

**The First Reading tells how God appeared to Moses in the burning bush and revealed his name as ‘The Lord’ (‘I am the Existing One’).** God has heard the cries of his oppressed people, and sends Moses to liberate them. It is a turning point in the Old Testament. It leads to the Exodus and beyond.

In the Gospel we see how Jesus rejected the popular belief that accidents which befall people are inflicted by God as punishment for sin. Still, sin calls for repentance. And Jesus tells the Jews that they will lose the promises unless they repent. The barren fig tree symbolizes the barren state of Israel. But God is patient. There is still time to repent, though that time is getting short.

The role of Moses prefigures the role of Jesus. Through Moses God saved his people, Israel, from slavery in Egypt. We are the new people of God, saved through the waters of baptism from the slavery of sin, and now *en route* under the leadership of Jesus to the promised land of eternal life. We too are fed with food ‘from heaven’, namely, the Eucharist.

In the Letter to the Romans Paul says that in spite of all God had done for them, most of the Israelites were not pleasing to God. Christians must not think that just because they have received the sacraments they are automatically saved.

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



### 2025 Catholic Sharing Appeal “Building a Future of Hope”

The Diocese of Biloxi is blessed to have 7 men in formation for the priesthood, as well as 1 woman in formation for the vocation of being a Consecrated Virgin living in the world. We are also blessed to have 13 retired priests that continue to help minister to the 56,000 Catholics in South Mississippi. Your gift to the 2025 Catholic Sharing Appeal directly aids in the formation, education, and care of all of these men and women. Will you please consider a generous gift to the 2025 CSA in support of our future and retired priests? Your gift of prayer and financial support ensure that we will continue to help the mission of the Church in a real way. If needed, pledge envelopes are in each end of the pews. 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 Popps Ferry Road, Biloxi 39532. You may also donate online at [www.biloxidiocese.org/giving](http://www.biloxidiocese.org/giving).



### A Second Collection will be taken up next weekend (March 29/30) for Catholic Relief Services.

This collection supports Catholic Church organizations that carry out international relief and solidarity efforts. Programs include relief and resettlement for victims of persecution, war, and natural disasters; development projects to improve living conditions for the poor; legal and support services for poor immigrants; peace and reconciliation work for people suffering from violence; and advocacy on behalf of the powerless.



### 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.

## WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$13,329.05  
Weekly Online Collection.....\$ 2,691.00  
Black & Indian Missions Collection.....\$ 1,248.25  
May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

|   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>MONDAY</b>   | <b>MARCH 24</b>               |
| 2 Kings 5:1-15b; Luke 4:24-30                                 |                               |
| 6:30 a.m.   | Mr. RJ Domingue               |
| 8:15 a.m.   | Mr. Christopher Bellman       |
| <b>TUESDAY</b>  | <b>MARCH 25</b>               |
| Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38           |                               |
| 6:30 a.m.   | Mr. Walter Brun               |
| 8:15 a.m.   | Ms. Margaret Broussard        |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b>  | <b>MARCH 26</b>               |
| Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9; Matthew 5:17-19                         |                               |
| 6:30 a.m.   | Ms. Joyce Reynolds            |
| 8:15 a.m.   | Mr. Henry Endt. Sr.           |
| <b>THURSDAY</b>   | <b>MARCH 27</b>               |
| Jeremiah 7:23-28; Luke 11:14-23                               |                               |
| 6:30 a.m.   | Mr. Butch Herbison            |
| 8:15 a.m.   | Ms. Gwen Noble                |
| <b>FRIDAY</b>   | <b>MARCH 28</b>               |
| Hosea 14:2-10; Mark 12:28-34                                  |                               |
| 6:30 a.m.   | Mr. Peter Nguyen van Chiêu    |
| 8:15 a.m.   | Int. Ms. Kelly Langan Pfister |
| <b>SATURDAY</b>   | <b>MARCH 29</b>               |
| Hosea 6:1-6; Luke 18:9-14                                     |                               |
| 8:15 a.m.   | Ms. Amparo Salinas            |
|   | Mr. Julio Ernesto Mejia       |
|   | Int. John and Julia Sarpy     |
| 4:00 p.m.   | Ms. Ligaya Camagong           |
| <b>SUNDAY</b>   | <b>MARCH 30</b>               |
| Joshua 5:9a, 10-12; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 |                               |
| 7:30 a.m.   | Mr. Skip Murphy               |
| 9:00 a.m.   | Int. Mr. James C. Martin      |
| 11:30 a.m.  | Mr. Bryan Moe                 |
| 5:30 p.m.   | Congregation                  |



**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 Necaïse, Donna and Edward Necaïse Jr., Terése Nicovich, Shirley and Travis Norman, Kathy Pasquini, The Petitjean Family, Jean Petricca, Richard Potash, MaraLou Guice Richards, Reginald Richards, 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 23:** The Annunciation...What you never heard

**March 30:** The Role of Mary, Assumption and Coronation...Session 1



**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.

*Lenten Mission*  
at *St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church*  
**Wednesday, April 2, 2025 – 6 p.m.**  
**Thursday, April 3, 2025 – 6 p.m.**  
**Friday, April 4, 2025**  
6:00 p.m. (Stations of the Cross);  
6:30 p.m. (Speaker)  
Theme:  
“God’s Mercy Encounters Us  
in Our Wilderness Wandering Journey”



**Father Stanley Kelechi Ihuoma, SSJ**  
Pastor, St. Raymond – St. Leo Catholic Church, New Orleans  
Ph.D in Pastoral Psychology Catholic Leadership Institute Graduate  
*Come Follow Us on our Lenten Journey*  
1701 Telephone Road • Pascagoula, Mississippi



**In today’s Gospel Jesus is quite clear in his message: “bear fruit or be cut down.” This Lent we are called to cultivate and fertilize our spiritual lives through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.**

Through your almsgiving you are performing a good work; far greater than you think. Know that your nickel, dime or quarter is multiplied by the coins placed by others in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box.



The next Co-Ed Arise will be held Saturday-Sunday, March 29-30, at the Sacred Heart Retreat Center Dedeaux, 14595 Vidalia Rd, Pass Christian.

Arise is sponsored by the Cursillo Movement of South Mississippi, another program of the Diocese of Biloxi. Whereas Cursillo is limited to Catholics, Arise is designed primarily for these groups of persons who would like to receive additional information about the Catholic faith in a short period of time (one weekend):

- Non-Catholic spouses of practicing Catholics
  - Catholics who have been away from the church for a while or those needing a spiritual boost
  - Those without a current church/religion who are “searching” for a new one or more meaningful faith experience
  - Those taking/have taken instruction in the Catholic faith
- Applications for the weekend can be found on the website at [www.biloxicursillo.org](http://www.biloxicursillo.org). If you need more information, you may contact Dale Dorcik at (228)365-4057 or Jill Olsen at (228)327-5090.



### EVENING OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER

The month of April is dedicated to the BLESSED SACRAMENT. “I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh.” (John 6:51) Please MARK YOUR CALENDAR and join us on MONDAY, APRIL 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in praying the 20 MYSTERIES OF THE HOLY ROSARY with the EXPOSITION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT in the ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH in Ocean Springs. “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18:20)



### 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.**