

The First Reading deals with a covenant-renewal ceremony that took place at Shechem shortly after the people had entered the promised land. Joshua called upon them to make a choice: to serve the God of their fathers or to serve other gods. All the tribes of Israel declared, “We will serve the Lord.”

In a similar way Jesus called upon the people who had listened to his discourse on the Bread of Life to make up their minds whether or not they were going to believe in him and follow him. Sadly, apart from the Twelve, many deserted him. Even among the Twelve a traitor lurked.

Even though Jesus was sad to see those people leaving him, he let them go. It wasn’t great crowds that excited him. What mattered to him (and what should matter to the Church) was the authenticity and sincerity of those who stayed.

Just as Mark’s account of the ministry in Galilee ends on a note of disbelief (Fourteenth Sunday), so it is here. And in Peter’s reaction we have John’s parallel to the synoptic scene at Caesarea Philippi (Twenty-fourth Sunday).

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



The Annual Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass will be celebrated on Sunday, September 15th at 2:00 p.m. at the Nativity B.V.M. Cathedral. Couples celebrating 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60 or more years of marriage in 2024 are welcome to attend. You are asked to register whether you can attend or not. If you cannot attend a certificate will be mailed to you. The Mass will be followed with official pictures being taken and a reception at the Sacred Heart Center. Registration Forms are available in the Rectory Office during regular business hours or you may register on the diocese website at: www.biloxidiocese.org. **Registration Deadline: Aug. 29, 2024.**



Registration for children in Kindergarten through 5th grade Faith Formation classes will be held through August 31st. Forms are available at all entrances of the church and at osstalphonusus.org website under Faith Formation, Forms, Faith Formation registration. For any questions, please contact Janie Sema @ 228-217-1392 or jsema@osstalphonusus.org.

We look forward to meeting our new students and seeing our returning students on Sunday, September 8th, at 10:15 a.m.

Anyone interested in receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion must register for Elementary Faith Formation during August 17th – 31st. Forms are available at all entrances of the church and at osstalphonusus.org website under Faith Formation, Forms, Faith Formation registration and First Communion Registration.

FOUNDATIONS: Edge, LifeTeen, RCIA and Continuing Catholic Formation will begin on Wednesday, September 11th from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

LifeTeen and Edge registration will be on Wednesday, September 11th and parents MUST be present for registration.

Thank you to everyone that has volunteered thus far. The excitement for the program is overwhelming! We are still looking for another adult to help with child care. Please contact Jammie at 228-806-2641 if you can help. To help with dinner(s), please contact Cyndi at 228-697-2387.



St. Alphonsus Elementary School is in need of extended care workers (hours are Monday-Friday 3:20-5:30 p.m.) and an additional PK1 Assistant Teacher.

If interested, email Mrs. Hartzog at ehartzog@stal.org or you may call the school at 875-5329 for more information.



The Flowers on the Altar are in Memory of Marguerite Norman

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	AUGUST 26
2 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 11-12; Matthew 23:13-22	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Henry Endt, Sr.
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Fred Lusk, Jr.
TUESDAY	AUGUST 27
2 Thessalonians 2:1-3a, 14-17; Matthew 23:23-26	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Dorothy Collins
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Marguerite Norman
WEDNESDAY	AUGUST 28
2 Thessalonians 3:6-10, 16-18; Matthew 23:27-32	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Dan Dietrick, Sr.
8:15 a.m.	Int. Mr. David Figueroa
THURSDAY	AUGUST 29
1 Corinthians 1:1-9; Mark 6:17-29	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. RJ Domingue
8:15 a.m.	Int. Maloney Family
FRIDAY	AUGUST 30
1 Corinthians 1:17-25; Matthew 25:1-13	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Myrtle Keys
8:15 a.m.	Special Intention TM
SATURDAY	AUGUST 31
1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Matthew 25:14-30	
8:15 a.m.	The Jordan Family
	The Pitalo Family
	Mr. Ernest Talbott, Jr.
SUNDAY	SEPTEMBER 1
Deut 4:1-2, 6-8; James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23	
7:30 a.m.	Ms. Jackie Endt
9:00 a.m.	Int. Ms. Madeline West
11:30 a.m.	Mr. Leonard Tarrant
5:30 p.m.	Congregation



Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends: Beckett Bassenger, 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, 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, Ron & Hillery Jenkins and Family, Ashley Jensen, Lora Jordan, Otis Kaufman, Jack Kelly, Bill Kortman, Mary Krystosek, Sawyer Kuljis, Daisie Laborde, Judy and Randy Lesso, Gordon Mathieu, Mrs. McKinney, Thelma Miller, Iva Misko, Edward Necaize, Donna and Edward Necaize Jr., Terése Nicovich, Shirley and Travis Norman, Kathy Pasquini, The Petitjean Family, Jean Petricca, Richard Potash, Charles Wesley Ryan, Jr., Margaret Rucinski, Julia Sarpy, Harold (Jimmy) Saylor Jr., Jerry Schneider, Courtney Severino, Dale Seymour, Bridgett Shepard, Glenn Sigurnjak, Tracy Beaugez Simmons, Brittany and John Thornton, Dianne Tootle, Ted Ursu, Rose M. Vail, Margaret Misko VanLoon, Ashley Vickers and Glenn Williams, Sr.

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$9,908.36
 Weekly Online Collection.....\$2,066.00
 May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support



Mary’s Interior Life

If you want to live a Eucharistic life, you must imitate the perfect adorer of the Holy Eucharist, the Immaculate Mother of God. The Virgin Mary desires to feed all her spiritual children with the heavenly bread that was formed in her holy womb. As the new Eve and mother of all the living, she wants to prepare her spiritual children for worthy reception of Jesus Eucharistic. She also wants us to adore him and make reparation to him in the Blessed Sacrament. Our Lady teaches us that receiving Jesus in Holy Communion and being with him in adoration is the greatest of all gifts and the most necessary mission in the Church. At this critical time in the world and in the Church, when so few souls believe in the Real Presence, daily bombarded with distractions and diversions that take us away from the Eucharist, Our Lady teaches us about the importance of living an interior life. Without an interior life, we cannot lead Eucharistic lives. Without an interior life, we run the risk of becoming busybodies, too preoccupied with action, too involved in the things of the world to prepare for Holy Mass, and too consumed with tasks to spend time in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. Today, ask Our Lady to give you a share in the spiritual intimacy that she shares with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Ask her for the grace to imitate her, live an interior life, and help you become an adorer of the Holy Eucharist.

~30 Day Eucharistic Revival, Fr. Donald Calloway

Come and visit Jesus, in the Blessed Sacrament, in our chapel any day or hour of the week. He is waiting.

Please remember to close the tabernacle doors if no one else is adoring Him when you leave. stalphonusus.weadorehim.com



Walking With Mom’s in Need – WWMIN is in need of diapers size 4, 5, 6 and 7. This past month, the ministry assisted 6 pregnant moms in preparation for the arrival of their babies. Thank you for your support and prayers.

For more information, please contact Margaret Miller, Coordinator at 228-217-4742 / mrm82847@yahoo.com or Kim Ryan at 228-238-9108.



Catholic Charities of South Mississippi will offer an eleven-week Surviving Divorce program beginning on Wednesday, September 11th at 6:00 p.m. at their office located at 1450 North Street in Gulfport.

They are excited to offer this ministry once again that will bring hope and healing to those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage. Surviving Divorce features twelve video presentations that cover topics such as shock and grief, anger and forgiveness, money issues, dealing with children and a former spouse, and annulment and remarriage. This program is for the newly separated and divorced and those still struggling with issues many years later. It will help them find answers to their questions, restore their hope, and begin authentic healing. There is a suggested donation of \$25 to cover the cost of materials and participant handbook. The series will conclude on Wednesday, November 20th. Please register by September 1st. Call Michelle at 228-219-5995 or email meleuterius@biloxidiocese.org to sign up.



Deacon Justin Mitchell, Director of the Office of Marriage and Family Life and Father Rofinus Jas, Pastor of Our Mother of Mercy Parish, invite all our married couples to the first “Healing Mass for Couples.”

The Mass will be celebrated on Friday, September 27, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church, 216 Saucier Avenue, Pass Christian, 39571.

Invite your friends – especially those who need special prayers – to this powerful “Healing Mass for Couples.”

Please contact Deacon Mitchell and let him know if you plan to attend. jmitchell@biloxidiocese.org; 228-702-2107.



To assist or enhance you in your spiritual growth, the bookstore is offering special \$2 and \$5 (specially priced) deals on a variety of books in front of the Church; while supplies last. Please put money in the box provided beneath the books.



Looking to deepen your faith? Discipleship Quads are groups of either 4 men or 4 women who journey together as disciples with weekly gatherings of fellowship, ongoing conversion, and learning.

For more information or if you would like to sign up for a Quad, contact Christy Geissinger at (228) 219-6189.



PLEASE JOIN US: You are invited to join us in praying the ROSARY every weekday, Monday through Saturday, after the 8:15 a.m. mass at St. Alphonsus Church in Ocean Springs. The Blessed Mother Mary herself prays with us. The Rosary prayer embraces the problems of the Church, of the See of Saint Peter, the problems of the whole world. In it we also remember sinners, that they may be converted and saved, and the souls in purgatory. And now more than ever we pray for world peace and in reparation for all the offenses, sacrileges and indifferences made against the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Mother Mary asks us to pray for our priests, (especially your parish priest), they are human and will need to be strengthened like Jesus was in Gethsemane when an angel from heaven appeared to strengthen Him. Please we need your participation and prayers! Everyone is welcome!



In today’s Gospel, Jesus asks “Do you also want to leave?” We must ask ourselves if we really want to hear the good news of his love for us and for others. Is the word of God able to break into our consciousness, change us and call us to hear the cries of the poor?

This month, through your gifts, The Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to hear the cries of the poor by assisting 12 families, providing \$7,364.62 for utility, rent and other bills. God Bless You!



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 English weekend Masses.



Our Parish App is one great way to help make the liturgical season more present in your daily life. Helpful reflections will aid you in reflecting on the Mass readings each day. Also – under FORMED, you will be able to stream hundreds of hours of inspiring movies and video series, read bestselling Catholic eBooks, and listen to audio presentations from the Church’s most compelling speakers and is available from virtually any device...anytime, anywhere. **Don’t have the App or FORMED yet?** If you have either an iPhone or Android smart phone you can download the App by texting App to phone number 88202, or by visiting myparishapp.com. To gain access to FORMED – go to the website at www.formed.org and enter our Parish Code f1f5a9 (case sensitive) on the homepage, create an account with your user name/email and password.



Parish 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