

In today's Gospel, Jesus moves from Galilee to teach in Judea where he is sought out by great crowds and tested by the Pharisees on issues such as marriage and divorce. Jesus also encounters a rich young man who is unable to accept Jesus' demand that he leave his possessions to follow him. Jesus' response to the rich young man sounds very much like the conclusion we will find in today's Gospel: the first will be last and the last will be first.

On the surface, the parable of the workers in the vineyard appears to be an offense to common sense. Those who work a longer day ought to be paid more than those who work just an hour or two. When viewed in this way, the landowner seems unfair. That is because we are reading into the parable our own preconceived notions of how fairness and equality should be quantified.

A close read shows us that the landowner paid on the terms that were negotiated. The landowner, it seems, has acted completely justly. The parable goes beyond that, however, and we come to see that the landowner is not simply just, he is exceptionally just. He is radically just. He has given those who labored in the field for a full day their due pay. But he has also given a full-day's wage to those who worked only a single hour. No one is cheated, but a few receive abundantly from the landowner just as we receive from God more than what is merely justifiable or due. God, like the landowner, is radically just and abundantly generous. The workers who complain are made to look foolish as they lament the fact that landowner has made all workers equal. Indeed, what more could one ask for than to be treated as an equal at work or anywhere else?

The parable reminds us that although God owes us nothing, he offers abundantly and equally. We are occasionally tempted to think that our own actions deserve more reward, more of God's abundant mercy, than the actions of others. But God's generosity cannot be quantified or partitioned into different amounts for different people. When we think that way, we are trying to relate to God on our terms rather than to accept God's radically different ways.

--Loyola Press



A Second Collection will be taken up next weekend (September 26/27) for the Center for International Seafarers and Truckers. The Port of Gulfport Seaman Center is a Christian based ministry providing support to the seafarers and truckers who come to the port on a transient basis for work. This ministry provides spiritual guidance and services to those individuals. Envelopes are available at the exits of the Church.



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.



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.



The Flowers on the Altar are in Memory of Deacon Gregory Miller

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$8,433.45
Weekly Online Collection.....\$2,626.00
Catholic University Collection.....\$ 967.00
May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	SEPTEMBER 21
Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13; Matthew 9:9-13	
6:30 a.m.	Ella and Simon Gilbert
8:15 a.m.	Rev. Alfred L. Camp
TUESDAY	SEPTEMBER 22
Proverbs 21:1-6, 10-13; Luke 8:19-21	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Shirley Foster
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Bill Nichols
WEDNESDAY	SEPTEMBER 23
Proverbs 30:5-9; Luke 9:1-6	
6:30 a.m.	Int. Mr. Dale Murphy
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Alex Stout
THURSDAY	SEPTEMBER 24
Ecclesiastes 1:2-11; Luke 9:7-9	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Shaun Blake
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Eduard van Thiel
FRIDAY	SEPTEMBER 25
Ecclesiastes 3:1-11; Luke 9:18-22	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Craig Fountain
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Dianne Tootle
SATURDAY	SEPTEMBER 26
Ecclesiastes 11:9—12:8; Luke 9:43b-45	
8:15 a.m.	Int. Ms. Marley Severino
4:00 p.m.	Ms. Ligaya Camagong
SUNDAY	SEPTEMBER 27
Ezekiel 18:25-28; Philippians 2:1-11; Matthew 21:28-32	
7:30 a.m.	Ms. Peggy Closson
9:00 a.m.	Mass of Thanksgiving
11:30 a.m.	Congregation
5:30 p.m.	Mr. Jack Hillensbeck



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, 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.



St. Alphonsus Church App – You are able to download our parish app on your iPhone or Android by texting **App** to phone number 55321, or by visiting myparishapp.com.

Stay connected with our parish throughout the week with instant notifications regarding our parish life and an easy-to-access event calendar as well as many more great features such as daily Mass readings, Catholic news, prayers and prayer reminders, **quick access to our weekly bulletin, Church website (osstalphonsus.org) and FORMED.**

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PRAY FOR VOCATIONS



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 20: Introduction to the Catechism of the Catholic Church
September 27: CCC Divine Revelation...Sacred Tradition



Classes for the Elementary Youth Faith Formation Ministry Program (Grades K–5) are held on Sunday, from 10:15–11:15 a.m. To volunteer to be a substitute teacher or to 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 for classes 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 training on these specific 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.



In today’s Gospel Jesus tells us a parable that teaches us how great and generous God is, and that he calls us to this same gratness and generosity.
As you put your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul’s poor box, know that you are putting your faith into action.



The Blessed Mother promises that praying the Rosary devoutly will lead to numerous graces, including special protection and the flourishing of virtue. The Rosary serves as a powerful spiritual armor against evil and helps deepen one's relationship with God. Please join us in praying the ROSARY every weekday, Monday through Saturday after the 8:15 a.m. Mass in the Church. Everyone Is Welcome.