

**Leprosy is the clear theme of the First Reading and the Gospel.** In biblical times lepers were treated as pariahs. Leprosy was the ultimate uncleanness. It made the victim an outcast not only socially, but also in the religious sphere.

Jesus broke through all the religious and social taboos and reached out a loving and healing hand to the leper. In this way we see how a Christian community should deal with sinners and people society rejects. Besides, a Christian is one who has been ‘cleansed’ by Christ in baptism, and who ought to spread the ‘good news’.

In the Gospel we have an early instance of what scholars call Mark’s “Messianic Secret,” whereby Jesus seems to hide his identity as the Messiah and Son of God until it is made apparent after his death and resurrection.

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



**The Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> for Mardi Gras.**



**Lent begins Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> with a day of Fast and Abstinence.** Four masses will be available on that day beginning with the usual morning masses at 6:30 and 8:15 a.m. (children from our elementary school will attend), 12 Noon and 6:00 p.m. A Special Collection will be taken up for the Churches in Eastern Europe and Africa.



**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); 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 17<sup>th</sup> (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 blesses 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.

### 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 & 20<sup>th</sup>.

Learn more about our mission and RSVP for the mission, dinner, childcare at [www.stalparishmission.rsvpify.com](http://www.stalparishmission.rsvpify.com).



#### LOVE LIFE Walking with Moms Pennies for Life

Last year Parishes and Schools participated in the Biloxi Catholic Diocese Walking with Moms fundraiser, “Pennies for Life”. **\$6000 was raised for the Walking With Mom’s in Need Ministry!** This money has helped provide many mothers and their babies in our parishes and our communities with basic needs. This year with other parishes in the Diocese participating we are hopeful that we will spread the word about Walking with Mom’s, grow and become even more effective in reaching those who can benefit from this program.

**St Alphonsus Parish is again collecting Pennies for Life!** Participants are asked to donate one penny for each year of their lives in thanksgiving to God for the life He has given them. (any coin denomination or folding money is also accepted) The proceeds collected will be given to the Diocese of Biloxi Walking with Moms in need Ministry. Donations will be accepted through this Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> and may be placed in the large container with the red heart balloon either at the entrance to the Church or School.



## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 12</b>
James 1:1-11; Mark 8:11-13	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Theo Laborde
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Ramona Bousqueto
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 13</b>
James 1:12-18; Mark 8:14-21	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Louis Keys
8:15 a.m.	Int. Margaret Broussard Family & Friends
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 14</b>
Joel 2:12-18; 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2; Matt 6:1-6, 16-18	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Margaret Dietrick
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Richard M. Durkin, Sr.
12:00 Noon	Int. St. Alphonsus Parishioners
6:00 p.m.	Souls in Purgatory
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 15</b>
Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 9:22-25	
6:30 a.m.	Int. Robert & Holly Parker
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Glen Skelton
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 16</b>
Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 9:14-15	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Jerry Bourgeois
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Lee Malkowski
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 17</b>
Isaiah 58:9b-14; Luke 5:27-32	
8:15 a.m.	Int. Ms. Denise Wilson
	Special Intention
4:00 p.m.	Mr. Charles Goff
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 18</b>
Genesis 9:8-15; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-5	
7:30 a.m.	Ms. Rita Allen
9:00 a.m.	Mr. Roger Parker
11:30 a.m.	Mr. Mike Mitchell, Jr.
5:30 p.m.	Congregation



**Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends:** Ralph Balus, 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 Ncaise, 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.

### Eucharistic Adoration



How is the Lord inviting you to grow in relationship with Him and one another over these coming forty days? Maybe He is calling you to spend some quiet time with Him in our chapel. Consider opening your heart, mind and soul to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. He is waiting!

“With the Eucharist, therefore, heaven comes down to earth, the tomorrow of God descends into the present and it is as if time remains embraced by divine eternity.” ~Pope Benedict XVI



**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.



**You are invited to come to a Marian Movement of Priest Cenacle Mass** on Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Church. Mass, Adoration, Rosary, and Consecration



**XLT....Exalt!** We will be hosting a night of praise and worship along with adoration each 3rd Thursday of the month. Confession will be available. The next one coming up is Thursday, February 15th, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Father Kennedy will start the evening off with a brief talk on preparing for Lent. We hope you can join us.



**OUR LADY OF SORROWS: You are invited to come and join us for the 8:15 Mass followed by the recitation of the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows (a rosary of repentance) on the third Saturday of each month. (i.e. February 17).** The purpose of our coming together is threefold: 1) To pray for all victims of sexual abuse 2) To pray, in reparation for all the vile sins committed against the Body of Christ, and 3) To pray for the graces of repentance, healing, conversion and salvation of ALL SOULS!



**An anointing of the Sick** will take place on Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. (before the 4:00 p.m. Mass) in the Church. This is for all elderly parishioners, anyone with an illness, or parishioners with elderly or homebound family members that may wish to receive this Sacrament.



**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 21<sup>st</sup> 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)

## WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$10,991.50  
Weekly/Monthly Online Collection.....\$ 6,946.00  
Poor Collection.....\$ 5,003.80

### PRAY FOR VOCATIONS