

**The First Reading tells of God's promise to Abraham that he would have numerous descendants, and that those descendants would possess the land of Canaan.** As a pledge of his fidelity God made a solemn covenant with him.

Our passage describes an ancient rite of covenant or treaty making. To ratify a covenant the contracting parties cut an animal (or animals) in two and walked between the divided parts, invoking the fate of the animals on themselves should they fail to observe the terms of the contract. Since God's covenant with Abraham is unilateral, only God (symbolized by the furnace and the torch) passes between the pieces. The birds of prey symbolize the forces hostile to Israel.

This covenant led to the covenant at Sinai, and culminated in the new and eternal covenant which Jesus sealed in his own blood on Calvary.

The chief significance of the Tabor experience was for Jesus himself, and this is what Luke emphasizes. The incident was meant to confirm him in the course he had taken. It comforted him to know that the road he was traveling was marked by the feet of prophets such as Moses and Elijah. The transfiguration also benefited the apostles. It prepared them for the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus, the Messiah.

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



**2025 Catholic Sharing Appeal  
"Building a Future of Hope"**

In today's Scripture, we hear of Abraham's unwavering commitment and devotion to the Lord. Today the Lord still calls us to witness to Him in the world. One way to witness to Christ is to offer a gift to the 2025 Catholic Sharing Appeal. Your gift can do so much to help in the lives of others and bring the Gospel of Christ to souls in our diocese. Every gift you make (no matter how big or small) has a tremendous impact by providing the physical and spiritual needs of those most in need. This year's parish goal for St. Alphonsus is \$76,166. Please make checks payable to the Catholic Sharing Appeal and mail directly to the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi at 1790 Popp's Ferry Road, Biloxi 39532. You may also donate online at [www.biloxidiocese.org/giving](http://www.biloxidiocese.org/giving).



**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.



**EVENING OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER** The month of March is dedicated to Saint Joseph, husband of Mary and foster father of Jesus. How will you develop a relationship with this saint? 1) Entrust every intention to his intercession. 2) Honor the fathers in your life. 3) Pray the Saint Joseph novena. (His feast day is March 19th!) 4) Offer up your work to Saint Joseph the Worker. 5) Dedicate every Wednesday to his chaste heart. 6) Consecrate yourself (or your family!) to him.

Please come and join us on MONDAY, MARCH 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in praying the ST. JOSEPH ROSARY with the EXPOSITION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT in the ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH in Ocean Springs. "In everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your request known to God." (Philippians 4:6)



**The Altar Society will meet** on Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in the KC Hall. All are welcome to attend.



**A workshop for all current Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and for anyone interested in becoming one will be held on Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:jmcmack2@gmail.com)) if you are unable to attend.

# MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 17</b>
Daniel 9:4b-10; Luke 6:36-38	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Carlton Latour
8:15 a.m.	Int. Mr. Pieter van Thiel
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 18</b>
Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Matthew 23:1-12	
6:30 a.m.	Fr. Thomas White
8:15 a.m.	Int. Jan and Ron Hamilton
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 19</b>
2 Sam 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Matt 1:16, 18-21, 24a	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Dick Porterfield
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Joan Belson
	Int. Ms. Mary Elizabeth Wilson
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 20</b>
Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-31	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Joan Reading
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Helen MacIntosh
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 21</b>
Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46	
6:30 a.m.	Int. Fr. Mike Snyder
8:15 a.m.	Int. Mr. Mickey Bradley
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 22</b>
Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32	
8:15 a.m.	Int. Ms. Kathy McFadden
4:00 p.m.	Int. Ms. Myra Kittle
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 23</b>
Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15; 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12; Luke 13:1-9	
7:30 a.m.	Congregation
9:00 a.m.	Int. Mr. Gerald Hopkins
11:30 a.m.	Mr. Leonard Tarrant
5:30 p.m.	Mr. Alfred Gregory Mansfield



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



## 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](http://stalphonsus.weadorehim.com) for the schedule and the option to choose your own hour with Him. What could be better than that?

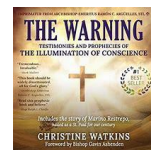
If you already have an hour on the schedule but are not going, please remove yourself from the schedule or choose to re-commit to your hour this Lent. Thank you!  
Please remember to close the tabernacle doors if no one else is adoring Him when you leave. [stalphonsus.weadorehim.com](http://stalphonsus.weadorehim.com)



**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 16:** 7 verses every Catholic should know  
**March 23:** The Annunciation...What you never heard



**Your Church Needs You - God is calling.** Can you answer the call? We are in need of Extraordinary 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!



**Lent is a call not just to "give up something" but more important to "give something for the poor." Wherever you live in the parish, there are poor families within walking distance of your home. When in need, they ring the rectory bell. They are, in effect, ringing your doorbell.** Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help the suffering and poor.



**Attention St. Alphonsus Graduating High School Seniors:** There is a \$1,000 Scholarship available from The Chris Nielsen Scholarship Fund to be given away by the Knights of Columbus. If interested in applying for this scholarship, please email Brian Sanderson at [bsanderson@cardinalgroupllc.com](mailto:bsanderson@cardinalgroupllc.com) to receive the requirements and registration form. **Deadline: June 2, 2025.**



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.



**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](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.

### FOUNDATIONS:

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



**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](http://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)



**Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of: Beth Butler,** daughter of Jaimie (Joey) King of this parish, who passed away March 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Tony Petricca,** husband of Jean Petricca of this parish, who passed away March 11<sup>th</sup>. 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.....\$14,505.00  
Weekly Online Collection.....\$ 2,891.00  
Churches in Africa & Central/Eastern Europe.....\$ 1,648.00  
May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support