

The First Reading tells how, three years after his conversion, Paul went up to Jerusalem. In spite of being introduced by Barnabas, such was the hostility he encountered that he had to be smuggled out of the city. The fact that Paul took all these trials in stride shows the depth of his faith in Jesus.

In the Gospel we have the lovely image of the vine and the branches. Here Jesus stresses the unity that exists between him and his disciples. Vine and branches need each other. The vine cannot bear fruit without the branches. And the branches can have no life if separated from the vine. The branches need to be pruned (by trials) in order to be fruitful. (Paul is a good example.)

The Second Reading tells us what we have to do in order to be at rights with God. We have to believe in his Son, Jesus, and love one another as he told us. Active charity is what distinguishes true Christians from those who are such in name only. (This is what makes them fruitful branches of Christ, the true vine.)



A Baptism Class will be held in the Rectory on Wednesday, May 5th at 7:00 p.m. Any parent with a child for baptism must attend this class prior to scheduling a baptism date. Godparents are also encouraged to attend. Godparents who are not registered /active members of St. Alphonsus must present a letter from their pastor giving them permission to be a godparent. A godparent must be a Catholic in good standing with the church, receiving the sacraments on a regular basis. Class lasts a little over one hour. Baptisms are scheduled each month on the 4th Sunday immediately after the 9:00 a.m. Mass. Please call the Rectory with information on the child prior to attending the class.

When parents have their children baptized they indicate their desire to have their children grow up and live as children of God and brothers or sisters of Jesus, and be guided by the Holy Spirit.

Through birth a child is given to parents; through baptism a child is given to God. At baptism the parents acknowledge that their parenthood is a participation in God's parenthood that all fatherhood and motherhood comes from God. Thus baptism frees the parents from a sense of owning their children. Children belong to God and are given to the parents to love and care for in God's name. It is the parents' vocation to welcome their children as honored guests in their home and bring them to the physical, emotional, and spiritual freedom that enables them to leave the home and become parents themselves. Baptism reminds parents of this vocation and sets children on the path of freedom.



You are invited to join us for the First Friday Devotion & Benediction on Friday, May 7th beginning at 7:45 a.m. (prior to 8:15 mass).



Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends: Rita Allen, Kevin Barry, Beckett Bassenger, Anthony David Belson, Elaine Belson, Bob Boney, Abby Bosarge, Glen Bosarge, Mercedes Bosarge, Carole Bourgeois, Elena Broussard, Sybil Burchinal, Arlene Burns, Carol Lee Cantin, Vicki

Carter, Carolyn Castleman, Steve Castleman, III, Pat Cronin, Lisa Cabbage, 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, Randy Lesso, Albert Gregory Mansfield, Erik Marcussen, Gordon Mathieu, EJ McIntyre, Cheryl Megie, Melissa Menard, Edna Migues, Iva Misko, Lee Molbert, Donna Necaie, Leonard Necaie, Edward Necaie, Shirley and Travis Norman, Della Faye Odom, Amy Petitjean, Leona & Chuck 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.



If you have a loved one who is homebound and can no longer come to Mass or is sick and temporarily homebound – please call the Rectory with the information.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	MAY 3
1 Corinthians 15:1-8; John 14:6-14	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. RJ Domingue
8:15 a.m.	Int. Priests and Deacons
TUESDAY	MAY 4
Acts 14:19-28; John 14:27-31a	
6:30 a.m.	Int. Cooper Families
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Ned Cleary
WEDNESDAY	MAY 5
Acts 15:1-6; John 15:1-8	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Margaret G. Dietrick
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Richard Durkin
THURSDAY	MAY 6
Acts 15:7-21; John 15:9-11	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Dick Porterfield
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Chandra Nicholson
FRIDAY	MAY 7
Acts 15:22-31; John 15:12-17	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Fritz Kolbe
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Ernestine Beaugez
SATURDAY	MAY 8
Acts 16:1-10; John 15:18-21	
8:15 a.m.	Int. Johnny and Janette Williams Ann and Cecil Wolf Msgr. Gregory Kennedy
4:00 p.m.	Ms. Elizabeth Byrd
SUNDAY	MAY 9
Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1 John 4:7-10; John 15:9-17	
7:30 a.m.	Ms. Mary Ellen Kenyon
9:00 a.m.	Mr. Neil Gryder Mr. Bill Gryder, IV Ms. Marie Weidner
11:30 a.m.	Congregation
5:30 p.m.	

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$6,859.94
Weekly Online Collection.....\$1,710.00
May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support



The Flowers on the Altar are in Honor of those receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of: Hai Ho Nguyen, son of Ha Thi Trinh and brother of Mary Nguyen of this parish, who passed away April 20th.

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

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

Pray for Vocations

Religious Education News

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

May 6: RCIA, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., Parish Hall Meeting Room

**Divine Mercy In My Soul
The Diary of the Servant of God
Sister M. Faustina Kowalska**

299 When, on one occasion, my confessor told me to ask the Lord Jesus the meaning of the two rays in the image, I answered, “Very well, I will ask the Lord.”

During prayer I heard these words within me: **The two rays denote Blood and Water. The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls...**

These two rays issued forth from the very depths of My tender mercy when My agonized Heart was opened by a lance on the Cross.

These rays shield souls from the wrath of My Father. Happy is the one who will dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him. I desire that the first Sunday after Easter be the Feast of Mercy.

300 +Ask of my faithful servant [Father Sopocko] that, on this day, he tell the whole world of My great mercy; that whoever approaches the Fount of Life on this day will be granted complete remission of sins and punishment.

+Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy.

+Oh, how much I am hurt by a soul's distrust! Such a soul professes that I am Holy and Just, but does not believe that I am Mercy and does not trust in My Goodness. Even the devils glorify My Justice but do not believe in My Goodness.

My Heart rejoices in this title of Mercy.

301 Proclaim that mercy is the greatest attribute of God. All the works of My hands are crowned with mercy.



Hospital Stays: Because of privacy concerns, it is difficult to find out who is in the hospital. Many times the clergy list we get to see does not have everyone's name listed. This seems to happen especially to those who are admitted through the Emergency Room. If you or a family member is going to be in the hospital and wish to be visited or receive communion while there, please call the Rectory at your earliest convenience.

PRAYER / REFLECTION

The vine and the branches

Lord, you said: “I am the vine, you are the branches. Separated from me you can do nothing, but united with me you will bear much fruit.” Thank you, Lord, for the bond you formed with us. And thank you for the bond that exists among us because of our union with you. Thanks to this bond we have invisible riches to share with one another. Grant that we may never be separated from you, so that we may produce in the world the fruits of faith, hope, and love.

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

May 3-7: Teacher Appreciation Week

May 6: Children's Mass, 9:15 a.m., PK3, K, 2, 3, 4

May 7: Children's Mass, 9:15 a.m., PK4, 1, 5, 6

May 8: Elem School Track Meet at SPSHS, 9am – 12 Noon

ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

May 2: Spring Drama Production, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

May 4: AP Calculus Exam

May 5: AP English Lit/Comp Exam

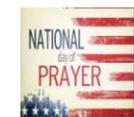
May 6: AP US History Exam / Senior Exams

May 7: AP Chemistry Exam / Senior Exams

Spring Drama Production, 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Men's Soccer Parent Meeting, Cafeteria, 6:00 p.m.

May 8: Catholic Elementary School Track Meet, 9am – 12 Noon Prom, 7:00 p.m.



You are invited to attend the 2021 Ocean Springs Annual **National Day of Prayer** to be held at 12:00 Noon on Thursday, May 6th at the Ocean Springs Civic Center located at 3730 Bienville Blvd. (Highway 90). This community-wide observance marks the 70th anniversary of the National Day of Prayer. This year's theme is “Lord, Pour Out Your LOVE, LIFE and *Liberty*” Masks are recommended but not required.



The Lord Is My Help needs volunteers to pack take-out lunches from 9:15 - 10:30 a.m. and/or to serve lunch from 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (no cooking involved) the week of May 17th – 21st. If you are able to volunteer your time on any of these days at either/both of the times, please call Norma Williams at 875-2636. Any help would be greatly appreciated.



Attention Graduating Seniors: There are two \$500 Scholarships available from The Chris Nielsen Scholarship Fund to be given away by the Knights of Columbus. If interested in applying for this scholarship, please email Brian Sanderson at bsanderson@cardinalgroupllc.com to receive the requirements and registration form. **Deadline: June 1, 2021**



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. 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.