

Today’s Gospel continues the story that began in [last week’s Gospel](#). Simon Peter was called the “rock” upon which Jesus would build his Church, and yet Peter continues to show the limitations of his understanding of Jesus’ identity. Now that the disciples have acknowledged that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus confides in them the outcome of his ministry: he must suffer and die in Jerusalem to be raised on the third day. Peter rejects this prediction, and Jesus rebukes him severely, calling him “Satan.” In opposing this aspect of Jesus’ mission, Peter shows that he is no longer speaking based on the revelation from God but as a human being. Jesus then teaches all of the disciples about the difficult path of discipleship: to be Christ’s disciple is to follow in his way of the cross.

Peter could not yet understand what it meant to call Jesus the Messiah. It is unlikely that the other disciples understood any better. Messianic expectations were a common aspect of first-century Judaism. Under Roman occupation, many in Israel hoped and prayed that God would send a Messiah to free the Jews from Roman oppression. The common view was that the Messiah would be a political figure, a king that would free Israel from Roman rule. This is perhaps what Peter envisioned when he was led to recognize Jesus as the Messiah. In this passage, however, Jesus is beginning to teach his disciples that he would be the Messiah in a different way.

Jesus would be more like the suffering servant described by the prophet Isaiah than the political liberator. Those who would be Jesus' disciples would be called to a similar life of service. Perhaps this is what Peter feared most in Jesus’ prediction of his Passion. He whom Jesus had called “rock” would also be called upon to offer himself in sacrifice and service to others. Christian leaders today are still called to sacrifice and serve others as Jesus did.



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@gmaio.com.



A Baptism Class will be held in the Rectory on Wednesday, September 2nd 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, September 4th at 7:45 a.m. (half hour before the 8:15 a.m. Mass).



You are invited to join us for the First Saturday Devotion on Saturday, September 5th at 7:45 a.m. (half hour before the 8:15 a.m. Mass) with Devotion, Consecration, Rosary and Benediction. Confession will be available.



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.



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

MASSSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY

1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Luke 4:16-30

6:30 a.m.

8:15 a.m.

TUESDAY

1 Corinthians 2:10b-16; Luke 4:31-37

6:30 a.m.

8:15 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Luke 4:38-44

6:30 a.m.

8:15 a.m.

THURSDAY

1 Corinthians 3:18-23; Luke 5:1-11

6:30 a.m.

8:15 a.m.

FRIDAY

1 Corinthians 4:1-5; Luke 5:33-39

6:30 a.m.

8:15 a.m.

SATURDAY

1 Corinthians 4:6b-15; Luke 6:1-5

8:15 a.m.

4:00 p.m.

SUNDAY

Ezekiel 33:7-9; Romans 13:8-10; Matthew 18:15-20

7:30 a.m.

9:00 a.m.

11:30 a.m.

5:30 p.m.



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 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 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.



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.

AUGUST 31

Mr. Joe Prejean

Ms. Gwen Noble

Int. Mr. Timothy Noble

SEPTEMBER 1

Ms. Dorothy Chedville

Van Thiel - Noë Family Tree

SEPTEMBER 2

Ms. Allison Dickinson

Int. Mr. Robert Sema

SEPTEMBER 3

Ms. Debbie Javorsky

Int. Fr. Steve Geerling

SEPTEMBER 4

Ms. Patricia Ozmun

Int. Mr. Daniel Schwartz

SEPTEMBER 5

The Jordan Family

The Pitalo Family

Int. Lynda & Bhaktan Krishnan

SEPTEMBER 6



September is the Month of Our Lady of Sorrows, which references the sorrows she endured as the Mother of Jesus.

As Catholics, we find great joy in our faith—but we also acknowledge that suffering is part of life. In fact, we go even further and believe that suffering is an essential part of life. That understanding is why we hang the crucifix on our wall and around our neck; we embrace the cross as our path to sanctification.

In that context, it makes sense that we honor Mary as Our Lady of Sorrows. She suffered more than any person other than her Son and she was given more grace than anyone else as well. We can learn from her example, and we can pray for her help in that difficult practice of “suffering well.”

The Seven Sorrows of Mary are portrayed visually with seven swords, often piercing her Immaculate Heart. Devotion to the Seven Sorrows of Mary began in the 1300s after Mary reportedly told St. Bridget of Sweden that it “Would bring great signal graces.” In her 1980’s apparitions at Kibeho, Rwanda, Mary shared that praying the seven sorrows rosary can help us be more penitent and obtain forgiveness for our sins. Whether you pray the rosary or otherwise meditate on Mary’s seven sorrows, they can help you find a deeper understanding of Mary and her Son and bring you closer to them both:

1. Simeon Prophecies Mary's Suffering
2. The Holy Family Flees to Egypt
3. Mary and Joseph Lose Jesus in Jerusalem
4. Mary Meets Jesus as He Carries the Cross
5. Jesus is Crucified and Dies
6. Jesus' Body is Taken Down From the Cross
7. Jesus is Buried

Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Compassion, I turn to you with filial confidence. You shared fully in the work of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose Death brought life to the world. Help me now to understand the truth about the divine compassion. Teach me to accept the sufferings that come into my life as you accepted obediently your own deep sorrows. Loving Mother of the Redeemer, you consecrated yourself by submitting to the divine plan. Obtain for me the grace to make my own submission to the same wise providence, now and at the hour of my death. Amen.

~DeLong, T (2021, September 15)

Honoring Our Lady of Sorrows. Catholic Women in Business

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.



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



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 Joyful Mysteries of 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, our greatest intercessor, and offer all your prayers and intentions to God!
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$8,551.24

Weekly Online Collection.....\$6,216.00

May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support



Elementary Youth Faith Formation Ministry Program (Grades K–5): Registration is being held through this weekend. 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 4th and 5th grades. To volunteer or ask questions, please contact Jane Sema at 228-217-1392 or jsema@osstalphonsus.org.



Edge is a Catholic Middle School Youth Ministry Program for 6th - 8th graders. Edge will start with a Parent/Youth meeting on Wednesday, September 9th with dinner at 6:00 p.m. and proceed with information and registration. All 6th - 8th graders are welcome.

Any questions, please contact Roxanne Moore at 228-235-8923. **Life Teen is a Youth Ministry Program for 9th and 10th graders.** Come learn your Catholic Faith and how to find the true joy that is meant for you. Classes start September 9th with a group supper at 6:00 p.m. and group meetings at 6:30 p.m. A Parent is needed in attendance the first night for registration. For more information, contact Jenny at 228-282-0984 or Lori at 228-383-1002.



Confirmation Classes for 11th graders (or a senior who has not been confirmed): A mandatory Parent/Youth meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 23rd at 6:30 p.m. All information will be handed out and the schedule will be discussed. Any questions please contact Kelley Fountain 228-424-6234.



Jeff Cavins’ The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation offers a powerful journey through Scripture, from Creation to the founding of the Church. Classes meet Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. For more information, call Beth at 228-324-4188.

A Biblical Walk Through the Mass: Join us for this six-session study exploring the biblical roots of the liturgy and the meaning of the Mass. Participants will reflect on how we unite ourselves with the Lord as He offers Himself to the Father in the sacrifice of the Mass. Classes begin Wednesday, September 9th, at 6:00 p.m.

For More Information: Contact Lisa at 228-382-4996.



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: 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.



Classes for Sunday Morning Adult Study are held after the 9:00 a.m. Sunday Mass in the Parish Hall. For more information, contact Sue Mihal at 601-573-0020 or Anne McClellan at 228-327-4040. All are invited to attend.

September 13: UFO’s and the Catholic Church, Daniel O’Connor

September 20: Introduction to the Catechism of the Catholic Church



The 4th Degree Knights of Columbus are raffling a Luxury Couples Getaway. Three prizes will be awarded:
* Beau Rivage spa day, dinner, and a room with a view
* Beau Rivage his-and-hers spa day
* The President Buffet dinner for four

The drawing will be held Sunday, November 8, 2026, during the Peter Anderson Festival. Tickets are \$10 each or three for \$20 and are available by contacting Chuck Nannery at 228-875-0267.