

Today’s Gospel concludes three weeks of readings from the 13th Chapter of Matthew’s Gospel. Throughout these three weeks we have heard Jesus teaching crowds about the kingdom of heaven, and we have heard Jesus interpret some of his teachings for the disciples. In this week’s Gospel, Jesus offers three more short parables. The first two parables describe the great value of the kingdom of heaven. In the first parable, Jesus says that the kingdom of heaven is like a buried treasure that is worth possessing even if it means giving up everything else. In the second parable, Jesus proposes that the kingdom of heaven is like a pearl of great worth for which one will sell everything else to possess. These parables teach us that we are to place everything we value in the service of the pursuit of the Kingdom of God. The third parable that Jesus proposes in today’s Gospel is different from the first two, but it is reminiscent of the parable of the sower heard in last week’s Gospel. The kingdom of heaven is compared to fishing with a wide net. After the fish have been collected, the good fish are kept and the bad fish are thrown away; so too, in the final judgment, will the wicked and the righteous be separated. Today’s Gospel concludes with a curious statement about the scribe who understands the kingdom of heaven. Here a metaphor is offered: this scribe is like the head of a household who “brings from his storeroom both the new and the old.” The scribes referred to here are experts of Mosaic law. It is possible that Jesus is here instructing the early Christian community on how to proceed in the interpretation of Jewish law with respect to Jesus’ “new” teaching. Jesus’ teaching about the kingdom of heaven does not replace the Jewish tradition; it interprets it in a different light. --Loyola Press

 **St. Alphonsus Parish Feast Day Celebration**
The St. Alphonsus Parish Feast Day Celebration will be held next 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 Stonington 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.

 **You are invited to join us for the First Saturday Devotion** on Saturday, August 1st at 7:45 a.m. (half hour before the 8:15 a.m. Mass) with Devotion, Consecration, Rosary and Benediction. Confession will be available.

 **A Baptism Class** will be held in the Rectory on Wednesday, August 5th at 7:00 p.m. Any parent with a child for baptism must attend this class prior to scheduling a baptismal date. Godparents are also encouraged to attend. Godparents who are not registered /active members of St. Alphonsus must present a letter from their pastor giving them permission to be a godparent. A godparent must be a Catholic in good standing with the church, receiving the sacraments on a regular basis. Class lasts a little over one hour. Baptisms are scheduled each month on the 4th Sunday immediately after the 9:00 a.m. Mass. Please call the Rectory with information on the child prior to attending the class.

 **You are invited to join us for the First Friday Devotion & Benediction** on Friday, August 7th at 7:45 a.m. (half hour before the 8:15 a.m. Mass).

 **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.

MASSSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	JULY 27
Jeremiah 13:1-11; Matthew 13:31-35	
6:30 a.m.	Simon and Barbara Latour
8:15 a.m.	Int. Ms. Gina Odom
TUESDAY	JULY 28
Jeremiah 14:17-22; Matthew 13:36-43	
6:30 a.m.	Int. Mr. Javier Trujillo
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Tommy Noble
WEDNESDAY	JULY 29
Jeremiah 15:10, 16-21; John 11:19-27	
6:30 a.m.	Int. Craig Fountain Family
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Harry Olivar
THURSDAY	JULY 30
Jeremiah 18:1-6; Matthew 13:47-53	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. James Cole
	Mr. David Cole
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Elaine Belson
FRIDAY	JULY 31
Jeremiah 26:1-9; Matthew 13:54-58	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Juan Peters
8:15 a.m.	Int. Mr. Pieter van Thiel
SATURDAY	AUGUST 1
Jeremiah 26:11-16, 24; Matthew 14:1-12	
8:15 a.m.	Int. Mr. Erin Sanford
4:00 p.m.	Ms. Ligaya Camagong
SUNDAY	AUGUST 2
Isaiah 55:1-3; Romans 8:35, 37-39; Matthew 14:13-21	
7:30 a.m.	Ms. Peggy Closson
9:00 a.m.	Int. Deacon Jim & Toni Gunkel
11:30 a.m.	Congregation
5:30 p.m.	Ms. Elizabeth Hughbanks

 **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 Necaise, Donna and Edward Necaise 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.

 In the Gospel, we find that the demand of daily Christian living is to spend our life primarily searching for the kingdom of God. **This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist fourteen families providing \$8,815.26 in assistance. Thank You!**

 **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.

 **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.”

 **Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Chief Mrs. Agnes Apeke Awe**, mother of Fr. Jude Awe, who passed away July 10th in Nigeria. We extend our sympathy to the family and promise them a remembrance in our prayers. May God grant her eternal peace.

WEEKLY OFFERING
Sunday Collection.....\$8,381.00
Weekly Online Collection.....\$3,496.00
May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support

 The Flowers on the Altar are in Honor of all Educators

 **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**
The next phase of our Capital Campaign project has begun. 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.

 **There will be an organizational meeting at St. Elizabeth Seton Church in Ocean Springs on Monday, August 3rd at 6:00 p.m. on starting a Catholic in Recovery program at St. Elizabeth in the fall.** This is a Catholic program for people recovering from any kind of addiction. Please attend if you are interested in this program, are in recovery yourself, or are a family member of someone with an addiction. For more information, contact Lois Ravera at 228-324-3304.

 **PLEASE JOIN US:** You are invited to join us in praying the rosary outside on the lawn at the Villa Maria on Saturday, August 8th at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome! We are looking forward to praying with you!

 **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.

 **You are invited to experience the Shroud of Turin exhibit at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 720 East Beach Blvd, Long Beach, on August 15th and 16th.** The exhibit is a self-guided tour with video, information stations, and physical exhibits. A content expert will be on hand to answer questions to all attendees. For more information, please visit the Othonia website at <https://othonia.org>.

 **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.

 **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: jklines1981@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.