

Murder and adultery are born in the heart. Jesus reinterprets the fifth commandment so that it embraces those angry feelings and emotions which may lead up to murder. And he reinterprets the sixth commandment so that it embraces lustful thoughts and desires which may lead to sexual sin and infidelity.

As for oaths: he encourages people to behave in such a way that oaths are superfluous. The disciples are simply to be truthful.

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

 **The Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday, February 17th for Mardi Gras.**

 **Lent begins Wednesday, February 18th with a day of Fast and Abstinence.** Four Masses will be available on that day beginning with the usual morning Masses at 6:30 and 8:15 a.m. (children from our elementary school will attend), 12 Noon and 6:00 p.m. A Special Collection will be taken up for the Churches in Eastern Europe and Africa.

 **During Lent, Stations of the Cross** will be conducted each Monday morning immediately after the 8:15 a.m. Mass, each Friday afternoon by the school children at 2:30 p.m. (adults welcome), and Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. with the Way of the Cross followed by Mass.

All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence (abstaining from meat and meat products for those who are 14 years of age and older).

Fasting: Catholics 18-59 years of age who are in good health are obliged to fast and abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On all the weekdays of Lent the U.S. Bishops strongly encourage the faithful to participate in Mass and to observe a self-imposed fast. The law of fasting allows only one full meal a day, but does not prohibit taking some food in the morning and evening. Customarily, the two smaller "collations," when considered together, should not equal the main meal – and ideally should be eaten only if needed to maintain one's strength.

Abstinence: All Catholics 14 years of age and older are obliged to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent (unless the Friday is a Solemnity).

In their Penance and Abstinence pastoral, the U.S. Bishops declared: "the obligation both to fast and to abstain from meat, an obligation observed under a more strict formality by our fathers in the faith, still binds on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. No Catholic Christian will lightly excuse himself from so hallowed an obligation..." They also stated: "we preserve for our dioceses the tradition of abstinence from meat on each of the Fridays of Lent, confident that no Catholic Christian will lightly hold himself excused from this penitential practice."

Flowers and Music: During Lent, flowers are not to be used to decorate the altar, with the exceptions of the Fourth Sunday of Lent, and the Solemnity of St. Joseph (March 19), and the Solemnity of the Annunciation (March 25); musical instruments are only to be played in order to support the singing, with the same exceptions.

Gloria and Creed: The Gloria and the Creed are sung/said on the Lenten solemnities. Note that when the Creed is said during the Mass on the Annunciation that all genuflect at the words, "and by the Holy Spirit, he was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man."

Covering Crosses and Images: Crosses and images should not be covered for the whole of Lent. The appropriate time to cover crosses and statues in purple is before the Saturday Vigil Mass of the Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 22nd (after the Saturday morning Mass of that day). Crosses remain covered until the end of the Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday; other images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil.

Holy Water: Removing holy water from the fonts during the season of Lent (and replacing it with sand, etc.) is not permitted; holy water is removed after the evening Mass Holy Thursday and refilled on Holy Saturday with water blessed at the Easter Vigil.

Funeral Masses: The celebration of a funeral Mass is not permitted on the Sundays of Lent and Easter, Holy Thursday, and the days of the Easter Triduum. However, when necessary, a "Funeral Liturgy Outside Mass" may be used.



The Flowers on the Altar are in Honor of St. Alphonsus Parishioners

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	FEBRUARY 16
James 1:1-11; Mark 8:11-13	
6:30 a.m. Mr. Jim Cannon	
8:15 a.m. Ms. Sheila Daniels	
TUESDAY	FEBRUARY 17
James 1:12-18; Mark 8:14-21	
6:30 a.m. Mr. Dick Porterfield	
8:15 a.m. Int. Ms. Denise Wilson	
WEDNESDAY	FEBRUARY 18
Joel 2:12-18; 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18	
6:30 a.m. Mr. Tony Petricca	
8:15 a.m. Special Intention	
12:00 Noon Mathilde & Fernand Latour	
6:00 p.m. Mr. Christopher Bellman	
THURSDAY	FEBRUARY 19
Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 9:22-25	
6:30 a.m. Ms. Annette Lawrence	
8:15 a.m. Int. Ms. Toni Gunkel	
FRIDAY	FEBRUARY 20
Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 9:14-15	
6:30 a.m. Ms. Janell Alliston	
8:15 a.m. Mr. Dick Eckert	
SATURDAY	FEBRUARY 21
Isaiah 58:9b-14; Luke 5:27-32	
8:15 a.m. Mr. Tony Ellis	
4:00 p.m. Ms. Susie Jurich	
SUNDAY	FEBRUARY 22
Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11	
7:30 a.m. Ms. Sandra Mahoney	
9:00 a.m. Ms. Bridget Shepherd	
11:30 a.m. Congregation	
5:30 p.m. Special Intention	



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 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., Terese Nicovich, Shirley and Travis Norman, Cody Parker, Scott 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.

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$8,817.71
Weekly/Monthly Online Collection.....\$7,197.00
May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support



THIS LENT, TRY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION!

"If we are to experience the Eucharist as the source and summit of all Christian life, then we must celebrate it with faith, receive it with reverence, and allow it to transform our minds and hearts through the prayer of adoration" St. John Paul II



When Jesus is exposed in the monstrance, He is fully showing Himself to us. In return, He wants us to show ourselves back to Him. Jesus does not want us to hold anything back. He wants us to come to Him and pour our hearts out. He is waiting. "Night and day, He is there. If you really want to grow in love, come back to the Eucharist, come back to that adoration."



The Altar Society will meet on Wednesday, February 18th at 9:00 a.m. in the KC Hall. All are welcome to attend.



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. February 21st). 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, February 21st 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.



You are invited to join the Knights of Columbus for a special 50 Year and more Anniversary Couples Dinner as they celebrate five decades of love, commitment, and shared memories. The evening will take place on Saturday, February 28th at 5:00 p.m. at the Columbus Club Hall (KC Hall). Couples are invited to enjoy a warm, elegant dinner and an evening of fellowship as we honor this meaningful milestone together. They look forward to celebrating with you. A sign-up sheet is available in the vestibule of the church.



Is God Calling You to More? New Wine Program

If you feel a nudge to grow deeper in your faith or lead more intentionally, the New Wine Program may be for you. This renewed diocesan formation experience invites both new participants and past graduates to be equipped as missionary disciples who walk with others toward Christ. The next cohort begins August 2026; applications are open through March 6, 2026. Learn more and apply at: www.biloxidiocese.org/new-wine

PART TIME JOBS

St. Alphonsus Rectory is in need of a part time office worker (15 hours per week). The hours would be Monday – Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

St. Alphonsus Rectory is also in need of a part time housekeeper two days a week.

If interested, please call the rectory at 228-875-5419. Interviews will be held in March.



The St Alphonsus KC Ladies Auxiliary Council 5654 will be forming a Prayer Shawl Ministry in the upcoming months for parishioners who are homebound, having surgery/hospitalizations, in hospice, or in nursing homes. We are asking for any donations of yarn and fleece to help this ministry grow. A designated box will be available to drop off donations at the front/exit of the church. Anyone interested in participating in this ministry is welcome to bring your talents. You may contact Gay Camagong at 228-424-7722 or Pam Carter at 228-233-5217 for more information.



Living Hope Group / Farm of Hope: The Living Hope Group is a parish-based ministry open to anyone with a loved one facing addiction as well as friends, supporters, and families connected to the Farm of Hope. The group offers shared spiritual support, prayer, and encouragement. For more information, please contact Lois Ravera at 228-324-3304.



Your Church Needs You - God is calling. Can you answer the call? We are in need of Lectors, and Altar Servers at all the Masses. Prayerfully consider God's calling to serve your St. Alphonsus Family.



PRAY FOR VOCATIONS