

When Micah was writing (late eighth-century BC) Jerusalem was under siege and David's dynasty was in jeopardy. But salvation would come from a comparatively insignificant place – Bethlehem. From there a new leader would come to gather together the scattered exiles and unite the nation once more. Christians see this promise as foreshadowing the coming of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, who was born in Bethlehem and descended from the line of David.

The Gospel tells the story of Mary's visit to Elizabeth. Both are pregnant. Enlightened by the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth praises Mary and hints at the uniqueness of the child she has conceived.

The Second Reading states that Jesus didn't come to offer the sacrifices of the old law, but to do the will of God. His sacrifice was essentially one of obedience (an obedience which meant accepting death on a cross). His one perfect sacrifice transcended and replaced all the former sacrifices. His sacrifice did what the sacrifices of the Mosaic Law were unable to do; it brought about reconciliation between God and his people.



**Envelopes are in the pews for anyone wishing to make a donation to the decorating of the Church for Christmas in Honor Of or in Memory Of a loved one.**  
PLEASE PRINT NAMES CLEARLY ON THE ENVELOPE.

Donations will be accepted through this Sunday (December 19<sup>th</sup>).



**Local Penance Service Schedules:**

Our Lady of Fatima, Biloxi – Mon, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm  
St. Elizabeth Seton – Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6:00 p.m.



**The Bookstore and Gift Shop will be closed December 21, 2021 through January 3, 2022 and will reopen on Tuesday, January 4, 2022.**



**The Parish Office will be closed Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> through Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup>.**



**The Altar Society will decorate the Church for Christmas on Thursday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> after the 8:15 a.m. Mass. Anyone wishing to help is asked to please meet in the Church.**

# Mass Schedule

## Christmas Eve

- 4:00 p.m. – Mass for families with small children  
Children's Choir
- 6:00 p.m. – Mass with Contemporary Christmas Music
- 11:00 p.m. – Midnight Mass  
Traditional "Adult Choir" Christmas Music  
Prelude Music 10:30 p.m., Mass at 11:00 p.m.

**Christmas Day:** 9:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. (English)

**The Holy Family:** December 25 / 26

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 11:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m.

**Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

Friday, December 31: 6:00 p.m.  
Saturday, January 1: 8:15 a.m.

# MASSES FOR THE WEEK

**MONDAY DECEMBER 20**

Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38  
6:30 a.m. Ms. Mollie Davidson  
8:15 a.m. Mr. David Mohler

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 21**  
Song of Songs 2:8-14; Luke 1:39-45;  
6:30 a.m. Int. Ms. Sarah Galle Traylor  
8:15 a.m. Mr. Matthew Gospodinovich

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 22**

1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56  
6:30 a.m. Mr. Eugene Straight  
8:15 a.m. Mr. Eduard van Thiel

**THURSDAY DECEMBER 23**  
Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66  
6:30 a.m. Mr. Dick Porterfield  
8:15 a.m. Mr. Gerry Quave

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 24**

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:67-79  
6:30 a.m. No Mass Offered  
8:15 a.m. Mr. Aaron Asher

Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25  
4:00 p.m. Mr. Jesse Dobbins  
6:00 p.m. Ms. Ligaya Camagong

Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14

11:00 p.m. Ms. Elizabeth Byrd

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 25**  
Isaiah 62:11-12; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20  
9:00 a.m. Mr. Edward G. Dietrick, Sr.  
Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18  
11:30 a.m. Mr. Johnny Norman

4:00 p.m. Mr. André Kaufman  
Eunice & Albert Misko, Sr.

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 26**  
1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Luke 2:41-52  
7:30 a.m. Mr. Adelbert (Debbie) Catchot  
9:00 a.m. Mr. Thomas "Tommy" Stiglet  
11:30 a.m. All Souls in Purgatory  
Protection of the Unborn  
Congregation

5:30 p.m.

# WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....	\$9,053.17
Weekly/Monthly Online Collection.....	\$6,045.00
Poor / Online Poor Collection.....	\$4,250.00
Immaculate Conception Collection.....	\$1,374.00
SVPD Pharmacy Collection.....	\$2,142.00

May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support

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

# PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

# FAITH FORMATION

**Kindergarten - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Sunday, 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.  
Contact Jane Sema at [jsema@osstalphonusus.org](mailto:jsema@osstalphonusus.org)

**Edge (6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade):** Sunday, 6:30 p.m. (after 5:30 p.m. Mass)  
**Life Teen (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Gr):** Sunday, 6:30 p.m. (after 5:30 p.m. Mass)  
Contact Patience Clasen at [pclasen@osstalphonusus.org](mailto:pclasen@osstalphonusus.org)

**Confirmation (11<sup>th</sup> Gr):** Sunday, 6:30 p.m. (after 5:30 p.m. Mass)  
**RCIA:** Thursday, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., Parish Hall Meeting Room  
Contact Chris Molino at [cmolino@osstalphonusus.org](mailto:cmolino@osstalphonusus.org)

**Dec 23:** No RCIA  
**Dec 26:** No Faith Formation Classes  
No Adult Study Class



## Advent and Adoration

Have you begun preparing for the coming of Jesus?

The hustle and bustle of the Christmas season is here. Our homes and businesses are adorned with twinkling lights and ornament clad Christmas trees. Holiday parties fill our calendars.

Parents scramble to find the last few toys on their children's list. It feels like a mad dash toward the finish line. Our preparations are never ending, but are we preparing our hearts for the birth of Jesus? Are we taking time out to sit quietly in prayer and thanksgiving before our Lord? If you do not already have a regular hour of adoration each week, why not make Advent the time to begin spending a weekly hour with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament? It's a free gift that Jesus is waiting to give to you. Will you accept this gift from Him?

Please remember to sign in upon arriving at the chapel, whether it is for your weekly hour or if you are just visiting. Sign out by tapping on your name before leaving.

If you are leaving the chapel and no one is there to relieve you, close the monstrance doors while reciting:

*O Sacrament Most Holy  
O Sacrament Divine  
All Praise and all Thanksgiving  
Be Every Moment Thine*

**To sign up for an hour of Eucharistic Adoration visit our website [stalphonusus.weadorehim.com/signup](http://stalphonusus.weadorehim.com/signup)**

*Each time we look upon Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, He raises us up into deeper union with Himself, opens up the floodgates of His merciful love to the whole world, and brings us closer to the day of His final victory "where every knee will bend and proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord". "The reign of God is already in your midst." The coming of Jesus to us in the Eucharist is assurance of His promise of final victory: "BEHOLD, I COME TO MAKE ALL THINGS NEW." ~Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta*

## PRAYER / REFLECTION

### Come, Lord Jesus

Lord Jesus, come into our weakness. Come into our fears. Come into our anxieties. Come into our failures. Come into our divisions. Come into our grieving. Come into our loneliness. Come into our darkness. Come into our doubting. Come into our despair. Come into our poverty of heart. Come into our searching. Come into our joys and hopes. Come into our dying. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

# ST. ALPHONSUS SCHOOL

**Dec 20-Jan 3:** No School – Christmas Break

# ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

**Dec 20-Jan 3:** No School – Christmas Break



**The Guardian Angel, helping others receive the gift of Catholic Education, will be presented this weekend.**

“Catholic Education is above all a question of communicating Christ, of helping to form Christ in the lives of others... Those who have been baptized must be made ever more aware of the gift of faith that they have received, they must learn to adore the Father in spirit and

in truth, and they must be trained to live the newness of Christian life in justice and in the holiness of truth. These are indeed the essential aims of Catholic Education. To foster and promote them give meaning to the Catholic School; it spells out the dignity of the vocation of Catholic Educators. It is above all a question of communicating Christ, and helping his uplifting Gospel to take root in the hearts of the faithful. Be strong therefore, in pursuing these goals. The cause of Catholic Education is the cause of Jesus Christ and his Gospel at the service of man.”  
—Pope Saint John Paul II



**St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store Ocean Springs:**

Merry Christmas!! All Christmas décor half off. All glassware \$1.00. Open 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday and 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday. 2200A Bienville Blvd. 228-334-5222.



**Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends:**

Rita Allen, C.L. Ates, Kevin Barry, Beckett Bassenger, Anthony David Belson, Elaine Belson, Julie P. Bond, Bob Boney, Mercedes Bosarge, Shelle Bosarge, Carole Bourgeois, Bryleigh Brochard, Kay Brochard, Elena Broussard,

Margaret Broussard, Don Burchette, Sybil Burchinal, Arlene Burns, Carol Lee Cantin, Vicki Carter, Carolyn Castleman, Peggy Cox, Pat Cronin, Lisa Cabbage, Breanne Dalton, Gina Dasher, Oscar DeMauro, Jeannine Dionne, Marjorie DuBois, Ansley Gilich, Julian Galloway, Sandra Grantham, Sean Halat, Margret Hebert, Mary Jo Hoogstra, Betty Horton, Catherine Jackson, Melissa James, Ashley Jensen, Otis Kaufman, Dianne Kuljis, Daisie Laborde, Barbara Langan, Catherine Lawrence, Judy and Randy Lesso, Albert Gregory Mansfield, Gordon Mathieu, Melissa Menard, EJ McIntyre, Cheryl Megie, Edna Miguez, Iva Misko, Donna Necaie, Leonard Necaie, Edward Necaie, Susan Newman, Terese Nicovich, Shirley and Travis Norman, Della Faye Odum, Roger Parker, The Petitjean Family, Richard Potash, Michael Punziano, Anne Purdy, Jan Roberts, Margaret Rucinski, Carter James Sanders, Harold (Jimmy) Saylor, Jr., Jerry Schneider, Dale Seymour, Joyleen Seymour, Mary Terry, Ann Tootle, Dianne Tootle, Dolores Trenouth, Ted Ursu, Rose M. Vail, Margaret Misko VanLoon, Ashley Vickers, and Thane Williams.

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Your prayers are requested for the deceased priests who have ministered in the diocese, especially those who have died around this time of year:

- Rev. Msgr. Gregory Kennedy, December 1, 1986
- Reverend John Joseph O'Reilly, December 5, 1989
- Reverend Remigius A. Kozak, December 18, 2013
- Rev. Msgr. John T. Martin, December 20, 1978



**Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Edmee Baird,**

sister of Liz (Dick) Eckert of this parish, who passed away in Fort Worth, Texas on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

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