

**The prophet Zephaniah, writing in the seventh century BC, bids Jerusalem to rejoice because salvation is near (First Reading).** God stands in her midst and will deliver her from her enemies. God is portrayed, not only as a king and warrior, but also as a loving bridegroom, who steadfastly loves his unworthy and unfaithful bride.

The theme of joy is even more emphatic in the Second Reading. Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice because the Lord is near. (Paul was thinking about the Second Coming, which he believed was near.) So there is no need to worry. If they need anything, they are to pray for it, and the peace of God will be with them.

The theme of the nearness of the Lord is also at the heart of the Gospel. John the Baptist tells the people what they must do in order to prepare for the Lord's coming and to escape his searching judgement. At the same time he makes it clear that he is subordinate to Jesus.



**Local Penance Service Schedules:**

Sacred Heart, D'Iberville – Wed, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.  
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.



**You are invited to come to a Marian Movement of Priest Cenacle Mass on Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Church. Mass, Rosary, and Consecration**



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



**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. December 18<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!



**An anointing of the Sick** will take place on Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. (before the 4:00 p.m. Mass) in the Church. This is for all elderly parishioners, anyone with an illness, or parishioners with elderly or homebound family members that may wish to receive this Sacrament.



**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.**

When complete, envelopes may be placed in the collection basket or brought to the Rectory. **PLEASE PRINT NAMES CLEARLY ON THE ENVELOPE.** Donations will be accepted through December 19<sup>th</sup>.

**The St. Alphonsus Knights of Columbus will raffle off a Henry “Golden Boy” Lever Action Rifle 22 Caliber S/L/LR on Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>.**

Tickets are \$10 each. For more information or to purchase a ticket, please call Chuck Nannery at 875-0267.

# MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 13</b>
Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a; Matthew 21:23-27	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. R.J. Domingue
8:15 a.m.	Patsy, Joseph & Joey Jr. Fountain
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 14</b>
Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Matthew 21:28-32;	
6:30 a.m.	Int. Ms. Margaret W. Foushee
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Robin Cannon
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 15</b>
Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25; Luke 7:18b-23	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Margaret G. Dietrick
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Rose Gospodinovich
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 16</b>
Isaiah 54:1-10; Luke 7:24-30	
6:30 a.m.	Ann and Cecil Wolf
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Jackie Endt
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 17</b>
Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17	
6:30 a.m.	Mass of Thanksgiving for Favors Received
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Charles Gibson
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 18</b>
Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25	
8:15 a.m.	All Souls in Purgatory Deceased Knights of Columbus
4:00 p.m.	Ms. Susie Jurich
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 19</b>
Micah 5:1-4a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45	
7:30 a.m.	Mr. Bobby Beaugez
9:00 a.m.	Congregation
11:30 a.m.	Int. Ms. Edme Baird
5:30 p.m.	Mr. Ruben Padilla

# WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$13,556.53  
Weekly Online Collection.....\$ 2,145.00  
May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support



**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 Cubbage, 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 Necaize, Leonard Necaize, Edward Necaize, Susan Newman, Terése Nicovich, Shirley and Travis Norman, Della Faye Odom, 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.

# 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@osstalphonsus.org](mailto:jsema@osstalphonsus.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@osstalphonsus.org](mailto:pclasen@osstalphonsus.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@osstalphonsus.org](mailto:cmolino@osstalphonsus.org)

**Dec 16:** RCIA, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., Parish Hall Meeting Room

**Dec 19:** 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 [stalphonsus.weadorehim.com/signup](http://stalphonsus.weadorehim.com/signup)

## Eucharistic adoration is a powerful weapon against evil

“God’s word invites us clearly to “stand against the wiles of the devil” (Eph 6:11) and to “quench all the flaming darts of the evil one” (Eph 6:16). These expressions are not melodramatic, precisely because our path towards holiness is a constant battle. Those who do not realize this will be prey to failure or mediocrity. For this spiritual combat, we can count on the powerful weapons that the Lord has given us: faith-filled prayer, meditation on the word of God, the celebration of Mass, Eucharistic adoration, sacramental Reconciliation, works of charity, community life, missionary outreach.” -- Pope Francis, *Rejoice and Be Glad*, 162

## REFLECTION

### Joy

There is a clear note of joy in today’s liturgy. Joy is a blend of laughter and tears. It consists in having a love affair with life. It is having a heart aglow with warmth for all one’s companions on the road of life. It is looking for the happiness that comes in small packages, knowing that big packages are few and far between. It is making the most of the present, enjoying what is at hand right now. Joy is love bubbling over into life. And it can coexist with pain. Joy is the flag we fly when Christ, the Prince of Peace, has taken up residence in our hearts.

# ST. ALPHONSUS SCHOOL

**Dec 16:** Christmas Program, Grades 1-6, 6:00 p.m.

**Dec 17:** Children’s Mass, 8:15a.m.; Noon Dismissal

# ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

**Dec 12:** Science Honor Society Blood Drive, 1:00-5:00 pm

**Dec 15-17:** Semester Exams

## St. Alphonsus Parish Families and Friends,

I am delighted to share with you that our Parish Festival and Golf Cart Raffle was a success. We netted approximately \$17,600 -- Thank You! We could not have done it without the united support from our parish ministries, parishioners, school families, and community. Proceeds from the festival and raffle will be used to support various youth ministries such as building classroom libraries for St. Alphonsus School, purchasing resources for Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade faith formation and supporting the growing ministry needs of the parish.

I would like to also recognize the businesses or individuals that sponsored and/or donated to the Parish Festival and Golf Cart Raffle. They are: Downtown Cart Rentals, Elkins Family, Hancock Whitney Bank, Hanley Family, Jamie L. Lloyd, Lori Kilpatrick Speech and Feeding Therapy, Lucia’s Hallmark Shop, Mark Aultman, St. Alphonsus School Families, St. Alphonsus Parishioners, St. Alphonsus St. Vincent de Paul, Sanderson Family, Spot On –Mobile Oil, Stadthagen Family and Veterinary Medical Clinic of Ocean Springs.

With the wonderful success of the festival and raffle, we look forward to planning next year’s event. If you would like to join the planning committee or have feedback to share, please reach out to Patience Clasen at [pclasen@osstalphonsus.org](mailto:pclasen@osstalphonsus.org).

God Bless –

Fr. Mike



**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. and 11:30 a.m. (English)

**The Holy Family:** Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

December 25/26 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.