

Today we begin the consecutive reading of Luke's Gospel, which was originally joined to Luke's other work, the Acts of the Apostles. The way the story is told prepares us for what happens in Acts.

When the Jews returned home after the exile in Babylon, the nation had to be rebuilt. The Persians entrusted this task to Ezra. Ezra brought back with him from Babylon the book of the law of Moses which he solemnly read to the people (First Reading). Thus he called upon them to rededicate themselves to God.

The Gospel shows Jesus too proclaiming the word of God. In the synagogue at Nazareth, he makes his own a passage from Isaiah, and uses it to announce a program for his ministry. He is sent, not to the wealthy or the powerful, but to the poor and the lowly, the oppressed and the suffering. Here we see Luke's concern for the poor and the afflicted.

Who are the poor? The poor are all the dispossessed of this world, all those who are waiting for liberation. The good news must not be limited to spiritual blessings only. But the poor are also those who live on bread alone and who never hear the Word of God.

--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](mailto:stalparishos@gmail.com) or 875-5419).



**You are invited to join us for the First Saturday Devotion** on Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:45 a.m. (half hour before the 8:15 a.m. Mass) with Devotion, Consecration, Rosary and Benediction. Confession will also be available.



**A Baptism Class** will be held in the Rectory on Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Any parent with a child for baptism must attend this class prior to scheduling a baptism date. Godparents are also encouraged to attend. Godparents who are not registered /active members of St. Alphonsus must present a letter from their pastor giving them permission to be a godparent. A godparent must be a Catholic in good standing with the church, receiving the sacraments on a regular basis. Class lasts a little over one hour. Baptisms are scheduled each month on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday immediately after the 9:00 a.m. Mass. Please call the Rectory with information on the child prior to attending the class.



**You are invited to join us for the First Friday Devotion & Benediction** on Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:45 a.m. (prior to 8:15 mass).



**PLEASE JOIN US:** You are invited to join us in praying the rosary outside on the lawn at the Villa Maria on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome! We are looking forward to praying with you!

## WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$9,318.15

Weekly Online Collection.....\$2,281.00

May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support



**Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of: Victoria Menendez,** sister of Dr. Chuck (Margaret) Menendez of this parish, who passed November 1, 2024.

We extend our sympathy to the family and promise them a remembrance in our prayers. May God grant her eternal peace.

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

**MONDAY JANUARY 27**  
Hebrews 9:15, 24-28; Mark 3:22-30  
6:30 a.m. Mr. Theo Laborde  
8:15 a.m. Living/Deceased Family of Thomas Patrick Langan, Sr.

**TUESDAY JANUARY 28**  
Hebrews 10:1-10; Mark 3:31-35  
6:30 a.m. Int. Mr. John Langan, Jr.  
8:15 a.m. Ms. Theresa Simmons

**WEDNESDAY JANUARY 29**  
Hebrews 10:11-18; Mark 4:1-20  
6:30 a.m. Special Intention  
8:15 a.m. Mr. Barney Banks

**THURSDAY JANUARY 30**  
Hebrews 10:19-25; Mark 4:21-25  
6:30 a.m. Mr. David Bourgeois  
8:15 a.m. Ms. Mary Fero

**FRIDAY JANUARY 31**  
Hebrews 10:32-39; Mark 4:26-34  
6:30 a.m. Mr. Robert Boney  
8:15 a.m. Ms. Louise Halstead

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 1**  
Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19; Mark 4:35-41  
8:15 a.m. Ms. Gloria Porter Pucheu

4:00 p.m. Mr. Rocky Sentell  
**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 2**  
Malachi 3:1-4; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40  
7:30 a.m. Int. Fr. Kennedy  
9:00 a.m. Int. Louis and Irma Stiglet  
11:30 a.m. Congregation  
5:30 p.m. Mr. Dennis Van Acker



**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 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, Myrt Talbott, Brittany and John Thornton, Dianne Tootle, Ted Ursu, Rose M. Vail, Margaret Misko VanLoon, Ashley Vickers and Glenn Williams, Sr.



**The Flowers on the Altar are in Memory of Deacon Greg Miller**



### Holy Silence

Noise is a deceptive, addictive and false tranquilizer. The tragedy of our world is never better summed up than in the fury of senseless noise that stubbornly hates silence. This age detests the things that silence brings us to: encounter,

wonder, and kneeling before God. Without silence, God disappears in the noise. And this noise becomes all the more obsessive because God is absent. Unless the world rediscovers silence, it is lost. The earth then rushes into nothingness. ~Robert Cardinal Sarah, *The Power of Silence: Against the Dictatorship of Noise*

*In silence and in hope shall your strength be. Isaiah 30:15*

Come enjoy the silence in our chapel with the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Himself. He is waiting to spend this one on one time with 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.

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

**February 2:** The Brown Scapular (1 Session)



**A Lector Training** will be held in the church on Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup> 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.



**The St. Alphonsus Knights of Columbus will host an Anniversary Dinner for all St. Alphonsus couples married 50+ years.** The Dinner will be held on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the KC Hall and you will have a choice of either chicken or pork loin. A sign-up sheet is located in the vestibule of the Church or you may call the rectory.



**In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus reads the words of scripture: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor."**

In the month of January, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist 10 families providing \$4,223.11 for utility and rent. Thank You!

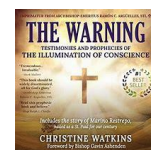


**Walking With Moms in Need Ministry (WWMIN)** is requesting gift cards in the amount of \$20 or less. They are currently helping 24 mothers and their babies with food. If you wish to help, please drop the gift card(s) in the church collection basket or bring to the rectory during regular business hours.

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.



**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!



**The Rosary truly is a very special prayer, one that has many benefits for those who pray it devoutly and faithfully every day.** The Rosary is the second most powerful prayer next to the Mass! So important is it, that at the first apparition of Fatima in 1917, Our Lady chose to identify herself as, "The Lady of the Rosary." The Rosary is a prayer loved by many of the saints since its introduction in the 12th century. The Rosary is a prayer that fits perfectly into the spiritual life of all who seek to allow Mary to be their light to Christ, to show them the path to Jesus. In his Apostolic Letter, Rosarium Virginis Mariae, Blessed Pope John Paul II states in his introduction, "The Rosary, though clearly Marian in character, is at heart a Christocentric prayer. In the sobriety of its elements, it has all the depth of the Gospel message in its entirety, of which it can be said to be a compendium..." (RVM, 1) PLEASE 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. EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



**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.**



**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.

**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.