

**The prophet Baruch delivers a comforting message to Sion (First Reading).** Her sorrows are ended and her children will be restored to her from exile. God will level a highway to facilitate their return, and bring about a great restoration. Even though the actual return from exile fell far short of the picture painted here, it did point the way to the messianic era. This leads into the Gospel where Luke introduces us to the Messiah and his herald, John the Baptist. To underline the universality of salvation, Luke sets the event within the framework of world history. In the manner of an Old Testament prophet, John undertakes to prepare the people for the coming of the Savior by calling them to repentance.

The Second Reading deals with the final coming of Christ. In his love for his fellow Christians, Paul urges them to prepare for the Second Coming by pure and blameless lives.

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



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



**A Second Collection will be taken up next weekend (Dec 14/15) for the Retired Religious.** In 1998, the U.S. bishops established this fund to help offset a deficit in retirement for those serving through religious institutes. The collection benefits Catholic sisters, brothers and priest in religious orders. Envelopes are available at the exits of the Church.



**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 next Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.**



**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!!!

**PRAY FOR VOCATIONS**

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 9</b>
Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38	
6:30 a.m.	Mathilde and Fernand Latour
8:15 a.m.	Msgr. Lavelle C. Watson
12:00 Noon	Ms. Katherine Walker Hanning
6:00 p.m.	Ms. Regina Williamson
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 10</b>
Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Margaret K. Guice
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Lee Adler
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 11</b>
Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30	
6:30 a.m.	Int. President Donald Trump
8:15 a.m.	Int. Fr. Steve Geerling
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 12</b>
Rev 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:39-47	
6:30 a.m.	Int. Fr. Doug Busch
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Christopher Bellman
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 13</b>
Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19	
6:30 a.m.	Fr. Dan Gallagher
8:15 a.m.	Patsy and Joe Fountain
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 14</b>
Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13	
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Lea Pitre
4:00 p.m.	Mr. Joseph Balius
	Mr. Avis James Adolphson
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 15</b>
Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18	
7:30 a.m.	Congregation
9:00 a.m.	Int. Ms. Madeline West
11:30 a.m.	Ms. Margaret Broussard
5:30 p.m.	Mr. Dennis Van Acker



**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 Necaice, Donna and Edward Necaice Jr., Terese Nicovich, Shirley and Travis Norman, Kathy Pasquini, The Pettitjean 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.**



**Week of Peace**

We are entering into the second week of Advent, known as the week of peace. How do you define peace? Is it the absence of conflict and violence in our world? Is it a sense of calm and quiet within your family? Is it harmony and serenity within your community and relationships? How do we attain this peace when we live in a world that is full of conflict at every turn? The answer is always Jesus. He is the Prince of Peace. Come to Him with your fears, worries, anxieties and prayers. Praise Him for your blessings. For without Him, we would be nothing. Prepare your heart to receive Him and the peace He offers you and I. Visit our chapel any hour of the day and sit with Him and allow His love to transform you during this Advent season.

*'For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

**Isaiah 9:6**

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. [stalphonusus.weadorehim.com](http://stalphonusus.weadorehim.com)



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

**December 15:** Levels of Heaven and Hell (Part 1)



**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!

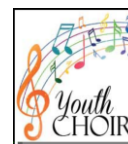


Dean Bellais, director of the St. Alphonsus 9:00 a.m. Sunday choir, would like to **invite anyone interested in singing with the choir at the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass**, to join rehearsals each Tuesday evening through December 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the choir loft. No experience is necessary...just 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.



**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.



**Our Penance Service for Advent will be held in the Church on Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** A number of local priests will be in attendance that night to expedite the waiting time. Please make the reception of the Sacrament part of your preparation for Christmas.

**Other local Penance Service schedules:**

St. Elizabeth Seton, Ocean Springs - December 11<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 p.m.

Sacred Heart, Pascagoula - December 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Victories, Pascagoula – December 18<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 p.m.



**You are invited to come to a Marian Movement of Priest Cenacle Mass** on Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Church. Mass, Rosary, and Consecration



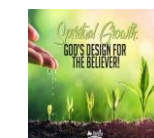
**Join the Cor Men's Group.** The group meets on the 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Wilbur Bar (604 Porter Avenue). Come join us for a great Catholic conversation each week about faith, life, parenting, prayer, and fellowship. If you'd like to be added to the GroupMe contact John McMackin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



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 a **"Healing Mass for Couples."** The Mass will be celebrated on Friday, December 13, 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@biloxiodiocese.org](mailto:jmitchell@biloxiodiocese.org); 228-702-2107.



**In today's Gospel John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord," and this is what Advent is all about. We are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family and to reach out to those in need.** Together with your gift to the St. Vincent de Paul, we can help the suffering and poor to celebrate 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.



**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](http://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 f1f5a9 (case sensitive) on the homepage, create an account with your user name/email and password.

**WEEKLY OFFERING**

Sunday Collection.....	\$10,510.96
Monthly Poor Collection.....	\$ 3,676.00
Weekly Online Collection.....	\$ 1,640.00
May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support	