

The First Reading contains a message of hope for God's people at one of the lowest moments in their history. Jerusalem lay in ruins. The city's plight reflected that of the nation as a whole. Israel, once God's bride, was now like a widow bereft of children. However, her husband, God, has not forgotten her. There will be a new wedding feast, and God and his people will be like newlyweds again.

This prophecy was fulfilled in Jesus, who replaced the old order with the new. This is symbolized by the changing of water into wine. (Gospel). The miracle of Cana links this Sunday with the feast of the Epiphany and with Jesus' Baptism – all are epiphanies of his glory.

John depicts Mary as involved at the beginning of Jesus' ministry, and again at the end of it when she is present at the foot of the Cross. Mary is thus associated with the whole of his ministry. But her role must always be seen in relation to that of her Son.

--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).



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).



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, Daisie Laborde, Judy and Randy Lesso, Mary Lewis, Gordon Mathieu, Mrs. McKinney, Steve Merkel, Thelma Miller, Iva Misko, Edward Necaize, Donna and Edward Necaize 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, Myrt Talbott, Brittany and John Thornton, Dianne Tootle, Ted Ursu, Rose M. Vail, Margaret Misko VanLoon, Ashley Vickers and Glenn Williams, Sr.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

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| MONDAY | JANUARY 20 |
| Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 2:18-22 | |
| 6:30 a.m. | Int. President Donald Trump |
| 8:15 a.m. | Living/Deceased Family of Benjamin Hines Sumrall |
| TUESDAY | JANUARY 21 |
| Hebrews 6:10-20; Mark 2:23-28 | |
| 6:30 a.m. | Ms. Mollie Davidson |
| 8:15 a.m. | Int. Ms. Doris Santa Cruz & Family |
| WEDNESDAY | JANUARY 22 |
| Hebrews 7:1-3, 15-17; Mark 3:1-6 | |
| 6:30 a.m. | Int. Protection of Unborn Children |
| 8:15 a.m. | Parents of Dennis Belson |
| THURSDAY | JANUARY 23 |
| Hebrews 7:25—8:6; Mark 3:7-12 | |
| 6:30 a.m. | Ms. Angie Goellner |
| 8:15 a.m. | Mr. Stephen Herring |
| FRIDAY | JANUARY 24 |
| Hebrews 8:6-13; Mark 3:13-19 | |
| 6:30 a.m. | Mr. Joey Fountain |
| 8:15 a.m. | Ms. Katherine Walker Hanning |
| SATURDAY | JANUARY 25 |
| Acts 22:3-16; Mark 16:15-18 | |
| 8:15 a.m. | Mr. Bill Davis |
| 4:00 p.m. | Mr. Charles Goff |
| SUNDAY | JANUARY 26 |
| Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Cor 12:12-30; Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21 | |
| 7:30 a.m. | Mr. Henry Endt, sr. |
| 9:00 a.m. | Int. Ms. Kelsey Gunkel |
| 11:30 a.m. | Ms. Lea Pitre |
| 5:30 p.m. | Congregation |

WEEKLY OFFERING

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|--|-------------|
| Sunday Collection..... | \$11,289.46 |
| Weekly Online Collection..... | \$ 2,911.00 |
| Aged and Infirm Priests | \$ 2,135.75 |
| May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support | |



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of: Carney "Skip" Murphy, husband of Darlene Murphy of this parish, who passed away December 23, 2024.

Kay Sonnier, sister-in-law of Mary Brochard and Alice Goff of this parish, who passed away January 5, 2025.

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



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

A lovely flower arrangement on the altar area of the church on weekends is a beautiful way to honor a deceased loved one or to celebrate a special occasion. If you would like to donate for a specific weekend, please call the Rectory at 875-5419. Donation amount is \$35.00.



National Day of Prayer

Wednesday, January 22nd is a day of prayer for the legal protection of unborn children. If you are an adorer who visits the chapel every Wednesday, please be sure to pray for the unborn while you are there. If you do not regularly

adore our Lord in the chapel, I invite you to do so now. What better cause is there to pray for than the defenseless, innocent babies in the wombs of mothers who are overcome with fear. These mothers need our prayers too!

Prayer for the Helpless Unborn

Heavenly Father, in your love for us, protect against the wickedness of the devil, those helpless little ones to whom you have given the gift of life. Touch with pity the hearts of those women pregnant in our world today who are not thinking of motherhood. Help them to see that the child they carry is made in your image, as well as theirs, made for eternal life. Dispel their fear and selfishness and give them true womanly hearts to love their babies and give them birth and all the needed care that a mother alone can give. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever, Amen.

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 19: Levels of Heaven and Hell (Part 1)

January 26: Levels of Heaven and Hell (Part 2)



A Lector Training will be held in the church on Thursday, February 6th at 7:00 p.m. All current lectors should attend if able. Anyone who is interested in becoming a lector is welcome to attend as well. If you are unable to attend or have any questions or concerns, please contact John McMackin (228-229-6236) or the parish office.



In the Gospel today, at the wedding feast in Cana, Jesus reveals himself to his disciples and they began to believe in him. Everyday, God also gives us signs of his love and so we also can respond in faith and trust.

Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul becomes a sign of God's love to those who are suffering and you give them reason to believe and to trust.

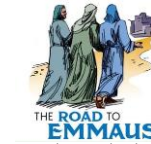


Walking With Moms in Need Ministry (WWMIN) is requesting gift cards in the amount of \$20 or less. They are currently helping 24 mothers and their babies with food. If you wish to help, please drop the gift card(s) in the church

collection basket or bring to the rectory during regular business hours. WWMIN also extends their deepest and sincerest thanks for the overwhelming and continued support of our St. Alphonsus Parish. Your generosity and thoughtfulness not only provides their group with much needed supplies but offers love, support, and most of all hope for those they serve. May God bless you richly for answering their call. For further information, call Mary @ 228-348-6092 or Margaret @ 228-217-4742.



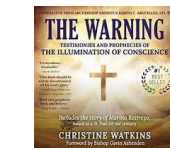
Your Church Needs You - God is calling. Can you answer the call? We are in need of Extra Ordinary Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, and Altar Servers at all the masses. Prayerfully consider God's calling to serve your St. Alphonsus Family.



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.

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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.



Parishioner 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.