

Since God is holy, we are to be holy. We are holy when we imitate the generosity of God by not exacting vengeance, or bearing a grudge against another. In Leviticus, the commandment: ‘You must love your neighbor as yourself’ is restricted to fellow Israelites. But Jesus broadened it to include everyone, Gentiles as well as Jews, enemies as well as friends. Why? Because this is the way the heavenly Father acts. He shows equal love towards good and bad, not because he is indifferent to morality, but because he loves without limit.

Paul gives us a profound reason why we should respect one another: we are the Temple of God. Individually and collectively the Holy Spirit dwells in us. This is also the basis of our unity.



The Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday, February 21st for Mardi Gras.



Lent begins Wednesday, February 22nd with a day of Fast and Abstinence. Four masses will be available on that day beginning with the usual morning masses at 6:30 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. (children from our elementary school will attend), 12:00 Noon and 6:00 p.m. A Special Collection will be taken up for the Churches in Central / Eastern Europe and Africa. Envelopes are available at the exits of the Church.



During Lent, Stations of the Cross will be conducted each Monday morning immediately after the 8:15 a.m. Mass, each Friday afternoon by the school children at 2:30 p.m. (adults welcome), and Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. with the Way of the Cross followed by Mass.

All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence (abstaining from meat and meat products for those who are 14 years of age and older).

Fasting: Catholics 18-59 years of age who are in good health are obliged to fast and abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On all the weekdays of Lent the U.S. Bishops strongly encourage the faithful to participate in Mass and to observe a self-imposed fast. The law of fasting allows only one full meal a day, but does not prohibit taking some food in the morning and evening. Customarily, the two smaller ‘collations,’ when considered together, should not equal the main meal – and ideally should be eaten only if needed to maintain one’s strength.

Abstinence: All Catholics 14 years of age and older are obliged to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent (unless the Friday is a solemnity).

In their Penance and Abstinence pastoral, the U.S. Bishops declared: “the obligation both to fast and to abstain from meat, an obligation observed under a more strict formality by our fathers in the faith, still binds on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. No Catholic Christian will lightly excuse himself from so hallowed an obligation...” They also stated: “we preserve for our dioceses the tradition of abstinence from meat on each of the Fridays of Lent, confident that no Catholic Christian will lightly hold himself excused from this penitential practice.”

Flowers and Music: During Lent, flowers are not to be used to decorate the altar, with the exceptions of the Fourth Sunday of Lent, and the Solemnity of St. Joseph (March 19), and the Solemnity of the Annunciation (March 25); musical instruments are only to be played in order to support the singing, with the same exceptions.

Gloria and Creed: The Gloria and the Creed are sung/said on the Lenten solemnities. Note that when the Creed is said during the Mass on the Annunciation that all genuflect at the words, “and by the Holy Spirit, he was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.”

Covering Crosses and Images: Crosses and images should not be covered for the whole of Lent. The appropriate time to cover crosses and statues in purple is before the Saturday Vigil Mass of the Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 26, 2023 (after the Saturday morning Mass of that day). Crosses remain covered until the end of the Celebration of the Lord’s Passion on Good Friday; other images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil.

Holy Water: Removing holy water from the fonts during the season of Lent (and replacing it with sand, etc.) is not permitted; holy water is removed after the evening Mass Holy Thursday and refilled on Holy Saturday with water blessed at the Easter Vigil.

Funeral Masses: The celebration of a funeral Mass is not permitted on the Sundays of Lent and Easter, Holy Thursday, and the days of the Easter Triduum. However, when necessary, a “Funeral Liturgy Outside Mass” may be used.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	FEBRUARY 20
Sirach 1:1-10; Mark 9:14-29	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Theo Laborde
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Camille B. Durkin
TUESDAY	FEBRUARY 21
Sirach 2:1-11; Mark 9:30-37	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Frank Leach
8:15 a.m.	Mr. John Mangin
WEDNESDAY	FEBRUARY 22
Joel 2:12-18; 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2; Matthew 6:1-6,16-18	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Edward G. Dietrick, Jr.
8:15 a.m.	Norman and Mildred Eckert
12:00 Noon	St. Alphonsus Parishioners
6:00 p.m.	St. Alphonsus Parishioners
THURSDAY	FEBRUARY 23
Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 9:22-25	
6:30 a.m.	Joseph and Roseline Bellande
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Vera Lusk
FRIDAY	FEBRUARY 24
Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 9:14-15	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Patsy Ellmer
8:15 a.m.	Int. Mr. Robert Myer Hanning
SATURDAY	FEBRUARY 25
Isaiah 58:9b-14; Luke 5:27-32	
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Jozef & Mrs. Mary Szekunda
4:00 p.m.	Ms. Ligaya Camagong
SUNDAY	FEBRUARY 26
Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11	
7:30 a.m.	Mr. Henry Endt, Sr.
9:00 a.m.	Congregation
11:30 a.m.	Mr. Fred Lusk, Jr.
5:30 p.m.	Mr. Roger Parker

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$11,021.78
 Weekly Online Collection.....\$ 4,310.00
 May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support



The Flowers on the Altar are in Honor of Fr. Kennedy

Altar Society Members for this week
T O’Connor, A Balius, AB Davidson, L Keefe
Flowers – J Lloyd

FAITH FORMATION

Feb 22: Confirmation Class: 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Feb 23: RCIA: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., First Confessions

Feb 26: Adult Study Class, after 9am Mass, Mount Carmel Mtg Room
Faith Formation Classes, Kindergarten – 5th Grade, 10:15 a.m.

Contact Jane Sema at jsema@osstalphonus.org

Edge Class, 4:00 p.m.; **Life Teen Class,** 6:30 p.m.

Contact Will Haislmaier at whaislmaier@osstalphonus.org



The Building on Faith, Growing to Serve Capital Campaign is closing in on our tremendous goal of \$1.5 million to support the future of our church and

school. This weekend we are celebrating our Commitment Weekend and welcoming Fr. Kennedy at our hospitality weekend at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. During Mass, we will be asking all parishioners to participate in the campaign efforts. If you haven’t already made a commitment this is an opportunity to do that through a pledge, one-time investment, or through your prayers. Together we will demonstrate the power and unity of our faith community. We are at a crucial stage in our fundraising, and we can’t accomplish our goals without the commitment of the entire community. Thank you for your generous support!



The 5:30 p.m. Sunday Evening Mass Music Ministry is searching for musicians and vocalists to play/sing in their group. If interested, please see Erwin Gaines after the 5:30 p.m. Mass or leave your name and number with the Church Office.



St. Alphonsus is hosting an XLT night on Thursday, February 23rd from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the Church. This is an evening for all to come and worship the Lord in the presence of His Eucharistic body. There will be music and the Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available. We hope to see all of our parishioners at XLT and encourage all families to come. This is a great time to lay the burdens of everyday life at the feet of God and be filled with His peace.



A Second Collection will be taken up next weekend (February 25/26) for the Black and Indian Missions. Envelopes are available at the exits of the Church.



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Roger Parker, husband of Kathleen Parker and father of Erica (Andrew) Levens of this parish, who passed away February 11th.

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



Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends: Barney Banks, 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, Daisy Laborde, Judy and Randy Lesso, Nancy Letort, Albert Gregory Mansfield, Gordon Mathieu, Iva Misko, Johnny Mitchell, Edward Necaice, Terése Nicovich, Shirley and Travis Norman, Thomas Peresich, The Petitjean Family, Richard Potash, Charles Wesley Ryan, Jr., Margaret Rucinski, Harold (Jimmy) Saylor Jr., Jerry Schneider, Dale Seymour, Bridgett Shepard, Glenn Sigurnjak, Linda Smith, Leonard Tarrant, Dianne Tootle, Ted Ursu, Rose M. Vail, Margaret Misko VanLoon, and Ashley Vickers.

Pray For Vocations

ST. ALPHONSUS SCHOOL

Feb 20/21: No School, Mardi Gras Break

Feb 22: Children’s Mass, 8:15 a.m.

Feb 24: Stations of the Cross, 2:30 p.m.

Feb 26: Student Mass, 11:30 a.m.

ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

Feb 20/21: No School, Mardi Gras Break

Feb 22: Mass, 9:40 a.m.; Lenten Family Night, 6:00 p.m.

Feb 26: Lady Irish Basketball Banquet, 3 pm / Soccer Banquet, 5 pm



Your Lenten Plan

Lent is right around the corner, beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 22nd. Do you have a Lenten plan? Just as Jesus went into the desert to fast and pray for 40 days, we are called to spend these upcoming 40 days preparing ourselves for Easter, for His glorious Resurrection! Pray about your plan over the next week and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you. Pray about adding an hour of meditation in front of the Blessed Sacrament this Lent. Are you already visiting Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament? Invite your family or neighbor to join you!

To view the adoration schedule and sign up for an hour you have 3 options:

1. Go to the adoration website at stalphonus.weadorehim.com

2. Scan the QR code



3. Click on the My Parish app, click the button ‘Parish Info’ and you will find ‘We Adore Him Adoration Sign Up’

Once you have gotten to the website, click on Sign Up (if you don’t already have an account) or Log In (if you have an existing account). You will need to create a password. If you cannot remember your password, click forgot password and create a new one. You will then gain access to the schedule to view available hours. It is important that you sign up as this will enable you to receive upcoming adoration event information as well as help in the safety of all who attends Adoration (i.e. receiving update of door code). If you have questions or difficulty using this website, please reach out and call 228-282-0984. We are happy to help you navigate!



MARY’S MANTLE CONSECRATION: A Spiritual Retreat for Heaven’s Help by Christine Watkins.

A consecration or re-consecration to Our Blessed Mother, which offers prayerful daily meditations the Virtues or the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, is an inspiring addition to a fruitful Lenten period. This particular 46 day preparation

calls for five minutes of daily meditation on one of the virtues or gifts, plus recitation of the Rosary, and one day a week of fasting. Mary’s Mantle Consecration can be done by an individual, a family or group. All of the format can be found at www.MarysMantleConsecration.com. This includes online video presentations.

We are offering the program here at St. Alphonsus, beginning on Tuesday, February 21st, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the Mount Carmel Meeting Room. All are welcome! For further details please contact either Anne McClellan at 228-327-4040 or Denise Wilson at 228-238-3273.



The St. Al’s Women’s Small Group will meet Sundays during Lent to pray the Stations of the Cross and discuss reflections from *The Paschal Mystery* from 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. in the Mount Carmel Meeting Room.

Come every week or just one. Childcare is available upon request. Please text Sheila Kowalewski (228.217.6349) or Ashley Rodriguez (410.693.8825) for more information and/or to join the GroupMe.