

The season of Advent prepares us for Christmas. In order to understand the message of Christmas we have to start at the beginning – with the history of salvation. The Advent liturgy relives in a microcosmic way the history of Israel, viewing it through the eyes of Christian faith. It shows that all of that history was pointing and leading towards Jesus. He was the one who fulfilled the messianic prophecies.

As for today’s readings – the First is a poem (written by a return exile) entreating God to come and save his people. It recalls God’s past goodness, and candidly acknowledges the ingratitude and sinfulness of his people.

The Second Reading and the Gospel talk about the final coming of Christ, something the early Christians believed was imminent. For the faithful, the Lord’s coming is not something to fear. They are urged to live in such a way as to be always ready to meet the Lord. These words are addressed to us now. --New Sunday & Holy Day Liturgies, by Flor McCarthy, SDB



With the beginning of Advent, the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love are once again on our minds as we prepare for Christmas.

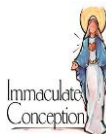
Starting December 3rd, the first Sunday of Advent, there will be 2 new buttons added to our Parish App - Advent 2023 for Reflections and Prepare 2023 for videos.

Don’t have the App yet? If you have either an iPhone or Android smart phone you can download the App by texting App to phone number 88202, or by visiting myparishapp.com.



A Baptism Class will be held in the Rectory on Wednesday, December 6th at 7:00 p.m. Any parent with a child for baptism must attend this class prior to scheduling a baptism date. Godparents are also encouraged to attend. Godparents

who are not registered /active members of St. Alphonsus must present a letter from their pastor giving them permission to be a godparent. A godparent must be a Catholic in good standing with the church, receiving the sacraments on a regular basis. Class lasts a little over one hour. Baptisms are scheduled each month on the 4th Sunday immediately after the 9:00 a.m. Mass. Please call the Rectory with information on the child prior to attending the class.



Friday, December 8th, is the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and a Holy Day of Obligation.

Our Vigil Mass will be Thursday, December 7th at 6:00 p.m. Masses on Friday will be at 6:30 a.m.; 8:15 a.m. with school children, 12:00 Noon and 6:00 p.m.

The Rectory Office will be closed on Friday, December 7th in observance of the Immaculate Conception.



A Second Collection will be taken up next weekend (December 9/10) for the St. Vincent de Paul Community Pharmacy. The Pharmacy is a nonprofit agency with an innovative approach to

filling a gap in health care services. Although the Pharmacy is sponsored by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, it is independently incorporated. Envelopes are available at the exits of the church.

Fr. Kennedy has been with us for about a year. During this time, Fr. Kennedy has been borrowing Fr. Chinnappa Mark’s car while he was in India. Fr. Mark is due to return in January 2024 and will need his car returned. Any donations you would like to give to Fr. Kennedy to help him in purchasing his own car would be greatly appreciated.



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Gerald “Jerry” Bourgeois, husband of Carol Bourgeois and father of David (Elise) Bourgeois of this parish, who passed away November 22nd in Clinton, Mississippi.

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

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	DECEMBER 4
Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 8:5-11	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Theo Laborde
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Kathy Mangin
TUESDAY	DECEMBER 5
Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Sueki Dasher
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Anne Beall
WEDNESDAY	DECEMBER 6
Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Ed Dietrick, Jr.
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Helen Bieda
THURSDAY	DECEMBER 7
Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Al Gianelloni
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Robin Cain
	6:00 p.m. Congregation
FRIDAY	DECEMBER 8
Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Myrtle Keys
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Waide Joseph Galle
12:00 p.m.	Int. Bulletin Advertisers
6:00 p.m.	Congregation
SATURDAY	DECEMBER 9
Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8	
8:15 a.m.	Msgr. Lavalley C. Watson
	4:00 p.m. Ms. Ligaya Camagong
SUNDAY	DECEMBER 10
Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8	
7:30 a.m.	Int. Ms. Norma Williams
9:00 a.m.	Mr. Lee Adler
11:30 a.m.	Mr. Leonard Tarrant
5:30 p.m.	Congregation



Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends: 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, Benny and Carol Lee Cantin, Marshall Car, Carolyn Castleman, Jennifer Catchot, Christine Chandler, Clifford Claverie, Scott Claverie, Pat Cronin, Breanne Dalton, Gina Dasher, Jeannine Dionne, Marjorie DuBois, Rose Mary Eagan, Nija Fountain, Ray Frazier, Gordon Gaethe, Ansley Gilich, Julian Galloway, Sandra Grantham, Josh Hamilton, Trent Hartzog, Mary Jo Hoogstra, Ashley Jensen, Lora Jordan, Otis Kaufman, Jack Kelly, Bill Kortman, Mary Krystosek, Daisie Laborde, Judy and Randy Lesso, Albert Gregory Mansfield, Gordon Mathieu, Mrs. McKinney, Iva Misko, Edward Necaize, Terése Nicovich, Shirley and Travis Norman, Richard Osborne, Thomas Peresich, The Petitjean Family, Richard Potash, Charles Wesley Ryan, Jr., Margaret Rucinski, Julia Sarpy, Harold (Jimmy) Saylor Jr., Jerry Schneider, Dale Seymour, Bridgett Shepard, Glenn Sigurnjak, Linda Smith, Myrt Talbott, Brittany and John Thornton, Dianne Tootle, Ted Ursu, Rose M. Vail, Dennis VanAcker, Margaret Misko VanLoon, Ashley Vickers and Glenn Williams, Sr.



Eucharistic Adoration Chapel Etiquette Never leave Jesus Alone

We never leave Jesus alone! This is of utmost importance. Out of respect, love, courtesy and the need for us to protect the Real Presence of Jesus in His exposed and vulnerable state, an adorer must always be present in our adoration chapel when the tabernacle doors are open (except during Masses when He is reposed). We never abandon Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Since we are not a perpetual chapel, meaning every hour is not covered by an adorer, you may not have someone follow you. **DO NOT leave Jesus alone and exposed. Please stay until the next committed adorer shows up or close the tabernacle doors with reverence while singing softly:**

*O Sacrament Most Holy
O Sacrament Divine
All Praise and All Thanksgiving
Be Every Moment Thine*

Respect the presence of the Lord. Upon entering/exiting the chapel pew, those physically able are asked to momentarily genuflect on both knees before Jesus’ real presence in the exposed Blessed Sacrament, and many adorers further choose to touch their hands and/or forehead to the ground in a kneeling prostrate form.

Respect the silence. The chapel is a place of peace, rest and quiet worship. Please turn your cell phone ringer, messaging and sound effects off. Keep conversations and distractions to a minimum (or take outside the chapel).

Children: but Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” – Matthew 19:14
We encourage families to commit to a weekly hour.

Husbands and wives (especially those with small children) should be encouraging their spouse to make a rejuvenating hour of uninterrupted silence and prayer at the feet of Our Lord. Parents should be encouraging older children and teens to forge a personal connection with Jesus. A family can rotate the hour among themselves in any variety of ways: e.g., spouses can take individual turns, spouses can go together as a “date”, spouses can take turns bringing children, the whole family can attend together, teens can go alone, etc. Babies and small children are welcome in our chapel. Use the same prudence you would at Mass for knowing when it might be best to step out for a moment.



Adult Study is held after the 9:00 a.m. Mass in the Mount Carmel Meeting Room. Videos are by Fr. Chris Alar, Director of the Association of Marian helpers. For more information, contact Sue Mihal at 601-573-0020 or Anne McClellan at 228-327-4040. All are invited to attend.
December 3: Free Masonry...Meaning and Mission...Part I
December 10: Free Masonry...Meaning and Mission...Part II



The Knights of Columbus will serve breakfast on Sunday, December 10th from 8:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. in the KC Hall for \$8.00 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.



The Catholic Thrift Store of Ocean Springs is offering 1/2 off discounts over the Holiday Season. It begins the first week of December with 1/2 off all glassware; the second week - Kitchenware; the third week - Linens; and Christmas week - Furniture. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and look forward to helping you to enjoy the season. 2200A Bienville Blvd., Ocean Springs.



Capital Campaign Update

We are pleased to announce that we have met our pledge goal; our pledges have reached \$1,506,307. We are so grateful for the support of our parishioners, school families and staff, and community.

We have completed the replacement of the school roof and air conditioning system (Phase 1) and selection of the Design-Build Contractor with architectural services has been submitted to the Diocese of Biloxi for approval (Phase 1, 2 & 3). The completion of the initial design and design build proposal is expected by the end of the 1st quarter in 2024. The design for a new Adoration Chapel (Phase 3) is expected later in 2024. We will continue to update all stakeholders throughout the process.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about how you can support the campaign, please contact Patience Clasen at (504) 920-5468.

Phase 1: School Roof, Maintenance and Storage Facilities
Phase 2: Church Facilities: Sanctuary, Entrance (including enclosing of breezeway), and Restrooms Updates
Phase 3: Enhanced Sacristy, New Adoration Chapel, Exploration of Expanded Learning Space



Leading up to the Eucharistic Congress - there will be a National Eucharistic Pilgrimage consisting of 4 separate Eucharistic Processions starting at 4 corners of our country and ultimately meeting in Indianapolis.



South Mississippi is blessed to be on the Juan Diego route that begins in Brownsville, TX. Jesus and His 12 member Eucharistic Pilgrimage Team will arrive in Mississippi on Monday, June 10, 2024 and head to Mobile on Friday, June 14, 2024.

Your Diocesan Eucharistic Revival Team is planning 5 days of activities to include Masses, community gatherings and Eucharistic Processions across the Mississippi Gulf Coast. This will be an amazing public display of faith to our community.

Stand-by for more information. You may also visit for more national level information: <https://www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org>

God Bless!

Bill Stentz

Diocesan Eucharistic Revival Team



Walking with Moms in Need wishes to thank the St. Alphonsus KC Women’s Auxiliary for hosting again this year a wonderful month long baby shower for WWMIN and also to our St. Alphonsus Family for your generous support.



The St. Alphonsus 4th Degree Knights of Columbus are raffling off a Generac “CP2500i” 2500 W (60db.) Portable Quiet Generator to raise money for a new flagpole for St. Alphonsus Elementary School. The drawing will be held

Wednesday, December 20th. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$20. You need not be present to win.

See any Knight or call Chuck Nannery at 228-324-1586.

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$10,468.52
Weekly Online Collection.....\$ 2,530.00
Children’s Collection.....\$ 53.00
May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support