

SCRIPTURE NOTE

The First Reading introduces the theme of covenant. In it we are told of the first in a series of patriarchal covenants which serve as a preparation for the covenant at Sinai. That in turn prepared the way for the new covenant God formed with humanity in Christ. In the Gospel we hear of Jesus' victorious struggle against evil. Mark makes no reference to the fast of Jesus. In this first struggle Jesus is not God-forsaken as he will be at his last (15:34). Like Noah, the Christian is saved by passage through water – the waters of baptism (Second Reading). It is through our baptism that we enter into the new covenant relationship with God, and that Christ's victory over sin and death is communicated to us.



The Annual National Collection for the Black and Indian Missions will be taken up this weekend (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.



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

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	FEBRUARY 22
1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. R.J. Domingue
8:15 a.m.	Mr. George Sekul
TUESDAY	FEBRUARY 23
Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Betty Jean Nutt
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Vera Lusk
WEDNESDAY	FEBRUARY 24
Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32	
6:30 a.m.	Ann and Cecil Wolf
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Jane Wilson
THURSDAY	FEBRUARY 25
Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Matthew 7:7-12	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Nolan Fremin
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Joiceyn Mayfield
FRIDAY	FEBRUARY 26
Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26	
6:30 a.m.	Int. Ms. Maralou Guice Richards
8:15 a.m.	Int. Mr. Warren Strayham
SATURDAY	FEBRUARY 27
Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48	
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Joseph Balius
4:00 p.m.	Mr. Morris Rabe, III
SUNDAY	FEBRUARY 28
Gen 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Rom 8:31b-34; Mark 9:2-10	
7:30 a.m.	Sylvia and Cedric Riche
9:00 a.m.	Mr. Hunter Grantham
11:30 a.m.	Congregation
5:30 p.m.	Mr. David Mohler



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.....	\$5,966.26
Weekly Online Collection.....	\$1,895.00
Churches in E Europe and Africa Collection	\$ 255.00
May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support	

Altar Society Members for next week
Jamie Lloyd, Terry O'Connor, Norma Williams

Religious Education News

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

Kindergarten – 5th Grade: 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
Confirmation Class: 4:00 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.

Feb 24: 2nd Grade Parent First Reconciliation Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Feb 25: RCIA, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., Parish Hall Meeting Room
Feb 27: 2nd Grade First Reconciliation, Church, 9:30 a.m.
Feb 28: Youth Religious Education Class (times above)



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.



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.

LENTEN MISSION

FEATURING FRANCISCAN FRIARS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

MARCH 22-24, 2021



MISSION TEAM:
FR. ANTONY TINKER
FR. ATHANASIUS FORNWALT
<http://www.becomefire.faith>

Monday, March 22nd:

The Woman at the Well

8:15 AM -Weekday Mass 9 AM -Bible Study

6PM -Mission Night 1:

Adoration with Healing of the Heart Meditation

Tuesday, March 23rd:

The Man Who Was Born Blind

8:15 AM -Weekday Mass 9 AM-Bible Study

6 PM -Mission Night 2: Healing Mass

Wednesday, March 24th:

The Raising of Lazarus

8:15 AM –Weekday Mass 9 AM -Bible Study

6 PM -Mission Night 3: Empowerment Night

Pray for Vocations

****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 24: 2nd Grade Parent First Reconciliation Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

Feb 25: Children's Mass, 9:15 a.m., PK3, K, 2, 3, 4

Feb 26: Children's Mass, 9:15 a.m., PK4, 1, 5, 6

Feb 27: 2nd Grade First Reconciliation, Church, 9:30 a.m.

ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

Feb 24: 8th Grade Retreat (Boys); PTO Meeting, 8:00 a.m.

Feb 25: Mass, 9:40 a.m.

Feb 28: Dance Team Banquet, 11:00 a.m.

Pro-Life



"The St James Pro Life Initiative has now expanded diocesan wide. The name is now **"Diocese of Biloxi Pro Life"**. You can still use St James Pro Life Billboard on our Facebook page for news and updates. If you would like to support and continue to keep this ministry alive, please donate directly to Venmo @ dioceseofbiloxiproflife or mail checks directly to: Diocese of Biloxi Pro Life, 1700 Popp's Ferry Rd, Biloxi, MS 39532, and mark "ProLife" on memo line of check. Thank you all for your support and please continue to pray for the unborn.

Michele Pisciotta M.D., Director of Pro-Life Ministries, NFP Coordinator; Karen Rhodes, President Diocese of Biloxi Pro-Life; Penny Sullivan, Founder Diocese of Biloxi Pro-Life"
If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Debbie Bazzone (Diocese of Biloxi Pro Life Ministry) at dbaz9@aol.com or 727-460-1570.



Our Parish App is one great way to help make the liturgical season more present in your daily life. Helpful reflections will aid you in reflecting on the Mass readings each day. Also – under FORMED, you will be able to stream hundreds of hours of inspiring movies and video series, read bestselling Catholic eBooks, and listen to audio presentations from the Church's most compelling speakers and is available from virtually any device...anytime, anywhere. **Don't have the App or FORMED yet?** If you have either an iPhone or Android smart phone you can download the App by texting **App** to phone number **88202**, or by visiting myparishapp.com. To gain access to FORMED – go to the website at www.formed.org and enter our Parish Code **flf5a9** (case sensitive) on the homepage, create an account with your user name/email and password.

REFLECTION

Lent: springtime of the spirit

Each year the trees give us a lesson in renewal. First the bud, then the blossom, and finally the shoot. Spring dresses the trees in a new robe, and makes them young again. But this is possible only because in autumn they let go of their old leaves, and in between endured a period of nakedness. Lent is in the springtime of the spirit. Lord, help us not to be afraid to let go of old habits, and to face our spiritual poverty, in order that you may renew us, and so at Easter we will feel young again in our discipleship.