

All three readings deal with the identity of ‘the One who was to come’. The identity of the child was vaguely glimpsed in the Old Testament. Isaiah talked about the coming of a very special child (First Reading). But there is no reason to believe that he knew just how special that child would be. No prophecy is fully understood until after its fulfillment. Matthew shows that Isaiah’s prophecy was fulfilled in Jesus, and in a far greater way that the prophet could ever have imagined. The New Testament reveals the true identity of this special Child (Jesus). The Second Reading and the Gospel make it clear that Jesus was the Son of David. This was so because Joseph, his legal father, was descended from the line of David. But he is more than that. He is also the Son of God. --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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 [stalphoto@gmail.com](mailto:stalphoto@gmail.com).

## Mass Schedule

### Penance Service

**Monday, Dec 19:** Our Lady of Fatima – Biloxi, 7:00 p.m.  
**Tuesday, Dec 20:** Nativity BVM, 6:00 p.m.  
**Thursday, Dec 22:** St. Alphonsus, 7:00 p.m.

### Christmas Eve

**4:00 p.m.** – Mass for families with small children  
 Children’s Choir  
**6:00 p.m.** – Mass with Contemporary Christmas Music  
**11:00 p.m.** – Midnight Mass  
 Traditional “Adult Choir” Christmas Music  
 Prelude Music 10:30 p.m., Mass at 11:00 p.m.

**Christmas Day:** 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. (English)  
 2:00 p.m. Spanish Mass

### Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

**Saturday, December 31:** 4:00 p.m.  
**Sunday, January 1:** 7:30, 9:00, & 11:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m. (English)  
 2:00 p.m. Spanish Mass

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 19</b>
Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Joe Prejean
8:15 a.m.	Int. Ms. Genevieve Steadman Casey
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 20</b>
Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38	
6:30 a.m.	Int. Ms. Nelda Latour
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Linden Brashier
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 21</b>
Song of Songs 2:8-14; Luke 1:39-45	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Edward G. Dietrick, Jr.
8:15 a.m.	Mr. & Mrs. William (Joyce) Staehle, Jr.
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 22</b>
1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Anita Grace White
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Elena Broussard
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 23</b>
Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Joyce Lopez
8:15 a.m.	Int. Ms. Briellen Howell
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 24</b>
2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:67-79	
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Ethel Picard
Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25	
4:00 p.m.	Mr. Nolan Fremin
6:00 p.m.	Ms. Carol Gordon
Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14	
11:00 p.m.	Mr. & Mrs. John Mangin
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 25</b>
Isaiah 62:11-12; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20	
9:00 a.m.	Ms. Robbie Vickery Beeler
Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18	
11:30 a.m.	Mr. Earl Hammond

## WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....	\$12,072.61
Immaculate Conception Collection.....	\$ 2,126.00
Weekly Online Collection.....	\$ 2,115.00
SVDP Pharmacy Collection.....	\$ 2,014.00
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 Necaïse, 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.

## FAITH FORMATION

**Kindergarten - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Sunday, 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.  
 Contact Jane Sema at [jsema@osstalphonsus.org](mailto:jsema@osstalphonsus.org)

**Edge (6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade):** Sunday, 4:00 p.m. (before 5:30 p.m. Mass)  
**Life Teen (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Gr):** Sunday, 6:30 p.m. (after 5:30 p.m. Mass)  
**Confirmation (11<sup>th</sup> Gr):** Wednesday, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.  
 Contact Will Haislmaier at [whaislmaier@osstalphonsus.org](mailto:whaislmaier@osstalphonsus.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 21: No Confirmation Class**

**Dec 22: No RCIA**

**Dec 25: No Adult Study, Faith Formation, Edge or Life Teen Classes**



**The Altar Society will decorate the Church for Christmas** on Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> following the 8:15 a.m. Mass. Anyone wishing to help is asked to please meet in the Church.



**The Bookstore and Gift Shop will be closed Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> through Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> and will reopen on Tuesday, January 3, 2023.**

### OFFICE CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

**Office Closed: December 22, 23, 26**

**Office Open: December 28-30 from 9:00 a.m. – 12 Noon**



**St. Alphonsus Church App - If you have either an iPhone or Android smart phone** you can download the app by texting **App** to phone number **55321**, or by visiting [myparishapp.com](http://myparishapp.com).

Stay connected with our parish throughout the week with instant notifications regarding our parish life and an easy-to-access event calendar as well as many more great features such as daily Mass readings, Catholic news, prayers and prayer reminders, **quick access to our weekly bulletin, Church website (osstalphonsus.org) and FORMED.**

It is easier than ever for you to enjoy your subscription to FORMED! Just download the FREE FORMED app and start enjoying great video and audio wherever you go (or if you are already signed up – you are able to access through the parish app). You will be able to stream hundreds of hours of inspiring movies and video series, read bestselling Catholic eBooks, and listen to audio presentations from the Church’s most compelling speakers and is available from virtually any device...anytime, anywhere. St. Alphonsus has a purchased subscription from Formed.org, which gives St. Alphonsus parishioners’ FREE access to high quality Catholic programs, movies, downloadable audios and downloadable e-books. To gain access to the website go to [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org), enter our Parish name or zip code on the homepage, create an account with your user name/email and password and start enjoying the best Catholic content all in one place.



If you appreciate the ease of online banking and bill pay, you will be happy to know that you can easily offer a regular tithe with support to the Church through Direct Debit through our bank, Hancock Whitney (forms may be printed off on our website under “Forms and Applications” or by calling the Rectory Office) or by making one-time or recurring gifts directly on our parish website by clicking the “Online Donation” box. Stop worrying about weekly envelopes – you can turn your tithe into an automatic gift that gives when and how often you would like. Have questions? Call the Rectory Office during regular business hours and we will be happy to help you in any way.

## ST. ALPHONSUS SCHOOL ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

**Dec 19 – Jan 2:** Christmas Holidays, No School



### Awaiting Him

In this last week of Advent, let us pause for a moment or two to meditate on what this season is really all about. It is about God bringing His only begotten Son into our world through the power of the Holy Spirit to save us from ourselves. It would not have happened if Mary had not said yes. Let us say yes too. Yes, to the graces He wants to shower upon us through the sacraments. Yes, to a deeper and more meaningful prayer life. Yes, to His invitation to experience a real relationship with Him.

*O Lord, this Advent increase my faith that I might prefer you to all things, and in seeking you I might be united to you, who live and reign with God the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen* --Magnificat Advent Companion

Come and visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament day or night! He would love to see you!



To sign up for a holy hour or to become a substitute, scan the QR code or visit [stalphonsus.weadorehim.com/signup](http://stalphonsus.weadorehim.com/signup).

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



**AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support St. Alphonsus Church every time you shop, at no cost to you.** AmazonSmile is available at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop with AmazonSmile, you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to St. Alphonsus Church. For easy activation, use the unique charity link below to sign up: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/64-0354038>.



**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.



**Parishioner Registration:** When planning a baptism, marriage, or to obtain subsidized tuition rates for our Catholic Schools, you must be able to demonstrate that you are a practicing Catholic and that you do attend Mass.

It is the Church, not just this parish, which insists that signs of good faith commitment be present on these occasions. Using envelopes helps maintain a record of contributions and Mass attendance. Parish registration forms may be obtained in the Vestibule of the Church or at the Parish Office during regular office hours.

**Altar Society Members for next week**  
**T O’Connor, A Balias, AB Davidson, L Keefe**

**Pray For Vocations**