

The First Reading introduces the theme of covenant. In it we are told of the first in a series of patriarchal covenants which serve as a preparation for the covenant at Sinai. That in turn prepared the way for the new covenant God formed with humanity in Christ.

In the Gospel we hear of Jesus' victorious struggle against evil. Mark makes no reference to the fast of Jesus. In this first struggle Jesus is not God-forsaken as he will be at his last (15:34).

Like Noah, the Christian is saved by passage through water – the waters of baptism (Second Reading). It is through our baptism that we enter into the new covenant relationship with God, and that Christ's victory over sin and death is communicated to us.

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

St. Alphonsus Lenten Mission "Disciples On A Mission"

DISCIPLESHIP - STEWARDSHIP – EVANGELIZATION

Casting Nets, a lay apostolate dedicated to the New Evangelization will be at St. Alphonsus February 18th, 19th, and 20th. Monday evening there will be a dinner prior to the mission in the Parish Hall. Casting Nets will bring a great deal of inspiration and information in presentations that are humorous and entertaining. Speakers Tony Brandt and Chris Stewart have a combined 50 years of experience in almost every level and form of ministry, from youth to college and from RCIA to adult formation. The focus of the mission: "Disciples on a Mission" - Tony and Chris will discuss the three pillars of the spiritual life in the light of the New Evangelization. Prayer, almsgiving and fasting have a transforming effect on us and on all those we encounter.

All are welcome and child care will be provided.

Sunday, February 18: 6:30 pm Dinner; 7pm Mission; All in the Parish Hall
Talk 1: "The Challenge of Missionary Discipleship" As disciples we are called to go ALL IN! How will we respond to that call and go make disciples?

Monday, February 19: 7:00 p.m.: Church

Talk 2: "The Complete Gift of Self" Active Stewardship is shown in the grateful response of offering all that we are back to the Lord and His Church in a Complete Gift of Self.

Tuesday, February 20: 7:00 p.m.: Church

Talk 3: "The Seven Pillars of Effective Evangelization" These pillars are necessary for a solid foundation if we are to be effective in winning souls. *Morning option after the 8:15 a.m. Mass on February 19th & 20th.

Learn more about our mission and RSVP for the mission, dinner, childcare at www.stalparishmission.rsvpify.com.



Evening of Intercessory Prayer - February is the month of the Holy Family! Let us all please come and join together in interceding and praying the healing rosary for families. Grant that our families may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches. May families never again experience violence, rejection, and division; may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing; make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan. Our Heavenly Father has given us a model in the Holy Family of Nazareth, please come join us on Wednesday, February 21st at 6:30 p.m. in the Church and please bring your rosary, if you do not have one, one is available for you and to take home and pray with. In everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your request known to God." (Philippians.4:6)



LENTEN INVITATION: Please join us for the recitation of the Traditional Rosary (with meditations on the Sorrowful Mysteries) after the 8:15 a.m. Mass on Thursday's during Lent. We will be praying for the purification of our Church, healing and restoration of families in accord with Our Father's will, for the souls in Purgatory, and all your personal intentions. May God bless you with many graces during this important Lenten season.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	FEBRUARY 19
Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Matthew 25:31-46	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Joe Prejean
8:15 a.m.	Int. Rev. Doug Busch
TUESDAY	FEBRUARY 20
Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Steven Hyde
8:15 a.m.	Int. Ms. Theresa C. Hire
WEDNESDAY	FEBRUARY 21
Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Ed Dietrick, Sr.
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Donald Benezue
THURSDAY	FEBRUARY 22
1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19	
6:30 a.m.	Msgr. Gregory Kennedy
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Alice D. Hire
FRIDAY	FEBRUARY 23
Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26	
6:30 a.m.	Int. Ms. Skylar Hanshew
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Vera Lusk
SATURDAY	FEBRUARY 24
Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48	
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Anita Grace White
4:00 p.m.	Ms. Ligaya Camagong
SUNDAY	FEBRUARY 25
Gen 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Rom 8:31b-34; Mark 9:2-10	
7:30 a.m.	Int. Doctors, Nurses, EMT's, Police
9:00 a.m.	Congregation
11:30 a.m.	Mr. Leonard Tarrant
5:30 p.m.	Ms. Christine Chandler



Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends: Ralph Balius, Sharon Barthes, Beckett Bassenger, Christopher Bellman, Anthony David Belson, Elaine Belson, Betty Bodin, Bob Boney, Mercedes Bosarge, Carole Bourgeois, Bryleigh Brochard, Kay Brochard, Jeff Brochard, Roland Broussard, Roxie Buckles, Sybil Burchinal, Arlene Burns, Mildred "Tootsie" Caillavet, Benny and Carol Lee Cantin, Marshall Car, Carolyn Castleman, Jennifer Catchot, Allene Chatham, 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, Olivia Hood, 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, The Petitjean Family, Jean Petricca, 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.

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$12,080.01
Weekly Online Collection.....\$ 2,706.00



This weekend is the start of the 2024 Catholic Sharing Appeal with the theme of "Missionary Discipleship". Bishop Kihneman invites each of us to join him in supporting our parish and our diocese through this annual appeal.

This year's parish goal for St. Alphonsus is \$72,948. Please make checks payable to the Catholic Sharing Appeal and mail directly to the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi at 1790 Popp's Ferry Road, Biloxi 39532. You may also donate online at www.biloxidiocese.org/giving.



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.



Adult Study this Sunday after the 9:00 a.m. Mass in the Mount Carmel Meeting Room with the EPIC DVD Series *It's a Journey through Church History*. For more information, contact Sue Mihal at 601-573-0020 or Anne McClellan at 228-327-4040. All are invited to attend.



A Second Collection will be taken up next weekend (February 24/25) for the Black and Indian Missions. This collection helps to form children in the faith, educate young people, and build hope – a hope often so hard to find in the areas our missionaries serve. The Diocese of Biloxi, being a mission diocese, receives grants for our traditionally African American parishes, as well as grants for our youth, from this annual collection.



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.



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.

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:

- Bishop Joseph L. Howze, January 9, 2019
- Reverend Patrick Tierney, January 9, 1991
- Reverend John Izral, January 22, 2020
- Reverend Peter F. Mockler, January 30, 2014
- Reverend Herbert Mullen, February 12, 1984
- Reverend Michael Kelleher, February 13, 2020
- Reverend Patrick Hannelly, February 14, 1990
- Rev. Msgr. James Russell, February 15, 2002



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of: Glen Syring, husband of Susan Syring of this parish, who passed away February 8th. We extend our sympathy to the family and promise them a remembrance in our prayers. May God grant him eternal peace.



Eucharistic Adoration

There is a temptation to see Lent as a time of self-improvement, during which my focus is on myself. However, my sin shows me that my hope can never be in myself. My only hope is that someone save me. Saint Paul says: *I do not do the good I want, but I do the evil I do not want.....Miserable one that I am! Who will deliver me from this mortal body? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord* (Rom 7:19, 24-25a). Let our focus be not on ourselves, but on Jesus. Let us turn toward Jesus Christ and beg for a renewed experience of his presence. He is the one who saves me from my miserable condition; it is his merciful gaze that awakens and transforms me. ~Father Richard Veras

This Lent, come and see how Jesus' merciful gaze can transform your life! Visit stalphonsus.weadorehim.com to view the adoration schedule and sign up for an hour.



You are invited to join Our Lady of Victories Church, Pascagoula on Wednesday, February 21st at 6:00 p.m. for an enlightening evening with George Weigel, esteemed Catholic theologian and author of the *New York Times* bestsellers "Witness to Hope" and "The End and the Beginning". Mr. Weigel will be delivering a compelling talk on the theme of the new evangelization and the legacy of Saint Pope John Paul II. In his presentation titled "The Achievement of Saint John Paul II -- A Look Back and a Look Ahead," Mr. Weigel will delve into the profound impact of Saint John Paul II's contributions to the Catholic Church and the world. This event is open to everyone and admission is free of charge. Please, spread the word by sharing this announcement with your parish and colleagues. Join us for an inspiring evening of reflection and insight.



Nativity BVM Cathedral Concert Series 2024 Lenten Lessons & Reflections – the Music and Fine Arts Ministry of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary will present a special concert-service of John Stainer's *The Crucifixion* on Saturday, March 9th at 3:00 p.m. This program will present our Lord Jesus of Good Friday sharing his final "Words" or "Utterances/Statements" as he is sacrificing himself upon the cross for us. This is a powerful, deeply moving, spiritual program that will prepare the listener for the events and celebrations of Holy Week. The presentation will be given by a massed choir comprised of the Choral Societies of "Mobile Vocal Arts" of Mobile, Alabama and "Gloria In Excelsis" of Biloxi, Mississippi with soloists and a small chamber orchestral ensemble.

The originally scheduled date for this program has been changed so as not to conflict with the Biloxi St. Patrick's Day Parade. The program is free, and the public is cordially invited to attend. For further information - please contact Terry D. Maddox – Minister of Music ~ Director of Fine Arts at 251 406-1454 &/or terrydalemaddox@gmail.com



Our Parish App is one great way to help make the liturgical season more present in your daily life. Helpful reflections will aid you in reflecting on the Mass readings each day. Also – under FORMED, 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. **Don't have the App or FORMED 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. To gain access to FORMED – go to the website at www.formed.org and enter our Parish Code **f1f5a9** (case sensitive) on the homepage, create an account with your user name/email and password.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS