

The First Reading is an extract from a long section which recounts God's actions on behalf of Israel during the Exodus from Egypt. It points out how the Israelites benefited from the very things by which the Egyptians were punished and thus sets forth a historical basis for trust in God.

This fits in with the theme of the Second Reading, which deals with faith in God's promises. It extols various figures in the history of Israel, but especially Abraham, as examples of faith.

The emphasis in the Gospel is on readiness for the return of the Lord. Even though the disciples are only a 'little flock' in a hostile world, they must not be discouraged, but must look with confidence to the Father who has chosen them for his kingdom. They are like bridesmaids waiting for the bridegroom (Jesus) to return from the wedding feast. Since they do not know the exact hour of his return, they must maintain a constant watchfulness and faithfulness.

Though these words have relevance for all Christians, Luke was thinking especially of leaders in the community, and calling them to a selfless service of their Lord and of their fellow Christians.



You are invited to join parishioner Johnnie Bernhard in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Bookstore on Saturday, August 20th at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, August 21st at 10:00 a.m. as she signs copies of her latest novel, *HANNAH AND ARIELA*. The novel explores the theme of Jesus' greatest commandment in loving our neighbors as HE has loved us, when two women from very different worlds are connected one fateful night. Their mutual Catholic Faith and love of Mary protects them in a life and death decision.



Evening of Intercession - Intercessory prayer is going between the Lord and the person you are praying for, asking the Lord to show them his mercy and blessings.

You are invited 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, August 24th from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 pm. Please bring your Rosary with you.



St. Alphonsus Parish is happy to announce that we will be hosting a one-day RETREAT on October 15th, featuring Fr. Mark Beard, the dynamic Director of *Our Lady of Hope Retreat Center* in Chatawa, MS. Fr. Mark's topic will be *In Defense of Mother Church*, covering the scriptural

basis of Catholic teachings and traditions.

The cost of the Retreat is \$75.00 which includes lunch and a retreat booklet. The schedule is as follows: 8:30 a.m. Check-in for all retreatants, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Retreat, (lunch provided) 4:00 p.m. Mass. Confession will be available before and after Mass. To register, please go to: www.Ourladyofhopems.com/events.

During these often-confusing times in which we are living, we believe that you will find Fr. Mark's presentation.... informative, inspiring and hopeful!



A message from Will Haislmaier, Youth Minister: We are in the process of remodeling the Youth Office and our goal is to be fully operational by the beginning of September. The Youth Office will be designated for the purpose of Youth Ministry and Evangelization. It is my intention that with this space our youth will feel that St. Alphonsus has a place for them where they can feel at home and seek out our Lord with friends and family. However, we need your help. We are currently accepting donations to help furnish and decorate the youth space. I thank you for all your prayers and support and any donation is deeply appreciated.

For a listing of items on the 'wish list' please go to: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1LLZXA3XE4DB?ref=wl_sh are.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	AUGUST 8
Ezekiel 1:2-5, 24-28c; Matthew 17:22-27	
6:30 a.m.	Dr. Malcolm Latour
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Toni Denaux
TUESDAY	AUGUST 9
Ezekiel 2:8—3:4; Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14	
6:30 a.m.	Ann and Cecil Wolf
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Betty Nutt
WEDNESDAY	AUGUST 10
2 Corinthians 9:6-10; John 12:24-26	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Edward G. Dietrick, Jr.
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Ruth Boney
THURSDAY	AUGUST 11
Ezekiel 12:1-12; Matthew 18:21—19:1	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Dick Porterfield
8:15 a.m.	Special Intention
FRIDAY	AUGUST 12
Ezekiel 16:1-15, 60, 63; Matthew 19:3-12	
6:30 a.m.	Int. Ms. Deborah Foushee
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Matthew Avara
SATURDAY	AUGUST 13
Ezekiel 18:1-10, 13b, 30-32; Matthew 19:13-15	
8:15 a.m.	Int. Ms. Olivia Karp
	4:00 p.m.
	Ms. Ligaya Camagong
SUNDAY	AUGUST 14
Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10; Hebrews 12:1-4; Luke 12:49-53	
7:30 a.m.	Ms. Joicelyn Mayfield
9:00 a.m.	Ms. Carol Gordon
11:30 a.m.	Congregation
5:30 p.m.	Ms. Ann Tootle

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....	\$11,279.49
Weekly Online Collection.....	\$ 5,030.00
Extension Society Collection.....	\$ 1,743.63
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, Betty Bodin, Bob Boney, Mercedes Bosarge, Carole Bourgeois, Bryleigh Brochard, Jeffrey Brochard, Kay Brochard, Roland and Margaret Broussard, Sybil Burchinal, Arlene Burns, Vicki Carter, Carolyn Castleman, Jennifer Catchot, Christine Chandler, Pat Cronin, Billy Cruthirds, Breanne Dalton, Gina Dasher, Jeannine Dionne, Dale Dorcik, Marjorie DuBois, Gordon Gaethe, Ansley Gilich, Julian Galloway, Sandra Grantham, 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, Terése 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, Bridgett Shepard, Dianne Tootle, Ted Ursu, Rose M. Vail, Margaret Misko VanLoon, and Ashley Vickers

FAITH FORMATION



Are you Searching for a Relationship with God? Do you just simply want to know more about the Catholic way of life? Are you interested in becoming a Catholic Christian? Were you baptized Catholic but are not in full communion with the Church through First Eucharist and Confirmation? Do you want to convert to Catholicism from another church? If you answered YES to any of these questions, then St. Alphonsus Catholic Church invites you to join our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program. Classes for RCIA will meet on Thursday's from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. For additional information, contact Rob or Christina Malloch at 872-6938 or the Parish Office at 875-5419.



Youth Ministry News: As summer ends and school begins, we are pleased to say it is with great joy that on September 11th after the 5:30 p.m. Mass St. Alphonsus Youth Ministry will begin with its first event for the year. This night will be a moment for the families and the youth of St. Alphonsus to enjoy some food, fellowship and games! This will also be an opportunity to learn additional information about St. Alphonsus Youth Ministry, Life Teen, EDGE, and Confirmation. All families and youth are invited and encouraged to attend, and we hope to see you there!

Please look in the parish bulletin, my parish app, and St. Al's Facebook for more information on the upcoming youth ministry calendar, events and programs.



Youth Ministry Volunteers are also needed.

If interested in becoming a volunteer or for more information, please visit: <https://forms.gle/9V3Ez6UVJrhJTPNU6>.



Our Mother of Mercy Parish in Pass Christian will hold a **Men's Retreat** on Friday, August 12th at 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, August 13th from 8:30 am until noon. Please call (228) 452-6309 to register. The parish will provide breakfast and lunch.



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Gwendolyn Noble, daughter-in-law of Betty Noble and sister-in-law of Jane (Robert) Sema of this parish, who passed away July 26th.

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

**Altar Society Members for next week
Deni Helms, Jenny Hillyard, Pat Zuber**

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:

Reverend Morgan Kavanagh, August 6, 1998
Reverend Ivan Weis, August 7, 2007
Reverend Patrick C. Grant, August 9, 1991
Reverend John P. Robinson, August 10, 1977
Rev. Msgr. Francis Farrell, August 12, 2017
Reverend Paul Gillis, August 14, 1995



**The Flowers on the Altar are in
Memory of Ruth Boney**

ST. ALPHONSUS SCHOOL

Aug 12: Children's Mass, 8:15 a.m.

Aug 13: Back to School Wine and Cheese

ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

Aug 8: Varsity Football Parent Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

Aug 10: JH Football Parent Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

Aug 11: School Picture Day / Mass 9:40 a.m.



How Do I Adore? *When we go before the Blessed Sacrament, let us open our heart; our good God will open His. We shall go to Him; He will come to us; the one to ask, the Other to receive. It will be like a breath from one to the other.*

~St. John Vianney

When we spend time with Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, we can sometimes feel unsure of how to pray, how to spend our time in His Presence. We know by faith that before us is hidden a great mystery of God's power and love, which should overwhelm us with awe, reverence, and fervent devotion. But it is a hidden mystery.

The King of kings is not visible in majestic glory upon His throne when we enter into an adoration chapel. We do not see His human face as we gaze upon the Sacred Host. In His mercy, His Real Presence is veiled to our senses, so that our weak humanity will not fear to draw near to Him in the Sacrament of His love.

This hiddenness, however, requires of us a strong and living faith. We may wonder at times if He is really there, if He is listening. We may feel bored, tired, or distracted when we commit ourselves to spending time with Him in the Blessed Sacrament. We may wonder how to adore in the first place. It is important to remember that feelings of love, fervor, and devotion are not essential for adoration. Adoration is not a sentiment.

Fr. John Hardon, in his *Modern Catholic Dictionary*, defines adoration as "the act of religion by which God is recognized as alone worthy of supreme honor because He is infinitely perfect, has supreme dominion over humans, and the right to human total dependence on the Creator. It is at once an act of mind and will, expressing itself in appropriate prayers, postures of praise, and acts of reverence and sacrifice."

Our adoration, therefore, begins when we walk in the door of the church or adoration chapel. When we genuflect before the Blessed Sacrament, kneel in the pew, and show Him our respect by giving Him our full attention, we adore Him. When we turn off our cell phone and maintain a reverent silence in the chapel, we adore Him. When we make a simple act of faith in His Real Presence, we adore Him. When we place ourselves before Him as empty vessels to be filled with His love, we adore Him.

In our self-centered culture and classic American emphasis on work, we often feel we have to accomplish something during our times of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. We rate our experience by how "good" our prayer was, how heartfelt our devotion was, or how focused we could remain. Yet prayer and contemplation are fundamentally God's work, in which we are invited to participate.

We need only to give Him the opening, and He will do the rest. By coming to adoration, we are handing Him the key to our hearts, allowing the rays of His love and grace to bathe our souls in the light of His Presence, as the rays of the sun bathe our bodies in light. If we can take the time to pull away from the busyness and distractions of life and just sit at His feet, He will lead us.

An excerpt from the *Manual for Eucharistic Adoration*.



To sign up for a holy hour or to become a substitute, scan the QR code or visit stalphonsus.weadorehim.com/signup.