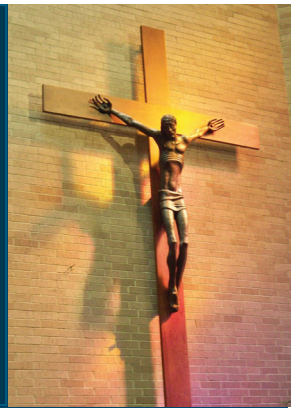




St. Alphonsus Liguori Catholic Church

Greenwell Springs, Louisiana
Diocese of Baton Rouge



4th Sunday of Advent - December 24, 2017 - Volume 9, Issue 52

"The child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God." - Luke 1:35



A Christmas Blessing

O God, whose Son was born in Bethlehem, on that wondrous night, lead us to the same place where Mary laid her tiny child.

As we look on in wonder and praise, make us welcome Him and all new life, and care for His handiwork; the earth, the sky, the sea, and all life.

O God bless us again in Your great love.

We pray for this through Chris our Lord.

Amen.

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm
Sunday 8:00 am, 10:00 am & 12:00 pm

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Formation Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Daily Masses/Communion Services

Monday thru Friday 8:30 am
Novena on Tuesday 8:30 am

Holy Day Masses

As Announced

Reconciliation

Tuesday 8:00 am (during Lent)
Saturday 3:00 pm and by appointment

Prayer Line

261.5145....Mary Frederick
261.8854....Adam Landry

Baptism

Contact Robin Debetaz at the Parish Office in the early months of pregnancy for dates and preparation requirements.

Marriage

Contact Blair Millet at the Parish Office six months to one year prior to projected wedding date for information concerning preparation programs.

Funerals

Contact Robin Debetaz at the Parish Office for arrangement information.

Christian Initiation of Adults

If interested in becoming a Catholic and want more information on the process call the Formation Office, 261.4644.

J.A.M. (Jesus and Me)

During the school year for ages 3, 4 and 5 at 10:00 am Mass

Children's Liturgy of the Word

During the school year at the 10:00 am Mass. For children kindergarten through 2nd grade.

St. Alphonsus School

School Office 225.261.5299
School Cafeteria 225.261.4157

Website: www.stalphonsusbr.org

Parish Calendar of Events December 22 - 31, 2017

Friday	8:30 AM	Mass
		Church Office Closed
Saturday	4:00 PM	Mass - 4th Sunday of Advent
Sunday	8 AM, 10 AM	Mass - 4th Sunday of Advent
	4 PM, 6 PM, 8 PM	Mass - Christmas Vigil
Monday..	8:00 AM	Christmas Mass
	10:00 AM	Christmas Mass
		Church Office Closed
Tuesday..	8:30 AM	Mass
		Church Office Closed
	6:30 PM	Grief Support - St. Clare
Wednesday..	8:30 AM	Communion Service
Thursday..	8:30 AM	Mass
Friday..	8:30 AM	Mass
		Church Office Closed
Saturday..	4:00 PM	Mass
Sunday..		New Year's Eve
	8 AM, 10 AM, 12 PM	Mass

Community Life

Pray for our Expectant Families

Pray for expectant families who are members of the parish and have been entrusted with a new life to nurture and love.

Chris and Bryce Fontenot, Dustin and Brittany Phillips, Chase and Cheryl Ranlett, Tim and Sarah Love, Pete and Marlana Firmin, Matthew and Angela Englade, Benjamin and Katie Foret, Brynn and Chase Martinez, Chase and Lacie Viola

If you are an expectant family, let us know so that your parish family can pray for you and your baby. Please contact the Parish Office, 261-4650, to arrange for your names to be listed in our bulletin.

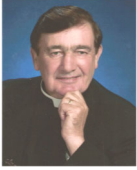
Wedding Anniversary Milestone Celebration

St. Alphonsus to Honor Milestone Wedding Anniversary Couples

On Saturday, February 3rd at the 4:00 PM Vigil Mass we will be honoring couples married in the Catholic Church who are celebrating special wedding anniversaries, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th, 55th, 60th, and above, in 2018. A reception will follow for the honorees, their family and friends. Couples celebrating are asked to RSVP to the church office, 261-4650, by January 11th, 2018. If you are celebrating one of the above milestone anniversaries and have not received an invitation letter, please call the church office to request one.

Mission Statement

We are a faith-filled community who,
through prayerful discernment,
call forth the gifts of the Spirit given to each individual,
that Christ may be known in our community
and in our world.



Christmas Is God's Gift to Us, Let Us Be a Gift to Each Other

Christmas time is a wonderful sign of God's love. So many people give time, talent, and treasure in the many events taking place in our parish. The generosity of everyone to the Living Giving Tree is very evident with the many gifts of your wonderful expression of generosity in your desire to help others. These events remind us of the true meaning of Advent and Christmas. There are numerous ways our parish gives back by way of St. Vincent de Paul and the many who give unconditionally, not only at times like Christmas, but through the year, and this makes St. Alphonsus a very special place. In a society where we are bombarded with messages hour after hour, day after day, it is beautiful to see people step back from all of this and take care of so many who are in need. The modern conveniences of life can be a great blessing in various ways when they are used for the good they are intended to be used for.

While we have many demands calling for our attention, it can be difficult during the Christmas season to hear the voice and the call of God through His church and His word. During this season, God particularly invites us to hear the message of His love for us as we prepare for this Christmas event in our lives. It can be so difficult for us to hear God's call, and many times we will say, "God would never call me like He called Mary and Joseph, St. John the Baptist, or St. Paul."

Yes, it is true that God may not call you and I in such an extraordinary way, yet he calls us each by name to do the ordinary things of life in an extraordinary way. We should never doubt that God speaks to us each day. The difficulty is that it is hard in the midst of the business and the noise of our lives to hear that call. We all know that it is not easy to find peace and quiet when you're raising a family, maybe working two jobs, or when the events of our lives seem to overwhelm us. Christmas is, however, that time that the Church invites us to step back from the busyness of life and call forth from within ourselves what is important to us. Christmas is not religious nostalgia but rather a very real awareness that Jesus is continually reborn in hearts and lives in way of God's love for us. Christmas can be a time to be reflective and grateful for the many who touch our lives with the blessings they share with us. As a staff here in the parish, we are deeply touched on a daily basis with the generosity of so many. We are most grateful for this, especially during this Christmas season.

Christmas can be that time to be grateful for those who touch your life each and every day. The greatest gift is your thanks and prayers for them. The gift under the tree is a gift, but you are the real gift to those you care for when you take time to be so. From all of us here on the staff, we wish you a very peaceful and blessed Christmas.

Fr. Mike

Pastor	Rev. Michael J. Moroney <i>mmoroney@alphonsus.org</i>
Executive Director	JoAnn Stein <i>joann@alphonsus.org</i>
Permanent Deacon	Robert Kusch <i>rkusch@diobr.org</i>
Permanent Deacon	Ronnie Hebert <i>rjhebert@diobr.org</i>
Permanent Deacon	George Hooper <i>ghooper@alphonsus.org</i>
Director of Formation	Olga Johnson <i>dre@alphonsus.org</i>
Youth Minister	Lynette Shaffett <i>youth@alphonsus.org</i>
Finance Manager	Melissa LeSage <i>melissa@alphonsus.org</i>
Parish Nurse	Stephanie Gaudin <i>stephanie@alphonsus.org</i>
Communication Secretary	Blair Millet <i>blair@alphonsus.org</i>
Parish Secretary	Missy Savoy <i>msavoy@alphonsus.org</i>
Formation Secretary	Cindi Schlatre <i>cindi@alphonsus.org</i>
DRE Assistant	Kaitlyn Johnson <i>kaitlyn@alphonsus.org</i>
Receptionist	Robin Debetaz <i>rdebetaz@alphonsus.org</i>
Maintenance	Ronnie Deaton Mark Mitchell <i>maintenance@alphonsus.org</i>
Custodian	Michelle Morgan
School Principal	Dr. Cynthia Ryals <i>cryals@stalphonsusbr.org</i>

Contact Information

St. Alphonsus Liguori Catholic Church
14040 Greenwell Springs Road
Greenwell Springs, LA 70739.3302
Office Phone—225.261.4650
Fax—225.261.5650
Formation Office—225.261.4644
Website: www.alphonsus.org

Pastoral Council

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Trustee Linda Housewright
Trustee Darryl Serio
Donna Blanchard
Ashley Boyle
Joe Bossier
Lisa Deaton
Tessa Dembre
Matthew Englade
Bobby Harris
Debbie Sartwell
Rev. Michael J. Moroney

Ladies Altar Society

The Ladies Altar Society had their Christmas Luncheon on December 5th at the "New" Duke's Restaurant.



Remembering Our Children Candlelight Service



Prime Timers Committee, from the Prime Timers Christmas Dance



Have a Blessed and Merry Christmas!

Formation



Join us for CoffeeBreak

Friday, January 12th - St. Francis Room
Start the new year with a morning of prayer and continued reflection on "Celebrating The Mass" with the ladies of CoffeeBreak. It's not too late to join us, as we have a few extra books and there is no homework involved.

9:15 AM - Coffee and Refreshments begin

9:45 AM - Prayer and Meditation

10:15 AM - Small Group Study

Take some time for yourself and the Lord. Join us for a spiritual and relaxing morning!! We look forward to meeting you.

If you have any questions, please contact Jackie at 261-2116 or avon1.jackie@gmail.com.

First Reconciliation

First Reconciliation books are due the week of January 2 - 5, 2018. The date for the Sacrament of Reconciliation is Thursday, January 18, 2018, at 7:00 PM in the Church

Learn More About Your Catholic Faith

Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith, Church History, the Sacraments, Catholic Scripture, and many more topics? Consider taking one of our many Ministry and Theology (MAT) courses for only \$15 each! Some courses are offered on various campuses around the diocese and some are offered online. They are open to everyone and are taught by very talented instructors from around our diocese! To learn more, visit the Office of Evangelization & Catechesis website at evangcatbr.org under the Certification tab. We would love to have you join us! If you have any questions, reach out to our staff at 225-336-8760.

Learning Group

Learning Group will resume on Sunday, January 7, 2018. Have a very Merry Christmas and a safe New Year!

Confirmation Year 2 Retreat



Outreach

Pray For the Sick

Please note: Names are removed after eight weeks. Call the office to put name back on the list.

Babette Vlahos, Pat Matthews, J.K. Malone, Joy Lonibos, Phyllis Lasserre, Sharon Loeb, Margaret Smith, Laurence LeSage, Jaycee Richard, Gary Saucier, Darrell Firmin, Alexander Landry, Rita Neck, Datz Family, Schittone Family, Donner Stein, Earline Brown, Ronnie Collette, Jane Mizell, Marlene LeBlanc, Catherine Willis, Edna Ellis, Lynette Shaffett, Tiffany Penton, Barbara Dearie, Larry Bueche, Ashley Smith, Charlie Crawford, Larry Crawford, Arlene Picard, Monica Hudson, Hope Broadus, John Robers, Ashley Usie, EJ and Caroline Graffeo, Marlene Buhler, Kenny Acord, Mary Beth Browning, Fisk Morris, Jean Firmin, Lisa Graffeo, Mollea Hood, Ashlea Hood, Michael Morales, Ray Amond, Shawn Kean, Dana Rogers, Gloria "Jinkie" Phillips, Theresa Ognibene, Adrian Kaiser, John Larkin, Savannah McNair, Briggs Elliser, Anita Bueche, Anna Kirby, Jamie Samson, Doug Langlois, William Hanegan, Annaleigh Fontenot, Gayle McGrew, Mildred Faul, Charlie Firmin, Lee & Kathy Madere, Paden Mouton, Krystal Feltman, Dot Bourgeois, Melanie Way, Sandy Dares, Ashlynn Ferguson, Barbara Simoneaux, Millie Strickland, Ouida Davis, Barbara W. Flake, Douglas Cooper, Allan Eddy, Sally Stears, John Nicosia, Holly Hart, Anthony Collette, Jeff Ferguson, Ian Davis, Anthony Rodriguez, Liam Thistlewaite, Al Felps, Nina Creel, Nancy Hill, Sonya Hunt, Billy Stears, Luke Allen, GiGi Chenevert, Dr. Stephen Speeg, Cheryl Watson, Betty Bellelo, Jack James Datz Jr., Ray Lefleur, Blanche Hoover

Serving Our Country

If you have a family member serving in the military overseas please call the parish office, 261-4650, and let us know the name, rank and branch of military.

ARMY: ... Captain Chad A. Alford, Warrant Officer Jody K. Hunt, Captain Brian C. Greco, Specialist Sam Lockwood, Sgt. Richard Dupuy, Specialist E-4 Charles N. Garner, Specialist Ryan Smith

LA NATIONAL GUARD: ... Spec4 Terrell Vidrine, Scott Armand

AIR FORCE: ... Airman First Class James Barbier, Sr. Airman E-4 Travis Wilson

NAVY: ... Lt. Col. Glenn P. Lumpkin, Jr., Chad Domm, AD3 Tyler Comeaux

U.S. MARINE CORPS: ... Captain Blaine Ballard

St. Vincent de Paul

At the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas party on December 11th, outgoing president, Karen Graves, welcomed incoming president, Debbie Johnson, and vice president, Jackie Guidry.



Health Fair is Coming

Mark your calendars for our Health Fair, which will resume after a long hiatus. This year's theme is "Happy, Healthy New Year." It will be held on January 20th from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon in the St. Francis Room. There is a great need for assistance to make this a special event. People are needed to help with setup, cleanup, registration, door prize procurement, and refreshments. Those parishioners with clinical skills are needed for different areas. Door prizes are also needed. If you would like to donate a door prize or wish to help, please contact Stephanie Gaudin at the parish office or email stephanie@alphonsus.org.

2017 Living Giving Tree



Worship

Readings for the Week

Monday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27-29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
 During the Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
 Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
 Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18

Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 105:1-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Hb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]

Flowers in the Church

Want to place flowers in the church in memory or in honor of a loved one? Contact the Parish Office at 261-4650 to schedule a weekend that you would like to have flowers in church.

Administration

Gifts of Stewardship

The shepherds who heard the joyous news from the angels on that first Christmas night and then hurried to find the infant Savior must surely have been changed by that experience. How has His coming changed my life?

For December 9 - 10, 2017
 your *Stewardship* resulted in:

Weekly Collection

Envelopes	\$ 20,125.00
Unidentified	\$ 1,176.00
WeShare	\$ 5,130.00

Building/Maintenance Fund

Envelopes	\$ 1,801.00
WeShare	\$ 1,160.00

Children's Collection	\$ 33.50
Immaculate Conception	\$ 1,212.00
St. Joseph Abbey Flood Relief Fund	\$ 4,674.00

Total Received

\$ 35,311.50

 (225) 400-9977 4808 S Sherwood Forest Blvd. Baton Rouge, LA 70816 \$2.00 Off Lunch w/the purchase of 2 lunches. Dinner \$4.00 Off on the purchase of another dinner.	Serving the Central Community For 20 Years DB Associates Accounting & Tax Service 11247 Sullivan Road Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70818 225-261-9711 FAX 225-261-4016	 • Patio Covers • Carports • Screen/Glass Enclosures • Awnings • Gutters • Sunrooms FREE ESTIMATES • Since 1972 • 272-7252 12379 Greenwell Springs Rd. • www.superiorpatiosales.com	 <i>Your ad could be in this space!</i>
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