHONSUS SCHOOL

**Feb 15-16:** No School – Mardi Gras Holidays  
**Feb 17:** Children's Mass, Virtual Mass in Classrooms

## ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

**Feb 15-16:** No School – Mardi Gras Holidays  
**Feb 17:** Mass, 9:40 a.m.



**The Annual National Collection for the Black and Indian Missions** will be taken up the weekend of February 20-21. All Contributions support missionaries here in the United States who are evangelizing in the Black and Indigenous Catholic Community. Churches and schools in African American and Indigenous communities depend on the annual evangelization grants to continue their programs and pastoral activities. No special envelopes will be available, so please mark your donation for the Black and Indian Missions.

**St Alphonsus Mission**  
Franciscan Friars of the Holy Spirit  
March 20-24, 2021  
Theme: Lenten Scrutinies

**Saturday, March 20:** 3pm – Confessions; 4pm - Mass

**Sunday, March 21 (Fifth Sunday of Lent)**  
7:30am, 9am, 11:30am & 5:30pm – Masses

**Monday, March 22**  
8:15am - Weekday Mass; 9am – Bible Study  
6pm – Mission Night 1 (Adoration with Healing of the Heart Meditation)  
Theme: Woman at the Well

**Tuesday, March 23**  
8:15am - Weekday Mass; 9am – Bible Study  
6pm- Mission Night 2 (Healing Mass)  
Theme: Man Born Blind

**Wednesday, March 24**  
8:15am - Weekday Mass; 9am – Bible Study  
6pm- Mission Night 3 (Empowerment Night)  
Theme: Raising of Lazarus



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of: **Richard Durkin, Sr.**, father of Camille Durkin of this parish, who passed away January 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Bobby Pisarich**, husband of Cynthia Pisarich of this parish, who passed away February 2<sup>nd</sup>. We extend our sympathy to both families and promise them a remembrance in our prayers. May God grant them eternal peace.

**Altar Society Members for next week**  
**Judi Anderson, Aline Balius, Theresa Stuart**