

**The First Reading tells how, three years after his conversion, Paul went up to Jerusalem.** In spite of being introduced by Barnabas, such was the hostility he encountered that he had to be smuggled out of the city. The fact that Paul took all these trials in stride shows the depth of his faith in Jesus.

In the Gospel we have the lovely image of the vine and the branches. Here Jesus stresses the unity that exists between him and his disciples. Vine and branches need each other. The vine cannot bear fruit without the branches. And the branches can have no life if separated from the vine. The branches need to be pruned (by trials) in order to be fruitful. (Paul is a good example.)

The Second Reading tells us what we have to do in order to be at rights with God. We have to believe in his Son, Jesus, and love one another as he told us. Active charity is what distinguishes true Christians from those who are such in name only. (This is what makes them fruitful branches of Christ, the true vine.)

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



**A Baptism Class** will be held in the Rectory on Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</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.



**The 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Observance of the National Day of Prayer for the City of Ocean Springs** will be held on Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Greyhound Stadium. Let us humbly come together united in prayer.



**You are invited to join us for the First Friday Devotion & Benediction** on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> beginning at 7:45 a.m. (prior to 8:15 mass).



**St. Alphonsus Catholic School is heading south this spring! Join us for our Spring Soiree "Havana Nights" fundraiser** on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 7:00 – 11:00 p.m. at the Walter Anderson

Museum of Art. Silent auction items range from trips, spa days, tickets and more. And don't miss our split-the-pot raffle. Last year's winner took home \$15,000. Visit [www.stalspto.com](http://www.stalspto.com) to buy tickets. Sponsorship opportunities still available.

Email [pto@stal.org](mailto:pto@stal.org) or text 228-217-6349 with any questions.



**You are invited to join us for the First Saturday Devotion** on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> 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.



**PLEASE JOIN US:** You are invited to join us in praying the ROSARY every weekday, Monday through Friday, after the 8:15 AM mass. There is a lot of disorder and chaos, not only in the world, but in our own surroundings and personal lives! Please, we need your participation and prayers! Everyone is welcome!



**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.

## PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

# MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>APRIL 29</b>
Acts 14:5-18; John 14:21-26	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Ethan Louis Bennett
8:15 a.m.	Int. Mr. Chad Williams
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>APRIL 30</b>
Acts 14:19-28; John 14:27-31a	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Joe Prejean
8:15 a.m.	Int. Mr. James Martin
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>MAY 1</b>
Acts 15:1-6; John 15:1-8	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Josephine K. Mills
8:15 a.m.	Mr. James M. Stewart
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>MAY 2</b>
Acts 15:7-21; John 15:9-11	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Mark Toups
8:15 a.m.	Int. Mr. Burl Newton
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>MAY 3</b>
1 Corinthians 15:1-8; John 14:6-14	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Carlos Patino
8:15 a.m.	Mr. A. Gregory Mansfield
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>MAY 4</b>
Acts 16:1-10; John 15:18-21	
8:15 a.m.	The Pitalo Family The Jordan Family
4:00 p.m.	Mr. Charles Goff
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>MAY 5</b>
Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48; 1 John 4:7-10; John 15:9-17	
7:30 a.m.	Congregation
9:00 a.m.	Mr. Glen Syring
11:30 a.m.	Mr. Leonard Tarrant
5:30 p.m.	Int. Confirmandi



**Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends:** Beckett Bassenger, Christopher Bellman, Anthony David Belson, Elaine Belson, Betty Bodin, Bob Boney, Mercedes Bosarge, Michael Bosarge, Bryleigh Brochard, Kay Brochard, Jeff Brochard, Roland Broussard, Roxie Buckles, 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, Sawyer Kuljis, Daisie Laborde, Judy and Randy Lesso, Gordon Mathieu, Mrs. McKinney, Iva Misko, Edward Necaize, Donna and Edward Necaize 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, 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

Easter Sunday Collection.....	\$9,761.68
Weekly Online Collection.....	\$2,121.00
Catholic Home Missions Appeal Collection.....	\$1,355.00



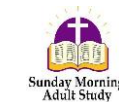
### Abyss of Love

God became man to reshape our instinctual fear that there isn't enough for us. We instinctively obsess over what we don't have, what we think we need, what we want. Sometimes it feels like our heart is an insatiable abyss of need. But *Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said: "Take and eat; this is my body"* (Mt 26:26). The bread that is broken, Christ's broken body, meets the abyss of our need with the bottomless abyss of his love. ~Fr. Philip Nolan

Come and experience Jesus' bottomless abyss of love for you, any day or hour of the week. He is ready to pour out his love and mercy to anyone who seeks him! Visit [stalphonsus.weadorehim.com](http://stalphonsus.weadorehim.com) to view the adoration schedule and sign up for an hour.



**We congratulate the following individuals who were brought into the Church at the Easter Vigil through a Profession of Faith:** Cynthia Herron, Caroline Hollowell, Susan Jones, Vanessa Ladnier, Sarah Malone and Hannah Stroz. Bobby Herron II received the Sacrament of Confirmation. We pray that they continue to grow in the Catholic faith in the years ahead.



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



**Walking With Moms In Need Ministry (WWMIN)** is hosting a Baby Shower the entire month of May. To continue the success of the ministry, they are asking for donations of diapers (all sizes), formula, baby toiletries, bottles, blankets, etc. and new and/or gently used infant/toddler clothes and baby necessities (car seats, high chairs, etc.) Donation boxes will be located at all entrances to the church. For questions or comments, contact Mary @228-348-6092 or Donna @228-218-1799.



**St. Elizabeth Seton, Ocean Springs invites you to join them for this year's Vacation Bible School** which will be held June 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 Noon in Fannon Hall. The theme is: SCUBA. For more information, please contact St. Elizabeth Seton at 875-0654.



**In the Gospel today,** Jesus says, "Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing." Indeed, by helping the poor we can 'bear much fruit' and we find that with Jesus we can do everything. Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will show that you are indeed a disciple of Jesus as it will bring your love to those who live in fear and doubt, loneliness and dread.



**Evening of Intercessory Prayer** - Let us all please come and join together in prayer. May is the month of Mary. Our Blessed Mother needs your prayers and intercessions now more than ever! Because Jesus chooses to come to us through Mary, we also return to Him through her. We are assured that going to Jesus through Mary is the most perfect and secure way of obtaining union with our Lord; she is the sure means, the perfect guide and immaculate way to Jesus, it is through her that souls who are to shine forth in sanctity must find him. Being a witness to Mary for Jesus is our duty! When you grow in an authentic knowledge of the faith revealed by our Lord, you must also share it with others. Real faith must be shared! Please come and participate with us on Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</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 to keep. "In everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your request known to God. (Philippians.4:6)



### 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



**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.



**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@cardinalgrouplc.com](mailto:bsanderson@cardinalgrouplc.com) to receive the requirements and registration form. **Deadline: June 5, 2024.**



**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.



**The Bookstore and Gift Shop** is open on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. and after all weekend Masses.



**Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of: Ernest Cox,** brother-in-law of Peggy Cox of this parish, who passed away April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Glen Bosarge,** son of Mercedes Bosarge of this parish, who passed away April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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



**The Flowers on the Altar are in Memory Of Deceased St. Alphonsus Parishioners**