

When Micah was writing (late eighth century BC) Jerusalem was under siege and David's dynasty was in jeopardy. But salvation would come from a comparatively insignificant place – Bethlehem. From there a new leader would come to gather together the scattered exiles and unite the nation once more. Christians see this promise as foreshadowing the coming of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, who was born in Bethlehem and descended from the line of David.

The Gospel tells the story of Mary's visit to Elizabeth. Both are pregnant. Enlightened by the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth praises Mary and hints at the uniqueness of the child she has conceived.

The Second Reading states that Jesus didn't come to offer the sacrifices of the old law, but to do the will of God. His sacrifice was essentially one of obedience (an obedience which meant accepting death on a cross). His one perfect sacrifice transcended and replaced all the former sacrifices. His sacrifice did what the sacrifices of the Mosaic Law were unable to do; it brought about reconciliation between God and his people.

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

## Mass Schedule

### 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

**The Church Office will be closed December 24-27**

### 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



**The Bookstore and Gift Shop** will be closed for Christmas December 21, 2024 through January 6, 2025 and will reopen on Tuesday, January 7, 2025.

#### FOUNDATIONS:

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



**Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends:** Beckett Bassenger, Anthony David Belson, Elaine Belson, Betty Bodin, 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.

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY DECEMBER 23

Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66

6:30 a.m.

Mr. Malcolm Latour, Jr.

8:15 a.m.

Ms. Jerri Stringer

TUESDAY DECEMBER 24

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:67-79

6:30 a.m.

Mr. Theo Williams

8:15 a.m.

Ms. Jackie Endt

Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25

4:00 p.m.

Int. Ms. Nelda Latour

6:00 p.m.

Mr. Matthew Peresich Lyons

Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14

11:00 p.m.

Int. Fr. Mike Snyder

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 25

Isaiah 62:11-12; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20

9:00 a.m.

Int. Fr. Thomas Kilasara

Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18

11:30 a.m.

Mr. Waide Joseph Galle

THURSDAY DECEMBER 26

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22

6:30 a.m.

Mr. Dick Porterfield

8:15 a.m.

Mr. Adelbert Catchot

FRIDAY DECEMBER 27

1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a & 2-8

6:30 a.m.

Mr. Kenneth Raymond Hughes Sr.

8:15 a.m.

Int. Mr. James C. Martin

SATURDAY DECEMBER 28

1 John 1:5—2:2; Matthew 2:13-18

8:15 a.m.

Mr. Barney Banks

Ms. Theresa Simmons

4:00 p.m.

Mr. Ralph Balius Sr.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 29

1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 John 3:2-2, 21-24; Luke 2:41-52

7:30 a.m.

Ms. Joyce Reynolds

9:00 a.m.

Ms. Eileen Roll

11:30 a.m.

Mr. James Webster Wilson

5:30 p.m.

Congregation

**Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of: Robert Boney**, a member of our parish family, who passed away December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Mary Fero**, a member of our parish family, who passed away December 15<sup>th</sup>.

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

## WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$9,726.61

Immaculate Conception Collection.....\$2,864.00

Weekly Online Collection.....\$2,911.00

Retired Religious Collection.....\$2,116.00

May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support



### Love is Everything

The fourth week of Advent is all about Love. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son! For what? To save us! He loves us so much that He would

have his Son die for us. What greater love is there? Jesus teaches us how to love one another by His own example. Let us return this love in adoration and show Him how thankful we are for the blessings we have received!

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)



**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!!



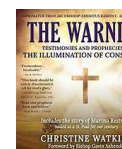
**There is some interest in starting a Youth Choir to sing, with instruments, at the 5:30 p.m. Mass on Sunday.** If you are a Jr. High or High School teen interested in singing in the choir, we ask that you please call the rectory office (875-5419) and leave your name and number. You will be contacted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



Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest. The Savior of the world comes for the people in dark places. The real, lasting, and deep joy is that the Light shines there.

Through your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. "Light" has shown, bringing real, lasting and deep joy to the hearts of the poor who live in dark places in our streets and neighborhood.

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2024

Each Fiscal Year our St Vincent de Paul Conference reports to the Parish their receipts and expenses so that each of you might share in God's work supporting those in need within our community. All income received and all assistance provided to those in need is reported. Thanks to your generosity, our St. Vincent de Paul Conference provided \$83,224 in essential temporary assistance to families in our community. The assistance was in the form of utilities payments, rent & temporary housing assistance, and other expenses, as reflected below:

Utilities incl. Power, Water, and Gas:	\$22,729
Rent and Temporary Housing Assistance:	\$54,120
1 College Scholarship - Need & Academic Based	\$ 1,500
1 St. Alphonsus School (Bob Myers) Scholarship	\$ 1,500
1 St. Patrick H. Sch. (Jerry Bourgeois) Scholarship	\$ 1,500
Christmas Gifts for Children of Assisted Families	<u>\$ 1,875</u>
<b>Total Assistance Provided:</b>	\$83,224
National Contributions and Dues	\$ 479
Operating Expenses	\$ 1,526
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$85,229</b>

Total Receipts (Donations) for Fiscal Year: \$83,772

They have experienced a significant increase in the cost of services they provide to our friends in need. The amount they have paid for power bills and especially housing assistance has increased year on year. They completed 146 individual home visits and assisted 365 people in those homes during this fiscal year. Their members committed in excess of 2,000 hours on home visits and in weekly meetings during the year. Their support comes from direct donations from individuals, honorariums for deceased loved ones, and a portion of the monthly collection for the poor. They would like to thank all of our parishioners who supported the very important work of St. Vincent de Paul Society this past year. If you would like to make a direct donation in support of our ministry, please make your check payable to the St Vincent de Paul Conference - St Alphonsus Parish. God Bless.



**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](http://App) to phone number 88202, or by visiting [myparishapp.com](http://myparishapp.com). To gain access to FORMED – go to the website at [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org) and enter our Parish Code flf5a9 (case sensitive) on the homepage, create an account with your user name/email and password.



**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!