

It is important to read today’s Gospel and next week’s Gospel as two parts of a single story. These readings are a turning point in Matthew’s Gospel. This week we hear Jesus name Simon Peter as the rock upon which he will build his Church. Next week we will hear Jesus call this same Simon Peter "Satan" when he reacts negatively to Jesus’ prediction about his passion and death.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus asks his disciples what people are saying about his identity. The disciples indicate that most people believe that Jesus is a prophet of Israel. Then Jesus asks his disciples who they believe that he is. Simon Peter answers, identifying Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God. Jesus commends Simon Peter for this profession of faith, indicating that this insight has come from God. Because of Simon Peter’s response, Jesus calls him the "rock" upon which Jesus will build the Church. This is a word play on the name Peter, which is the Greek word for "rock." Peter is then given special authority by Jesus, a symbolic key to the Kingdom of Heaven. Peter will play an important role in the early Christian community as a spokesperson and a leader.

In today’s Gospel, Peter’s recognition of Jesus’ identity is credited to a revelation by God. This will contrast sharply with Jesus’ rebuke of Peter in next week’s Gospel. When Peter rejects Jesus’ prediction of his passion and death, Peter is said to no longer be thinking as God does but as humans do.

The use of the term *church* in today’s Gospel is one of only three such occurrences in Matthew’s Gospel. Peter in this Gospel is being credited as the foundation for the Church, a privilege granted to him because of his recognition of Jesus’ identity. The Church continues to be grounded in the faith that Jesus Christ is Lord.



St. Alphonsus Parish is beginning work on an updated parish directory. The last directory was completed in 2014. If you would like to serve on the committee, please contact Sheila Kowalewski at 228-217-6349 or by email at sheila.kowalewski@gmail.com.



Congratulations to Buddy Odom, winner of the “Raise the Steaks” raffle drawing at our St. Alphonsus Day celebration. Thank you to everyone who helped make the day such a success.



The 9:00 a.m. choir is seeking new members to join the voices in the loft. If you have considered joining—or feel unsure—please visit us one Sunday. All voice types are welcome: from sopranos to basses. We rehearse every Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. to prepare for the following Sunday Mass.



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Deborah Tootle, a member of our parish community, who passed away August 12th. We extend our sympathy to the family and promise them a remembrance in our prayers. May God grant her eternal peace.



The Flowers on the Altar are in Honor of Fr. Mike Snyder

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$11,524.86
Weekly Online Collection.....\$ 3,836.00
Extension Society Collection.....\$ 1,136.61
May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

MASSSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	AUGUST 24
Revelation 21:9b-14; John 1:45-51	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Theo Laborde
8:15 a.m.	Int. Mr. Jonathan Schwartz
TUESDAY	AUGUST 25
2 Thessalonians 2:1-3a, 14-17; Matthew 23:23-26	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Jaqueline Hemenway
8:15 a.m.	Laan-Van Dorp Family Tree
WEDNESDAY	AUGUST 26
2 Thessalonians 3:6-10, 16-18; Matthew 23:27-32	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Henry Endt, Sr.
8:15 a.m.	Int. Fr. Mike Snyder
THURSDAY	AUGUST 27
1 Corinthians 1:1-9; Matthew 24:42-51	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Kathleen Strong
8:15 a.m.	Int. John and Barbara Langan
FRIDAY	AUGUST 28
1 Corinthians 1:17-25; Matthew 25:1-13	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Carolyn Castleman
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Peggy Closson
SATURDAY	AUGUST 29
1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Mark 6:17-29	
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Tony Ellis
	Mr. Christopher Bellman

4:00 p.m.	Ms. Mary Lou Seeger
SUNDAY	AUGUST 30
Isaiah 22:19-23; Romans 11:33-36; Matthew 16:13-20	
7:30 a.m.	Congregation
9:00 a.m.	Mr. Bill Gryder
	Mr. Neil Gryder
11:30 a.m.	Mr. Conner Bond
5:30 p.m.	Ms. Kathy Battistella



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., Terèse 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 Sigumjak, 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.



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 main 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.



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!



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.



The Catholic Diocese of Biloxi will host upcoming information sessions for the diaconate class of 2032. These sessions offer men and their wives an opportunity to learn more about the diaconate, the formation process, and service to the Church in this ministry. Sessions will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon at St. Thomas Parish in Hattiesburg on August 22nd, St. Mary Parish in Gautier on September 12th, and St. Thomas Parish in Long Beach on September 26th.



Serving at the altar is an honor and an important service to our parish. Youth who have received First Communion are eligible to serve. Hands-on-training for new and returning servers will be held in the Church from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. with specific training on these parts of the Mass. Please call the office at 228-875-5419 to register for each training session. Monday, September 28: Reception of Gifts and Setting of the Altar Monday, October 26: Holy Communion and Purification of Vessels Monday, November 9: Benediction After Mass and Clearing of Vessels



The Catholic Diocese of Biloxi is seeking a Director of Finance to lead and oversee financial operations across the Diocese, including the Chancery, Catholic Charities, and related ministries. This key leadership role serves as the primary financial advisor to the Bishop, ensuring sound financial planning, strong internal controls, and faithful stewardship of Church resources. The Director works closely with clergy and diocesan leadership to promote transparency, accountability, and alignment with the mission of fostering Discipleship in Christ. Candidates should have a bachelor’s degree (advanced degree preferred), 7–10 years of financial management experience—ideally in a nonprofit setting—and a commitment to Catholic values. CPA certification is preferred. For full details and/or to apply, please visit: <https://www.biloxidiocese.org/director-finance>



Our Parish App is one great way to help make the liturgical season more present in your daily life. Helpful reflections will aid you in reflecting on the Mass readings each day. Also – under FORMED, you will be able to stream hundreds of hours of inspiring movies and video series, read bestselling Catholic eBooks, and listen to audio presentations from the Church’s’ most compelling speakers and is available from virtually any device...anytime, anywhere. **Don’t have the App or FORMED yet?** If you have either an iPhone or Android smart phone you can download the App by texting App to phone number 55321, or by visiting myparishapp.com. To gain access to FORMED – go to the website at www.formed.org and enter our Parish Code fl f5a9 (case sensitive) on the homepage, create an account with your username/email and password.



A lovely flower arrangement on the altar area of the church is a beautiful way to honor a deceased loved one or to celebrate a special occasion. If you would like to donate for a specific weekend, please call the Rectory at 228-875-5419. Donation amount is \$50.00.



Our Elementary Youth Faith Formation ministry program (Grades K–5) offers children a safe, welcoming place to build a strong foundation in the Catholic faith, ask questions, learn to pray, and grow in a personal relationship with Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Show your children the importance of God in our lives by registering them for St. Alphonsus Elementary Faith Formation. **Registration is being held now through August 31st.** Classes begin Sunday, September 13th and meet from 10:15–11:15 a.m. Forms are available online at osstalphonsus.org under Faith Formation–Registration and at each church entrance. Volunteers are needed to help teach our Catholic faith. To volunteer or ask questions, please contact Jane Sema at 228-217-1392 or jsema@osstalphonsus.org.



Attention youth in grades 6–12, including Confirmation candidates: An informational and signup meeting will be held Wednesday, September 9th at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. All youth and parents are asked to attend. Dinner will be provided. As Catholics, we are called not only to follow the five precepts of the Church, but to go beyond them. Volunteering is one way to answer Christ’s call to love and serve as disciples of the faith. Youth ministry offers a meaningful opportunity to do this. We urgently need volunteers, including a lead volunteer for LifeTeen as well as others to assist. If interested, please contact the office during regular business hours at 228-875-5419.



HELP SUPPORT OUR OCIA FAMILIES!
We are seeking adults willing to volunteer their time to help care for children on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. while their parents attend OCIA classes. We need at least two volunteers per night. Dates for this semester are: 8/26, 9/9, 9/23, 10/14, 10/28, 11/4, 11/18, 12/2, and 12/9. This is a beautiful way to serve our parish community, ensure that parents can fully participate in OCIA, and bring others to the Church by supporting families on their faith journey. If you can support this ministry by helping even a few nights, please call Jammie at (228) 806-2641.



EVENING OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER
For the month of September we invite you to COME JOIN US on Monday, September 14th, at 6:30 p.m. in praying the ROSARY and EXPOSITION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT. CONFESSION will also be available.

God appreciates it most when we devote ourselves to intercessory prayer for others.

Come join us with Our Blessed Mother, who is our greatest intercessor, and intercede all your prayers and intentions to God!
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



Like Peter in today’s Gospel, we can find that when we open our eyes to see, our ears to hear and our hearts to experience Jesus’ presence in our daily lives, God reveals himself to us.
Have you considered answering the call to help serve the poor by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?



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. A 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.