

**Today is Palm Sunday** - For us, this event is commemorated by blessing palm branches at the beginning of each Mass and then distributed by the ushers to the congregation at the end of Mass. You are asked to take the palm branches home and place them in some prominent place as a reminder of the events we celebrate today.

Today is also the beginning of Holy Week, or Passion Week. The Passion according to Mark is read at all Masses today to remind us of all the events that transpired immediately after Jesus' arrival to Jerusalem. Events unfold quickly on this Holiest of weeks and you are asked to join us in remembering these events.

**On Tuesday of this week** all the priests of the diocese join the Bishop at the Cathedral (10:30 a.m.) for the annual Chrism Mass, which includes the renewal of vows and the blessing of the oils that are used in the parishes throughout the upcoming year.

**The Triduum of Easter commences with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday night**, a reminder of the institution of the Priesthood and the Eucharist. This Mass concludes with the procession through the Church and the reposing of the Blessed Sacrament in the Altar of Repose (in the Sacristy) after midnight. Until midnight you are asked to spend an hour in prayer in the Church just as Jesus asked his disciples to accompany him to the Garden of Olives and stay with him one hour.

**Good Friday** finds the Church bare and empty, to remind us of the absence of Jesus after his arrest and preparing for his death. At 7:00 p.m., the Passion according to John is read followed by Veneration of the Cross and Communion Service. This service concludes quietly with no recession.

**The Easter Vigil** anticipates the joy of Easter. The 7:00 p.m. Vigil begins at dusk, outside the Church with the blessing of the Fire and the lighting of the Paschal Candle that leads the congregation into a darkened Church. The candle becomes the only source of light during the singing of the Exsultet, and the beginning of the first Old Testament Reading from Genesis speaking of creation. Other Old Testament Readings remind us of the power of God (parting of the Red Sea) and of our baptismal vows to turn aside from evil and to do good. These are followed by an Epistle and a Gospel selection. It is at this Mass that Catechumens/Elect are received into the Church by Baptism or Profession of Faith. The entire congregation also renews their baptism promises, renounces evil, and makes a Profession of Faith and then the congregation is sprinkled with the newly blessed Holy Water as a reminder of each one's Baptism.

### Easter Triduum

NO Morning Masses Thursday, Friday or Saturday

**Holy Thursday:** 7:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper, 9:30 - 11:00 p.m. Reading of the Gospel and Adoration.

**Good Friday:** Reading of the Passion (St. John), Veneration of the Cross and Communion 7:00 p.m.; Good Friday is a day of Fast and Abstinence.

**Easter Vigil:** 7:00 p.m. Lighting of the Fire/Paschal Candle, Exsultet, Old Testament Readings, Blessing of Holy Water, Baptisms/Profession of Faith, Renewal of Baptism Promises, Profession of Faith of entire Congregation, Mass, Communion.

**Easter Sunday:** Mass at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m.; 11:30 a.m.; (Hispanic Mass 2:00 p.m.), and 5:30 p.m.



**The Blessed Sacrament** will not be exposed in the Church or Chapel from 7:00 p.m. Thursday (April 1<sup>st</sup>) until after the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening. The Chapel will still be open for anyone wishing to make their Holy Hour.



**The Parish Office** will be closed on Good Friday (April 2) and Easter Monday (April 5) and will reopen on Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>.



**The Altar Society** will decorate the Church for **Easter on Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Anyone wishing to help is asked to please meet in the Church at 8:30 a.m.



**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.**

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 29</b>
Isaiah 42:1-7; John 12:1-11	
6:30 a.m.	Mathilde and Fernand Latour
8:15 a.m.	Int. Mr. Michael Joseph Gatschet
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 30</b>
Isaiah 49:1-6; John 13:21-33, 36-38	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Ken Kennedy
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Elizabeth Byrd
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 31</b>
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Matthew 26:14-25	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Kathy Dietrick
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Geoffrey Murtough
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>APRIL 1</b>
Exodus 12:1-8, 11:14; 1 Cor 11:23-26; John 13:1-15	
6:30 a.m.	No Morning Mass
8:15 a.m.	No Morning Mass
7:00 p.m.	Int. Ms. Deborah G. Foushee
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>APRIL 2</b>
Isaiah 52:13—53:12; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1—19:42	
6:30 a.m.	No Morning Mass
8:15 a.m.	No Morning Mass
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>APRIL 3</b>
Genesis 1:1—2:2; Exodus 14:15—15:1; Isaiah 55:1-11; Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28; Romans 6:3-11; Mark 16:1-7	
8:15 a.m.	No Morning Mass
7:00 p.m.	Congregation
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>APRIL 4</b>
Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-9	
7:30 a.m.	Mr. Jay Stringfellow
9:00 a.m.	Mr. William "Bill" Gryder, IV
11:30 a.m.	Ms. Jackie Endt
5:30 p.m.	Mr. John Pat DiNardo



**Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends:** Rita Allen, Beckett Bassenger, Anthony David Belson, Elaine Belson, Bob & Ruth Boney, Glen Bosarge, Mercedes Bosarge, Carole Bourgeois, Sybil Burchinal, Arlene Burns, Carol Lee Cantin, Vicki Carter, Carolyn Castleman, Pat Cronin, Fred Dale, Breanne Dalton, Gina Dasher, Marjorie DuBois, Betty Dugan, Julian Galloway, Sandra Grantham, Anne Hindmarch, Ron and Mary Jo Hoogstra, Betty Horton, 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, Melissa Menard, Edna Miguez, Iva Misko, Lee Molbert, Donna Necaie, Leonard Necaie, Edward Necaie, Shirley and Travis Norman, Della Faye Odom, Amy Petitjean, Michael Punziano, Anne Purdy, Carter James Sanders, Harold (Jimmy) Saylor, Jr., Dale Seymour, Joyleen Seymour, Nell Stanton, 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.....\$9,401.69  
 Weekly Online Collection.....\$1,830.00  
 May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support

**Altar Society Members for next week**  
**Mary Ann Bounds, Barbara Fournier, Lois Ravera**

## Religious Education News

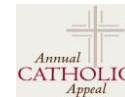
**Chris Molino 228-860-8884; cmolino@osstalphonus.org**  
**Janie Sema 228-217-1392; jsema@osstalphonus.org**

**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.**

**Apr 1:** RCIA, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., Parish Hall Meeting Room  
**Apr 4:** No Youth Religious Education Class

### SCRIPTURE NOTE

The final act in the drama of Jesus has come. The Son of Man must suffer many things. In his account of the Passion, Mark stresses the crude trial and shocking details of Jesus' suffering. He has Jesus die in total isolation – deserted by his disciples, taunted by his enemies, derided by those who hung with him, and, worst of all, abandoned by God. The rending of the curtain of the temple signifies that the privilege of Israel has ended: henceforth access to the divine presence is open to all. The reply to the question which has dominated Mark's Gospel (Who, then, is this?) is found in the words of the centurion: "Truly, this man was the Son of God".



**As we near the end of our Lenten journey, we are grateful for your support of the 2021 Catholic Sharing Appeal. Your prayers and financial support helps the Church to continue the works of the Lord Jesus.**

If you have not made a pledge or given a one-time gift to the CSA, pledge envelopes are at each of the exits of the church or you can give online at [www.biloxidiocese.org](http://www.biloxidiocese.org). To date 110 pledges (out of 1080 registered families) have been made which total **\$48,837.88**. This leaves us a total of **\$9,652.12** to reach our parish goal of **\$58,490**. In the past St. Alphonsus Parish has always went above the goal that was set by the Diocese – please help us do so again this year. Remember – when our parish reaches its goal, all funds raised over our goal are returned to the parish for our use. Every gift, regardless of size, is vital to the success of the Appeal. We thank those who have already responded to help the less fortunate in our community.



**A national and diocesan collection will be taken up on Good Friday for the Holy Land.** Your donation will help to support the struggling Christian community and to protect Christianity's holies places.



**Divine Mercy Sunday:** As we enter into Holy Week, let us also keep in mind that Easter Sunday is followed by Divine Mercy Sunday, instituted through the efforts of St. John Paul II. In preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday, we encourage you to say the Divine Mercy Novena and Chaplet which begins on Good Friday. Copies are available at the exits of the Church. Our Lord's promise to grant complete forgiveness of sins and punishment on the Feast of Mercy is recorded three times in the Diary of St. Faustina. "The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion will obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment (699).



**The Bookstore and Gift Shop will be closed April 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>.**



**The Saturday Vigil 4:00 p.m. Mass, Sunday 7:30 a.m. Mass and all daily Masses (with the exception of the Tuesday, 8:15 a.m. Mass) are no longer livestreamed. Only the 9:00 a.m. Mass and 5:30 p.m. Mass on Sunday and the Tuesday, 8:15 a.m. Mass with the Our Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions after Mass will be livestreamed. Mass will still be available, but not on Facebook/Livestream.**

## \*\*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

**Apr 1:** Noon Dismissal

**Apr 2-9:** No School – Easter Holidays

## ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

**Mar 28:** Science Honor Society Blood Drive, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Mar 31:** 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat / PTO Meeting, 8:00 a.m.

**Apr 2-9:** No School – Easter Holidays



**The Diocese of Biloxi will have an opening in the Finance Office for an accounting and payroll specialist.** The position requires minimum of a two year accounting degree, general ledger, accounts receivable, accounts payable and payroll experience. Must have worked with Excel and Word. Experience with QuickBooks is a plus, but not required. A copy of the job description is available on the Diocese of Biloxi web-site in the Finance Office. If interested, please send your resume to Tammy DiLorenzo, Director of Finance at [tdilorenzo@biloxidiocese.org](mailto:tdilorenzo@biloxidiocese.org) by April 10<sup>th</sup>.



**A Blood Drive will be held by the St. Alphonsus Knights of Columbus** on Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in the KC Hall. Appointments are not necessary but may be made by calling 1-800-733-2767; signing up at RedCross.org (select 'give blood', 'find a drive', and enter the zip code 39564 and then select St. Alphonsus Church and time you wish to donate; or by using the Red Cross Donor App.



**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](http://myparishapp.com). To gain access to FORMED – go to the website at [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org) and enter our Parish Code f1f5a9 (case sensitive) on the homepage, create an account with your user name/email and password.

### REFLECTION

**Death of the Good Shepherd**

Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep." Jesus did not have to suffer and die. He had a choice. He chose to suffer and die because he cared about the flock God had entrusted to him. What Jesus wants from us is not our suffering, but a life of love and service. Such a life will inevitably bring suffering. But Jesus supports all those who follow him down the road of faithful love and generous service.