

Because of his great successes on the battlefield, David was very popular with the people. As a result, Saul saw him as a threat and sought to kill him. The First Reading contains the moving story of how David had an opportunity to kill Saul, but refused to do so because in his eyes Saul, as king of Israel, was a sacred person.

This passage prepares us for the Gospel, which contains Jesus' injunction to love our enemies. Jesus goes on to stress the obligations of fraternal charity. The ideal of love to which his followers must aspire is that of God himself. We are to love as God loves.

Jesus' vision of human behavior is at such variance with the view most people have, that many people regard it as humanly unachievable, and therefore ignore it. From a human point of view it is unachievable. Divine help is needed.

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



You are invited to join us for the First Saturday Devotion on Saturday, March 1st 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.



The Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday, March 4th for Mardi Gras.



Lent begins Wednesday, March 5th with a day of Fast and Abstinence. Four masses will be available on that day beginning with the usual morning masses at 6:30 and 8:15 a.m. (children from our elementary school will attend), 12 Noon and 6:00 p.m. A Special

Collection will be taken up for the Churches in Eastern Europe and Africa.



During Lent, Stations of the Cross will be conducted each Monday morning immediately after the 8:15 a.m. Mass, each Friday afternoon by the school children at 2:30 p.m. (adults welcome), and Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. with the Way of the Cross followed by Mass.



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



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Jimmy Saylor, a member of our parish community, who passed away February 12th.

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

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$11,331.52

Weekly Online Collection.....\$ 2,445.00

May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support



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

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY FEBRUARY 24
Sirach 1:1-10; Mark 9:14-29
6:30 a.m. Ella and Simon Gilbert
8:15 a.m. Mr. Richard M. Durkin

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 25
Sirach 2:1-11; Mark 9:30-37
6:30 a.m. Ms. Judy Martin
8:15 a.m. Mr. Hank Kost

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 26
Sirach 4:11-19; Mark 9:38-40
6:30 a.m. The Canavati Family
8:15 a.m. Mr. Henry Endt, Sr.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 27
Sirach 5:1-8; Mark 9:41-50
6:30 a.m. Mr. James "JB" Brune
8:15 a.m. Mr. Edward Wilson

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28
Sirach 6:5-17; Mark 10:1-12
6:30 a.m. Ms. Mary Holt
8:15 a.m. Int. Ms. Gena Gatschet Odom

SATURDAY MARCH 1
Sirach 17:1-15; Mark 10:13-16
8:15 a.m. The Jordan Family
The Pitalo Family

SUNDAY MARCH 2
Sirach 27:4-7; 1 Corinthians 15:54-58; Luke 6:39-45
7:30 a.m. Congregation
9:00 a.m. The Collins Family
11:30 a.m. Mr. Albert Santa Cruz
5:30 p.m. Int. Mr. Todd Rich



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, Dale Diaz, Jeannine Dionne, Marjorie DuBois, Rose Mary Eagan, Nija Fountain, Gordon Gaethe, Ansley Gilich, Julian Galloway, Margie Gammon, Sandra Grantham, Richard Harrison, Trent Hartzog, James Hebert, Margaret Hebert, Olivia Hood, Mary Jo Hoogstra, 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 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, 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.



Lenten Plans

Would you like to grow closer to Jesus? Lent begins in just over a week. Now is the time to start thinking about how you want to spend this time preparing for His death and resurrection. Why not make a choice to walk with

Him during His passion. Meditate on His suffering and join our suffering to His while visiting Him in our chapel. The Blessed Sacrament is there for us to adore and praise. He suffered and gave His life to save us from our sins. Let us know and love Him as He loves us and keep Him company these 40 days. Visit the chapel at your convenience or commit to an hour a week on the website stalphonsus.weadorehim.com. He is always waiting for us!

"My God, You have given me all; behold the little that I give You. Give me the strength to give more."

~The Cure of Ars: Patron Saint of Parish Priests, by Father Bartholomew O'Brien

Please remember to close the tabernacle doors if no one else is adoring Him when you leave. stalphonsus.weadorehim.com



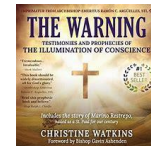
Classes for Adult Study are held after the 9:00 a.m. Sunday Mass in the Parish Hall. Videos are by Fr. Chris Alar, Director of the Association of Marian Helpers. For more information, contact Sue Mihal at 601-573-0020 or Anne McClellan at 228-327-4040. All are invited to attend.

February 23: What Did Jesus Do On Holy Saturday (Part 1)

March 2: What Did Jesus Do On Holy Saturday (Part 2)



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!



In today's Gospel Jesus gives us the challenge to: "Love your enemies...Give to everyone who asks of you...Do to others as you would have them do to you...Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

In the month of February, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist 7 families, providing \$6,465.77 in rent, utility, etc.

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.



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!



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** to phone number **88202**, or by visiting myparishapp.com. To gain access to FORMED – go to the website at www.formed.org and enter our Parish Code **f1f5a9** (case sensitive) on the homepage, create an account with your user name/email and password.



The Bookstore and Gift Shop is open on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. and after all English weekend Masses.



Radio Maria - a Catholic Radio right here in Ocean Springs! You can listen to it on your radio at FM 88.1; livestream it on your computer at radiomaria.us; download the free app onto your smartphone; or by calling 1-631-359-8743. There are many good programs from inspirational Catholic speakers, programs about history, prayer, care giving, finding a job, Marian apparitions, conversion stories, and many others! Plus there is great music. Let us be grateful to God for this sublime gift to us, for His mercies endure forever! Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer. (Romans 12:12)



Looking to deepen your faith? Discipleship Quads are groups of either 4 men or 4 women who journey together as disciples with weekly gatherings of fellowship, ongoing conversion, and learning.

For more information or if you would like to sign up for a Quad, contact Christy Geissing at (228) 219-6189.