

Just as an orchard is judged by the quality of its fruit, so a person's talk shows what kind of person he is. (First Reading) This links with what Jesus says in the Gospel: 'A tree is known by its fruit...the words of the mouth flow out of what fills the heart.'

In the Gospel it is no longer a question of love of enemies, but of love of one's brothers and sisters in the community. A Christian is his brother's keeper. But one cannot undertake to guide others unless one has found the way oneself. Hence, self-criticism must precede criticism of others. This applied especially to Christian teachers.

But it had even more relevance for prophets. There were many prophets in the early Church. These were people who had received this gift from God and more or less guided the community. But the community had to be careful because there were also false prophets.

Just as we judge a tree by its fruit, so we judge a prophet by his actions. Any prophet who teaches the truth is none the less a false prophet if he does not himself practice what he teaches. The true prophet is one who behaves in the Lord's way.

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



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.

All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence (abstaining from meat and meat products for those who are 14 years of age and older).

Fasting: Catholics 18-59 years of age who are in good health are obliged to fast and abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On all the weekdays of Lent the U.S. Bishops strongly encourage the faithful to participate in Mass and to observe a self-imposed fast. The law of fasting allows only one full meal a day, but does not prohibit taking some food in the morning and evening. Customarily, the two smaller "collations," when considered together, should not equal the main meal – and ideally should be eaten only if needed to maintain one's strength.

Abstinence: All Catholics 14 years of age and older are obliged to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent (unless the Friday is a solemnity).

In their Penance and Abstinence pastoral, the U.S. Bishops declared: "the obligation both to fast and to abstain from meat, an obligation observed under a more strict formality by our fathers in the faith, still binds on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. No Catholic Christian will lightly excuse himself from so hallowed an obligation..." They also stated: "we preserve for our dioceses the tradition of abstinence from meat on each of the Fridays of Lent, confident that no Catholic Christian will lightly hold himself excused from this penitential practice."

Flowers and Music: During Lent, flowers are not to be used to decorate the altar, with the exceptions of the Fourth Sunday of Lent, and the Solemnity of St. Joseph (March 19); musical instruments are only to be played in order to support the singing, with the same exceptions.

Gloria and Creed: The Gloria and the Creed are sung/said on the Lenten solemnities. Note that when the Creed is said during the Mass on the Annunciation that all genuflect at the words, "and by the Holy Spirit, he was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man."

Covering Crosses and Images: Crosses and images should not be covered for the whole of Lent. The appropriate time to cover crosses and

statues in purple is before the Saturday Vigil Mass of the Fifth Sunday of Lent, April 5th (after the Saturday morning Mass of that day). Crosses remain covered until the end of the Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday; other images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil.

Holy Water: Removing holy water from the fonts during the season of Lent (and replacing it with sand, etc.) is not permitted; holy water is removed after the evening Mass Holy Thursday and refilled on Holy Saturday with water blessed at the Easter Vigil.

Funeral Masses: The celebration of a funeral Mass is not permitted on the Sundays of Lent and Easter, Holy Thursday, and the days of the Easter Triduum. However, when necessary, a "Funeral Liturgy outside Mass" may be used.



A Baptism Class will be held in the Rectory on Thursday, March 6th at 7:00 p.m. (changed from March 5th due to Ash Wednesday) 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.



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!



The Second Sunday Collection for Walking With Moms in Need will be held next weekend, March 8th and 9th. In addition to the usual request for baby necessities and baby equipment, they are in special need of Size 3, 4, 5, 6, and 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.



Reminder - Daylight Savings Time begins at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 9th. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed!



A workshop for all current Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and for anyone interested in becoming one will be held on Thursday, April 3rd at 7:00 p.m. It will begin in the Adoration Chapel with 30 minutes of adoration before moving to the main church for the rest of the workshop. Please call or email John McMackin (228-229-6236) (jmcmack2@gmail.com) if you are unable to attend.

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$9,476.50

Weekly Online Collection.....\$2,672.00

May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support



The Flowers on the Altar are in Memory of Carlus E. Chapman

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY

Sirach 17:20-24; Mark 10:17-27

6:30 a.m.

8:15 a.m.

TUESDAY

Sirach 35:1-12; Mark 10:28-31

6:30 a.m.

8:15 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Joel 2:12-18; 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2; Matthew 6:1-6,16-18

6:30 a.m.

8:15 a.m.

12:00 Noon

6:00 p.m.

THURSDAY

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 9:22-25

6:30 a.m.

8:15 a.m.

FRIDAY

Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 9:14-15

6:30 a.m.

8:15 a.m.

SATURDAY

Isaiah 58:9b-14; Luke 5:27-32

8:15 a.m.

4:00 p.m.

SUNDAY

Deut 26:4-10; Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13

7:30 a.m.

9:00 a.m.

11:30 a.m.

5:30 p.m.



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 Necaize, Donna and Edward Necaize Jr., Terése Nicovich, Shirley and Travis Norman, Marian O'Connor, 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.

Pray for Vocations



Lent – A Time for Preparation

Just as Jesus spent 40 days and 40 nights in the desert preparing for his public ministry and His eventual Passion, we too, need to prepare for His death and resurrection. We can do this by clearing out the clutter

and busyness of our daily lives and spending that time in prayer. Praying is, simply put, a conversation with God. An easy way to start this conversation with God is to visit our quiet chapel. The Blessed Sacrament shines so bright in that little room. This Lent, give up the chaos and come experience the peace and grace that Jesus wants to pour out upon each one of us. It's free!! Choose to have a meaningful Lent and form a closer relationship with the One who gave us life! Our chapel is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Visit stalphonsus.weadorehim.com for the schedule and the option to choose your own hour with Him. What could be better than that?

If you already have an hour on the schedule but are not going, please remove yourself from the schedule or choose to re-commit to your hour this Lent. Thank you!

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



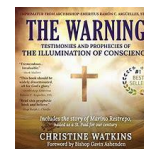
Classes for Adult Study are held after the 9:00 a.m. Sunday Mass in the Parish Hall. Videos are by Fr. Chris Alar, Director of the Association of Marian Helpers. For more information, contact Sue Mihal at 601-573-0020 or Anne McClellan at 228-327-4040. All are invited to attend.

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

March 9: Our Lady of Undoer of Knots...The most powerful devotion



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 uses images in speaking to his disciples: "Can a blind man act as guide to a blind man?...Why look at the speck in your brother's eye when you miss the plank in your own?...A good tree does not produce decayed fruit..."

It is true that donations come to the Society because a good person produces goodness from the good in their heart.

FOUNDATIONS:

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