

Isaiah uses the image of the desert, made fertile by rain, to portray the confident hope that God would restore his people, crushed by misfortune. Their most crippling disabilities – blindness, deafness and lameness – will be relieved when God sends salvation to his people.

John the Baptist's image of the Messiah was that of a stern judge who would execute a fiery judgement. But Jesus did not fit this image. Hence, John's doubts about him. Jesus dispelled John's doubts by showing that he was doing precisely the kind of things that had been predicted for the messianic times (by prophets such as Isaiah). Once again, Matthew sees Jesus as the one who fulfills the messianic prophecies.

James is talking about the Second Coming of Jesus. He urges the kind of patience and hope farmers show in waiting for the harvest, and which the prophets of old showed as they waited for the promises to be fulfilled.

--New Sunday & Holy Day Liturgies, by Flor McCarthy, SDB



Capital Campaign Update: As we work behind the scenes to prepare for our campaign, we wanted to share a few updates with our community. First, we have selected a theme: *Building on Faith,*

Growing to Serve. This is fitting for the St. Alphonsus Catholic Church and School community because of our strong and deep roots in the community combined with our desire for impactful growth. You will start to see this theme and logo in lots of places!

This is an exciting time for our church and school as we seek to lay a strong foundation for a positive future. To be successful, we will rely on support from every family at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church and School. In the coming weeks and months, you will learn much more about the campaign and the different ways you can help. Save the date for the weekend of January 7th for our campaign kick-off! In the meantime, please pray for the church and school leaders and volunteers who will soon work diligently to ensure a successful outcome.

As we prepare our materials for the Capital Campaign, we would like to highlight the rich history and traditions of our parish family. If you have pictures of weddings, baptisms, parish gatherings, and school celebrations from the past please share them by emailing them to stalosphoto@gmail.com.



A Second Collection will be taken up next weekend for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Envelopes are available at the church exits.



Our Penance Service for Advent will be held in the Church on Thursday, December 22nd 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 Christmas. **Other local Penance Service schedules:**

- Sacred Heart, D'Iberville – Wednesday, December 14th, 6:00 p.m.
- St. Elizabeth Seton – Wednesday, December 14th, 5:00 p.m.
- Our Lady of Fatima, Biloxi – Monday, December 19th, 7:00 p.m.
- Nativity BVM – Tuesday, December 20th, 6:00 p.m.



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 18th.



The Flowers on the Altar are in Memory of Glen Skelton

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	DECEMBER 12
Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:39-47	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Theo Laborde
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Jackie Endt
TUESDAY	DECEMBER 13
Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Matthew 21:28-32	
6:30 a.m.	Patsy and Joe Fountain
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Edmee' Hymel Baird
WEDNESDAY	DECEMBER 14
Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25; Luke 7:18b-23	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Kathy Dietrick
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Barbara Starkey
THURSDAY	DECEMBER 15
Isaiah 54:1-10; Luke 7:24-30	
6:30 a.m.	Edward and Marie Weidner, Sr.
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Andrew Justin Striegel
FRIDAY	DECEMBER 16
Isaiah 56:1-3a, 6-8; John 5:33-36	
6:30 a.m.	Int. Ms. Lucy Selman
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Katherine Walker Hanning
SATURDAY	DECEMBER 17
Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17	
8:15 a.m.	Deceased Knights of Columbus
4:00 p.m.	Mr. Garrett Lavin
SUNDAY	DECEMBER 18
Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24	
7:30 a.m.	Mr. Dick Porterfield
9:00 a.m.	Ms. Oakley Rose Authement
11:30 a.m.	Congregation
5:30 p.m.	Ms. Ann Tootle

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....	\$14,044.88
Weekly / Monthly Online Collection.....	\$ 8,923.00
Poor Collection.....	\$ 4,655.82
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, Kay Brochard, Jeff Brochard, Roland and Margaret Broussard, Roxie Buckles, Sybil Burchinal, Arlene Burns, Carolyn Castleman, Jennifer Catchot, Christine Chandler, Pat Cronin, Billy Cruthirds, Breanne Dalton, Gina Dasher, Jeannine Dionne, Dale Dorcik, Marjorie DuBois, Nija Fountain, Gordon Gaethe, Ansley Gilich, Julian Galloway, Charlie Goff, Sandra Grantham, Mary Jo Hoogstra, Ashley Jensen, Otis Kaufman, Jack Kelly, Daisie Laborde, Judy and Randy Lesso, Albert Gregory Mansfield, Gordon Mathieu, Iva Misko, Johnny Mitchell, Edward Necaize, Terése Nicovich, Shirley and Travis Norman, The Petitjean Family, Richard Potash, Charles Wesley Ryan, Jr., Margaret Rucinski, Harold (Jimmy) Saylor Jr., Jerry Schneider, Dale Seymour, Bridgett Shepard, Glenn Sigurnjak, Dianne Tootle, Ted Ursu, Rose M. Vail, Margaret Misko VanLoon, and Ashley Vickers.

**Altar Society Members for next week
J Anderson, J Brickson, P Carter, T Stuart**

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, 4:00 p.m. (before 5:30 p.m. Mass)
Life Teen (9th – 12th Gr): Sunday, 6:30 p.m. (after 5:30 p.m. Mass)
Confirmation (11th Gr): Wednesday, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Contact Will Haislmaier at whaislmaier@osstalphonusus.org

RCIA: Thursday, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., Our Lady of Mount Carmel Mtg Rm
Contact Rob or Christina Malloch at 872-6938

Dec 14: Confirmation Class: 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Dec 14: RCIA, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., Lady of Mount Carmel Mtg Room

Dec 18: No Adult Study, Faith Formation, Edge or Life Teen Classes



You are invited to come to a Marian Movement of Priest Cenacle Mass on Monday, December 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the Church.
Mass, Rosary, and Consecration

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE - ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH ANNUAL REPORT

The St. Alphonsus St Vincent DePaul Society reports to the Parish once each year their receipts and expenditures so that each of you might share in God's work in our community. They report the income received and assistance provided to the less fortunate of our community. We report this so that you may know the good that your financial support brings to our neighbors.

Thanks to your generosity, St. Vincent DePaul received \$48,280 in donations for the past fiscal year.

Their assistance was in the form of utility bill payments, rent & mortgage payments, and other essential expenses, as reflected: Power Bills \$19,822; Rent \$27,515; Water & Gas Bills \$3,662; 3 College Scholarships for under-privileged (1 to St Patrick & 1 to each of the local High Schools) \$3,000; 1 St. Alphonsus School Scholarship \$1,000; Flood & Hurricane Victim Relief (Other SVDP's) \$9,500; Bethesda Free Clinic – Equipment \$1,951; The Lord is My Help (Food Purchases) \$981; Temporary Motel Expense \$589; St Al's School Festival \$250; Christmas Gifts for Children \$1,350; Miscellaneous Support to the Needy \$422.

The total Assistance provided was \$70,042.

With the partial resolution of COVID-19 Virus, we have returned to our normal mode of operation, i.e. personal home visits. This year has seen a tremendous increase in the cost of services we provide to our friends in need. The amount we have paid for Power Bills and Rent has more than doubled since last year. We completed 228 home visits, providing support and services to a total of 566 people in the last year.

Our support comes from direct donations from individuals, honorariums for deceased loved ones, and a portion of the monthly collection for the poor. We would like to thank all of our parishioners who supported the very important work of St. Vincent DePaul Society this past year.

If you would like to make a direct donation in support of our Godly cause, please make your check payable to the St. Vincent DePaul Conference - St Alphonsus Parish.

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:

- Rev. Msgr. Gregory Kennedy, December 1, 1986
- Reverend John Joseph O'Reilly, December 5, 1989
- Reverend Remigius A. Kozak, December 18, 2013
- Rev. Msgr. John T. Martin, December 20, 1978

ST. ALPHONSUS SCHOOL

Dec 14: PK-K Christmas Program, 10:00 a.m.

Dec 15: Grades 1-6 Christmas Program, 6:00 p.m.

Dec 16: Children's Mass, 8:15 a.m.; Noon Dismissal

ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

Dec 14-16: Semester Exams

Dec 17: Baseball Camp, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



"What are you looking for?" These are the first words spoken by the Lord Jesus in the Gospel of John (John 1:38). He addressed them to the disciples of John the Baptist, who initially met the Lord on the road. Their response to Jesus' question was curious because they did not directly offer him an answer. Instead, they inquired as to where Jesus was staying, to which the Lord invited them with the simple words: "Come, and you will see" (Jn 1:39). Those who accept the Lord's invitation to come and see Him will also receive the answer to His initial question. They will find what their hearts truly desire. "What are you looking for?" The season of Advent is a time of prayer and reflection when we are invited to confront this one question as we journey to Bethlehem. We are encouraged to seek the answer that will truly satisfy the longings of our hearts and give us a peace that this world cannot give. For what we seek is not something but Someone, Christ the Lord, who is our Savior and Redeemer.

Keep your eyes fixed on Him who is your guide to the heavenly country, where He is leading you. --Padre Pio

Taken from Welcoming the Christ Child with Padre Pio by Susan De Bartoli

Our adoration chapel is always open for you! Come and adore Him!



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

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



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 17th).

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 17th 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.



The St. Alphonsus Knights of Columbus will raffle off a Henry "Golden Boy" Lever Action Rifle 22 Caliber S/L/LR on Sunday, December 18th. Tickets are \$10

each. For more information or to purchase a ticket, call Chuck Nannery at 875-0267.



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of: Roberta Boyle, sister of Timothy (Rebecca) Fink of this parish, who passed away December 2nd in Milwaukee.

Bonnie Senseney, a member our parish family, who passed away December 3rd.

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