

Isaiah uses the image of the desert, made fertile by rain, to portray the confident hope that God would restore his people, crushed by misfortune. Their most crippling disabilities – blindness, deafness and lameness – will be relieved when God sends salvation to his people. John the Baptist’s image of the Messiah was that of a stern judge who would execute a fiery judgement. But Jesus did not fit this image. Hence, John’s doubts about him. Jesus dispelled John’s doubts by showing that he was doing precisely the kind of things that had been predicted for the messianic times (by prophets such as Isaiah). Once again, Matthew sees Jesus as the one who fulfills the messianic prophecies. James is talking about the Second Coming of Jesus. He urges the kind of patience and hope farmers show in waiting for the harvest, and which the prophets of old showed as they waited for the promises to be fulfilled. --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 shipment of the new kneelers is scheduled to arrive next week, and installation will begin shortly afterward. This will essentially complete the interior renovations of the Church. The invoice for this phase of work under the Parish Capital Campaign has been paid and was within the target estimate included in the contract. We are grateful for the cooperation and efforts of all involved that minimized disruption to Church activities. We look forward to finalizing the cost estimate and plans for the next phase of work early in the new year. 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!

OFFICE CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE
Office Closed: December 24, 2025 – January 1, 2026

Mass Schedule
Penance Service
Wednesday, Dec 17: St. Mary, Gautier 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, Dec 18: Sacred Heart, Pascagoula 6:00 p.m.
Sacred Heart, D’Iberville 7:00 p.m.
Friday, Dec 19: St. Alphonsus, Ocean Springs 6:00 p.m.
Monday, Dec 22: Our Lady of Fatima, Biloxi 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve
4:00 p.m. – Mass for families with small children
6:00 p.m. – Mass with Traditional Christmas Music
11:00 p.m. – Midnight Mass
Traditional “Adult Choir” Christmas Music
Prelude Music 10:30 p.m., Mass at 11:00 p.m.

Christmas Day: 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.
Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Wednesday, December 31: 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, January 1: 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

MASSSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	DECEMBER 15
Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a; Matthew 21:23-27	
6:30 a.m.	Ella and Simon Gilbert
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Ralph Allen
TUESDAY	DECEMBER 16
Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Matthew 21:28-32	
6:30 a.m.	Int. Ms. Isabella Langan
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Mary Lou Seeger
WEDNESDAY	DECEMBER 17
Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Marian O’Connor
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Andrew O’Brien, Jr.
THURSDAY	DECEMBER 18
Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Wilbur Hughbanks
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Cristobal Mora
FRIDAY	DECEMBER 19
Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Lea Pitre
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Jeremy Forehand
SATURDAY	DECEMBER 20
Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38	
8:15 a.m.	Int. Mr. Timothy Noble
4:00 p.m.	Mr. Tony Petricca
SUNDAY	DECEMBER 21
Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24	
7:30 a.m.	Mr. Skip Murphy
9:00 a.m.	Int. Ms. Kelsey Gunkel
11:30 a.m.	Mr. Bill Nichols
5:30 p.m.	Congregation



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, S ndra 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 Necaise, Donna and Edward Necaise Jr., Ter se 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, Courtney Severino, Glenn Sigurnjak, Myrt Talbott, Brittany and John Thornton, Sarah Galle Traylor, Rose M. Vail, Margaret Misko VanLoon, Ashley Vickers and Glenn Williams, Sr.



The Bookstore and Gift Shop will be closed December 22nd – January 5th.



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 – Show Compassion: Disability does not erase any joy, gifts or dignity.
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 ryan@biloxidiocese.org.



OUR LADY OF SORROWS: You are invited to come and join us for the 8:15 a.m. Mass followed by the recitation of the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows (a rosary of repentance) on the third Saturday of each month. (i.e. December 20th). The purpose of our coming together is threefold: 1) To pray for all victims of sexual abuse 2) To pray, in reparation for all the vile sins committed against the Body of Christ, and 3) To pray for the graces of repentance, healing, conversion and salvation of ALL SOULS!



An anointing of the Sick will take place on Saturday, December 20th at 3:30 p.m. (before the 4:00 p.m. Mass) in the Church. This is for all elderly parishioners, anyone with an illness, or parishioners with elderly or homebound family members that may wish to receive this Sacrament.



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of: Aline Joy Humphrey, grandmother of Sheila (Kevin) Kowalewski, of this parish, who passed away December 9th. We extend our sympathy to the family and promise them a remembrance in our prayers. May God grant her eternal peace.



The Flowers on the Altar are in Honor of Ron and Aline Balius on their 32nd Wedding Anniversary

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$14,326.29
Weekly/Monthly Online Collection.....\$11,217.73
Monthly Poor Collection.....\$ 4,548.00
May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support



EVENING OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER
The Church has dedicated the month of December to the Immaculate Conception.

Please MARK YOUR CALENDARS and JOIN US in praying the ROSARY with Our Lady and EXPOSITION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT and CONFESSION will also be available on MONDAY, DECEMBER 15th at 6:30 p.m. in the ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH.

The late Father Gabriele Amorth said: “During an exorcism, Satan told me, through the possessed person, ‘Every Hail Mary of the Rosary is a blow to the head for me; if Christians knew the power of the Rosary, it would be the end of me!’” This is why the Rosary is a vibrant and powerful weapon for spiritual warfare! The Rosary has won battles, fought heresies, and wrought countless miracles. A multitude of saints and popes have endorsed it.

Pope Pius IX declared, “Among all the devotions approved by the Church, none has been so favored by so many miracles as a Rosary devotion.”

“Give me an army, saying the rosary and I will conquer the world.” - Pope Pius IX

Prayer is truly one of the most powerful weapons God gives to mankind. Let us now come together and pray with Our Blessed Mother, whom is our greatest intercessor.

PLEASE EVERYONE JOIN US DURING THIS SPECIAL SEASON AND THE NEED FOR PRAYER!

Religious Emblems Program Reinstated
We are pleased to announce that the Religious Emblems Program for Scouts has been updated and officially reinstated within the Diocese of Biloxi. Overseen by the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting, this program plays an important role in forming young disciples of Jesus Christ and accompanying them on their journey of faith. The Religious Emblems Program invites Scouts to deepen their understanding of Catholic beliefs and traditions; participate more fully in Mass, the Sacraments, and parish life; engage in prayer, reflection, and acts of charity; and grow in respect and service toward all people as children of God. More than a series of awards, the program serves as a pathway of discipleship. Through Scripture, the Sacraments, service, and intentional faith formation, Scouts are encouraged to integrate their Catholic faith into daily life. This aligns with our diocesan mission to form missionary disciples who know, love, serve, and witness God in all they do. The four Religious Emblems include: **Light of Christ** (Cub Scouts, Grades 1–2) — Helps Scouts discover Jesus as a friend and role model. **Parvuli Dei** (Cub Scouts, Grades 3–5) — Encourages exploration of one’s relationship with God and the role of family in faith. **Ad Altare Dei** (Scouts, Grades 7–8) — Deepens understanding of the Sacraments and how they guide daily life. **Pope Pius XII** (Older Scouts & Venturers) — Focuses on vocation, Christian leadership, and living one’s Catholic faith in the world. Scouts who complete an emblem are honored during a special Mass, typically celebrated on Scout Sunday at the Cathedral of the Blessed Virgin Mary. For more information, please contact the Office of Youth Ministry at aherbert@biloxidiocese.org, scouting@biloxidiocese.org, or 228-702-2142. You may also reach Bob Favre, Chairman of the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting, at 228-596-4681.