

Today's Gospel follows directly after [last Sunday's Gospel](#) in which Jesus was questioned by Jewish religious leaders about the source of his teaching authority. After refusing to answer their questions, Jesus tells the parable of the two sons and then criticizes the priests and elders for their lack of belief in John the Baptist.

In today's Gospel, Jesus once again speaks to the priests and elders with a parable. In this parable, the landowner leases his vineyard to tenants and sends his servants to collect the portion of the harvest that the tenants owe to him. Several times the servants are sent to collect payment, and each time they are beaten and killed by the tenants. Finally, the landowner sends his son to collect his rent. The tenants, believing that they will inherit the vineyard if the landowner dies without an heir, plot together and kill the landowner's son.

After telling the parable, Jesus questions the chief priests and elders about what the landowner will do to the wicked tenants. They all agree that the landowner will kill the wicked tenants and give the land to new tenants who will pay the rent.

In telling the parable, Jesus is clearly drawing upon Isaiah 5:1-7, which is today's first reading and one that the priests and elders would have known well. Jesus doesn't, therefore, have to explain the symbolism of the parable; the Pharisees would have understood that the vineyard represented Israel, the landowner represented God, the servants represented the prophets, and the bad tenants represented the religious leaders. Yet Jesus nonetheless explains the meaning of the parable for his audience: the Kingdom of God will be taken from the unbelieving and given to the faithful. The chief priests and elders have condemned themselves with their answer to Jesus' question.

Today's Gospel has a parallel in [Mark 12:1-12](#). There are some notable differences, however. In Matthew's version, the religious leaders condemn themselves; in Mark's Gospel, Jesus answers his own question. Matthew names the religious leaders as Pharisees and chief priests. Clearly this Gospel shows the tension that was mounting between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders who thought that his message was dangerous. Matthew's Gospel was written about 70 years after Jesus' death and reflects the conflicts and tensions found in the Christian community for whom Matthew was writing. Many biblical scholars believe that the tension between Matthew's community and their Jewish neighbors can also be heard in today's reading.

This Gospel reminds us of the importance of listening to God's word. God speaks to us in many ways—through Scripture, through our Church tradition, in our Church's teaching, and through modern-day prophets. Are we attentive and receptive to God's word to us through these messengers? --Loyola Press

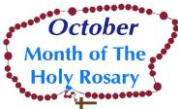


Serving at the altar is an honor and an important service to our parish. Youth who have received First Communion are eligible to serve. Hands on training for new and returning servers will be held in the Church from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. with specific training on certain parts of the Mass. Please call the office at 228-875-5419 to register for each specific training session.

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

Monday, November 9: Holy Communion and Purification of Vessels

2027 TBD: Benediction After Mass and Clearing of Vessels



As we pray the Rosary before each Mass, consider making it a daily practice at home with your family—or simply with your spouse. Praying together is a meaningful way to strengthen family unity. As the saying goes, “The family that prays together stays together.”



Throughout October, ushers will count all men, women, and children attending each weekend Mass, as required by the Diocese for every parish.

MASSSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY

Galatians 1:6-12; Luke 10:25-37

6:30 a.m.

8:15 a.m.

TUESDAY

Galatians 1:13-24; John 10:38-42

6:30 a.m.

8:15 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Galatians 2:1-2, 7-14; Luke 11:1-4

6:30 a.m.

8:15 a.m.

THURSDAY

Galatians 3:1-5; Luke 11:5-13

6:30 a.m.

8:15 a.m.

FRIDAY

Galatians 3:7-14; Luke 11:15-26

6:30 a.m.

8:15 a.m.

SATURDAY

Galatians 3:22-29; Luke 11:27-28

8:15 a.m.

4:00 p.m.

SUNDAY

Isaiah 25:6-10a; Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20; Matt 22:1-14

7:30 a.m.

9:00 a.m.

11:30 a.m.

5:30 p.m.

OCTOBER 5

Simon and Barbara Latour

Int. Mr. & Mrs. Kyle Grieves

OCTOBER 6

Ms. Annette Lawrence

Ms. Marge Bailey

OCTOBER 7

Int. Ms. Mara Lou Guice Richards

Mr. Tom Hanes

OCTOBER 8

Ms. Anne Morgan Touns

Mr. Charles Jensen

OCTOBER 9

Int. Ms. Marge Kennedy Galle

Mr. Jeremy Forehand

OCTOBER 10

Int. Ms. Doris Sema

Ms. Deborah Tootle

Mr. Charles Goff

Mr. Rodney Goff

OCTOBER 11

Congregation

Int. Deacon Jim and Toni Gunkel

Ms. Hazel Pitalo

Mr. Bryan Moe



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, Judy Picciano, 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. Terrie Young 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.



October is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary in the Catholic Church. We spend this month honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary through daily prayer of the rosary while meditating on the life, death and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The rosary is a spiritual weapon and a powerful tool for growth in intimacy with Jesus and fulfilling God's will. What better way to honor our Mother this month than to visit her Son in our chapel. He is available to us every hour of every day. He is waiting!



Ideas to consider this month:

- Change your phone wallpaper to an image of the rosary to remind you of its beauty and to pray it daily.
- Aim to pray the rosary every day of October.
- Pray the rosary for someone else's intentions.
- While praying the rosary, meditate on the fruit of each mystery, asking for that fruit as it relates to your intention.
- Learn more about approved Marian apparitions.
- Buy a friend a rosary, sharing with them why you love to pray it, and spread the devotion.

"Cling to the Rosary as the creeper clings to the tree — for without Our Lady we cannot stand. The family that prays together, stays together, and if you want peace in your heart and your home, pray the Rosary every day. Our Lady has never refused me anything I have asked through the Rosary. She is our tender Mother, eager to grant all we need if only we will come to her with trust and love."
~St. Teresa of Calcutta

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.



In observance of Right to Life Month, Walking with Moms in Need will host a month-long baby shower throughout October. Collection boxes will be available at each church entrance for diapers of all sizes, wipes, formula, new or gently used baby and toddler clothing, toiletries, equipment, and other baby essentials. For questions or more information, call Margaret at [228-217-4742](tel:228-217-4742) or Mary at [228-348-6092](tel:228-348-6092).



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.

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 Peter Quinn, October 8, 2004
Reverend James B. Taylor, October 17, 2004
Monsignor Andrew L. Murray, October 20, 2009
Monsignor Francis Quinn, October 22, 1990
Most. Rev. Roger P. Morin, October 31, 2019
Deacon Ben Wimberly, October 14, 2017
Deacon Patrick T. Houghton, October 20, 1998
Deacon Jack Hunter, October 26, 2018
Deacon Rene’ J. Moniot, October 28, 2003



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

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Wednesday Night Faith Formation
Next Class will be held on October 14th
Dinner begins at 6:00 p.m. followed by the individual Group Classes at 6:30 p.m.

Edge for 6-8 Grades

Contact Roxanne at 228-235-8923

Life Teen for 9 & 10 Grades

Contact Christy at 228-219-6189

Confirmation Class – 6:30 p.m.

Contact Kelley at 228-424-6234

OCIA: Two volunteers needed for childcare

Contact Jammie at 228-806-2641

Adult Bible Study – Bible Timeline

Contact Beth at 228-324-4188

Adult Bible Study - Walk Through the Mass

Contact Lisa at 228-382-4996



PLEASE JOIN US: You are invited to join us in praying the rosary outside on the lawn at the Villa Maria on Saturday, October 10th at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome! We are looking forward to praying with you!



You are invited to come to a Marian Movement of Priest Cenacle Mass on Tuesday, October 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the Church. Mass, Rosary, and Consecration



EVENING OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER
Please join us on Monday, October 19th, at 6:30 p.m. with Fr. Mike Snyder for a night of Healing, the Holy Face of Jesus, with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Prayers of Deliverance, Sacrament of Reconciliation and the prayers of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Throughout life we all acquire wounds; whether they be physical, emotional, mental, or spiritual. They need to be healed and brought into the light of Christ. A large portion of Jesus' earthly ministry was a healing ministry; as well as to teach the Apostles: "Then he summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits to drive them out and to cure every disease and every illness" (Matthew 10:1). That healing did not stop once Jesus ascended into heaven. Through the Sacraments and prayer, Jesus continues to give us the avenue to receive healing from Him.

PLEASE JOIN US, ALL ARE WELCOME!



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 October 26th - October 30th.

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.



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.

October 4: CCC Continuing Divine Revelation...Sacred Tradition

October 11: CCC...Faith...Response to God's Love

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$8,558.25

Weekly Online Collection.....\$3,138.00

Seafarers & Truckers Collection.....\$1,153.00

May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support