

A clear theme runs through all three readings: God's mercy to sinners. In the First Reading we have the beautiful words God spoke to his people: 'I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.' The shame of sin and the darkness of slavery are behind them. The years of wandering in the desert are over; they have come home to the promised land. A new era was about to begin. They mark their homecoming by celebrating anew the feast of Passover.

This reminds us of the homecoming of the prodigal son (Gospel). His shame also is behind him. His years of wandering are over and he returns home to a warm welcome and a great feast. A new and bright future lies ahead of him. Jesus told the parable in response to the criticism of the Pharisees that he was too lenient towards sinners. They were meant to see themselves in the older son. For Luke the 'Pharisees' are righteous Christians, for whom God's mercy to sinners is unfair and scandalous. The Second Reading stresses how God has reconciled us to himself through Christ, not holding our faults against us. The task of the Church is to bring the benefits won by Christ to all people.



Please remember to support the Catholic Sharing Appeal. This program supports the ministries of our Church and provides for many individuals in need each year. Your gift of prayer and financial resources ensures that we will continue to help the mission of the Church in a real way. Every gift, regardless of size, is vital to the success of the Appeal. Pledge envelopes are available at the exits of the Church. This year's parish goal for St. Alphonsus is \$61,146. Please make checks payable to the Catholic Sharing Appeal and mail directly to the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi at 1790 Popp's Ferry Road, Biloxi 39532. You may also donate online at www.biloxidiocese.org/giving. We thank those who have already responded to help the less fortunate in our community.



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) this coming week (March 28 - April 1).

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.



You are invited to join us for the First Friday Devotion & Benediction on Friday, April 1st beginning at 7:45 a.m. (prior to 8:15 mass).



You are invited to join us for the First Saturday Devotion on Saturday, April 2nd at 7:45 a.m. (half hour before the 8:15 a.m. Mass) with Devotion, Consecration, Rosary and Benediction. Confession will also be available.



O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You. Come join us as we continue Christ's journey to the cross through the Divine Mercy Novena. Saturday, immediately following 8:15 mass.



The Knights of Columbus will serve breakfast on Sunday, April 3rd 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.



Our Penance Service for Lent will be held in the Church on Monday, April 4th at 7:00 p.m. A number of local priests will be in attendance that night to expedite the waiting time. Please make the reception of the Sacrament part of your spiritual preparation for Easter.

Other local Penance Service schedules:

St. Elizabeth Seton - Wednesday, March 30th, 6:00 p.m.

Nativity BVM, Biloxi - Thursday, April 7th, 7:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Fatima, Biloxi - Monday, April 11th, 7:00 p.m.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	MARCH 28
Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54	
6:30 a.m.	Mathilde and Fernand Latour
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Lena Hall
TUESDAY	MARCH 29
Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-16	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Noah Thibodeaux
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Camille B. Durkin
WEDNESDAY	MARCH 30
Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. David Horowitz
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Patricia Larkins
THURSDAY	MARCH 31
Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47	
6:30 a.m.	Mary Lou and Jack Brennan
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Peggy Ncaise
FRIDAY	APRIL 1
Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30	
6:30 a.m.	Int. Ms. Deborah Foushee
8:15 a.m.	Int. Mr. William Odom
SATURDAY	APRIL 2
Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-53	
8:15 a.m.	The Pitalo Family The Jordan Family
4:00 p.m.	Ms. Caroline Simrall Mr. Chandler Roesch
SUNDAY	APRIL 3
Isaiah 43:16-21; Philippians 3:8-14; John 8:1-11	
7:30 a.m.	Souls in Purgatory
9:00 a.m.	Mr. Thomas Tatlow
11:30 a.m.	Ms. Lois King Ferguson
5:30 p.m.	Congregation

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$8,984.29
 Weekly Online Collection.....\$2,285.09
 Special Ukraine Collection.....\$2,841.45
 May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support



Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends: Kevin Barry, Beckett Bassenger, Christopher Bellman, Anthony David Belson, Elaine Belson, Bob Boney, Mercedes Bosarge, Carole Bourgeois, Bryleigh Brochard, Jeffrey Brochard, Kay Brochard, Margaret Broussard, Sybil Burchinal, Arlene Burns, Vicki Carter, Carolyn Castleman, Jennifer Catchot, Christine Chandler, 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 Ncaise, Terese Nicovich, Shirley and Travis Norman, The Petitjean Family, Richard Potash, 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.

Altar Society Members for next week

**Mary Ann Bounds, Barbara Fournier
 Mary Alice Kanode, Lois Ravera**

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 Will Haislmaier at whaislmaier@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

Mar 31: RCIA, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., Parish Hall Meeting Room
Apr 3: Faith Formation Classes, Times Listed Above
Adult Study Class, 10:15 a.m., Parish Hall Meeting Room
 Brant Pitre "The Jewish Roots of the Papacy: All are welcome to attend."



Most people are familiar with the idea of "tithing," offering to God a tenth of one's income. It is a biblical concept, rooted in the book of Genesis, when Abraham gave to Melchizedek, king of Salem, "a tenth of everything." (Gen 14:20). Christians have carried on

this example for centuries, and not only in regard to money. A largely lost tradition, and one well worth recovering, is to approach the 40 days of Lent as a spiritual tithe of our time. Time is more valuable than money. When it comes to Lent, simply crossing 40 days off the calendar cannot be considered a worthy sacrifice. If we want to make a tithe of our time, we must use those days well, turning them into a meaningful offering to God.

An excerpt from "Tithing Our Time to God" by Philip Kosloski taken from K of C Columbia magazine

It is never too late to begin—Visit stalphonsus.weadorehim.com to view the adoration schedule or to sign up for a weekly adoration hour. If you know you cannot make your hour, please request a substitute on the website.

1. Log in to your adoration account at stalphonsus.weadorehim.com
2. Click on 'My Dashboard'
3. Scroll down until you see 'My Commitments'
4. Click the yellow highlighted box that says, 'Request Substitute'
5. A text box will pop up asking you to confirm your sub request. Click on the green 'Request Substitute' box to confirm.
6. Click 'Okay' to complete.

The computer will now find you a substitute and let you know when one has been secured.

Call 228-282-0984 for any questions on logging in or using the website.



Please welcome our new Youth Minister, Will Haislmaier, and pray for our youth ministry to be faithful and grow in the love of God.



St. Elizabeth Seton invites you to their 1st Annual Craft Fair on Saturday, April 9th from 12 Noon - 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 10th from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

The fair will be held on the Church grounds (4900 Riley Road, Ocean Springs) and will include local vendors with handmade crafts. They are also looking for vendors who would like to be a part of the fair. If interested, call Amy at 228-324-9406 or 228-875-0654.



The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Blood Drive on Sunday, April 10th from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in the KC Hall. For early registration go to redcrossblood.org - search St. Alphonsus in the upper right hand corner, "Find a Blood Drive" box and sign up for an available time. Walk-ins will also be accepted.

School Subsidy Policy

Registration for the 2022/2023 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

Apr 1: Children's Mass, 8:15 a.m.; Stations of the Cross, 2:30 p.m.

Apr 3: Student Mass, 9:00 a.m.

St. Alphonsus School is looking to hire a PK1 Teacher and Cafeteria Manager. If you have childcare or food service experience and would be interested, please contact the school at 875-5329.

ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

Mar 31: Mass, 9:40 a.m.

Apr 1: Progress Reports

Apr 2: Prom, 6:00 p.m.

The Music and Fine Arts Ministry of Nativity BVM Cathedral offers a very special program for Lent entitled: Reflections On Holy Week.

The event will take place Saturday, April 2nd at 3:00 p.m. at the Cathedral. This is the first offering of the Cathedral's 2022 Concert Series. This program portrays the various spiritual and substantial events of Jesus' Journey to Jerusalem and ultimately to the Cross; and reflects upon his last utterances there. These scriptural "Lessons" will be shared and then enhanced with choral musical "shadows" reflective of the depth of the moment and the meaning of the sacrifice.

The hour-long program will be presented by Nativity BVM Cathedral's Choral Society - "Gloria In Excelsis" along with Mobile, Alabama's "Mobile Vocal Arts" Choral Society. The concert service/massed choir will be under the direction of Terry D. Maddox, M.M. - the Cathedral's Minister of Music ~ Director of Fine Arts. The program is free and open to the public.

For further information, please contact Terry at 251 406-1454 or terrydalemaddox@gmail.com.



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Alfred E. Rushing, uncle of Rhonda Rosetti of this parish, who passed away March 17th.

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

Commentary on the Doctrine Of the Most Holy Eucharist

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

4. The Ends of the Eucharistic Sacrifice

4. Intercession

Finally, the Eucharistic Sacrifice is prayer. In the intercessions of the Eucharistic Prayer, we beseech God the Father for His benefits, through Christ who shows Himself to be an intercessor for us. Moreover, God always relates to us as a Father, but when the Eucharist is celebrated we offer the Father His most beloved Son in a particular way. In the Eucharist, we have the greatest opportunity for invoking God the Father through Christ and therefore Christ the priest intercedes for all (cf. Jn 16:24).



The Flowers on the Altar are in Memory of William King Family