




Jesus, the King of glory, yet like us in all things, comes to his temple to be a light for all the nations.


This feast, originating in 4th c. Jerusalem, came to be celebrated in Rome by the middle of the 5th c. under its Greek title, "Feast of the Meeting"; known also as Candlemas Day.


Today is observed as World Day for Consecrated Life. Its purpose is "to help the entire Church to esteem ever more greatly the witness of those persons who have chosen to follow Christ by means of the practice of the evangelical counsels" as well as "to be a suitable occasion for consecrated persons to renew their commitment and rekindle the fervor which should inspire their offering of themselves to the Lord" (St. John Paul II, 1997).


 **Monday, February 3rd is the Feast of St. Blaise.** The traditional blessing of throats will take place after both Masses this day.

 **A Baptism Class** will be held in the Rectory on Wednesday, February 5th 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 4th Sunday immediately after the 9:00 a.m. Mass. Please call the Rectory with information on the child prior to attending the class.

 **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.

 **You are invited to join us for the First Friday Devotion & Benediction** on Friday, February 7th 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 8th at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome! We are looking forward to praying with you!


 **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 8th 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.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Your prayers are requested for the deceased priests who have ministered in the diocese, especially those who have died around this time of year:
 Bishop Joseph L. Howze, January 9, 2019
 Reverend Patrick Tierney, January 9, 1991
 Reverend John Izral, January 22, 2020
 Reverend Thomas White, January 26, 2025
 Reverend Peter F. Mockler, January 30, 2014
 Reverend Herbert Mullen, February 12, 1984
 Reverend Michael Kelleher, February 13, 2020
 Reverend Patrick Hannelly, February 14, 1990
 Reverend Msgr. James Russell, February 15, 2002

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	FEBRUARY 3
Hebrews 11:32-40; Mark 5:1-20	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Joe Prejean
8:15 a.m.	Fr. Steve Geerling
TUESDAY	FEBRUARY 4
Hebrews 12:1-4; Mark 5:21-43	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Annette Lawrence
8:15 a.m.	Mr. George Halstead
WEDNESDAY	FEBRUARY 5
Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15; Mark 6:1-6	
6:30 a.m.	Int. Ms. Nelda Latour
8:15 a.m.	Living/Deceased Family of Joseph Davis, Jr.
THURSDAY	FEBRUARY 6
Hebrews 12:18-19, 21-24; Mark 6:7-13	
6:30 a.m.	Int. Fr. Mike Snyder
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Christopher Bellman
FRIDAY	FEBRUARY 7
Hebrews 13:1-8; Mark 6:14-29	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Judy Catchot
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Alfred Gregory Mansfield
SATURDAY	FEBRUARY 8
Hebrews 13:15-17, 20-21; Mark 6:30-34	
8:15 a.m.	The Jordan Family
	The Pitalo Family
4:00 p.m.	Ms. Julie Renee Trosclair
SUNDAY	FEBRUARY 9
Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11	
7:30 a.m.	Congregation
9:00 a.m.	Ms. Theresa Simmons
11:30 a.m.	Mr. Richard "Dick" Smith
5:30 p.m.	Int. Catholic Education & Schools

 **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.



The Flowers on the Altar are in Memory of Sr. Eileen Lowney



The Sacred Act of Listening

After three days they found Jesus in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them.... (Lk 2:46).

Luke's first description of the boy Jesus in the temple is that he was listening. Before astounding the temple teachers with his understanding, Jesus listened to them. When the boy Jesus returned with Mary and Joseph to Nazareth, he was obedient to them, he listened to them. Perhaps Jesus' profound compassion and understanding flowed from his profound listening.

The Incarnation itself is an act of radical listening: Jesus listening to the will of the Father; Jesus listening attentively to the deepest stirrings of the humanity he has assumed; listening compassionately to the hearts of those he encountered, recognizing the unique cry of each heart for the love of his Heavenly Father.

As his disciples today, let us pray to our Lord for listening hearts. Let us listen in prayer for the voice of our Heavenly Father. Let us pray for the unity given by the Spirit, for the grace to listen to each other as brothers and sisters.

Lord Jesus, open our hearts that we may hear, so that when we open our lips, our utterances may build up your Church. ~Father Richard Veras

Remove yourself from the noise of daily life and come and listen to Him during silent adoration in our chapel.

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.

February 2: The Brown Scapular (1 Session)

February 9: Proof of Christ's Suffering and Crucifixion (Part 1)



In the Gospel today, Jesus shows us that we are called to place gospel values before any other values and to be willing to put our lives on the line for them. Taking care of God's poor is indeed living gospel values.

Is God calling you to help the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?



Walking With Moms in Need Ministry (WWMIN) will be holding their second Sunday Baby Drive next weekend (February 8th/9th). In addition to their usual request for baby necessities and baby equipment, they are in special need of

Size 6 and Size 7 diapers and baby bottles. They would also like to ask for donations of gift cards for \$20 or less from Walmart, Target, and any grocery stores. As always, they thank you for your kindness, support, and generosity for this much needed ministry. For further information, call Mary @ 228-348-6092 or Margaret @ 228-217-4742.



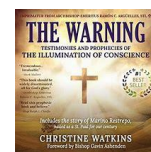
Your Church Needs You - God is calling. Can you answer the call? We are in need of Extra Ordinary Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, and Altar Servers at all the masses. Prayerfully consider God's calling to serve your St. Alphonsus Family.



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of: Roland Figueroa, brother of Marco St. John (Lorraine) of this parish, who passed away January 9th.

Norman Burch, husband of Olive Beaugez Burch of our parish family, who passed away January 16th in Grand Bay, AL.

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

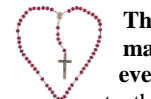


THE WARNING: Testimonies and Prophecies of THE ILLUMINATION OF CONSCIENCE, by **Christine Watkins.** This amazing book is a "must read", for all Christians and non-Christians. At some point, in salvation history, EVERY living man, woman and child, on Earth, will experience a phenomenal

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!



EVENING OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER - Please MARK your CALENDARS to join us on MONDAY, February 17th at 6:30 p.m. in praying the ROSARY with the EXPOSITION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT in the ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH in Ocean Springs. 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. "In everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your request known to God." (Philippians 4:6)



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.

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$7,814.16
 Weekly Online Collection.....\$2,521.00
 May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support