

The prophet Zephaniah, writing in the seventh century BC, bids Jerusalem to rejoice because salvation is near (First Reading). God stands in her midst and will deliver her from her enemies. God is portrayed, not only as a king and warrior, but also as a loving bridegroom, who steadfastly loves his unworthy and unfaithful bride.

The theme of joy is even more emphatic in the Second Reading. Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice because the Lord is near (Paul was thinking about the Second Coming, which he believed was near.) So there is no need to worry. If they need anything, they are to pray for it, and the peace of God will be with them.

The theme of the nearness of the Lord is also at the heart of the Gospel. John the Baptist tells the people what they must do in order to prepare for the Lord's coming and to escape his searching judgement. At the same time he makes it clear that he is subordinate to Jesus.

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

Mass Schedule

Penance Service

Wednesday, Dec. 18: Our Lady of Victories, Pascagoula

Thursday, Dec. 19: St. Alphonsus, 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. – Mass for families with small children

6:00 p.m. – Mass with Traditional Christmas Music

11:00 p.m. – Midnight Mass

Traditional “Adult Choir” Christmas Music

Prelude Music 10:30 p.m., Mass at 11:00 p.m.

Christmas Day: 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. (English)
2:00 p.m. Spanish Mass

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Tuesday, December 31: 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 1: 7:30 a.m.; 9:00 a.m.; 5:30 p.m. (English)

2:00 p.m. Spanish Mass



EVENING OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER

All are invited to join us on MONDAY, DECEMBER 16th at 6:30 p.m. in praying the 20 MYSTERIES of the ROSARY and EXPOSITION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT in the ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH in Ocean Springs. 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. Let us come together and pray with Our Blessed Mother Mary, our greatest intercessor, with all our hearts! There is so much to pray for and be thankful for! She needs us and our prayers! PLEASE EVERYONE JOIN US IN THIS NEED FOR PRAYER!!!



The Flowers on the Altar
are in Memory of Glen Skelton

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	DECEMBER 16
Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a; Matthew 21:23-27	
6:30 a.m.	Ella and Simon Gilbert
8:15 a.m.	Int. Ms. Marylou Guice Richards
TUESDAY	DECEMBER 17
Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17	
6:30 a.m.	Int. Fr. Cory Ford
8:15 a.m.	Int. Margaret W. Foushee
WEDNESDAY	DECEMBER 18
Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Jason David
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Vivian Wagner
THURSDAY	DECEMBER 19
Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25	
6:30 a.m.	Int. Mr. Rick Smith
	Mr. Bobby Flint
8:15 a.m.	Mr. David Bourgeois
FRIDAY	DECEMBER 20
Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Annette Lawrence
8:15 a.m.	Int. Mr. Timothy Noble
SATURDAY	DECEMBER 21
Song of Songs 2:8-14; Luke 1:39-45	
8:15 a.m.	Special Intention
4:00 p.m.	Mr. Albert Misko Sr.
	Ms. Eunice Misko
	Mr. André Kaufman
SUNDAY	DECEMBER 22
Micah 5:1-4a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45	
7:30 a.m.	Homer and Bonnie Franks
9:00 a.m.	Congregation
11:30 a.m.	Mr. Leonard Tarrant
5:30 p.m.	Mr. Alfred Gregory Mansfield



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, 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, Skip Murphy, Edward Necaise, Donna and Edward Necaise 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 Joy

The third week of Advent focuses on joy. What brings you joy? Is it your family, children, grandchildren, employment, friendships? Do you find joy in knowing that we have a loving and merciful God who wants a relationship with each one of us? As we continue to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus, let us give thanks for the joy only He can provide.

"The angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.'" John 2:10

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



The Bookstore and Gift Shop will be open Tuesday, December 17th and Thursday, December 19th from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

The Bookstore and Gift Shop will be closed for Christmas December 21st through January 6th and will reopen on Tuesday, January 7th.



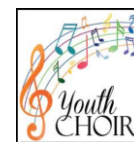
OUR LADY OF SORROWS: You are invited to come and join us for the 8:15 Mass followed by the recitation of the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows (a rosary of repentance) on the third Saturday of each month. (i.e. December 21). The purpose of our coming together is threefold: 1) To pray for all victims of sexual 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, December 21st 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.



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!!



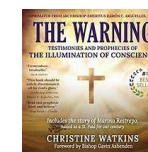
There is some interest in starting a Youth Choir to sing, with instruments, at the 5:30 p.m. Mass on Sunday. If you are a Jr. High or High School teen interested in singing in the choir, we ask that you please call the rectory office (875-5419) and leave your name and number. You will be contacted with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



Join the Cor Men's Group. The group meets on the 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Wilbur Bar (604 Porter Avenue). Come join us for a great Catholic conversation each week about faith, life, parenting, prayer, and fellowship. If you'd like to be added to the GroupMe contact John McMackin (228-229-6236).



THE WARNING: Testimonies and Prophecies of THE ILLUMINATION OF CONSCIENCE, by Christine Watkins. This amazing book is a "must read", for all Christians and non-Christians. At some point, in salvation history, EVERY living man, woman and child, on Earth, will experience a phenomenal

event, prophesied by many saints, prophets, Popes and mystics from the past and the present, whereby each will see the condition of his soul, before God. It will be a wonderful Act of Mercy that our Loving Lord wishes to present to us. Many folks, whose stories are related in this fascinating book, have actually experienced this Illumination of Conscience already. Dr. Gavin Ashenden, former Anglican Bishop and Chaplain to the Queen of England from 2008-2017 (Turned Lay Catholic for the Sake of Truth) among numerous others, encourages folks to open their minds and hearts to learn about the Illumination of Conscience and how it pertains to each of us, so that we can prepare ourselves for the coming reality of this astonishing world-wide event. Copies of THE WARNING are available at the front entrance to our Church for a donation. Please share with family and friends!



In today's Gospel John the Baptist says, “Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise...”

Christmas is a time of love and gift giving...please share your abundance by giving a gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who do not have clothes and food can share in the blessings of Christmas.



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 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. Please join us, everyone invited!



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.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Your prayers are requested for the deceased priests who have ministered in the diocese, especially those who have died around this time of year:

Reverend Msgr. Gregory Kennedy, December 1, 1986
Reverend John Joseph O'Reilly, December 5, 1989
Reverend Remigius A. Kozak, December 18, 2013
Reverend Msgr. John T. Martin, December 20, 1978

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$10,913.51
Weekly/ Monthly Online Collection.....\$ 8,027.00
May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support