

The chief function of the season of Advent is to prepare us for Christmas. However, to understand Christmas we have to start at the beginning – with the history of salvation.

God’s plan of salvation is centered in Christ and realized through him. Advent looks back at the promise of his first coming, when that plan was announced. And it looks forward to his second coming, when that plan will reach its complete fulfillment. And, of course, it celebrates his actual coming in time.

The First Readings of the Advent Sundays (from Isaiah) are concerned with the Messiah and the messianic times. Isaiah kept the hopes of the people alive in very dark times. In today’s reading we have the theme of universal peace and salvation. The Gospel and the Second Reading deal with the Lord’s second coming, which the first Christians believed was imminent. Both readings convey a sense of urgency through phrases such as, “Wake up”, “Stay awake”, “Stand ready”.

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



Capital Campaign Update

Updated poster boards displaying the next phase of work on the Church entrance and breezeway are located in the vestibule of the church.

The cost estimate for the next phase of work is ongoing and is scheduled for review by the end of this month.

Shipment of the new kneelers is scheduled for the week of December 15th. Installation will begin shortly thereafter.

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!



A **Baptism Class** will be held in the Rectory on Wednesday, December 3rd 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.



You are invited to join us for the First Friday Devotion & Benediction on Friday, December 5th beginning at 7:45 a.m. (prior to 8:15 mass).



You are invited to join us for the First Saturday Devotion on Saturday, December 6th 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.

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$8,423.19
Weekly Online Collection.....\$3,223.00
May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

MASSSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY

DECEMBER 1

Isaiah 4:2-6; Matthew 8:5-11

6:30 a.m.

Dr. Malcolm Latour

8:15 a.m.

Mr. Anthony “Tony” Belson

TUESDAY

DECEMBER 2

Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24

6:30 a.m.

Ms. Diane Bell

8:15 a.m.

The Canavati Family

WEDNESDAY

DECEMBER 3

Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37

6:30 a.m.

Ms. Anne Morgan Touns

Mr. Mark Touns

8:15 a.m.

Int. Fr. Steve Geerling

THURSDAY

DECEMBER 4

Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27

6:30 a.m.

Ms. Jackie Endt

8:15 a.m.

Amanda and Paulina Ravera

FRIDAY

DECEMBER 5

Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31

6:30 a.m.

Ms. Jaqueline Hemenway

8:15 a.m.

Int. Ms. Madeline E. West

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 6

Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

8:15 a.m.

The Jordan Family

The Pitalo Family

4:00 p.m.

Congregation

SUNDAY

DECEMBER 7

Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12

7:30 a.m.

Mr. Al Gianelloni

9:00 a.m.

Mr. Bill Gryder

Mr. Neil Gryder

11:30 a.m.

Homer and Bonnie Franks

5:30 p.m.

Mr. Bryan Moe



Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends: Beckett Bassenger, Betty Bodin, Michael Bosarge, Bryleigh Brochard, Kay Brochard, Jeff Brochard, Greg Brou, Jr., Valerie Brou, Roland Broussard, Roxie Buckles, Arlene Burns, Mildred “Tootsie” Caillavet, Benny and Carol Lee Cantin, Marshall Car, Carolyn Castleman, Jennifer Catchot, Clifford Claverie, Scott Claverie, Breanne Dalton, Gina Dasher, Jeannine Dionne, Marjorie DuBois, Rose Mary Eagan, Dawn Fountain, Nija Fountain, Gordon Gaethe, Caroline Gautier, Ansley Gilich, Julian Galloway, Margie Gammon, Sandra Grantham, Richard Harrison, Trent Hartzog, James Hebert, Margaret Hebert, Olivia Hood, Mary Jo Hoogstra, Jeff Janus, Ashley Jensen, Fr. Jey Jordan, Lora Jordan, Otis Kaufman, Joey Kelley, Jack Kelly, Myra Kittle, Bill Kortman, Mary Krystosek, Daisie Laborde, Carol Latham, Judy and Randy Lesso, Mary Lewis, Gordon Mathieu, Shellie McDaniel, Mrs. McKinney Steve Merkel, Thelma Miller, Iva Misko, Edward Necaie, Donna and Edward Necaie Jr., Terése Nicovich, Shirley and Travis Norman, Cody Parker, Kathy Pasquini, Janice Pepper, The Petitjean Family, Jean Petricca, Richard Potash, MaraLou Guice Richards, Charles Wesley Ryan, Jr., Margaret Rucinski, Julia Sarpy, Jerry Schneider, Courtney Severino, Dale Seymour, Glenn Sigumjak, Myrt Talbott, Brittany and John Thornton, Sarah Galle Traylor, Rose M. Vail, Margaret Misko VanLoon, Ashley Vickers and Glenn Williams, Sr.



A Holy Tabernacle

During the month of December, the Catholic Church celebrates the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. *"From all eternity God*

chose with infinite wisdom the woman who would be the Mother of His divine Son. To prepare for the Word Incarnate a spotless and holy tabernacle, God created Mary in grace and endowed her from the moment of her conception with all the perfections suited to her exalted dignity."
~Liturgical Meditations, The Sisters of St. Dominic

Prayer to Mary

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin didst make ready a fitting habitation for Thy Son, we beseech Thee that Thou who didst keep her clean from all stain by the precious death of the same Son, foreseen by Thee, may grant unto us in like manner to be made clean through her intercession and so attain Thee. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.



Tabitha Tip – Alternative Participation: If someone cannot stand or kneel during Mass, affirm that participation from their seat is just as valid.

Tabitha Tips is a new resource for our parish community. This endeavor is brought to you by The Tabitha Project, a ministry of the de l'Epee Deaf Center in collaboration with the Office of the Bishop - Catholic Diocese of Biloxi. The hope is that these tips will enrich parish life and encourage a spirit of welcome for ALL parishioners. For more information, contact Rachel Ryan at 228-897-2289 or rryan@biloxidiocese.org.



The Foundations Team invites you to join them for Wednesday Night Foundations in the Cafeteria (Parish Hall) on December 3rd.



The evening will begin with supper at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Groups Meet from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Come Fall in Love with our faith. For more information, scan the QR code.

Edge: 6th - 8th Grade

LifeTeen: 9th - 12th Grade

OCIA: Adults Interested in Becoming Catholic

Adult Study: Confirmed Adults



Continuing Education for Adults is vital to living out your Catholic faith. Join our group as we enjoy Coffee, Donuts, and the study of the Gospel of Matthew, presented by Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. Michael Barber, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass in the Parish Hall. No registration is required. All are invited to attend. For more information, contact Sue Mihal at 601-573-0020.

December 7: Chapter 8



Monday, December 8th, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses on Monday will be at 6:30 a.m.; 8:15 a.m. with school children, 12:00 Noon and 6:00 p.m. There will be NO Vigil Mass.



The Blessed Mother promises that praying the Rosary devoutly will lead to numerous graces, including special protection and the flourishing of virtue. The Rosary serves as a powerful spiritual armor against evil and helps deepen one's relationship with God. PLEASE JOIN US in praying the ROSARY every weekday, MONDAY through SATURDAY after the 8:15 a.m. mass in the Church. EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



The Altar Society is accepting donations for the decorating of the Church for Christmas 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, December 14th.**



WWMIN would like to ask a special request for new or gently used coats for those they serve now that the weather is turning cold. Infant, toddler, and small children sizes are definitely needed for the upcoming winter months. Jackets and sweaters can also be used. They continue to thank you for your overwhelming support of this ministry. Items can be dropped off in the WWMIN boxes at each of the church entrances. Contact: Mary @ 228-348-6092.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE
ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2025

Each Fiscal Year our St Vincent de Paul Conference reports to the Parish donations and expenses so that each of you might share in God’s work supporting those in need within our community. All income received and all assistance provided to those in need is reported. Thanks to your generosity, our St. Vincent de Paul Conference provided \$ 86,229.00 in essential temporary assistance to families in our community. Our assistance is mostly in the form of utilities, rent & temporary housing assistance, and other expenses, sometimes avoiding evictions or continuing water and electricity services for those in need. The Conference’s expenses and total receipts for this fiscal year were:

Utilities & Expenses incl. Power, Water, and Gas:	\$ 19,290
Rent and Temporary Housing Assistance:	\$ 53,759
1 College Scholarship - Need & Academic Based	\$ 1,500
2 St. Alphonsus School (Bob Myers) Scholarships	\$ 3,000
1 St. Patrick H. Sch. (Jerry Bourgeois) Scholarship	\$ 1,500
Christmas Gifts for Children of Assisted Families	\$ 2,075
Disaster Aid (Flood & Storms) to other Councils	\$ 3,000
Total Assistance Provided:	\$ 84,124
National Contributions and Dues	\$ 484
Operating Expenses	<u>\$ 1,621</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 86,229

Total Receipts (Donations): \$ 96,141

The total amount of assistance provided was similar to last year, up slightly year on year. Total assistance provided during each of the last two years has been up from previous years with increases in the cost of living experienced by everyone. Members of the Conference completed 125 individual home visits during the year and assisted 310 people in those homes. Our Conference members committed in excess of 2,000 volunteer hours on home visits and in weekly meetings during the year.

Our financial support largely comes from direct donations from individuals, honorariums for deceased loved ones, and a portion of the Parish monthly collection for the poor. We would like to thank all of our parishioners who supported the very important work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society this year. If you would like to make a direct donation in support of our ministry, please make your check payable to the St. Vincent de Paul Conference – St. Alphonsus Prish or donate on-line using Venmo or Paypal at svdpos.org. God Bless.



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of: Raymond “Ray” Frazier, husband of Ree Frazier, of this parish, who passed away November 22nd.

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