

A clear theme runs through all three readings: God's mercy to sinners.

In the First Reading we have the beautiful words God spoke to his people: "I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you." The shame of sin and the darkness of slavery are behind them. The years of wandering in the desert are over; they have come home to the promised land. A new era was about to begin. They mark their homecoming by celebrating anew the feast of Passover.

This reminds us of the homecoming of the prodigal son (Gospel). His shame also is behind him. His years of wandering are over and he returns home to a warm welcome and a great feast. A new and bright future lies ahead of him. Jesus told the parable in response to the criticism of the Pharisees that he was too lenient towards sinners. They were meant to see themselves in the older son. For Luke the "Pharisees" are righteous Christians, for whom God's mercy to sinners is unfair and scandalous.

The Second Reading stresses how God has reconciled us to himself through Christ, not holding our faults against us. The task of the Church is to bring the benefits won by Christ to all people.

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



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

Our diocese is blessed to have over 36 Permanent Deacons that serve our parishes and families, as well as 33 men in formation for the Permanent Diaconate. Your gift to the CSA greatly aids in the formation and education of these men in service to the Church. Please consider a gift to this year's appeal in support of our Deacons.

To date 40 pledges (out of 719 registered families) have been made which total \$23,545. This leaves us a balance of \$52,621 to make our parish goal \$76,166. 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. If needed, pledge envelopes are in each end of the pews. 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.



Our Penance Service for Lent will be held in the Church on Friday, April 11th at 6:00 p.m. A number of local priests will be in attendance that night to expedite the waiting time. Please make the reception of the Sacrament part of your preparation for Easter.

Other local Penance Service schedules:

- Mar 31:** Holy Spirit, Vancleave – 6:00 p.m.
- Apr 4:** St. Peter, Moss Point – 5:00 p.m.
- Apr 9:** St. Elizabeth Seton, Ocean Springs – 5:00 p.m.
- Apr 10:** Sacred Heart, Pascagoula – 6:00 p.m.
- Apr 14:** Our Lady of Fatima, Biloxi - 7:00 p.m.

The Altar Society is accepting donations for the decorating of the Church on Easter Sunday. Parishioners may donate the flowers in memory of or in honor of a loved one. Envelopes are in the pews. When complete, envelopes may be placed in the collection basket or brought to the Rectory. Please print names clearly on the envelope. The deadline for making a donation is Sunday, April 13th.



**The Flowers on the Altar
are in Memory of
Marion O'Connor and Helen Lloyd**

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$9,154.28
Weekly Online Collection.....\$2,501.00
May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	MARCH 31
Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Mollie Davidson
8:15 a.m.	Int. Mr. Lex van Thiel
TUESDAY	APRIL 1
Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-16	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Mary Holt
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Jimmy Saylor
WEDNESDAY	APRIL 2
Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30	
6:30 a.m.	Anne and Mark Toups
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Jackie Endt
THURSDAY	APRIL 3
Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47	
6:30 a.m.	Int. Fr. Steve Geerling
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Joe Stewart
FRIDAY	APRIL 4
Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30	
6:30 a.m.	The Canavati Family
8:15 a.m.	Homer and Bonnie Franks
SATURDAY	APRIL 5
Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-53	
8:15 a.m.	The Jordan Family
	The Pitalo Family
4:00 p.m.	Mr. Charles Goff
SUNDAY	APRIL 6
Isaiah 43:16-21; Philippians 3:8-14; John 8:1-11	
7:30 a.m.	Deceased Parishioners St. Alphonsus
9:00 a.m.	Mr. Bill Gryder
	Mr. Neil Gryder
11:30 a.m.	Congregation
5:30 p.m.	Ms. Bridget Shepherd



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, 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, Ashley Jensen, Lora Jordan, Terri Jurich, 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, 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 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 30: The Role of Mary, Assumption and Coronation...Session 1
- April 6: The Role of Mary, Assumption and Coronation...Session 2



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.



In today's Gospel the prodigal son repents and finds mercy in the heart of his father. Know that your penance during Lent can give the poor the grace of finding the merciful heart of God the Father.

In the month of March, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist 5 families providing \$3,615.22 in rent and utility bills. Thank You!



A Baptism Class will be held in the Rectory on Wednesday, April 2nd 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 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.

FOUNDATIONS:

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



You are invited to join us for the First Friday Devotion & Benediction on Friday, April 4th beginning at 7:45 a.m. (prior to 8:15 mass).



You are invited to join us for the First Saturday Devotion on Saturday, April 5th 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.



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 come and join us on MONDAY, APRIL 14 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. Also remember to begin the nine day Divine Mercy Novena on Good Friday, April 18; there are Divine Mercy Novena and Chaplet brochures in the church. The Lord promised, "By this Novena I will grant every possible grace to souls." There will be Divine Mercy rosary beads available for each of you; remember the 3:00 o'clock hour of Mercy everyday! "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20)



Save the Date: The St. Alphonsus Knights of Columbus Council 5654 will offer Fish Dinners on Good Friday (April 18th) in the KC Hall (take out and dine in will be available). Plates will be \$12.00 each and will include fried fish, potato salad, hush puppies, green beans and dessert.



You are invited to join St. Alphonsus Catholic School for their Spring Soiree "Havana Nights" fundraiser on Friday, May 2nd from 7:00 – 11:00 p.m. at the House of the Jackson

Pearl. Silent auction items range from trips, spa days, tickets and more. There will also be a split-the-pot raffle. Last year's winner took home \$17,000. Visit www.stalspto.com to buy tickets. Sponsorship opportunities are still available. Email pto@stal.org or text 228-217-6349 with any questions.



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 to receive the requirements and registration form. **Deadline: June 2, 2025.**



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.



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of: Janell Alliston, a member of our parish family, who passed away March 16th.

Jeffrey Cowart, a member of our parish community, who passed away March 20th.

Grace Westbrook, wife of Kevin Westbrook, Sr. and mother of Kevin (Angela) Westbrook, II of this parish, who passed away March 23rd.

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