

Jesus' action in cleansing the temple was a protest against the commercialization of religion and the desecration of the Temple. But it went deeper. It was a symbolic action, in the fashion of an Old Testament prophet (see Jer 7:11; Mal 3.1), through which he passed judgement on the Jewish sacrificial system. He was declaring that temple worship, with its ritual and animal sacrifices, was irrelevant and could do nothing to bring people to God. He was replacing sacrificial worship with spiritual worship.

He was also protesting at the way religion had become narrow, nationalistic, and exclusive. Israel had failed to fulfill her universal mission to humankind. It was God's intention that the Temple should be a house of prayer 'for all nations'. But the Temple remained the jealously-guarded preserve of Israel. No Gentile dared venture, under threat of penalty and death, beyond what was known as the 'court of the Gentiles'. Jesus declared that salvation was not just for the Jews, but for all peoples. The First Reading is one of the two versions of the Decalogue. (The other is Deut 5:6-21). The Ten Commandments are a map of life for a people who enjoy a special relationship with God. They were to be seen as a gift, not a burden. However, Christians must not live by the Ten Commandments but by the 'law' of Jesus. He brought in a new and more exacting law – the law of love. He effectively reduced the commandments to two: love of God and love of neighbor.

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



**The Diocese of Biloxi is blessed to have 6 men in formation for the priesthood for our diocese.** We are also blessed to have 17 retired priests that continue to help minister to the 56,000 Catholics in South Mississippi.

Your gift to the 2024 Catholic Sharing Appeal directly aids in the formation, education, and care of all of these men. Will you please consider a generous gift to the 2024 Catholic Sharing Appeal in support of our future and retired priests? Your gift of prayer and financial support ensures that we will continue to help the mission of the Church in a real way.

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](http://www.biloxidiocese.org/giving).



**A new study, Jesus and the Eucharist, will begin on Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup> 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.



**A Baptism Class** will be held in the Rectory on Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday immediately after the 9:00 a.m. Mass. Please call the Rectory with information on the child prior to attending the class.

## PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 4</b>
2 Kings 5:1-15b; Luke 4:24-30	
6:30 a.m.	Mathilde and Fernand Latour
8:15 a.m.	Int. Mr. Christian Jeffries
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 5</b>
Daniel 3:25, 34-43; Matthew 18:21-35	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Myrtle Keys
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Jackie Endt
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 6</b>
Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9; Matthew 5:17-19	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Margaret Dietrick
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Christopher Seymour
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 7</b>
Jeremiah 7:23-28; Luke 11:14-23	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Dick Porterfield
8:15 a.m.	Mr. John Pates
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 8</b>
Hosea 14:2-10; Mark 12:28-34	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Glen Syring
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Robert Hanning
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 9</b>
Hosea 6:1-6; Luke 18:9-14	
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Kathy Mangin
	Ms. Faye Clark
4:00 p.m.	Ms. Susie Jurich
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 10</b>
2 Chron 36:14-16, 19-23; Ephesians 2:4-10; John 3:14-21	
7:30 a.m.	Congregation
9:00 a.m.	Ms. Carol Bradley
11:30 a.m.	Mildred and Norman Eckert
5:30 p.m.	Int. Poor / Those in Need



**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, Gordon Mathieu, Mrs. McKinney, Iva Misko, Edward Necaie, Donna and Edward Necaie 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, Myrt Talbot, 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.....\$9,364.83  
 Weekly Online Collection.....\$1,706.00  
 Black & Indian Missions Collection.....\$1,750.75



### Return to Jesus

"The first time I went to Adoration, I was about 27 years old. I was alone in the church and Jesus revealed to me how much he loves me. My heart could not hold all the love he poured out on me. I just cried and cried because that is all I could do. He loves you that much too! Go see Jesus in the Eucharist. He is waiting for you."  
 ~Irene L., Diocese of Joliet, Illinois

*Let us return, brothers and sisters. Let us return to God with all our heart. During these weeks of Lent, let us make space for the prayer of silent adoration, in which we experience the presence of the Lord, like Moses, like Elijah, like Mary, like Jesus. Have we noticed that we have lost the sense of worship? Let us return to worship. Let us lend the ear of our hearts to the One who, in silence, wants to say to us: '... Let my love touch the deepest, most hidden corners of your heart and reveal to you your own beauty, a beauty that you have lost sight of, but will become visible to you again in the light of my mercy.'*

**Pope Francis, Ash Wednesday Homily, February 14, 2024**

This Lent, come and see how Jesus' merciful gaze can transform your life! Visit [stalphonsus.weadorexhim.com](http://stalphonsus.weadorexhim.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.**



**PLEASE JOIN US:** You are invited to join us in praying the rosary outside on the lawn at the Villa Maria on Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome! We are looking forward to praying with you!



**A Second Collection will be taken up next weekend (March 9/10) for Catholic Relief Services.** This collection supports Catholic Church organizations that

carry out international relief and solidarity efforts. Programs include relief and resettlement for victims of persecution, war, and natural disasters; development projects to improve living conditions for the poor; legal and support services for poor immigrants; peace and reconciliation work for people suffering from violence; and advocacy on behalf of the powerless.

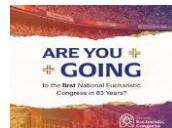


**XLT...Exalt!** Spend an hour adoring our Lord. Come join us for praise and worship music along with confession on Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the church. We moved it up one week from the third Thursday because we have our parish penance service March 21<sup>st</sup>. Hope you can make both!!



**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.



**Join 80,000 other Catholics at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, IN for the 10<sup>th</sup> National Eucharistic Congress.** Enjoy this five day event full of prayer, conversation, fellowship, and healing with the travel packages below.

Only 225 tickets available on a first-come, first-serve basis!

CONTACT Paula Spears 228-697-7814

[Eucharisticcongress2024@gmail.com](mailto:Eucharisticcongress2024@gmail.com)



### Walking With Mom's in Need

**Radical Solidarity – to be courageously pro-women, promoting a choice that truly protects, accompanies, and supports women and their children.** For more

information, please contact Margaret Miller, Coordinator at 228-217-4742 or [mrm82847@yahoo.com](mailto:mrm82847@yahoo.com).

Lent is a beautiful time to thank **God** for His goodness and assist mothers and babies in great need – gift cards, diapers, and 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 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the Diocese. All are Welcome to attend.



**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 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 am in the Church.

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



**The Lord is My Help will be having their 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Feed the Need Benefit Concert & Fish Fry** on Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> 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.



**Attention St. Alphonsus Graduating High School Seniors:** There is a \$1,000 Scholarship available from **The Chris Nielsen Scholarship Fund** to be given away by the Knights of Columbus. If interested in applying for this scholarship, please email Brian Sanderson at [bsanderson@cardinalgroupllc.com](mailto:bsanderson@cardinalgroupllc.com) to receive the requirements and registration form. **Deadline: June 5, 2024.**



**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](http://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: Albert Gregory Mansfield, father of Gina (Buddy) Odom** of this parish, who passed away February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Linda Smith**, a member of this parish family, who passed away this past week.

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