

Today we jump ahead in our reading of Matthew's Gospel to Chapter 14. Last week we heard Jesus conclude his discourse with the crowds about the Kingdom of Heaven. In Matthew's narrative, Jesus then leaves the crowds and returns to Nazareth, where he is rejected. Matthew then recounts the story of John the Baptist's arrest and execution at the hands of Herod. Today's Gospel reading begins at this point.

Upon hearing the news of the death of John the Baptist, Jesus seeks to withdraw, but the crowds follow him. Jesus reaches out to them in compassion and heals the sick. At the end of a long day, the disciples encourage Jesus to send the crowds away so that they might find provisions for themselves. Jesus again responds with compassion for the crowd. Jesus tells his disciples to provide food for the crowd. The disciples reply with a report of the meagerness of their own provisions—five loaves and two fish. The result is the very familiar miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fish. Matthew's Gospel tells us that 5,000 men were fed, and this number does not even include the women and children.

Jesus' blessing brought abundance from the meager provisions of the disciples. In this action, Jesus offers us a sign of the Kingdom of Heaven that he has been teaching about in the parables. A feast results from the smallest of portions—remember the mustard seed and the yeast. In this miracle we witness an example for Christian life and ministry. Even the smallest of offerings can produce abundant results when placed in the service of the Kingdom of Heaven.

We find the story of Jesus' multiplication of the loaves and the fish in each of the four Gospels. In the Gospels of Mark and Matthew, Jesus performs this same miracle on two separate occasions. The story of this miracle is an anticipation of the Eucharist in which we are fed by the abundant grace of God. The importance of the Eucharist has been a defining element of Christian life from the very beginning.

--Loyola Press



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.

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 Morgan Kavanagh, August 6, 1998
Reverend Ivan Weis, August 7, 2007
Reverend Patrick C. Grant, August 9, 1991
Reverend John P. Robinson, August 10, 1977
Rev. Msgr. Martin Francis Farrell, August 12, 2017
Rev. Msgr. James P. McGough, August 12, 2024
Reverend Paul Gillis, August 14, 1995
Rev. Phillip McLoone, SSJ, August 18, 1977
Rev. William Kelley, SVD, August 28, 2002
Deacon Emery Elder, August 13, 2021

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY

Jeremiah 28:1-17; Matthew 14:22-36

6:30 a.m.

8:15 a.m.

TUESDAY

Jeremiah 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22; Matthew 14:22-36

6:30 a.m.

8:15 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Jeremiah 31:1-7; Matthew 15:21-28

6:30 a.m.

8:15 a.m.

THURSDAY

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; 2 Peter 1:16-19; Matthew 17:1-9

6:30 a.m.

8:15 a.m.

FRIDAY

Nahum 2:1, 3: 3:1-3, 6-7; Matthew 16:24-28

6:30 a.m.

8:15 a.m.

SATURDAY

Habakkuk 1:12—2:4; Matthew 17:14-20

8:15 a.m.

4:00 p.m.

SUNDAY

1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:22-33

7:30 a.m.

9:00 a.m.

11:30 a.m.

5:30 p.m.

AUGUST 3

Mr. Carlton Latour

Int. Fr. Steve Geerling

AUGUST 4

Mr. Joseph Earley

Ms. Angela Portillo

AUGUST 5

Mr. Lester J. McMackin, Jr.

Mr. David Jackson, Jr.

AUGUST 6

Mr. Todd Holman

Int. Ms. Leigh Olivar

AUGUST 7

Int. Mr. Dale Closson

Ms. Vara Lyons

AUGUST 8

Mr. Charles Jensen

Ms. Grace Westbrook

Mr. Ronnie Riels

The Jurich Family

AUGUST 9

Congregation

Mr. Richard Potash

Mr. Ike Kincke

Mr. James Bayliss, Sr.



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 Necaie, Donna and Edward Necaie 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 IMMACULATE Heart of Mary

The month of August is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. What better way to honor Our Lady this month than to visit her Son

in the adoration chapel. Mary was the first adorer of Jesus. Let us follow her example and adore Jesus, the One who sacrificed everything to save us!

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is August 15th. Let us join together in saying a Novena from August 6th -14th.

Majestic Queen of Heaven and Mistress of the Angels, you received from God the power and command to crush the head of Satan. Therefore, we humbly beg of you, send forth the legions of Heaven, that under your command they may seek out all evil spirits, engage them everywhere in battle, curb their pride, and hurl them back into the pit of Hell. "Who is like unto God?"

With firm confidence, we present ourselves before you, our most loving Mother, afflicted and troubled as we are, and we beg you to let us understand the love you have for us by granting this petition, if it is according to the Will of God and profitable for our salvation: (mention your prayer request).

Good and tender Mother, you shall ever be our hope and the object of our love. Mother of God, send forth the Holy Angels to defend us and drive far from us the cruel foe. Holy Angels and Archangels, defend and keep us. (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be)

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.



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.



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!



In the Gospel, Jesus says: “There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves,” and taking the five loaves and two fish, he blessed them and gave them to the disciples to feed the crowd.

Know that your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul touches many lives just like the loaves and fishes.

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$8,717.30

Weekly Online Collection.....\$4,485.01

May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support



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

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS



Walking With Moms in Need Ministry (WWMIN)

The Second Sunday Donations for WWMIN will be held next weekend, August 8th and 9th. Our ministry is growing and so are our needs. We continue to need all sizes of diapers, but desperately need sizes 4, 5, 6, and 7. Baby wipes are always needed. We still ask for gift cards of \$20 or less from Visa, Walmart, Target, grocery stores, and fast-food restaurants. Baby necessities, baby equipment, new and gently used baby, toddler, and children’s clothing are needed as well. As always, we thank you for your kindness, support, and generosity. Contacts: Margaret @ 228-217-4742 or Mary @ 228-348-6092.



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.**

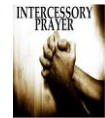
Please call the rectory at 228-875-5419 to register.



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



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>.



EVENING OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Please join us in the Church on Monday, August 17th, at 6:30 p.m. in praying the rosary and exposition of the BLESSED SACRAMENT. Confession will be available.

August is the month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary! If all the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ will unite in this rosary prayer, then through those prayers His divine grace will pour out over the world and change it for the better.

The Mother of God once said to her faithful servant St. Bridget: “No matter how numerous a person’s sins may be, if he turns to me with a sincere purpose of amendment, I am prepared forthwith to receive him graciously, for I do not regard the number of sins he has committed, but look only upon the dispositions with which he comes to me; for I feel no aversion in healing his wounds, because I am called and am in truth, the Mother of Mercy.”

Let us all come together and pray with our Lady, our Blessed Mother, our greatest Intercessor, with all our hearts!



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.



The Lord Is My Help needs volunteers to pack take-out lunches from 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. and/or to serve lunch from 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. (no cooking involved) the week of August 31st – September 4th. If you are able to volunteer your time on any of these days at either/both of the times, please call Jamie Lloyd at 713-818-6071. Any help would be greatly appreciated.