

The First Reading and the Gospel are hospitality stories. Hospitality was an esteemed virtue in the ancient world. It is still a highly regarded and very necessary virtue.

In the First Reading we see how, when three strangers (The Lord and two heavenly companions) suddenly appeared to Abraham, he reacted with instinctive hospitality, and how the Lord rewarded his hospitality. This sets the scene for Martha and Mary who welcome Jesus to their home. We see the contrast between Martha’s activity and Mary’s quiet devotion to the Lord. It is not that what Martha does is unimportant. It is just that Mary has chosen something even more important. Her priority is to listen to the word of Jesus.

The story of Martha and Mary can be seen as a parable in action. Whereas the parable of the Good Samaritan stressed the importance of action, or practical love, in the life of a disciple, this story stresses the importance of contemplation. Both are necessary, and have to be integrated into the life of a Christian. Martha is the patron saint of waiters and waitresses.

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

A DEEP SENSE OF APPRECIATION

Dear Beloved Parishioners of St. Alphonsus Catholic Church, With a heart overflowing with gratitude, I write to express my deep sense of appreciation to each of you. From the very first moment I arrived, you accepted me and loved me as your own. The depth of your kindness, generosity, and affection toward me is something I cannot even begin to fathom. You have truly been a family, showing me Christ’s love in countless ways—through your prayers, support, and warm smiles that made every moment of ministry here a joy.

I am deeply humbled by all you have done for me, and I want you to know I will never take it for granted. It is only God who can reward you for your love and sacrifice, and I trust He will bless you abundantly as His Word promises: *“My God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19).*

As I continue my journey, I carry you all in my prayers, asking God to keep you steadfast in faith and joyful in His love. May His blessings remain with you always.

With immense gratitude and love,

Fr. Jude Thaddeus AWE
Parochial Vicar



Capital Campaign Update

Removal of carpet in all areas and cleaning of the original slate flooring was completed during the week. Installation of wood flooring in the sanctuary commenced this week and vinyl flooring under the pews are scheduled to begin next week. Work to extend the choir loft is ongoing and on schedule. The plan remains to return to weekend masses in the Church the first weekend in August.

Until further notice, the Saturday Vigil and ALL Sunday Masses will be held in the SCHOOL GYM. Parishioners may continue to park in the church parking lot as well as around the KC Hall. There will be designated handicap parking around the entrance of the Gym.

Weekday Masses (Monday – Friday 6:30 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. and the Saturday 8:15 a.m. morning Mass) will be held in the Chapel.

The Parish sends out monthly Capital Campaign statements to all who still owe on their campaign pledge. If you have not received one, please let the parish know. If you need to update/change your pledge or set up a contribution, you may do so via our website www.osstalphonsus.org or by contacting the parish office at 875-5419. Without the continued support of our gracious parishioners and families, we would not have met our capital campaign goal or be positioned to move forward with needed improvements to our Church facilities. Thank you for your support in the past, present, and future!

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY JULY 21
Exodus 14:5-18; Matthew 12:38-42

6:30 a.m. Ms. Gloria Groue Davis
8:15 a.m. Ms. Patricia Freman

TUESDAY JULY 22
Song of Songs 3:1-4b; John 20:1-2, 11-18

6:30 a.m. Ella and Simon Gilbert
8:15 a.m. Ms. Theresa Simmons

WEDNESDAY JULY 23
Exodus 16:1-5; 9-15; Matthew 13:1-9

6:30 a.m. Mr. Dick Porterfield
8:15 a.m. Mr. Roger Williams

THURSDAY JULY 24
Exodus 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b; Matthew 13:10-17

6:30 a.m. Ms. Annette Lawrence
8:15 a.m. Int. Ms. Denise Wilson

FRIDAY JULY 25
2 Corinthians 4:7-15; Matthew 20:20-28

6:30 a.m. Ms. Janell Alliston
8:15 a.m. Int. Ms. Betty Noble

SATURDAY JULY 26
Exodus 24:3-8; Matthew 13:24-30

8:15 a.m. Mr. Henry Endt, Sr.

4:00 p.m. Mr. Dennis Van Acker
SUNDAY JULY 27
Genesis 18:20-32; Colossians 2:12-14; Luke 11:1-13

7:30 a.m. Congregation
9:00 a.m. Int. Fr. Mike Snyder
11:30 a.m. Mr. Leonard Tarrant
5:30 p.m. Int. Ms. Genevieve Odom



Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends: Beckett Bassenger, Elaine Belson, Betty Bodin, 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, Joey Kelley, 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 Necaise, Donna and Edward Necaise Jr., Terése Nicovich, Shirley and Travis Norman, Cody Parker, 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, Ted Ursu, Rose M. Vail, Margaret Misko VanLoon, Ashley Vickers and Glenn Williams, Sr.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS



The Precious Blood of Jesus Christ



In the month of July, the Catholic Church honors the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ. Let us remember the sacrifice that Jesus made by the pouring out of His Precious Blood to save all of humanity for our sins. His Precious Blood is offered to us in the Eucharist every day and is waiting to be adored in the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel. Let us spend some of our time adoring His Precious Blood during the month of July.

"O Jesus, I adore you, truly present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I adore your Precious Blood, which was shed for the redemption of the world. I thank you for your sacrifice and ask for your mercy and protection. May your Precious Blood reign forever, scattering all evil and bringing peace to the world."

To deepen your connection with Christ even further, pray the Litany of the Most Precious Blood of Jesus which can be found on EWTN.com.

If you currently have a designated adoration hour on the We Adore Him website and have not been going for 3 months or more, your name will be removed from the schedule. If you need to try a new hour, please visit stalphonsus.weadorehim.com to view the schedule and choose a new hour.



You are invited to join us for the First Friday Devotion & Benediction on Friday, August 1st beginning at 7:45 a.m. (prior to 8:15 mass).



You are invited to join us for the First Saturday Devotion on Saturday, August 2nd 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.



St. Elizabeth Seton, Ocean Springs, would like to invite you to their annual Evangelization Retreat! God is moving and leading us in a new and exciting direction, and you don’t want to miss out. The retreats will be based on the spirituality of St. Ignatius. There will be plenty of quiet time to reflect on Scripture. We will also have time for Confession and Adoration, and we will have Mass before we head home on Sunday. Our theme this year is “Called”. We will dive deep into what that call is and how do we live that out in today’s world. The **Women’s Retreat** will be Saturday, August 9– Sunday, August 10 and the **Men’s Retreat** will be Saturday, August 16– Sunday, August 17. The retreats will take place at the William J. Kelly Retreat Center in Bay St. Louis. The cost is \$130.00. This includes transportation to and from the retreat, all meals, and a private room with a private bath. We will meet at 6:45 am on Sat. morning at St. Elizabeth and return to St. Elizabeth around noon on Sunday. You can sign up here: <https://www.stelseton.com/evangelization-retreat> or feel free to call Shellie in the office at 228-875-0654 if you have any questions.



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Michael Seus, brother-in-law of Sylvia Chapman of this parish, who passed away June 5th in Hilliard, Ohio. We extend our sympathy to the family and promise him a remembrance in our prayers. May God grant him eternal peace.

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$11,055.52
Weekly Online Collection.....\$ 2,876.00
May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support



EVENING OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER

JULY is the month of the PRECIOUS BLOOD! Please join us this MONDAY (July 21) at 6:30 p.m. in praying the ROSARY and EXPOSITION of the

BLESSED SACRAMENT at ST. ALPHONSUS in the Chapel. The Rosary is not a prayer to “say”. It is an encounter. It is a tight hand with Our Blessed Mother that leads you to Jesus. If you pray it too much, it gets boring. But if you live it... it changes you within. Every Hail Mary has a weight. Every word has a face. You are not talking to the wind. You are talking to a living Mother who listens to you and you are naming Jesus as your Savior. Every time you say that name, something happens.

When you say "Hail Mary, full of grace,” think of her: a girl full of God, without sin, all light. Ask him: "Fill me up to make room for me for God as you have.”

"The Lord is with thee"... it is not just a sentence. It is the heart of her life: God within her. And inside of you too, if you let it.

"Blessed are you among women" is not to make poetry. It is true. She is the most blessed, the most favored. And you are praising her with the same words that heaven used.

“And blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.” Stop here. Always. When you say "Jesus", do it with love. Don't run. Imagine His face, the cross, His look. Put your heart in that name. Even if you are tired.

"Holy Mary, Mother of God"... you are calling her "God’s Mother.” Is there anything greater? Look her in the eyes, even just with your mind. And trust me.

"Pray for us sinners"... who opened you up. Don't pretend anything you need to. You are fragile. You know that. Tell her, "Please intercede, even when I'm wrong. Even if I deserve nothing.”

"Now and at the hour of our death"... Two decisive moments: now and the last breath. Ask her to be there. Don't give up. To bring you to Jesus, even in the darkest hour. The Rosary only gets tired if you do it without love. But if you stop, if you enter the words, if you display the mysteries... it turns into fire. Turns you on. It changes you.

So don't run. Speak between ten and ten. Treat the girl to a treat. Offer the tiredness. Offer it all. Because it's right there that you're praying for. And every Hail Mary said with the heart... it’s a stab to the enemy.

Precious Blood Rosaries will be available!
PLEASE EVERYONE JOIN US IN THIS NEED FOR PRAYER!!!



Bethesda Free Health Clinic will be holding their Summer Fundraising event on Saturday August 9th, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the WAMA Community Center on Washington Avenue. Tickets are \$40 and available on Eventbrite.

This event features acclaimed New Orleans author, Valorie Hart, celebrating her book "Bohemian Soul: The Vanishing Interiors of New Orleans," capturing the soul of New Orleans homes and interiors. Books will be available for purchase during her meet & greet. Guests will enjoy tapas donated by Mosaic and Evergreen restaurants, music by DJ Chuck, signature cocktails and sweet treats. Guests are invited to express their Boho Style on the strut worthy catwalk. Groups welcome to compete for 3 - \$100 prizes. Individuals have a chance to win door prizes of Robin Santana Pottery. For more info, or pay by check, please email director@bfhcd.com.



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.