

Today's Gospel reading directly follows [last week's Gospel](#) in which Jesus taught the disciples how to handle disputes and conflict within the Christian community. In today's reading Peter asks Jesus how many times one ought to extend forgiveness to another. Peter proposes a reasonable number of times, perhaps seven. Jesus replies by extending Peter's proposal by an enormous amount; not just seven times should one forgive, but 77 times. The parable of the unforgiving servant is Jesus' elaboration of his initial reply to Peter. Through the parable we come to understand the depths of God's mercy toward us and the results of our acceptance of God's forgiveness.

The king in the parable decides to settle accounts with his servants. We are told that one servant in particular owes the king an enormous sum of money. Despite the promise of the servant, it is unlikely that he would ever be able to repay the debt that he owes. The king is moved by the humility of the pleading servant and mercifully forgives the debt. Rather than displaying gratitude for this forgiveness, the servant confronts a fellow servant who owes him a small debt—a pittance when compared with the amount that was owed to the king. The unmerciful servant refuses the pleas of his fellow servant and sends the servant to prison.

A few other servants tell the merciful king about the actions of the unforgiving servant. The king punishes the servant because he refused to show the kind of mercy he had himself received from the king. Jesus concludes by indicating that this is how it will be with God and those who refuse to forgive one another.

There is a temptation to quantify forgiveness as Peter tried to do, but Jesus' point is that forgiveness is not about quantity—the number of times we extend forgiveness to another. In the parable the king's forgiveness is like God's forgiveness, and it transforms us, helping us to be as forgiving as God. The lesson is clear: If we hoard God's mercy while showing no mercy to others, we risk forfeiting the effects of God's mercy in our lives.

--Loyola Press



EVENING OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER

We invite you to 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.

Learn how to restore the threshold of authority in your home. When a threshold is no longer guarded, it becomes unmarked. An unmarked threshold is one of the worst things for families, because they no longer have control over their homes.

God appreciates it when we devote ourselves to intercessory prayer for others. Let us pray together with Our Blessed Mother, our greatest intercessor. EVERYONE IS WELCOME.



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.



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 Memory of Fr. Martin Gillespie

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$12,609.28
Weekly/Monthly Online Collection.....\$ 7,386.00
Monthly Poor Collection.....\$ 3,623.53

May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support

MASSSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY

SEPTEMBER 14

Numbers 21:4b-9; Philippians 2:6-11; John 3:13-17

6:30 a.m.

Mr. Leo Noble

8:15 a.m.

Mr. Thomas E. Wilson

TUESDAY

SEPTEMBER 15

1 Corinthians12:12-14, 27-31a; John 19:25-27

6:30 a.m.

Mr. Todd Klingensmith

8:15 a.m.

Mr. Charles Wnukowski

WEDNESDAY

SEPTEMBER 16

1 Corinthians 12:31—13:13; Luke 7:31-35

6:30 a.m.

Mathilde and Fernand Latour

8:15 a.m.

Ms. Jackie Endt

THURSDAY

SEPTEMBER 17

1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 7:36-50

6:30 a.m.

Ms. Maria Luisa Salvatierra

8:15 a.m.

Ms. Angeline Stout

FRIDAY

SEPTEMBER 18

1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 8:1-3

6:30 a.m.

Mr. & Mrs. George Pitalo

8:15 a.m.

Mr. A.O. “Herman” Soares

SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 19

1 Corinthians 15:35-37, 42-49; Luke 8:4-15

8:15 a.m.

Mr. Tony Ellis

Ms. Anita Grace White

Msgr. Gregory Kennedy

4:00 p.m.

Mr. Jeffrey Brochard

SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 20

Sirach 27:30—28:7; Romans 14:7-9; Matthew 18:21-35

7:30 a.m.

Ms. Marian O’Connor

9:00 a.m.

Ms. Helen Marie Wajda

11:30 a.m.

Mr. Ronnie Joe Seymour

5:30 p.m.

Congregation



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., 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, Jimmy Senac, 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.



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.



Congratulations to Bob and Joan Burres, this years recipients of the “Lumen Christi” Award.

The award, presented at the 4:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, September 12th at Nativity BVM Cathedral, honors individuals and couples nominated by their parishes for outstanding service.



The Altar Society will meet on Wednesday, September 16th at 9:30 a.m. in Columbus Hall (KC Hall). All are welcome to attend.



OUR LADY OF SORROWS: You are invited to 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. September 19th).

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, September 19th 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.



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



Classes for the Elementary Youth Faith Formation Ministry Program (Grades K–5) begin this Sunday, September 13th from 10:15–11:15 a.m.

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.



The Sacrament of Confirmation Class is for high school juniors and seniors wishing to be confirmed in the Catholic faith. Registration will be held in the KC Hall on Wednesday, September 23rd at either 4:00 p.m. or 6:30 p.m.

A parent is needed to be in attendance for registration. A schedule will be given out at registration and class will be held from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. For more information contact Kelley Fountain at 228-424-6234.



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.

Monday, October 5: Reception of Gifts and Setting of the Altar



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.



The challenge in today’s Gospel is to forget how others have behaved toward us and to look to God’s way of loving and forgiving. God should always be our focus.

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 Martin J. Gillespie, September 5, 2026

Reverend Nicholas Filipich, September 17, 2001

Reverend Patrick McDermott, September 17, 2017

Deacon Gregory E. Miller, September 22, 2017