

Today we begin the consecutive reading of Luke's Gospel, which was originally joined to Luke's other work, the Acts of the Apostles. The way the story is told prepares us for what happens in Acts. When the Jews returned home after the exile in Babylon, the nation had to be rebuilt. The Persians entrusted this task to Ezra. Ezra brought back with him from Babylon the book of the law of Moses which he solemnly read to the people (First Reading). Thus he called upon them to rededicate themselves to God. The Gospel shows Jesus too proclaiming the word of God. In the synagogue at Nazareth, he makes his own a passage from Isaiah, and uses it to announce a program for his ministry. He is sent, not to the wealthy or the powerful, but to the poor and the lowly, the oppressed and the suffering. Here we see Luke's concern for the poor and the afflicted. Who are the poor? The poor are all the dispossessed of this world, all those who are waiting for liberation. The good news must not be limited to spiritual blessings only. But the poor are also those who live on bread alone and who never hear the Word of God.

Tax Statements for yearly contributions are available upon request. These statements only reflect contributions made through the regular church collections and the special second collections if they have been made in an identifiable fashion (church envelope, online or loose check). Any loose cash contribution cannot be credited. Contributions to the Catholic Sharing Appeal will be acknowledged from the Diocese. Please email or call the rectory office if you need a tax statement (stalparishos@gmail.com or 875-5419). Statements will be mailed by the end of the month.

St. Alphonsus Catholic Church Life Teen and Edge Youth Groups, Ladies Auxiliary and Knights of Columbus invite you to Light a Candle for LIFE Vigil this Sunday (January 23rd) after the 5:30 p.m. Mass. Candlelight and Rosary walk from St. Alphonsus Church to the beach. A bonfire social will follow the candlelight vigil at pit #48 on Front Beach.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER EVENING OF INTERCESSION
What is Intercession (Intercessory Prayer)? Intercessory prayer is going between the Lord and the person you are praying for, asking the Lord to show them his mercy and blessings.

Some intercessors refer to this as "standing in the gap" for someone else. In scripture there are many examples of intercession like Moses when he offered to take God's wrath when the Israelites worshipped the golden calf. I invite you to come and be a part of this night of intercession even if you have never heard about intercessory prayer before. We will meet in the Church on Wednesday, February 9th from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. I look forward to seeing you there. Deacon Jim

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



**The Flowers on the Altar
are in Memory of
Sr. Eileen Lowney and
Deacon Greg Miller**

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	JANUARY 24
2 Samuel 5:1-7, 10; Mark 3:22-30	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Joey Fountain
8:15 a.m.	Int. Family of Joyce Sondheimer
TUESDAY	JANUARY 25
Acts 22:3-16; Mark 16:15-18	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Bill Davis
8:15 a.m.	Joseph and Roseline Bellande
WEDNESDAY	JANUARY 26
2 Timothy 1:1-8; Mark 4:1-20	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Edward G. Dietrick, Sr.
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Henry Endt, Sr.
THURSDAY	JANUARY 27
2 Samuel 7:18-19, 24-29; Mark 4:21-25	
6:30 a.m.	Ella and Simon Gilbert
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Rita O'Connor
FRIDAY	JANUARY 28
2 Samuel 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; Mark 4:26-34	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. William (Bill) Thomas
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Angelina Esquibel
SATURDAY	JANUARY 29
2 Samuel 12:1-7a, 10-17; Mark 4:35-41	
8:15 a.m.	All Souls in Purgatory Protection of the Unborn
4:00 p.m.	Ms. Ligaya Camagong
SUNDAY	JANUARY 30
Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19; 1 Cor 12:31-13:13; Luke 4:21-30	
7:30 a.m.	Mr. Gordon Parker
9:00 a.m.	Congregation
11:30 a.m.	Int. Ms. Margaret Brenke
5:30 p.m.	Joe and Patsy Fountain

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....	\$8,359.72
Weekly Online Collection.....	\$2,030.00
Aged & Infirm Priest Collection.....	\$1,738.23
May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support	



Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends: Kevin Barry, Beckett Bassenger, Anthony David Belson, Elaine Belson, Bob Boney, Mercedes Bosarge, Carole Bourgeois, Bryleigh Brochard, Jeffrey Brochard, Kay Brochard, Elena Broussard, Margaret Broussard, Sybil Burchinal, Arlene Burns, Vicki Carter, Carolyn Castleman, Jennifer Catchot, Peggy Cox, Pat Cronin, Breanne Dalton, Gina Dasher, Jeannine Dionne, Marjorie DuBois, Gordon Gaethe, Ansley Gilich, Julian Galloway, Sandra Grantham, Sean Halat, Mary Jo Hoogstra, Ashley Jensen, Otis Kaufman, Daisie Laborde, Judy and Randy Lesso, Albert Gregory Mansfield, Gordon Mathieu, Melissa Menard, Iva Misko, Johnny Mitchell, Edward Necaice, Susan Newman, Terése Nicovich, Shirley and Travis Norman, The Petitjean Family, Richard Potash, Joyce Reynolds, Jan Roberts, Charles Wesley Ryan, Jr., Margaret Rucinski, Harold (Jimmy) Saylor Jr., Jerry Schneider, Dale Seymour, Joyleen Seymour, Ann Tootle, Dianne Tootle, Ted Ursu, Rose M. Vail, Margaret Misko VanLoon, and Ashley Vickers.

If someone in your family is in need of prayer, please contact the parish office to have their name placed on the list. We will keep the name on for at least two months unless otherwise notified.

Pray For Vocations

FAITH FORMATION

Kindergarten - 5th Grade: Sunday, 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
Contact Jane Sema at jsema@osstalphonsus.org

Edge (6th – 8th Grade): Sunday, 6:30 p.m. (after 5:30 p.m. Mass)
Life Teen (9th – 12th Gr): Sunday, 6:30 p.m. (after 5:30 p.m. Mass)
Contact Patience Clasen at pclasen@osstalphonsus.org

Confirmation (11th 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

Jan 27: RCIA, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., Parish Hall Meeting Room
Jan 30: Faith Formation Classes, Times Listed Above
Adult Study Class, 10:15 a.m., Parish Hall Meeting Room
All are welcome to attend.



Thank you to all who participated in the 40 Hour Devotion for the Unborn. If you were unable to participate, you can pray for the unborn daily. God hears us, always!

Prayer for the Helpless Unborn

Heavenly Father, in Your love for us, protect against the wickedness of the devil, those helpless little ones to whom You have given the gift of life. Touch with pity the hearts of those women pregnant in our world today who are not thinking of motherhood. Help them to see that the child they carry is made in Your image - as well as theirs - made for eternal life. Dispel their fear and selfishness and give them true womanly hearts to love their babies and give them birth and all the needed care that a mother alone can give. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

The chapel will be closed on Saturday, January 29, 2022 from 9am - 3pm to install the refurbished pews. We apologize to our parishioners who regularly adore during this time and thank you for your patience.

To sign up for a weekly adoration hour or a one time hour, please register at stalphonsus.weadorehim.com to view the schedule.

"Know also that you will probably gain more by praying fifteen minutes before the Blessed Sacrament than by all the other spiritual exercises of the day. True, our Lord hears our prayers anywhere, for He has made the promise, 'Ask and you shall receive,' but He has revealed to His servants that those who visit Him in the Blessed Sacrament will obtain a more abundant measure of grace."
-St. Alphonsus Liguori



Love's Legacy:

The Story of Father Augustus Tolton (1854-1897)

You are invited to hear a presentation on the heroic virtue of a remarkable figure in American history. Trailblazer and leader in the American Catholic Church, Fr. Tolton was born into slavery, was ordained in Rome, and led a parish in Chicago. How do you overcome hate? For Fr. Tolton, it was by living in love. The story of **The Venerable Father Augustus Tolton** serves as heartfelt inspiration for all.

The lecturer is Dr. Tim Weldon, Professor of Philosophy at the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois. An Author of essays and books, he has also been a frequent guest on radio programs and podcasts. He tells the story of Fr. Tolton in a way only a Franciscan scholar can. St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Community Center
720 East Beach Blvd, Long Beach
Social Hour with Dr. Weldon from 6:15 to 6:45 p.m.; Lecture 7:00 p.m.
For more information contact Dave Gauthier at 228-596-8835 or religionseducation@saintthomaslb.org.

ST. ALPHONSUS SCHOOL

Jan 28: Children's Mass, 8:15 a.m.
Jan 30: Student Mass, 9:00 a.m. / Open House



St. Alphonsus School will have an Open House immediately following the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, January 30th. Refreshments and on-site registration will be available.

ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

Jan 24: Baseball Parent Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
Jan 27: Make Up School Pictures, 8:30 a.m. / Mass, 9:40 a.m.



A **Boy's Retreat** will be held at the Sacred Heart Retreat Center (14595 Vidalia Rd, Pass Christian) on March 4th-6th for all 9th – 12th grade Boys. The cost is \$60.00. For more information or to register, please contact Desmond Hoda at 228-493-8817 or dwhdc2@gmail.com



The **First Annual Lenten Fish Fry Cook-off** will be held at Point Cadet Plaza on Saturday, March 12th from Noon until 3:00 p.m. Register your team now!! \$100 entry fee plus one case of your favorite fish. All proceeds to benefit Loaves & Fishes. For more information or a registration form, please contact Noel Aucoin at noel.aucoin@gmail.com or 228-327-2951.

Commentary on the Doctrine Of the Most Holy Eucharist

(Articles taken from the *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church*)

1. The Sacrificial Meaning of Christ's Words

The sacrifice of expiation – The pages of the Old Testament in which the Servant of the Lord would be described in particularly moving terms are those of Isaiah 53, wherein a mysterious and innocent person was being described, a man of sorrows and one knowing infirmity, wounded on account of the sins of his people, silent and carrying the sins of "the many." Jesus Christ also used the expression "of the many" in the institution of the Eucharist (Mk 14:22-25; Mt 26:26-29); it is found also in the verse of the Gospels about the office of the Son of Man: "The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mt 20:28).

Thus do we know Christ as the person to bear and to carry out the office of the Servant of the Lord, who handed Himself over for the expiation of the sins of the human race (Is 53:10). In the Texts of the institution of the Eucharist, the Greek prepositions "hyper" and "peri" are used which customarily are employed when speaking of the sacrifice of expiation, indicating at the same time the one who receives the benefit of the expiation. Likewise, concerning the blood that has been poured forth, we have the Greek word "ekchिनomenon."

REFLECTION

Grace is unlimited

Human beings are frail and foolish. We have been told that grace is to be found in the universe. But in our human foolishness and short-sightedness we imagine divine grace to be finite, and for this reason we tremble. But the moment comes when our eyes are opened, and we see that grace is infinite. Grace demands nothing from us but that we await it with confidence and acknowledge it with gratitude. Grace makes no conditions and singles out none of us in particular. Grace takes us all to its bosom and proclaims a general amnesty. (*Isak Dinesen*).