

In the First Reading (Isaiah), the prophet assures the exiles in Babylon that God is coming to save them. The prophecy was fulfilled in the return from exile, but more especially in the coming of Jesus.

John the Baptist was clearly a prophet. Since the spirit of prophecy had long been absent from Israel, John's appearance raised expectations. The question arose: Could he be the Messiah? John denied that he was the Messiah, but declared that the Messiah was at hand. Thus he prepared the way for Jesus.

Baptism was a defining moment in the life of Jesus – it marked the beginning of his public mission. Luke always presents Jesus as praying before making major decisions. It's no surprise then that we find him praying during his baptism. In response to his prayer, the Holy Spirit descends on him in bodily form at the beginning of his mission, just as it will come in visible form on the apostles at Pentecost at the beginning of their mission. The Father puts his seal of approval on Jesus and on the mission he is about to begin.

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



Tax Statements for yearly contributions are available upon request. These statements reflect contributions made through the regular church collections, the special second collections, the Capital Campaign and the Catholic Sharing Appeal if they have been made in an identifiable fashion (church envelope, online or loose check). Any loose cash contribution cannot be credited. Please email or call the rectory office if you need a tax statement (stalparishos@gmail.com or 875-5419).



You are invited to come to a Marian Movement of Priest Cenacle Mass on Monday, January 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the Church. Mass, Rosary, and Consecration



The Altar Society will meet on Wednesday, January 15th at 9:00 a.m. in the KC Hall. All are welcome to attend.



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. January 18). 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, January 18th 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.



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, James Hebert, Margaret Hebert, Olivia Hood, Mary Jo Hoogstra, Ron & Hillery Jenkins and Family, Ashley Jensen, Lora Jordan, Otis Kaufman, Jack Kelly, Bill Kortman, Mary Krystosek, Daise Laborde, Judy and Randy Lesso, Mary Lewis, Gordon Mathieu, Mrs. McKinney, Steve Merkel, Thelma Miller, Iva Misko, Edward Necaie, Donna and Edward Necaie 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	JANUARY 13
Hebrews 1:1-6; Mark 1:14-20	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. RJ Domingue
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Todd Klingensmith
TUESDAY	JANUARY 14
Hebrews 2:5-12; Mark 1:21-28	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Ronnie Harwell
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Albert Santa Cruz
WEDNESDAY	JANUARY 15
Hebrews 2:14-18; Mark 1:29-39	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Jaqueline Hemenway
8:15 a.m.	Int. Mr. Tyler Williams Int. Mr. Tripp Williams
THURSDAY	JANUARY 16
Hebrews 3:7-14; Mark 1:40-45	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Donn Mitchell
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Delma Joseph Meaux, Jr.
FRIDAY	JANUARY 17
Hebrews 4:1-5, 11; Mark 2:1-12	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Melissa Cospelich
8:15 a.m.	Int. Bennett Family
SATURDAY	JANUARY 18
Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 2:13-17	
8:15 a.m.	Living/Deceased Family of Jesse Pitts
4:00 p.m.	Ms. Ligaya Camagong
SUNDAY	JANUARY 19
Isaiah 62:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; John 2:1-11	
7:30 a.m.	Int. Hospitalized and Infirm
9:00 a.m.	Int. Brian & Brittany McFall & Family
11:30 a.m.	Int. Ms. Liz Eckert
5:30 p.m.	Congregation

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....	\$10,349.35
New Year's Day Collection.....	\$ 3,639.00
Weekly/Monthly Online Collection.....	\$ 6,088.00
Poor Collection.....	\$ 4,295.00

May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support



The Flowers on the Altar are in Honor of St. Alphonsus Parishioners



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of: Hank Kost, brother-in-law of Elaine O'Brien of this parish, who passed away October 22nd in Boardman, Ohio.
Carney "Skip" Murphy, husband of Darlene Murphy of this parish, who passed away December 23rd.

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

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS



New Year, New Resolutions

Every new year, we tell ourselves we are going to get into shape and lose a few pounds, organize the clutter, be a better friend or parent. The list goes on and on. How often do these resolutions only last a week, 2 weeks or 3? How about spending 1 hour a week with Jesus in the chapel? This is a resolution that will actually change you. The time spent with your loving Father will change how you see the world, how you see your neighbor, how you see what really matters in this life. Make a New Year's resolution that you can stick with and that will stick with you. Become closer to Jesus during adoration! Please remember to close the tabernacle doors if no one else is adoring Him when you leave. stalphonsus.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.

January 12: Mary's 10 Virtues in the Bible... (Part 2)

January 19: Levels of Heaven and Hell (Part 1)



EVENING OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER

All are invited to join us on **MONDAY**, January 20th at 6:30 p.m. in praying the ROSARY with the EXPOSITION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT in the ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH in Ocean Springs. They say the pen is mightier than the sword, but what about our words? The words we speak have great power and many do not stop to think about the repercussions of their words. From the power to heal to the power to harm, the Bible is filled with wisdom about the impact of our speech.

The Rosary is a powerful tool in order to grow in relationship with the Blessed Mother, to understand the life of Christ, and to seek heavenly intercession. The graces obtained from praying the Rosary help to sanctify the faithful and bring them closer to Christ through Mary. Come join us and let us pray with Our Blessed Mother Mary, our greatest intercessor, with all our hearts! PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND JOIN US IN THIS NEED FOR PRAYER!!! "Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:9-11).



After Jesus was baptized, he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and a voice was heard, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." As we give to the poor, we also can hear these same words.

As you help those who are suffering, know in your heart the truth of the words "you are my beloved in whom I am well pleased."

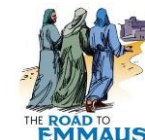


Walking With Moms in Need Ministry (WWMIN) is requesting gift cards in the amount of \$20 or less. They are currently helping 24 mothers and their babies with food. If you wish to help, please drop the gift card in the church collection basket or bring to the rectory during regular business hours. Your support is greatly appreciated. For further information, call Mary @ 228-348-6092 or Margaret @ 228-217-4742.

January 22, 2025 – Day of Prayer for the legal protection of unborn children.



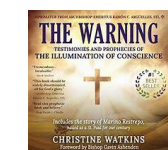
Your Church Needs You - God is calling. Can you answer the call? We are in need of Extra Ordinary Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, and Altar Servers at all the masses. Prayerfully consider God's calling to serve your St. Alphonsus Family



Men's Emmaus Retreat

Put aside the "hustle and bustle" of daily life and attend the Men's Emmaus Retreat the weekend of January 24-26, 2025. The retreat is held at the William J. Kelley Retreat Center in beautiful, peaceful Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. The retreat is based on the scripture passage "The appearance on the road to Emmaus" (Luke 24: 13-35) and is an uplifting experience that has a profound effect on men's lives. The retreat begins at 4:00 PM Friday and ends after the 5:30 PM mass on Sunday. Round trip transportation is provided from St. Dominic Church, New Orleans or you can meet at the William J. Kelley Retreat Center at 5:30PM on the Friday. Please don't ignore this opportunity but pray on it instead. Something very special awaits you in Bay St. Louis! You can register for the retreat online at: <https://stdominicparish.com/emmaus> or you can email us for a registration form at sdMensEmmaus@gmail.com.

Please contact the following men for additional information: Norm Madere 504-481-0411; Rick Valadie (504) 655-8932; or Colin Taulis 504-494-4511.



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!



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. 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!



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!!

FOUNDATIONS:

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



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.