

**Today is Palm Sunday** – For us, this event is commemorated by blessing palm branches at the beginning of each Mass. You are asked to take the palm branches home and place them in some prominent place as a reminder of the events we celebrate today.

Today is also the beginning of Holy Week, or Passion Week. The Passion according to Mark is read at all Masses today to remind us of all the events that transpired immediately after Jesus' arrival to Jerusalem. Events unfold quickly on this Holiest of weeks and you are asked to join us in remembering these events.

**On Tuesday of this week** all priests of the diocese join the Bishop at the Cathedral (10:30 a.m.) for the annual Chrism Mass, which includes the renewal of vows and the blessing of the oils that are used in the parishes throughout the upcoming year.

**The Triduum of Easter commences with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday night**, a reminder of the institution of the Priesthood and the Eucharist. This Mass concludes with the procession through the Church and the reposing of the Blessed Sacrament in the Altar of Repose (in the Sacristy) after midnight. Until midnight you are asked to spend an hour in prayer in the Church just as Jesus asked his disciples to accompany him to the Garden of Olives and stay with him one hour.

**Good Friday** finds the Church bare and empty, to remind us of the absence of Jesus after his arrest and preparing for his death. At 7:00 p.m., the Passion according to John is read followed by Veneration of the Cross and Communion Service. This service concludes quietly with no recession.

**The Easter Vigil** anticipates the joy of Easter. The 7:30 p.m. Vigil begins at dusk, outside the Church with the blessing of the Fire and the lighting of the Paschal Candle that leads the congregation into a darkened Church. The candle becomes the only source of light during the singing of the Exsultet, and the beginning of the first Old Testament Reading from Genesis speaking of creation. Other Old Testament Readings remind us of the power of God (parting of the Red Sea) and of our baptismal vows to turn aside from evil and to do good. These are followed by an Epistle and a Gospel selection. It is at this Mass that Catechumens/Elect are received into the Church by Baptism or Profession of Faith. The entire congregation also renews their baptism promises, renounces evil, and makes a Profession of Faith and then the congregation is sprinkled with the newly blessed Holy Water as a reminder of each one's Baptism.

### Easter Triduum

NO Morning Masses Thursday, Friday or Saturday

**Holy Thursday:** 7:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper

After Mass until Midnight - Reading of the Gospel and Adoration

**Good Friday:** Way of the Cross, 3:00 p.m.; Reading of the Passion (St. John), Veneration of the Cross and Communion, 7:00 p.m.; Good Friday is a day of Fast and Abstinence.

**Easter Vigil:** 7:30 p.m. Lighting of the Fire/Paschal Candle, Exsultet, Old Testament Readings, Blessing of Holy Water, Baptisms/Profession of Faith, Renewal of Baptism Promises, Profession of Faith of entire Congregation, Mass, Communion.

**Easter Sunday:** Mass at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m.; 11:30 a.m.; Hispanic Mass at 2:00 p.m.; and 5:30 p.m.



**The Blessed Sacrament will not be exposed** in the Church or Chapel from 7:00 p.m. Holy Thursday (March 28) until after the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening. The Chapel will still be open for anyone wishing to make their Holy Hour.



**The Parish Office will be closed** on Good Friday (March 29) and Easter Monday (April 1) and will reopen on Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8:00 a.m.



**The Catholic Thrift Store of Ocean Springs is permanently closing over the next 60 days.** Everything in the store is at 50% off until it is all gone.

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 25</b>
Isaiah 42:1-7; John 12:1-11	
6:30 a.m.	Simon and Barbara Latour
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Margaret Broussard
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 26</b>
Isaiah 49:1-6; John 13:21-33, 36-38	
6:30 a.m.	Int. Ms. Paulette Quintana
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Henry Endt, Sr.
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 27</b>
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Matthew 26:14-25	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Dan Dietrick, Sr.
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Gwen Noble
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 28</b>
Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; 1 Cor 11:23-26; John 13:1-15	
6:30 a.m.	No Mass
8:15 a.m.	No Mass
7:00 p.m.	Int. Mr. James D. Evans
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 29</b>
Isaiah 52:13—53:12; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1—19:42	
6:30 a.m.	No Mass
8:15 a.m.	No Mass
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 30</b>
Genesis 1:1—2:2; Exodus 14:15—15:1; Isaiah 55:1-11; Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28; Romans 6:3-11; Mark 16:1-7	
8:15 a.m.	No Mass
7:30 p.m.	Mr. James Campbell, Jr.
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 31</b>
Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-9	
7:30 a.m.	Mr. Carlus E. Chapman
9:00 a.m.	Ms. Linda Smith
11:30 a.m.	Congregation
5:30 p.m.	Mr. Donald Benezue



**Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends:** Sharon Barthes, Beckett Bassenger, Christopher Bellman, Anthony David Belson, Elaine Belson, Betty Bodin, Bob Boney, Mercedes Bosarge, Bryleigh Brochard, Kay Brochard, Jeff Brochard, Roland Broussard, Roxie Buckles, William Burch, 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 Gillich, 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 Necaise, Donna and Edward Necaise Jr., Terese 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, Beth Seely, Dale Seymour, Bridgett Shepard, Glenn Sigurnjak, Myrt Talbott, Brittany and John Thornton, Dianne Tootle, Ted Ursu, Rose M. Vail, Margaret Misko VanLoon, Ashley Vickers and Glenn Williams, Sr.

## WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$9,313.66  
Weekly Online Collection.....\$2,031.00



### Eucharistic Adoration The Intense Love of Holy Week

We now enter into Holy Week, days on intense love. Never before has the world had so much love. Think about what God is showing you through this love made present in the sacraments and the sacred liturgy. When we let that love make present in the sacraments and sacred liturgy mark our hearts, we join the faithful of every time and place in being overcome with Paschal joy. ~Father Andrew Hofer

"A Holy Hour brings Heaven's choicest blessings on those who are faithful to their Hour" ~Pope Saint Paul VI  
Visit [stalphonsus.weadorehim.com](http://stalphonsus.weadorehim.com) to view the adoration schedule and sign up for an hour.



**As we come to the end of our Lenten journey** in preparation to celebrate the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus, please consider joining all the faithful in the Diocese of Biloxi in participating in this year's Catholic Sharing Appeal. A gift, of any amount, combined with others, really does make an impact for the mission of the Church. Thank you in advance for your gift of faith! To date 99 pledges (out of 1267 registered families) have been made which total \$44,678. This leave us a balance of \$28,270 to make our parish goal of \$72,948. Every gift, regardless of size, is vital to the success of the Appeal. We thank those who have already responded to help the less fortunate in our community. 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).



**Divine Mercy Sunday:** As we enter into Holy Week, let us also keep in mind that Easter Sunday is followed by Divine Mercy Sunday. In preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday, we encourage you to say the Divine Mercy Novena and Chaplet which begins on Good Friday. Copies are available at the exits of the Church. Our Lord's promise to grant complete forgiveness of sins and punishment on the Feast of Mercy is recorded three times in the Diary of St. Faustina. "The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion will obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment (699).



**The Bookstore and Gift Shop will be closed Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> and will reopen on Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup>.**



**The St. Alphonsus Knights of Columbus Council 5654 will offer Fish Dinners on Good Friday (March 29)** from 3:00 – 7:30 p.m. The Hall will be open for dine-in from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Plates will be \$12.00 each and will include fried fish, potato salad, hush puppies, green beans and dessert.



**A diocesan collection will be taken up on Good Friday for the Holy Land.** Your donation will help to support the struggling Christian community and to protect Christianity's holiest places.



**The St. Alphonsus Ladies Auxiliary is hosting an Easter Egg Hunt** on the school playground for the children of the parish following the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Easter Sunday (March 31). You are invited to come see the Easter Bunny and bring your Easter baskets!



**The next Men's Cursillo, #295,** will take place beginning the evening of Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, and will conclude the evening of Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. The location will be the Cursillo Retreat Center at Sacred Heart - Dedeaux. If interested in experiencing Cursillo, please contact Skip Carroll (228-547-6562, or [skipcar52@gmail.com](mailto:skipcar52@gmail.com)).



### National Eucharistic Pilgrimage May 17 - July 16, 2024 The Fire Is Spreading

Throughout the National Eucharistic Revival, local communities are gathering tinder in response to God's invitation for renewal, calling on the Holy Spirit to bring the flame. In keeping with this vision, the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will accompany Jesus from city to city, lighting hearts on fire along the way. Then at the National Eucharistic Congress in July 2024, all these flames will blaze together.

The St. Juan Diego Route is the Southern route that starts in Brownsville, TX and travels into Mississippi on June 10<sup>th</sup> with stops at Our Lady of the Gulf, Holy Family Parish (June 11<sup>th</sup>), St. Thomas the Apostle (June 12<sup>th</sup>), Nativity B.V.M. Cathedral (June 13<sup>th</sup>) and St. Alphonsus (June 14<sup>th</sup>). For more information on this historic journey and how you can sign up to join the pilgrimage, go to [eucharisticpilgrimage.org](http://eucharisticpilgrimage.org).

"The Pilgrimage will be a powerful, once-in-a-lifetime witness of how Jesus Christ comes close to us and invites all to encounter him in the Eucharist." ~Bishop Andrew Cozzens



**Join 80,000 other Catholics at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, IN for the 10<sup>th</sup> National Eucharistic Congress.** Enjoy this 5 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 at 228-697-7814 or [Eucharisticcongress2024@gmail.com](mailto:Eucharisticcongress2024@gmail.com)



**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 Dennis Van Acker,** husband of Rosemary Van Acker and brother-in-law of Carl (Mary) Brochard of this parish, who passed away March 7<sup>th</sup>. We extend our sympathy to the family and promise them a remembrance in our prayers. May God grant him eternal peace.



**JOIN THE MOVEMENT: Cardinal Burke is calling all Catholics to PRAYER,** advocating a nine month Novena during this difficult time in salvation history. He urges us to seek the intercession of OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE for maternal care and protection. See [novena.cardinalburke.com](http://novena.cardinalburke.com) for all the informative details. The daily novena prayer can be downloaded in several languages including English and Spanish. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Pray for Us!