

Today’s Gospel marks the beginning of the third long discourse given by Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew. Over the next few weeks, the Gospel readings will consist of the entire 13th Chapter of Matthew’s Gospel, a lengthy teaching discourse.

Throughout this discourse, Jesus will offer several parables to illustrate for his listeners what he means by the kingdom of heaven. He begins with the parable of the sower, which appears rather straightforward - of course, seeds grow best in good soil. Seeds that miss the soil, are sown on rocky ground, or are sown among other plants will not grow. The surprise in the parable is the enormous yield of the seed that is sown on good soil. Jesus then explains his use of parables. Jesus seems to suggest that he uses parables to teach because the meanings of parables are not self-evident. The hearer must engage in some degree of reflection in order to comprehend the message of a parable. In this way, the medium—the parable—models the point of the parable of the sower. Those who are willing to engage themselves in the effort to understand will be rewarded by the discovery of the message and will bear fruit. To bring home the point, Jesus interprets the parable of the sower to his disciples. The different types of soil in which the seeds are sown are metaphors for the disposition with which each individual hears the teaching about the kingdom of heaven. Some will be easily swayed away from the kingdom of heaven. Some will receive it for a time but will lose it when faced with difficulties. Some will hear the word but will then permit other cares to choke it out. Yet some will receive it well, and the seed will produce abundant fruit.

--Loyola Press



St. Alphonsus will host a Holy Hour for Vocations in the Church on Monday, July 13th from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. All are invited.



St. Alphonsus Parish Feast Day Celebration

Mark your calendars for St. Alphonsus Day on Saturday, August 1st! We’ll begin with 8:15 a.m. Mass, followed by Confession and Adoration, then enjoy fellowship with mahjong and community time. After the 4:00 p.m. Mass, join us for a spaghetti dinner, trivia night, and more fun for all ages. Dinner tickets are \$5 per person or \$15 per family. You can also support St. Alphonsus Elementary School scholarships by entering our ‘Raise the Steaks’ raffle—\$20 per ticket or 6 for \$100—for a chance to win a half-cows’ worth of premium local beef and select cuts from Stonnington Farms. For details, contact the Parish Office (228-875-5419) or John McMackin (228-229-6236).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Your prayers are requested for the deceased priests and deacons who have ministered in the diocese, especially those who have died around this time of year:

Reverend James Tran Manh Thang, July 1, 1987
Reverend Denis J. Harlow, July 1, 2010
Reverend George R. Kitchin, July 5, 2024
Very Reverend Joseph Simon, S.V.D., July 18, 2007
Reverend Francis J. Scott, July 19, 2007
Reverend Msgr. Gregory John Johnson, July 20, 2004
Reverend Joseph Tung Duc Nguyen, July 25, 2002
Reverend Msgr. Michael Thornton, July 26, 2023
Deacon Martin Finnegan, July 7, 2023

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$11,966.10
Weekly/Monthly Online Collection.....\$ 7,076.00
Poor Collection.....\$ 4,597.97
May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	JULY 13
Isaiah 1:10-17; Matthew 10:34—11:1	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Mary Wronko
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Jackie Endt
TUESDAY	JULY 14
Isaiah 7:1-9; Matthew 11:20-24	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Verdalee Catchot
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Maria Luisa Salvatierra
WEDNESDAY	JULY 15
Isaiah 10:5-7, 13b-16; Matthew 11:25-27	
6:30 a.m.	Ella and Simon Gilbert
8:15 a.m.	Int. Ms. Helen Whada
THURSDAY	JULY 16
Isaiah 26:7-9, 12, 16-19; Matthew 11:28-30	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Becky Flores
8:15 a.m.	Mr. & Mrs. George Pitalo
FRIDAY	JULY 17
Isaiah 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8; Matthew 12:1-8	
6:30 a.m.	Int. Fr. Kennedy
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Eduard van Thiel
SATURDAY	JULY 18
Micah 2:1-5; Matthew 12:14-21	
8:15 a.m.	Int. Ms. Andre Bond Mr. Tony Ellis
4:00 p.m.	Mr. Joe L. Harris
SUNDAY	JULY 19
Wisdom 12:13, 16-19; Romans 8:26-27; Matthew 13:24-43	
7:30 a.m.	Ms. Marian O’Connor
9:00 a.m.	Int. Fr. Mike Snyder
11:30 a.m.	Congregation
5:30 p.m.	Mr. Joseph Jereidini



Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends: Beckett Bassenger, Betty Bodin, Michael Bosarge, Bryleigh Brochard, Roland Broussard, Roxie Buckles, Arlene Burns, Mildred “Tootsie” Caillavet, Benny Cantin, Marshall Car, Jennifer Catchot, Clifford Claverie, Scott Claverie, Breanne Dalton, Gina Dasher, Marjorie DuBois, Michelle Dyess, Rose Mary Eagan, Dawn Fountain, Nija Fountain, Barbara Fournier, 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, Myra Kittle, Bill Kortman, Mary Krystosek, Daisie Laborde, Carol Latham, Nelda Latour, Judy and Randy Lesso, Mary Lewis, Gordon Mathieu, Shellie McDaniel, Mrs. McKinney Steve Merkel, Thelma Miller, Iva Misko, Edward Necaïse, Donna and Edward Necaïse Jr., Terése Nicovich, Shirley and Travis Norman, Cody Parker, Scott Parker, Kathy Pasquini, Janice Pepper, The Petitjean Family, Jean Petricca, 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. and all our Homebound Parishioners.



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 from 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 three 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.



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. July 18th). 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!



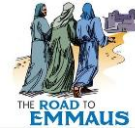
An anointing of the Sick will take place on Saturday, July 18th at 3:30 p.m. (before the 4:00 p.m. Mass) in the Church. This is for all elderly parishioners, anyone with an illness, or parishioners with elderly or homebound family members who may wish to receive this Sacrament.



St. Michael and Stella Maris Explorers are hosting a Moms' Back to School Retreat on Saturday, July 18th. This retreat is designed to encourage and equip



you for the school year ahead with a full day of prayer, learning, fellowship, and time to journal and/or plan. All school-age mothers are welcome! Scan the QR code for more details or contact Ashley Rodriguez, 410-693-8825 (call/text).



Men, put aside the "hustle and bustle" of daily life and be part of the upcoming men’s “Road to Emmaus” retreat the weekend of July 24th – 26th.

The retreat is held on the Gulf Coast at W. J. Kelly Retreat Center in Bay Saint Louis.

The retreat is based on the scripture passage which includes Jesus’ appearance on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24: 13-35) and is an uplifting spiritual experience that has a profound effect on men's lives. The retreat begins at 4:00 p.m. on Friday and ends after the 5:30 p.m. Mass on Sunday. Round trip transportation is provided from St. Dominic Church, New Orleans. Please don't ignore this opportunity, but pray on it instead. Something special awaits you on the Road to Emmaus. Website registration can be done here: <https://stdominicparish.com/emmaus>. Please contact the following men for additional information: Norm Madere 504-481-0411 or Steve Schulkens 504-401-6990.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS



EVENING OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Please JOIN US on Monday, July 20th, at 6:30 p.m. in praying the ROSARY with Our Lady and EXPOSITION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT. CONFESSION will also be available.

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, who is our greatest intercessor. EVERYONE IS INVITED, LET US JOIN OUR LADY IN PRAYER!



St Alphonsus Shawl ministry will meet on Saturday, July 25th in the Columbus Club Hall from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon.

Everyone is welcome to join and share their joy for knitting and crocheting or to learn a new skill. Please contact Karen Futch at 228-861-9407 if you are interested in joining.



Assisting on the altar with our deacons and priests is an honor and true service to our parish. Any youth who have made their First Communion are eligible to serve. A training for all (old and new) will be held on Monday, August 10th at 6:00 p.m. in the church. Please call the rectory at 228-875-5419 to register.



Are you curious about the Catholic Faith or thinking about becoming Catholic? OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) is a welcoming opportunity to learn, ask questions, study, and grow alongside others. Whether you’re exploring the Church for the first time or a Catholic who was never confirmed, you are welcome to join us! Classes start Wednesday, August 19th. Contact Jammie at 228-806–2641 for more information.



In today’s Gospel, we hear the story of the sower and we know that “Some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirty fold.”

This week, by putting a gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box, know that together we will produce fruit a hundred fold.



Parish 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.



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