In this week's Gospel, Jesus talks about what it means to be prepared to receive the Kingdom of Heaven. This week's reading follows a series of warnings and predictions by Jesus about the coming of the Son of Man. Jesus wants his disciples to understand that the exact day and time cannot be predicted. He teaches the disciples that they must remain vigilant so that they will not be caught unprepared.

When thinking about the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, it is important to consider the first-century wedding traditions of Palestine. Scholars tell us that it was the custom of the day for young maidens—friends and family members of the bride—to meet the bridegroom when he came to bring his bride to her new home.

As with many of Jesus' parables, several levels of interpretation are possible. In last week's Gospel, we heard Jesus warn against following the example of the Pharisees and scribes. If read in the context of early Christianity's struggle to define itself against Pharisaic Judaism, this parable is a continuing critique of Judaism. It suggests that the Jewish leaders were like the foolish virgins, unprepared to meet Jesus, the bridegroom of Israel.

In the chapter preceding this parable, however, Jesus warns about the destruction of Jerusalem, the tribulation of the end times, and the coming of the Son of Man. When read in this context, today's parable is a warning to the Christian community to remain vigilant and prepared to receive Jesus, the Son of Man who will return at the end of time. This interpretation is supported by the reference to the delay of the bridegroom. The Christian community for whom Matthew wrote this Gospel was coming to terms with the realization that the promise of Jesus' return would not be fulfilled within their lifetimes. The question remains for us to ask ourselves, Are we ready to receive Jesus? Will we be prepared to receive him?

--Loyola Press

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CONSTRUCTION UPDATE
From Starks Contracting Company, Inc

The bulk of the demolition work has been completed with the exception of some select demolition that has to occur when we go to make our tie-in's to the existing breezeway and church. We received the concrete reinforcing steel package a few weeks ago and are currently excavating and pouring concrete foundations. The structural foundations at the Breezeway have been placed and we are currently excavating and placing structural footings for the new Front Covered Entry. We anticipate having all the structural footing in place within the next week or so and will move into forming and pouring the new vestibule slab-on-grade and column piers. The structural steel package is arriving any day now and we anticipate starting to fly steel and begin to lay exterior masonry block walls within the next few weeks. Shortly thereafter, we will start looking at forming and pouring the elevated cast-in-place entry roof structure.



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



PLEASE JOIN US: You are invited to join us in praying the rosary outside on the lawn at the Villa Maria on Saturday, November 14th at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome! We are looking forward to praying with you!



St. Alphonsus Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Saturday November 14th in the Columbus Club Hall from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon.

Everyone is welcome to join and share their joy for knitting and crocheting or to learn a new skill. Please contact Karen Futch at 228-861-9407 if you are interested in joining.



Please pray for the repose of the soul of Carolyn Morano, wife of Ronald Morano Sr. and sister of Stephen (Jude) Howell of this parish, who passed away on October 29th.

We extend our sympathy to the family and promise them a remembrance in our prayers. May God grant her eternal peace.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY NOVEMBER 9
Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; 1 Cor 3:9c-11- 16-17; John 2:13-22
6:30 a.m. Mr. Theo Laborde
8:15 a.m. All Souls

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10
Titus 2:1-8, 11-14; Luke 17:7-10
6:30 a.m. All Souls
8:15 a.m. Int. Ms. Lisa Manley

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 11
Titus 3:1-7; Luke 17:11-19
6:30 a.m. All Souls
8:15 a.m. Int. Mr. Lex van Thiel

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 12
Philemon 7-20; Luke 17:20-25
6:30 a.m. Dec/Int Frederick Norden Family
8:15 a.m. All Souls

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 13
2 John 4-9; Luke 17:26-37
6:30 a.m. Int. Ms. Becky Fink
8:15 a.m. All Souls

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 14
3 John 5-8; Luke 18:1-8
8:15 a.m. Int. Ms. Milly Ann Menar
Int. Deacon Mike Henry
All Souls

4:00 p.m. Thank You St. Jude

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 15
Prv 31:10-13,19-20,30-31; 1 Thess 5:1-6; Matt 25:14-30
7:30 a.m. Mr. Jimmie Spell
9:00 a.m. Int. Louis and Irma Stiglet
11:30 a.m. All Souls
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, Sändra 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, 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.



The Flowers on the Altar
are in Honor of
Gene and Marcella Janus
on their 57th Wedding Anniversary



November is the Month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory

In the Catholic Church, the month of November is dedicated to remembering and praying for the souls of the deceased, especially those who may be in purgatory. All Saints' Day on November 1st honors all saints, known and unknown. All Souls' Day on November 2nd is a day to pray for all of the faithful departed. This month is a time for reflection on life, death, and hope for eternal life. An excellent way to pray for these holy souls is to offer your time in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. These souls need our prayers.

Ways to pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory:

-Think of a quick task you do every day and pray for the souls in purgatory while doing it. For example, say an Our Father and a Hail Mary while making coffee or emptying the dishwasher.

-Go to a cemetery this month and pray for the dead to gain a plenary indulgence for the souls in purgatory.

-Change your phone screen to the prayer for the Holy Souls in Purgatory by St. Gertrude the Great: "*Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen."*

-Stop in the chapel once a week to pray a rosary for the Holy Souls in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

Praying for the dead is referenced in 2 Maccabees 12:46, "Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be absolved from their sin."

"Let us not hesitate to help those who have died and to offer our prayers for them." St. John Chrysostom

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.

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.

November 8: No Class – Peter Anderson
November 15: CCC…Conceived by the Spirit

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, November 9: Holy Communion and Purification of Vessels
2027 TBD: Benediction After Mass and Clearing of Vessels

As a ministry of St. Alphonsus Catholic Church, our school works each day diligently to form young disciples through a well-rounded education rooted in our Catholic faith. A special collection will be taken up next weekend (November 14/15) to support their annual Saints Fund, which covers essential operational needs, including faculty professional development, student enrichment opportunities, and upkeep of school facilities. We are deeply grateful for our parish community's continued generosity and investment in the mission of Catholic education. Thank you for helping us inspire our students to *Live Like Saints, Learn For Life!*



EVENING OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Mark your calendar and join us on Monday, November 16th at 6:30 p.m. in the Church.

As a reminder of our duty to pray for the suffering faithful in Purgatory, the Church has dedicated the month of November to the Holy Souls.

Please come join us for the scriptural rosary, confession and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Every time we, the Church Militant, pray for the Holy Souls, we assist them on their pilgrimage to heaven. We recognize the compassion of the Almighty bestowed upon them through the prayers and the merits of Mary, the Mother of the Poor Souls, and the intercession of St. Joseph.

The Holy Souls are in desperate need of our prayers. We must come together and pray with Our Blessed Mother with all our hearts to help the Holy Souls to see the face of God.

Wednesday Night Faith Formation
Next Class will be held on November 18th
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: November 11th at 6:30 p.m.)
Contact Kelley at 228-424-6234
OCIA
Contact Jammie at 228-806-2641
Adult Bible Study – Bible Timeline (November 11th)
Contact Beth at 228-324-4188
Adult Bible Study - Walk Through the Mass
Contact Lisa at 228-382-4996

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 Vincenzo D. DiLalla – November 2, 1990
Reverend Patrick Martin – November 16, 1991
Reverend Noel Fannon – November 19, 2019
Reverend Antone Lynch – November 20, 2019
Reverend Michael Leane – November 23, 1987
Deacon Tom Miller – November 18, 2017
Deacon Harold Gaule – November 20, 2018
Deacon Truett Roberts – November 25, 2021



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 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.

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection……...……...$13,009.70
Poor Collection……..$ 3,543.00
Weekly Online Collection……..$ 4,097.91

May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support