

The transfiguration is an epiphany story. Epiphany stories are common in ancient writing about holy people. In these stories, the veil which separates the invisible from the visible world, and the future from the present, is removed for a moment, and the truth is revealed. This is the earliest epiphany story about Jesus, older than the voice at his baptism, and older than the manifestation of Jesus to the Magi.

It is no longer possible to say what happened on the mountain. The first and chief significance of the event was for Jesus himself. It was meant to confirm him in the course he had taken. But it also benefited the apostles, and it is this that Mark emphasizes. In the transfigured Jesus they got a glimpse of the glory of the risen Lord. Even so, they would not understand until Jesus had risen from the dead.

On the mountain Elijah and Moses appeared to them. Moses represented the law, Elijah the prophets. Thus Jesus is seen as bringing the law and the prophets to fulfillment.

The First Reading shows the depth of Abraham's faith in God. Living among the Canaanites who practiced human sacrifice we see his agonizing effort to do what he thought God wanted of him. Abraham's great faith was rewarded.

The Second Reading is obviously linked to the First Reading. It shows us the depth of God's love for us. God did not even spare his own son, but gave him up for us.

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



In today's Scripture, we hear of Abraham's unwavering commitment and devotion to the Lord. Today the Lord still calls us to witness to Him in the world. One way to witness to Christ is to offer a gift to the 2024 Catholic Sharing Appeal. Your gift can do so much to help in the lives of others and bring the Gospel of Christ to souls in our diocese.

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 Popps 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.



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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.



You are invited to join us for the First Friday Devotion & Benediction on Friday, March 1st beginning at 7:45 a.m. (prior to 8:15 mass).



You are invited to join us for the First Saturday Devotion on Saturday, March 2nd at 7:45 a.m. (half hour before the 8:15 a.m. Mass) with Devotion, Consecration, Rosary and Benediction. Confession will also be available.



The Lord Is My Help needs volunteers to pack take-out lunches from 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. and/or to serve lunch from 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. (no cooking involved) the week of March 18 - 22, 2024.

If you are able to volunteer your time on any of these days at either/both of the times, please call Jamie Lloyd at 713-818-6071. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	FEBRUARY 26
Daniel 9:4b-10; Luke 6:36-38	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Henry Endt, Sr.
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Fred Lusk, Jr.
TUESDAY	FEBRUARY 27
Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Matthew 23:1-12	
6:30 a.m.	Dr. Malcolm Latour
8:15 a.m.	Int. Mr. Alfred G. Mansfield
WEDNESDAY	FEBRUARY 28
Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Dan Dietrick, Sr.
8:15 a.m.	Int. Rev. Cory Ford
THURSDAY	FEBRUARY 29
Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-31	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Mark Toups
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Gerry Benezue
FRIDAY	MARCH 1
Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Marilyn Hille
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Bryan Moe
SATURDAY	MARCH 2
Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32	
8:15 a.m.	The Jordan Family
	The Pitalo Family
4:00 p.m.	Mr. Ernest Talbott
SUNDAY	MARCH 3
Exodus 20:1-17; 1 Corinthians 1:22-25; John 2:13-25	
7:30 a.m.	Int. Ms. Norma Williams
9:00 a.m.	Congregation
11:30 a.m.	Int. Mr. Rhett Fontenelle
5:30 p.m.	Int. Nursing Homes/Care Facilities



Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends: Ralph Balias, 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, William Burch, 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, Margaret Hebert, 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 Necaise, Donna and Edward Necaise Jr., 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.....	\$10,807.35
Weekly Online Collection.....	\$ 2,132.00
Ash Wednesday Churches in E Europe/Africa.....	\$ 1,800.26



The Fruits of Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

If you were not able to attend the Casting Nets Mission our parish just held, you missed a great few nights. One thing that stood out was when Chris Stewart, one of the mission leaders, spoke about his own diocese, the Diocese of Wichita. In his diocese, Catholic education from Kindergarten through 12th grade is free, they have 44 seminarians and the average age of their priests is 39. They also have the highest number of perpetual adoration chapels per capita in the US. Parish communities that have perpetual adoration chapels experience increased mass attendance, service of others, unity, conversions, the return of fallen away Catholics, as well as vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Everyone that spends time in adoration of Jesus in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist develops a personal relationship with Him and grows in love and holiness. Many of the faithful who attend adoration report various miracles and healings. Help us continue to grow our adoration participation as we seek to deepen our relationships with Jesus and say yes to the graces He wants to bestow upon us and our parish.

"Eucharistic Adoration is the greatest act of holiness on earth. I am fully convinced that if it were humanly possible to understand the value of a Holy Hour everyone would make time to do it."

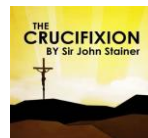
~St. Peter Julian Eymard

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.



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.



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



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.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS



St. Alphonsus will be having a training for anyone interested in serving as a Lector, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, or Altar Server on Saturday, March 23rd at 10:00 am in the Church.

If you or your children are interested please email the parish (stalparishos@gmail.com) or John McMackin (jmcmack2@gmail.com) so we can ensure we have enough materials.



A new study, Jesus and the Eucharist, will begin on Monday, March 4th from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Childcare and dinner will be provided.

Jesus and the Eucharist is a dynamic, 7-session study designed to help you connect with your fellow parishioners as you fall deeper in love with our Eucharistic Lord.

Immerse yourself in the beauty of our faith in an intimate small group setting, hear from some of the most brilliant voices in Catholicism, and explore the mystery of the Eucharist anew as a part of the National Eucharistic Revival. For more information, please contact Kaitlyn McMackin 317-650-9440 or Natalie Toomey 337-852-0791.



Walking With Mom's in Need

WWMIN is looking for 5 men and a truck. If you are able to help, please contact Margaret Miller, Coordinator at 228-217-4742 or mrm82847@yahoo.com.

Lent is a beautiful time to thank **God** for His goodness and assist mothers and babies in great need - a gift card, diapers, formula are always needed. Feel free to call Margaret Miller or drop off items at the rectory.

WWMIN will be hosting a Diocesan Meeting on Thursday, March 21st at 10:00 a.m. at the Diocese. All are Welcome to attend.



The Lord is My Help will be having their 10th Annual Feed the Need Benefit Concert & Fish Fry on Sunday, April 7th in Downtown Ocean Springs at Government Street Grocery.

Their ministry operates almost entirely through the contributions of caring individuals, churches, businesses and organizations. On average, TLIMH serves 3,300 meals or more per month. The average number of households per month receiving assistance from the food pantry is 175, and the Meals on Wheels program is available to Ocean Springs residents who are elderly, ill, disabled, and/or homebound and in need of meal delivery. Donated food is always welcome and will be used for the hot meals when possible. The pantry is stocked by generous donations of non-perishable food items. For more information, call 228-872-2331 or stop in and visit.



You are invited to join a Special Pilgrimage to Medjugorje with Terri Smith and Fr. Mike Snyder June 3 - 11, 2024. This special Medjugorje Pilgrimage Tour spends one week in the peaceful mountain hamlet where the Virgin Mary has been

appearing since June 25, 1981. You will attend Mass, pray the Rosary daily, have the opportunity to climb Apparition Hill where Our Lady first appeared, and to make the Way of the Cross as you ascend Cross Mountain.

Our Lady calls all her Children to Medjugorje and invites them to a closer relationship with Her Son, Jesus, and she exhorts us to Pray for Peace in our hearts, in our homes, and in our communities. How will you answer Our Lady's call? Reserve your place on this special Medjugorje Pilgrimage today by calling 800-715-6670 or online at www.catholicjourneys.com/tour/medjugorje-pilgrimage-tour and scroll down to June 3 departure. \$2,995 per person.



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of: Everett Waters, uncle of Robert Sema (Jane) of this parish, who passed away February 13th in Springville, Alabama.

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