

**The purpose of Advent is to help us prepare for Christmas.** One can't understand the message of Christmas unless we are familiar with at least the broad outlines of the history of salvation.

The Advent liturgy relives in a microcosmic way the history of Israel, viewing it through the eyes of Christian faith. It shows that all of that history was pointing and leading towards Jesus. He was the one who fulfilled the messianic prophecies.

Advent takes us back in time so that we may appreciate the greatness of what we are heirs to. We are the heirs to the promises God made to the prophets. Advent helps us to appreciate the great blessings God has given us in Christ.

Today's First Reading points to the first coming of Christ. It says that the Messiah will be descended from the stock of David, and his reign will be marked by wisdom, justice and integrity.

The Gospel deals with the Second Coming of Christ. The early Christians believed that the Second Coming was near, and would be preceded by cosmic signs. The disciples are urged to await the Lord's coming with confidence, vigilance and prayer.

How to prepare for the Second Coming of Christ is also the topic of the Second Reading.

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



**A Baptism Class** will be held in the Rectory on Thursday, December 5<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.



**You are invited to join us for the First Friday Devotion & Benediction** on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:45 a.m. (prior to 8:15 mass).



**You are invited to join us for the First Saturday Devotion** on Saturday, December 7<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.



**Walking With Moms in Need Ministry (WWMIN)** will be holding their monthly Baby Drive on December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> to replenish their supplies to continue the success of their ministry. They are asking for donations of diapers (all sizes), wipes, baby toiletries and necessities, formula (all types, esp. Enfamil, Enfamil Gentlease, Enfamil Simply Plant-Based formula), new or gently used baby clothes (boys & girls size 12m-3T winter clothes), strollers, high chairs, car seats, etc. We will also be collecting new and gently used coats all sizes. We thank you in advance for your abundant generosity and continued support.

Boxes will be located at all entrances to the church. For further information, call Mary @ 228-348-6092 or Margaret @ 228-217-4742.



**The Knights of Columbus will serve breakfast** on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. in the KC Hall for \$8.00 a plate. Breakfast will include eggs & pancakes (to order), grits, bacon, sausage, biscuits, gravy, coffee and juice. Come and enjoy the great food and fellowship.



**The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be celebrated on Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> this year and is a Holy Day of Obligation.** Masses will be celebrated at 6:30 a.m.; 8:15 a.m., 12:00 Noon and 6:00 p.m. (No Vigil Mass).

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 2</b>
Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 8:5-11	
6:30 a.m.	Dr. Malcolm Latour
8:15 a.m.	Int. Mr. Gerald Hopkins
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 3</b>
Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24	
6:30 a.m.	The Canavati Family
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Vickie Cole
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 4</b>
Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. James "JB" Brune
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Ron Fournier
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 5</b>
Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27	
7:30 a.m.	Ms. Melissa Cospelich
9:00 a.m.	Ms. Barbara St. John
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 6</b>
Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Jaqueline Hemenway
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Todd Klingensmith
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 7</b>
Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8	
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Al Gianelloni
	The Jordan Family
	The Pitalo Family
	Cox and Ryan Family
4:00 p.m.	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 8</b>
Baruch 5:1-9; Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6	
7:30 a.m.	Ms. Judy Catchot
9:00 a.m.	Congregation
11:30 a.m.	Mr. Delma Joseph Meaux, Jr.
5:30 p.m.	Int. Religious



**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 Bums, 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, Margie Gammon, Sandra Grantham, Richard Harrison, 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, Mary Lewis, Gordon Mathieu, Mrs. McKinney, Steve Merkel, Thelma Miller, Iva Misko, Edward Necaice, Donna and Edward Necaice 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, Brittany and John Thornton, Dianne Tootle, Ted Ursu, Rose M. Vail, Margaret Misko VanLoon, Ashley Vickers and Glenn Williams, Sr.

### FOUNDATIONS:

**Edge, LifeTeen, RCIA and Continuing Catholic Formation is held on Wednesday's from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.**



### A Time of Preparation

Advent begins today! It is a time of prayer and preparation for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We all need to pray more and Advent is the perfect time to start!

St. Teresa of Calcutta said: "Are we ready to receive Him? Before the birth of Jesus, His parents asked for a simple dwelling place, but there was none. If Mary and Joseph were looking for a home for Jesus, would they choose your heart, and all it holds? Let us pray that we shall be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas."

Slow down this Christmas season and stop in our chapel to spend time preparing your heart for the coming of Jesus. He would love to see you! Please remember to close the tabernacle doors if no one else is adoring Him when you leave. [stalphonsus.weadorehim.com](http://stalphonsus.weadorehim.com)



**The Altar Society is accepting donations for the decorating of the Church for Christmas** in Memory Of or in Honor Of a loved one. Envelopes are in the pews. When complete, envelopes may be placed in the collection basket or brought to the Rectory. Please print names clearly on the envelope. The deadline for making a donation is Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.



**Classes for Adult Study** are held after the 9:00 a.m. Sunday Mass in the Parish Hall. Videos are by Fr. Chris Alar, Director of the Association of Marian Helpers. For more information, contact Sue Mihal at 601-573-0020 or Anne McClellan at 228-327-4040. All are invited to attend.

December 1: No Class

December 8: Mary's 10 Virtues in the Bible... (Part 2)



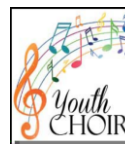
Dean Bellais, director of the St. Alphonsus 9:00 a.m. Sunday choir, would like to **invite anyone interested in singing with the choir at the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass**, to join rehearsals each Tuesday evening through December 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the choir loft. No experience is necessary...just a willingness to sing and learn. Come help us make this Christmas season especially beautiful as we prepare to make a joyful noise heralding Christ's birth!! Feel free to call 228-424-7008 with any questions.



**PLEASE JOIN US:** You are invited to join us in praying the rosary outside on the lawn at the Villa Maria on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome! We are looking forward to praying with you!



**We are EXCITED!! We now have Venmo for our parish.** The main purpose in acquiring this type of giving opportunity is for ease to our parishioners and visitors as well as for our Wednesday evening "Foundations" program. Please when making a donation specify Parish (Tithing, Poor, Capital Campaign, etc.) or Foundations. We appreciate and thank you!!



**There is some interest in starting a Youth Choir to sing, with instruments, at the 5:30 p.m. Mass on Sunday.** If you are a Jr. High or High School teen interested in singing in the choir, we ask that you please call the rectory office (875-5419) and leave your name and number. You will be contacted with rehearsal information soon.



**Your Church Needs You -** God is calling. Can you answer the call? We are in need of Extra Ordinary Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, and Altar Servers at all the masses. Prayerfully consider God's calling to serve your St. Alphonsus Family.



As we begin Advent we are called to "wait" in joyful anticipation for the grace of Christmas to once again bless our lives. **Wherever you live in our parish, there are poor families within walking distance of your home. When in need, they ring the rectory bell. They are, in effect, ringing your doorbell.**

Your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul poor box will help the poor celebrate the grace of God's love this Christmas.



**To assist or enhance you in your spiritual growth, or maybe a CHRISTMAS gift for someone,** 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.



St. Elizabeth Seton would like to invite you to **The 99 Experience**, a powerful mission event that will be a springboard for you to deepen your faith as you grow in identity, purpose, and community. *The 99 Experience* is for *everyone!* Prayerfully consider who you know or who

would benefit from attending and invite them! The Women's 99 Experience will be held December 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> and the Men's 99 Experience will be held December 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>. The sessions on Friday evening are from 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. and Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$50 and includes a workbook, dinner Friday evening, and a light breakfast and lunch on Saturday. For more information or to sign up, call the office at St. Elizabeth Seton at 228-875-0654 or you may go online at <https://www.stelseton.com/the-99-experience>.



### EVENING OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER

All are invited to join us on **MONDAY, DECEMBER 16<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 p.m. in praying the 20 MYSTERIES of the ROSARY and EXPOSITION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT in the ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH. Our Lady is calling us to pray for world peace, the end of wars, the salvation of souls, for our clergy, and in reparation for all the offenses made against the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus, for the sins of the whole world, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory. The world is in desperate need of prayer! Prayer is truly one of the most powerful weapons God gives to mankind. If we want peace to come to earth and morality to return then all of us must unite in prayer for this to happen. Let our prayers soar heavenward as an offering for all mankind knowing that as our voices are lifted to heaven all of heaven will unite with us in this call for conversion. If all the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ will unite in this Rosary prayer, then through those prayers His divine grace will pour out over the world and change it for the better. Each one of His followers is called to persevere in this prayer for mankind and not to give up in the short term when it seems nothing is happening. We must persevere and in doing so we show that we trust in God to do what is needed. Let us all embrace now what we should have been doing anyway as part of our faith, let us embrace God in prayerful love of others as we call on God in love to convert the hearts and souls of all people. When large numbers of the Lord's followers unite in prayer in this way who can stand against it? In light of the dire circumstances transpiring all around us, prayer for peace is needed now more than ever. We must come together and pray with Our Blessed Mother Mary, our greatest intercessor, with all our hearts! **PLEASE EVERYONE JOIN US IN THIS NEED FOR PRAYER!!!**

## WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$8,699.47  
 SVDP Community Pharmacy Collection.....\$2,987.00  
 Weekly Online Collection.....\$2,676.00  
 May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support