

Today’s Gospel directly follows last week’s account of Jesus feeding a crowd of more than 5,000 people with just five loaves of bread and two fish. For the sake of the crowds, Jesus had postponed his time of solitude. Now, at last, Jesus finds some time for quiet and prayer. He sends his disciples ahead of him by boat, dismisses the crowds, and then withdraws to the mountain to pray. The disciples do not fare well. They struggle to weather the wind and waves, making little progress in their journey. We are reminded of a previous story in [Chapter 8](#) of Matthew’s Gospel, when Jesus calms the seas. This time, however, Jesus does not calm the seas, and the disciples do not express fear until they see Jesus walking toward them on the water. In this story it is not the storm that is feared but the sight of Jesus before them, whom they mistake for a ghost. Clues like these suggest that this story is about the disciples’ growing understanding of the identity of Jesus. In continuity with [last week’s Gospel](#) about the feeding of the multitude, today’s Gospel is also about what the disciples’ faith in Jesus will enable them to do. In last week’s Gospel, when the disciples see the crowds, they ask Jesus to send the crowds away. Jesus turns the situation around, telling the disciples to feed the crowd with the provisions that they have. Both of these Gospels tell us much about ministry. Jesus calls to the disciples and calms their fears. He is not a ghost. The impulsive Peter seeks proof that the person is indeed Jesus. He asks Jesus to call him out onto the water, and Jesus grants this request. Peter’s fear and doubt overtake him, however, once he is walking on the water, Jesus reaches out to Peter and saves him. When Jesus and Peter enter the boat, Matthew reports that the wind ceases, and the disciples confess that Jesus is the Son of God. Faith in Jesus will enable the disciples to do the work that Jesus has done. Peter walks on water. The five loaves and two fish feed a multitude of people. The disciples can and will participate in the work of the kingdom of heaven. When Peter fears and doubts the person of Jesus, however, he falters. Peter’s example teaches us that true Christian ministry emerges from the faith that Jesus is the Messiah, God’s only Son. --Loyola Press



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.



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.



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Fleur Grace Donegan, aunt of Beth McMackin (Les), who passed away July 29th in Bellmawr, NJ. 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.....\$12,788.12
Weekly/Monthly Online Collection.....\$ 6,256.00
Poor Collection.....\$ 5,020.80
May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support



The Flowers on the Altar are in Honor of our Altar Society

MASSSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	AUGUST 10
2 Corinthians 9:6-10; John 12:24-26	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. R.J. Domingue
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Richard Smith
TUESDAY	AUGUST 11
Ezekiel 2:8—3:4; Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14	
6:30 a.m.	Thank You St. Jude S.S.
8:15 a.m.	Int. Ms. Cheryl Schwartz
WEDNESDAY	AUGUST 12
Ezekiel 9:1-7; 10:18-22; Matthew 18:15-20	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Percy Ferron
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Richard Edward Taylor
THURSDAY	AUGUST 13
Ezekiel 12:1-12; Matthew 18:21—19:1	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Jason David Scott
8:15 a.m.	Int. Ms. Olivia Karp
FRIDAY	AUGUST 14
Ezekiel 16:1-15, 60, 63; Matthew 19:3-12	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. William Juch IV
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Steve Sema
SATURDAY	AUGUST 15
1 Chron 15:3-4,15-16;16:1-2; 1 Cor 15:54b-57; Lk 11:27-28	
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Dorothy Gates Collins
	The Jordan Family
	The Pitalo Family
4:00 p.m.	Ms. Ann Wnukowski
SUNDAY	AUGUST 16
Rev 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Luke 1:39-56	
7:30 a.m.	Mr. Pat Cronin
9:00 a.m.	Congregation
11:30 a.m.	Dick and Liz Eckert
5:30 p.m.	Ms. Judy Meyers



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.



Altar Flower Donations: A flower arrangement in the altar area is a beautiful way to honor a deceased loved one or celebrate a special occasion. To reserve a specific weekend, please call the Rectory at 228-875-5419. The donation is \$50.00.



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 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.



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



OUR LADY OF SORROWS: You are invited to come and join us for the 8:15 a.m. Mass followed by the recitation of the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows (a rosary of repentance) on the third Saturday of each month. (i.e. August 15th). The purpose of our coming together is threefold: 1) To pray for all victims of sexual abuse 2) To pray in reparation for all the vile sins committed against the Body of Christ, and 3) To pray for the graces of repentance, healing, conversion and salvation of all souls!



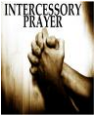
An anointing of the Sick will take place on Saturday, August 15th at 3:30 p.m. (before the 4:00 p.m. Mass) in the Church. This is for all elderly parishioners, anyone with an illness, or parishioners with elderly or homebound family members who may wish to receive this Sacrament.



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 times, please call Jamie Lloyd at 713-818-6071. Any help would be greatly appreciated.



A Second Collection will be taken up next weekend (August 15/16) for the Catholic Extension Society. Catholic Extension works in solidarity with people to build up vibrant and transformative Catholic faith communities among the poor in the poorest regions of America. Envelopes are available at the exits of the Church.



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 persons’ 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!



Our Elementary Youth Faith Formation ministry

program (Grades K – 5th) provides a safe fun place for youth to find a solid faith foundation, answers to questions they may have about the Catholic faith, learn how to pray and develop a personal profound relationship with Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Show your children how important God

is in our lives by registering them in St. Alphonsus Elementary Faith Formation. **Registration will be held August 16th through 31st.** Classes begin on Sunday, September 13th and will be held from 10:15-11:15 a.m. Forms are available online at osstalphonsus.org under Faith Formation-Registration and at each door in the church. Volunteers are needed to assist in the teaching of our Catholic faith. If you are interested in volunteering or have questions, please contact Jane Sema at 228-217-1392 or email: jsema@osstalphonsus.org.



Are you curious about the Catholic Faith or thinking

about becoming a 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.



Attention youth in grades 6–12, including

Confirmation candidates: An informational and signup meeting will be held Wednesday, September 9, 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 also 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, and we urgently need volunteers, including a lead volunteer for LifeTeen and others to assist. If interested, please contact the office during regular business hours at 228-875-5419.