

The story of Jesus' baptism is an epiphany story: Jesus is revealed as the Son of God. This is Matthew's main emphasis. John's baptism was a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (Mk 1:4). The fact that Jesus should undergo such a baptism was a source of embarrassment for the early Christians. Why did he undergo it? To give an example of humility, to raise John's baptism to a new level, to show solidarity with sinners, and to inaugurate his mission to sinners – a mission which is beautifully described by Isaiah (First Reading). Matthew also probably wanted to show what baptism means for Christians.

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

 **Tax Statements for yearly contributions are available upon request.** These statements reflect contributions made through the regular church collections, the special second collections, the Capital Campaign and the Catholic Sharing Appeal if they have been made in an identifiable fashion (church envelope, online or loose check). Any loose cash contribution cannot be credited. Please email or call the rectory office if you need a tax statement (stalparishes@gmail.com or 875-5419).

 You are invited to come to a Marian Movement of Priest Cenacle Mass on Tuesday, January 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the Church. Mass, Rosary, and Consecration

 **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. January 17th). 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, January 17th 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.

 A Second Collection will be taken up next weekend (January 17/18) for the Aged and Infirm Priests. The funds from this collection are used by the parishes to offset some of the insurance costs/medical expenses of the priests. It does not provide for a pension or a retired priest's day-today expenses. This collection remains at the parish. Envelopes are available at the exits of the Church.

 The Rectory Office will be closed on Monday, January 19th in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

 The Flowers on the Altar are in Honor/Memory Of Those listed in our Christmas Bulletin

 A lovely flower arrangement on the altar area of the church on weekends is a beautiful way to honor a deceased loved one or to celebrate a special occasion. If you would like to donate for a specific weekend, please call the Rectory at 875-5419. Donation amount is \$50.00

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$11,120.18
New Year's Day Collection.....\$ 2,483.10
Weekly/Monthly Online Collection.....\$ 9,881.00
Monthly Poor Collection.....\$ 3,079.00
May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	JANUARY 12
1 Samuel 1:1-8; Mark 1:14-20	
6:30 a.m. Mr. R.J. Domingue	
8:15 a.m. Int. Mr. Cyril Laan	
TUESDAY	JANUARY 13
1 Samuel 1:9-20; Mark 1:21-28	
6:30 a.m. Ms. Diane Bell	
8:15 a.m. Mr. Anthony "Tony" Belson	
WEDNESDAY	JANUARY 14
1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20; Mark 1:29-39	
6:30 a.m. Ms. Anne Morgan Toups	
Mr. Mark Toups	
8:15 a.m. Int. Peggy Ryland Family	
THURSDAY	JANUARY 15
1 Samuel 4:1-11; Mark 1:40-45	
6:30 a.m. Int. Mr. Tyler Williams	
Int. Mr. Tripp Williams	
8:15 a.m. Mr. Randy Trahan	
FRIDAY	JANUARY 16
1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mark 2:1-12	
6:30 a.m. Ms. Jacqueline Hemenway	
8:15 a.m. Int. David and Amy Marchinda	
SATURDAY	JANUARY 17
1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1; Mark 2:13-17	
8:15 a.m. Ms. Drucille Rekus	
Mr. Tony Ellis	
4:00 p.m. Mr. Albert Misko, Sr.	
Ms. Eunice Misko	
Mr. André Kaufman	
SUNDAY	JANUARY 18
Isaiah 49:3, 5-6; 1 Corinthians 1:1-3; John 1:29-34	
7:30 a.m. Ms. Jackie Endt	
9:00 a.m. Mr. Raymond "Ray" Frazier	
Congregation	
11:30 a.m. Homer and Bonnie Franks	

 **Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends:** Sharon Barthes, Beckett Bassenger, 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, 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 Necaise, Donna and Edward Necaise 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, 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.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS



The Month of January is Dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus. Everything about our divine Lord is holy, including His Name. It was the Archangel Gabriel who first spoke the name of Jesus to His mother, "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a

son, and you shall name him Jesus" (Luke 1:31). The Archangel was only a messenger, so the name of Jesus was given to Him by the Father in Heaven.

Saint Peter was one of the First Apostles to speak with authority in the Holy Name of Jesus when he healed a crippled man saying, "I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have I give you: in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean, rise and walk" (Acts 3:6). Saint Paul also exalted the holy name of Jesus when he said, "at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:9-10).

There is great power in the spoken name of Jesus. Repeating His name prayerfully or speaking it aloud brings Him close and gives you strength, provided you recite His name in faith. The name of Jesus casts out fear, arouses trust, and unites your heart to His. As we celebrate this holy memorial, ponder the prayer below that is attributed to Saint Bernardine of Sienna, the Franciscan who spoke so fervently of Jesus' name. Also, take time to close your eyes and prayerfully repeat His name over and over. As you go about your day, anytime you feel anxious or fearful, speak the name of Jesus. Know and believe that the divine name of our Lord brings Him close to you and bestows His grace in abundance.

Jesus, Name full of glory, grace, love, and strength! You are the refuge of those who repent, our banner of warfare in this life, the medicine of souls, the comfort of those who mourn, the delight of those who believe, the light of those who preach the true faith, the wages of those who toil, the healing of the sick. To You our devotion aspires; by You our prayers are received; we delight in contemplating You. O Name of Jesus, You are the glory of all the saints for eternity. Amen.
Source: My Catholic Life

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.



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.

January 11: Continue Chapters 10 and 11



The Foundations Team invites you to join them for Wednesday Night Foundations in the Cafeteria (Parish Hall) on January 21st.

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



The Diocese of Biloxi Vocations Office is proud to announce their first annual Altar Server Recognition Mass for all altar servers in the Diocese. This special Mass will take place at Our Lady of the Gulf in Bay St. Louis on Saturday January 31, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

Bishop Kihlman will celebrate Mass at 11:00 a.m. and immediately following Mass there will be a reception with pizza at the Our Lady of the Gulf community center.

To reserve your space please visit the following link:

<https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSfu1ms6f1.../viewform...>

Please ensure that all names are entered correctly as certificates will be distributed with your altar servers names.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact Fr. Braxton Necaise (Director of Vocations) at 228-863-1610.



INTERCESSORY PRAYER

EVENING OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER
MARK YOUR CALENDARS and join us for the NEXT EVENING OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER which will meet on FEBRUARY 16th at 6:30 p.m. in the ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH.

Thank you so much for all your participation in this Power of Prayer for Our Lord Jesus Christ ministry!

The Rosary has been recognized as a powerful weapon in the battle against spiritual evils. Many saints, including St. Padre Pio, have urged the faithful to "pray, hope, and don't worry," believing that the Rosary is a spiritual "sword" that protects us from temptation and spiritual harm. This idea is rooted in the belief that the Rosary places us under the protection of the Virgin Mary, who continually intercedes for us.

There have been many testimonies to prayer petitions at Intercessory Prayer being answered! Your prayers are so important to God who only wants a personal relationship with each of you and to come to him in prayer through Our Blessed Mother.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND JOIN US IN PRAYER!!



PILGRIM VIRGIN STATUE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA
Our Lady is asking you, your family or ministry to pray the Rosary together for peace, healing, hope, conversion, penance and prayer.

Please sign your name on the sign-up sheet in the front of the St. Alphonsus Church to take home for one week the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima. The statue will be passed from family to family after the 9:00 a.m. mass on Sunday's. Instructions and an explanation on how to pray the Rosary will be provided with the statue.

The phrase "a family that prays together stays together" suggests that shared faith and spirituality can strengthen family bonds and promote a sense of togetherness and support. Regular family prayer can foster unity and help family members grow closer to one another.

The Rosary is the second most powerful prayer next to the Mass! At the first apparition of Fatima in 1917, Our Lady chose to identify herself as, "The Lady of the Rosary." The Rosary is a prayer that fits perfectly into the spiritual life of all who seek to allow Mary to be their light to Christ, to show them the path to Jesus.



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.



St. Alphonsus Church App – You are able to download our parish app on your iPhone or Android by texting App to phone number 55321, or by visiting mymarishapp.com.

Stay connected with our parish throughout the week with instant notifications regarding our parish life and an easy-to-access event calendar as well as many more great features such as daily Mass readings, Catholic news, prayers and prayer reminders, quick access to our weekly bulletin, Church website (osstalphonsus.org) and FORMED.

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