

In the First Reading (Isaiah), the prophet assures the exiles in Babylon that God is coming to save them. The prophecy was fulfilled in the return from exile, but more especially in the coming of Jesus. John the Baptist was clearly a prophet. Since the spirit of prophecy had long been absent from Israel, John's appearance raised expectations. The question arose: Could he be the Messiah? John denied that he was the Messiah, but declared that the Messiah was at hand. Thus he prepared the way for Jesus.

Baptism was a defining moment in the life of Jesus – it marked the beginning of his public mission. Luke always presents Jesus as praying before making major decisions. It's no surprise then that we find him praying during his baptism. In response to his prayer, the Holy Spirit descends on him in bodily form at the beginning of his mission, just as it will come in visible form on the apostles at Pentecost at the beginning of their mission. The Father puts his seal of approval on Jesus and on the mission he is about to begin.



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.

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The Altar Society will take down the Christmas decorations in the Church on Monday, January 10th after the 8:15 a.m. Mass. Anyone wishing to help is asked to please meet in the Church around 9:00 a.m.

Flowers will be placed in the walkway between the Church and school for anyone to take.



The Irish Priests Reunion will be celebrated at Most Holy Trinity in Pass Christian (9062 Kiln DeLisle Rd) on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. Bishop Paul Dempsey of Achonry, Ireland, will be here in Mississippi with us during the reunion and will be the main celebrant at the Mass honoring all deceased Irish priests. All priests, religious, deacons, and laity are invited to attend and a lovely reception and meal will be provided after.



You are invited to come to a Marian Movement of Priest Cenacle Mass on Thursday, January 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the Church. Mass, Rosary, and Consecration



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. January 15th). 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, January 15th 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.

Parish Website: To view a copy of the weekly Church bulletin on our website just type in "St. Alphonsus Parish Ocean Springs, MS 39564". It will contain a copy of the weekly Church bulletin.

Altar Society Members for next week
Janell Alliston, Deni Helms, Pat Zuber
Pray For Vocations

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	JANUARY 10
1 Samuel 1:1-8; Mark 1:14-20	
6:30 a.m.	Dr. Malcolm Latour
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Joe Toche
TUESDAY	JANUARY 11
1 Samuel 1:9-20; Mark 1:21-28;	
6:30 a.m.	Ann and Cecil Wolf
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Johnny Norman
WEDNESDAY	JANUARY 12
1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20; Mark 1:29-39	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Edward G. Dietrick, Jr.
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Matre Gospodinovich
THURSDAY	JANUARY 13
1 Samuel 4:1-11; Mark 1:40-45	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. David Mohler
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Eileen Murtough
FRIDAY	JANUARY 14
1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mark 2:1-12	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Dick Porterfield
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Joyce Sondheimer
SATURDAY	JANUARY 15
1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1; Mark 2:13-17	
8:15 a.m.	Deceased Knights of Columbus
4:00 p.m.	Mr. Randy Trahan
SUNDAY	JANUARY 16
Isaiah 62:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; John 2:1-11	
7:30 a.m.	Ms. Jackie Endt
9:00 a.m.	Int. Deacon Jim and Toni Gunkel
11:30 a.m.	Tom and Mary Kelley
5:30 p.m.	Congregation

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....	\$9,507.00
Weekly Online Collection.....	\$2,265.00
New Year's Day Collection.....	\$ 459.50
Poor Collection.....	\$2,722.26

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, 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, Edward Necaize, 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.



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of: Julie Bond, wife of Wayne Bond of this parish, who passed away December 27th.

Anne Tarazano, sister of Mary Fero of this parish, who passed away December 30th.

We extend our sympathy to both families and promise them a remembrance in our prayers. May God grant them eternal peace.

FAITH FORMATION

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

Jan 13: RCIA, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., Parish Hall Meeting Room

Jan 16: Faith Formation Classes, Times Listed Above
Adult Study Class, 10:15 a.m., Parish Hall Meeting Room
All are welcome to attend.



The Knights of Columbus will begin serving breakfast on Sunday, January 16th from 8:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. in the KC Hall for \$7.00 a plate. Breakfast will include eggs & pancakes (to order), grits, bacon, sausage, biscuits, gravy, coffee and juice. Come and enjoy the great food and fellowship.



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 January 18th – 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.



MARCH FOR LIFE 40 HOUR DEVOTION

The 2022 March for Life Rally is scheduled for Saturday, January 22nd in Washington D.C. Many students, parents and teachers from our diocese will be in attendance. To prayerfully support this event, we will begin a 40 hour devotion in our chapel on Friday, January 21st. The devotion will begin at 9:00 a.m. Friday morning and conclude at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 23rd. To sign up for an hour go to: stalphonusus.weadorehim.com or contact Jenny Gordon @ 228-282-0984 or Beth McMackin @ 228-324-4188.



Congratulations to Cheryl Cox – She was the winner of the Henry "Golden Boy" Lever Action Rifle that was raffled off by the St. Alphonsus Knights of Columbus. They thank everyone who purchased a ticket and helped make the raffle a success.



St. Michael Parish, Biloxi is looking for a responsible Administrative Assistant to perform a variety of administrative and clerical tasks. Duties include providing support to the Pastor, Deacons, and Church committees as well as preparing the weekly church bulletin, communicating online with church members, updating and maintaining membership databases, scheduling volunteer ministries, maintaining the church calendar, website and social media presence as well as maintaining QuickBooks. Candidates should be organized, able to complete work based on deadlines, work independently, have excellent written/verbal communication, and able to handle sensitive/confidential information. If you have previous experience as a secretary/administrative assistant and would like to work 18-22 hours per week, please apply at their website: www.stmichaelchurchbiloxi.com/job-announcements.

ST. ALPHONSUS SCHOOL

Jan 10: Noon Dismissal, Parent Conferences/Report Cards

Jan 14: Children's Mass, 8:15 a.m.

ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

Jan 9: Junior High Cheer Banquet, 5:00 p.m.

Jan 12: Band Parent Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

Jan 13: Mass, 9:40 a.m.



Watch Your Inboxes! Scam emails are on the rise. Please be extremely cautious when opening emails that appear to be from Fr. Mike or anyone on the parish staff. We will NEVER ask you to purchase gift cards or any other items on our behalf via email. Another way to tell if the email is legitimate is to look at the email address (stalparishos@gmail.com). And remember – when in doubt, you are always able to call the parish office to double check.



Mass for Family and Friends: You can have Masses offered for the Intention of family and friends as well as for the deceased. Mass cards are available at the Parish Office during regular business hours. The donation for each Mass is \$10.00.

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

Do this in memory of me – These words of Jesus Christ are inserted into the tradition of the memorial by which through a sacred rite is recalled the liberation accomplished by God when He led His People out of Egypt, with which the book of Exodus deals extensively. By the Rite of Passover, on the fourteenth day of the month of Abib (Nissan), the annual banquet was prepared in which the Jewish People by the command of the Lord commemorated their liberation from Egypt (Ex 12:1-14). The very name of Passover (*pesah*) signifies the passing over of the Lord who freed the Israelites while He punished the Egyptians; thus begins the Exodus. During the Passover, the Israelites are commanded to eat unleavened bread (because they were leaving in haste from the land of Egypt), bitter lettuce also (lest they completely forget the bitterness of their slavery), and the lamb whose blood they smeared on the doorposts and thresholds, so that by this sign God would spare the firstborn sons of the children of Israel. "Therefore you will have this day as a memorial day." From this verse is applied the Hebrew word *zikaron* (memorial). It does not mean a mere remembrance, because the Israelites when celebrating the Passover were bringing to mind the wonders God had done among them as if reminding God of His own deeds, so that God being faithful to Himself and His counsels might repeat such things among the people. For the Passover was a most powerful memorial (Ex 13:3-10) by which, when recalled before God, God by His own word obliged Himself once again to bring about salvation for the People of Israel.

PRAYER / REFLECTION

Sharing in the Lord's ministry

Lord Jesus, touch our eyes so that we may see the signs of your presence in our lives and in the world. Touch our ears so that we may hear your word. Touch our tongues so that we may profess our faith. Touch our hands so that we may give and receive. Touch our feet so that we may walk in your paths. Touch our minds so that we may understand your ways. Touch our wills so that they may be in tune with your will. Touch our hearts so that we may bring your love to our brothers and sisters, to the praise and glory of God. Amen.