

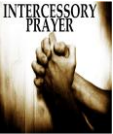
In today’s Gospel, Jesus offers three parables to describe the Kingdom of Heaven. He also explains why he speaks to the crowds in parables and interprets the parable of the sower for the disciples. This reading is a continuation of Jesus’ discourse that we began reading last Sunday.

All three parables use commonplace experiences to describe aspects of the Kingdom of Heaven. The first parable is longer and more detailed than the next two, and it alerts us to the two-fold reality of the Kingdom of Heaven. The beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven can be found in this world. The fruition of the Kingdom of Heaven, however, will not be realized until the final judgment. In the meantime, as Jesus’ explanation to the disciples cautions, any effort to judge the progress of the Kingdom of Heaven is premature. Only God, in the final judgment, will distinguish the fruit of the Kingdom of Heaven and offer its reward.

The second and third parables call to our attention the abundance that will result from the small beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven. Just as a mustard seed—the smallest of all seeds—will become a large bush, so too God will bring his Kingdom to full bloom. As a small amount of yeast will leaven the entire batch of bread, so too God will bring about the expansion of his Kingdom. In each case the image is of the superabundance that God brings out of even the smallest of signs of the Kingdom.

Contained within these parables are words of caution as well as words of consolation. In the parable of the sower we are warned against judging others. To judge and uproot the “weeds” prematurely will harm the wheat; final judgment rests with God. In the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast, we are consoled by the message that God can work wonders and produce abundance from even the smallest beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven.

--Loyola Press



EVENING OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Please JOIN US on Monday, July 20th, at 6:30 p.m. for 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 Parish Feast Day Celebration

Mark your calendars for St. Alphonsus Day on Saturday, August 1st! The celebration begins in the Church with 8:15 a.m. Mass, followed by Confession and Adoration. Around 10:15 a.m., join us in the Parish Hall for coffee, donuts, mahjong, bingo, and fellowship. After the 4:00 p.m. Mass, return to the Parish Hall for a spaghetti dinner, trivia night, and movie in the Gym. There will be fun for all ages. Dinner tickets are \$5 per person or \$15 per family. We will also pull for the “Raise the Steaks” raffle that evening. Tickets are \$20 each or 6 for \$100 and will give you a chance to win a half-cow’s worth of premium local beef and select cuts from Stonnington Farms. For details, contact the Parish Office at 228-875-5419 or John McMackin at 228-229-6236. All proceeds benefit the Guardian Angel Fund.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY

JULY 20

Micah 6:1-4, 6-8; Matthew 12:38-42

6:30 a.m.

Mr. Malcolm Latour, Jr.

8:15 a.m.

Int. Ms. Courtney Severino

TUESDAY

JULY 21

Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Matthew 12:46-50

6:30 a.m.

Ms. Gloria Davis

8:15 a.m.

Mr. Craig Fountain

WEDNESDAY

JULY 22

Song of Songs 3:1-4b; John 20:1-2, 11-18

6:30 a.m.

Ms. Patricia Gunkel

8:15 a.m.

Int. Mr. Steve Karp

THURSDAY

JULY 23

Jeremiah 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13; Matthew 13:10-17

6:30 a.m.

Mr. Stephen Nick

8:15 a.m.

Mr. Bernard Perry

FRIDAY

JULY 24

Jeremiah 3:14-17; Matthew 13:18-23

6:30 a.m.

Int. Ms. Rosanna Trujillo

8:15 a.m.

Mr. Bill Gryder

Mr. Neil Gryder

SATURDAY

JULY 25

2 Corinthians 4:7-15; Matthew 20:20-28

8:15 a.m.

Mr. Henry Endt, Sr.

4:00 p.m.

Mr. Albert Misko, Sr.

Ms. Eunice Misko

Mr. André Kaufman

SUNDAY

JULY 26

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12; Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52

7:30 a.m.

Congregation

9:00 a.m.

Ms. Gwen Noble

11:30 a.m.

Mr. Bill Nichols

5:30 p.m.

Ms. MC Peters



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

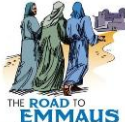


pouring out of His Precious Blood to save all of humanity from our sins. His Precious Blood is offered to us in the Eucharist every day and is waiting to be adored in the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel. Let us spend some of our time adoring His Precious Blood during the month of July.

"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.



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.



St Alphonsus Prayer 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.



You are invited to join us for a Potluck Dinner in honor of Deacon Jacob Lott on Saturday, August 8th after the 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass to wish him well as he returns to the Seminary. Those interested in helping are asked to please call Sheila Kowalewski at 228-217-6349.



Assisting on the altar with our deacons and priests is an honor and a true service to our parish. Any youth who has made his/her First Communion is 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.

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$12,472.56

Weekly Online Collection.....\$ 6,011.00

May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The next phase of our Capital Campaign project will begin this coming week. This phase includes construction of the new entrance cover and enclosure of the breezeway between the church and school. The front entrance and the side entrance by the school will be closed during construction. You will need to use the two side entrance doors near the altar.



Are you curious about the Catholic Faith or thinking about becoming Catholic? 8OCIA (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.



Save The Date: The Annual Mass of Wedding Anniversaries will take place on Sunday, October 4th at 2:00 p.m. at the Nativity B.V.M. Cathedral. Couples celebrating 25+ years of marriage or more in 2026 are welcome to attend. Registration forms are available in the Rectory Office.



"The Spirit of Medjugorje” is a wonderful monthly newsletter FREE of charge. It contains Our Lady's monthly message, along with many interesting stories of pilgrims who have visited there and often had life changing experiences.

June Klins, the editor, was one such pilgrim. She considers the newsletter an important part of her ministry in helping to make Medjugorje known. You can receive the newsletter monthly by sending your request to P.O. Box 6614, Erie, PA 16512. or E-Mail: jklins1981@verizon.net or Phone: (814)898-2143. If you are able to send a donation to help spread Mary's messages it is always greatly appreciated.

The May 25, 2026 newsletter contained an article about a family from St. James Parish in Gulfport who were among the first Americans to go to Medjugorje in the early 1980s.



Hearing this Gospel, we can trust that God knows our love and good deeds, and that he will mercifully gather us into his kingdom.

This week, please say a special prayer each day for the poor and forgotten in our parish.



Parish Registration

Parishioner 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.



PILGRIM VIRGIN STATUE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Our Lady is asking you, individually or with your family or ministry, to pray the Rosary together for peace, healing, hope, conversion, penance and prayer.

The sign-up sheet is in the front of the Church. You will be notified when it is your turn to take the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima home for one week. The statue will be transferred to you after the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday. Instructions and an explanation on how to pray the Rosary will be provided with the statue.

Our Lady said: “Pray the Rosary every day in order to obtain peace for the world.”



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