



St. Alphonsus Liguori Catholic Church

The 1st Sunday of Lent - February 21, 2021 - Volume 13, Issue 8

"Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me your paths."

— Psalm 25:4

LENTEN MOVIE NIGHT



Viewing

THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST

Wed., Feb. 24, 2021
at 7 PM in the Church

*This movie is rated R.
For that reason, children
will not be allowed to attend.*

**ATTENDANCE WILL BE LIMITED.
RSVP - FLOCKNOTE / ALPHONSUS.ORG**

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 AM- 4:30 PM

Formation Office— 225-261-4644

Formation Office Hours: Tuesday- Friday 8:30 AM- 4:30 PM

Church Website: www.alphonsus.org

Church Facebook: St. Alphonsus Catholic Church

Church Twitter & Instagram: @StAlphonsus_BR

ST. ALPHONSUS SCHOOL

School Principal Dr. Cynthia Ryals
cryals@stalphonsusbr.org

School Office— 225-261-5299

Cafeteria— 225-261-4157

School Website: www.stalphonsusbr.org

School Facebook: St. Alphonsus Catholic School

ANSWERS TO ETHICAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINES

The development of vaccines to combat the COVID-19 pandemic has received much public attention and raised several ethical questions related to their development and use. This document is intended to provide concise answers to some of those ethical questions as well as links to more in-depth resources.

Is it true that there is a connection between some vaccines and abortion?

Yes. Several decades ago, tissue harvested from the bodies of aborted babies was used to create certain cell lines for research purposes. The cells in these lines are, in effect, the descendants of those cells that were originally harvested. They have been made to replicate themselves and some cell lines can be reproduced indefinitely. These abortion-derived cell lines are used as a “factory” to manufacture certain vaccines (e.g. rubella, chickenpox, some of the COVID-19 vaccines, etc.). The cells themselves, however, are not present in the vaccines that patients receive.

What does the Church say about abortion-derived cell lines and their connection to vaccines?

The Holy See, through the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Pontifical Academy for Life, has provided guidance on this topic on four occasions. This guidance has made it clear that it is wrong to create abortion-derived cell lines and for pharmaceutical companies to utilize them, that the use of vaccines produced with such cell lines should be avoided if comparable alternatives with no connection to abortion are available, that grave reasons (e.g., serious health risks) may justify the use of vaccines produced with these cell lines when there are no such alternatives, and that everyone concerned for the sanctity of life should protest the use of these cell lines and advocate for the development of vaccines with no connection to abortion.

Do COVID-19 vaccines use abortion-derived cell lines?

As of the date of this writing, hundreds of vaccines for COVID-19 are in development worldwide, and more than a dozen are in the final stages of testing. Some don’t use abortion-derived cell lines at all, some have used such cell lines to test the vaccine’s efficacy, and some are using such cell lines in the development and/or the production phases. There are currently two vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) being distributed for use in the United States, and there are others that are likely to be made available in the coming months (e.g., AstraZeneca, Janssen, etc.). Neither Pfizer nor Moderna used an abortion-derived cell line in the development or production of the vaccine. However, such a cell line was used to test the efficacy of both vaccines. Thus, while neither vaccine is completely free from any use of abortion-derived cell lines, in these two cases the use is very remote from the initial evil of the abortion. The AstraZeneca and Janssen vaccines raise additional moral concerns because an abortion-derived cell line is used not only for testing, but also in development and production.

Is it morally acceptable to receive a COVID-19 vaccine that uses abortion-derived cell lines?

Given that the COVID-19 virus can involve serious health risks,

it can be morally acceptable to receive a vaccine that uses abortion-derived cell lines if there are no other available vaccines comparable in safety and efficacy with no connection to abortion. If it is possible to choose among a number of equally safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, the vaccine with the least connection to abortion-derived cell lines should be chosen. If a vaccine with no connection to abortion-derived cell lines is not readily available, vaccines that used such cell lines only for testing would be preferable to those that use such cell lines for ongoing production. Such choices may not be possible, however, especially in the early stages of vaccine distribution. In that case, one may receive any of the clinically recommended vaccines in good conscience with the assurance that reception of such vaccines does not involve immoral cooperation in abortion.

Is there a moral obligation to receive a COVID-19 vaccination?

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has noted recently that “vaccination is not, as a rule, a moral obligation and that, therefore, it must be voluntary. In any case, from the ethical point of view, the morality of vaccination depends not only on the duty to protect one’s own health but also on the duty to pursue the common good.” And it said that “in the absence of other means to stop or even prevent the epidemic” vaccination may promote the common good, “especially to protect the weakest and most exposed.” For a vaccine to be effective in protecting society, most people need to be vaccinated in order to break the chain of disease transmission from person to person throughout the community. The Congregation also said that those who refuse to get vaccinated must do their utmost, by taking all the necessary precautions, to avoid “becoming vehicles for the transmission of the infectious agent. In particular, they must avoid any risk to the health of those who cannot be vaccinated for medical or other reasons, and who are the most vulnerable.”

What can those who uphold the sanctity of life do to protest against the use of abortion-derived cell lines and advocate for ethical vaccines?

First, inform yourself and others about how some vaccines are connected to abortion through the use of abortion-derived cell lines, and about which vaccines use such cell lines. Second, inform your doctor about this connection and ask him or her to provide ethical vaccines, when possible. Third, urge pharmaceutical companies and medical researchers to discontinue using abortion-derived cell lines, and thank them when they do.

Are the COVID-19 vaccines safe and effective?

The bishops are not and do not claim to be authorities on the safety and efficacy of vaccines. People should rely on information from authoritative sources in the field of medicine and public health, such as the Food and Drug Administration and qualified health care professionals. The FDA affirms that the vaccines authorized for emergency use in the U.S. have met all the safety and efficacy standards required for such authorization.

Where can I find more information on this topic?

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (www.usccb.org/prolife/biomedical-research)

National Catholic Bioethics Center (www.ncbcenter.org)

Charlotte Lozier Institute (www.lozierinstitute.org/category/genetics)

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil 4:00 PM

Sunday 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM & 12:00 PM

Live Stream

Sunday 10:00 AM on Facebook & YouTube

Daily Masses

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:30 AM

Novena on Tuesday 8:30 AM

Holy Day Masses

As Announced

Children’s Liturgy of the Word

For children kindergarten through second grade.

Ministry currently on hold until further notice.

SACRAMENTS & RESOURCES

Baptism

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

Reconciliation

Saturday 3:00 PM and by appointment

Christian Initiation of Adults

If interested in becoming Catholic and want more information on the process, call the Formation Office at 225-261-4644.

Marriage

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

Anointing of the Sick

You can receive this sacrament during a serious illness, before a major surgery, or for spiritual and mental healing. Contact the Parish Office for more information.

Funerals

Contact Robin Debetaz at the Parish Office for arrangement information.

Formed

Go to formed.org and enjoy access to this free online Catholic gateway with our parish access code- 9R9K3M.

Prayer Lines

Mary Frederick 225-261-5145

Adam Landry 225-938-8000

WORSHIP

Welcome! Is this your first visit?

We are delighted to have you join us for worship at St. Alphonsus, and we hope you will return often. If you have moved into the area, we invite you to become a parishioner by going to alphonsus.org, clicking "Register as a Parishioner" image under Latest News on the homepage, and filling out our online registration form.

Readings for the Week - Feb. 22 - 28

Monday: 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6; Mt 16:13-19
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32
Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12
Friday: Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48
Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116:10, 15-19; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

Worship Guide for Mass

To help you follow along during Mass, we are offering a Worship Guide on our website. On a computer or smart phone, go to www.alphonsus.org and click on the teaser that says **Live Stream & Worship Guide**. We encourage everyone to follow along.

Divine Mercy Novena

Join us in praying the Divine Mercy Novena each Wednesday at 6:00 PM in the church during this Lenten Season. Social distancing and masks are required. The Novena will also be streamed live on the St. Alphonsus website, Facebook, and YouTube. Our Lord said, "Through the Chaplet you will obtain everything, if what you ask for is compatible with my will."



Stations of the Cross

Friday, February 26, 2021
6:30 PM in the Church

The Stations of the Cross theme this week is for Healing and feature anointing by Fr. Mike. Please join us for "The Way of the Cross with text from the Scriptures," the traditional Stations of the Cross.



OUTREACH

Rest in Peace

Jay Graham - Husband of Karen Graham.

Homebound? Need Holy Communion?

Do you know someone who is unable to attend Mass due to illness, frailty or other problems and wants to receive Holy Communion at home? St. Alphonsus has Eucharistic ministers who bring the comfort of Christ in the form of the Eucharist to those who cannot physically come to Mass. Contact Susan Hankel at the Church Office at 261-4650 to arrange these visits.

Serving Our Country

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

ARMY: Major Chad A. Alford, Warrant Officer Jody K. Hunt, Capt. Brian C. Greco, Specialist Sam Lockwood, Specialist E-4 Charles N. Garner, Lt. Col. Keith Madere, Capt. Joseph Sherwin (Chaplain), Brian D. Duvic, Chief Warrant Officer Ryan Martin, PFC-MP Ethan Russell

LA NATIONAL GUARD: Spec4 Terrell Vidrine, Scott Armand, Lt. Col. Hal P. Bridges, First Lt. Jacob Haynes, PFC-E3 Cody M. Talbot

AIR FORCE: Staff Sergeant James Barbier, Airman First Class Madison T. Polk, Airman First Class Kristin Nijoka, Capt. Kyle Holifield

NAVY: Com. Glenn P. Lumpkin, Jr., Chad Domm, AD3 Tyler Comeaux, MMA3 Daniel Wesley, GMSN Seth Minard, Seaman E3 Evan Hayes, Seaman Apprentice E2 Bret Burns

U.S. MARINE CORPS: Major Blaine Ballard, Tyler Datz, Eric Vlahos

U.S. COAST GUARD: SME3 Dylan Lirette

Pray for the Sick

Please note: Names are removed after eight weeks.

Billy Stears, Luke Allen, Betty Castor, Blanche Hoover, Carolyn Watts, Marlene Ortego, Gwen Moore, Wick Samson, Jeanette Felps, Claudia Mouton, Jackie Pina, Betty BeJeaux, Ashley Nix, Wayne Alexander, Albert Penny, Connie Messina, Mark Corrick, Hubert Chauvin, Leah Gioele, Olivia Gioele, Kevin Murphy, Brandon Menesses, Alex Menesses, Jimmy LeSage, Larry Stevens, Buddy Domig, Josie Johnson, Paulette Peters, Christy Cartaginese, Kelli Campo LaCroix, Sonja Chauvin, Poonie Fruge, Zoula Fruge, Michelle Richard, Buddy Doming, Tom & Mary Arceneaux, Delores Baptillee, Pat Matthews, Joy Lonibos, Sharon Loeb, Laurence LeSage, Jaycee Richard, Gary Saucier, Darrell Firmin, Alexander Landry, Sally Stears, Monica Kelly, Devin Mounce, Chris Bringol, Daniel Guerin, Janice & Barton Jeansonne, Mark Davis, Curtis Mitchell, Doris Bennett, Datz Family, Schittone Family, Jane Mizell, Marlene LeBlanc, Catherine Willis, Lynette Shaffett, Larry Bueche, Ashley Smith, Chris Dickerson, John Martone, Jackie Scardina, Fisk Morris, Mollea Hood, Michael Morales, Gloria "Jinkie" Phillips, Theresa Ognibene, John Larkin, Savannah McNair, Briggs Elliser, Anita Bueche, Jamie Samson, Louis Lamar Bordelon, Mildred Faul, Kathy Madere, Krystal Feltman, Melanie Way, Sandy Dares, Ashlynn Ferguson, Barbara Simoneaux, Millie Strickland, Wayne & Carolyn Rogillio, Patsy York, Angie Welsh, Kenny Miller, Stevie Calverley, Sandy Ardoin, Ashley Coker, Monica Meche, John Desselle, Maggie Petre, Clay Guillory, Susan Menesses, Christy Mannino, Alan Bourgeois, Patrick Bourgeois, Beckie Gurley, Michael & Jordan LeMay, Tien Nguyen, Johnny Bassett, Karen Rabalais, Russell Comeaux, Holly Hart, Jeff Ferguson, Liam Thistlewaite, Al Felps, Nicholas LaCroix, P.H. Zito, Patsy Sagona, Dammers Family, Debbie Mouton, Marion Robillard, Ron Dodson, John Nicosia, Trey Spears, Henry Soniat, Jr., Mary Rogers, Bonnie Clark, Cindy LaTour, Bryant Morrow

St. Vincent de Paul Conference

The St. Alphonsus St. Vincent de Paul Conference currently serves 80 local families through the Food Pantry, which distributes food every Wednesday morning. On February 10, 2021, many cars formed a line on Frenchtown Road, and volunteers worked quickly to fill each vehicle with groceries. *Photos by Debbie Johnson.*



COMMUNITY LIFE

Updating Parish Census Records

Over the next few months, our church staff will be calling all registered families to check in and update your family's listing in our parish data system. If you think your contact information is outdated, please call the Church Office at 261-4650 to let us know how to reach you. If you would prefer to update your family's census information online, please go to www.alphonsus.org and follow the link under Latest News or Forms.

Download Our App

On your mobile device, download the "Church by MinistryOne" App. In the app, search "St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish" and select our church. In the app, you will be able to access online giving, stream Masses, read the bulletin, and register or edit your family's church census. To edit your family's census records, select "Registration" and fill out the form, selecting "Census Update" if you are already registered at St. Alphonsus Church. If you have questions, please call 225-261-4650.



Retrouvaille

In marriage, communication is more than just talking. At some point, did you stop sharing about the things that were important to you? Did your spouse? Improving a marriage takes time and a conscious effort to learn about your spouse. Growing closer in a marriage does not happen automatically. Retrouvaille is a marriage program dedicated to helping couples grow closer and develop a stronger bond. You give your heart and soul to everything you do, between your work and your family. Are you giving your heart and soul to your marriage? Sometimes the distance between a husband and a wife can seem so wide that it cannot be repaired. Retrouvaille is a marriage program designed to bring couples closer together. For confidential information about our local Retrouvaille Weekend program for couples (March 5-7, 2021), contact: Bill and Missie @ 985-232-5963 or visit our website: HelpOurMarriage.org.

Expectant Parents

Pray for expectant families who have been entrusted with a new life to nurture and love: **Caleb & Sara Puissegur, Michael & Mackenzie Yarbrough, and Austin & Korie Hunt.** If someone you know is expecting, call 225-261-4650 and let us know.



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**Sunday, March 21
1 pm - 4 pm**

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Walk to Jerusalem Program



Parishioners are invited to once again participate in the WALK TO JERUSALEM program, which was developed by St. John Providence Health System and designed to increase the physical, spiritual, and emotional health of participants. **The goal is to walk enough miles through the Lenten season to reach Jerusalem by Easter. Our path from St. Alphonsus to Jerusalem is a total of 6,885 miles.**

If your fitness calling does not include walking or running, no need to worry. Any fitness or cardio activity (such as swimming or biking, to name a few) lasting 20 minutes will count as 1 mile on this journey to Jerusalem.

Each week participants will be able to submit their mileage in one of two ways:

1. **Submit your name and mileage via the link on the church website by Friday at 10 AM:**

www.alphonsus.org/lent

2. **Call the Church Office and let us know your name and mileage by Friday at 10 AM each week. We will collect and update the mileage in the church announcements each week.**

This year we will be offering a list of cathedrals you can visit virtually while on our journey. For the beginning of our journey, check out the following cathedrals on our path to Jerusalem (*links to these churches can be found on Lent page at alphonsus.org*):

Baton Rouge, LA - St. Joseph Cathedral - Founded in 1792

Alexandria, LA - St. Francis Xavier Cathedral - Founded in 1834

Jackson, MS - Cathedral of St. Peter the Apostle - Founded 1846

Birmingham, AL - Cathedral of St. Paul - Founded in 1893

Next week see the church bulletin and church website for additional cathedrals to learn about along our journey. We hope you will join us on this spiritual journey as we become more physically active while also deepening our relationship with God!

****Please note that there is no formal sign-up or registration required. Anyone can join in each week and submit their mileage.***

Weekly Scriptures/Meditations: First Sunday of Lent

"Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me your paths, guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior."

Psalms 25: 4-5

Reflection: My God, I cannot walk without you. I don't know the way. For if I didn't have you, where would I go? Teach me to walk in your footsteps, and guide me to everlasting life with you.

Health message: If you are unsure what changes to make to your diet, try keeping a food diary. In the diary, list all the foods you eat, when you eat them, how much you are eating, and how you feel before/after you eat. This will help keep track of your actions and decisions around food. Maybe you should cut back on sugary drinks or limit your portion of starches. A food diary is a great place to start when looking for areas of improvement. Challenge—Keep a food diary for 1 week.

FORMATION

Confirmation Year 2

Confirmation Year 2 meeting Sunday, February 21, 2021. We will begin at 5:30 PM in the Church and end at 7:30 PM. If you have missed a Confirmation session, please contact the Faith Formation Office to schedule a time to do a make-up session. If you need to complete Confirmation forms, most forms are located on the parish website www.alphonsus.org.

At Home Faith Formation

The third meeting for At-Home will be held on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 7 PM in the church. Bring books and assignments to be checked. Assessments will be given in each grade.

Adult Confirmation

Adult Confirmation program will begin soon. This program is for baptized Catholics, age 18 or older, who are practicing their faith but have not completed their Sacraments of Initiation in the Catholic Church. Candidates are given the opportunity to (re)discover the essentials of our Catholic Faith. If you or someone you know is interested, please call the Faith Formation Office at 261-4644. Candidates should call the Faith Formation Office to schedule their interview the week of March 9-12, 2021. Classes begin on Tuesday, March 16, 2021.

Pray for our Students

Please continue to pray for all of our candidates that are preparing for Sacraments of 1st Eucharist and Confirmation.

ADMINISTRATION

Gifts of Stewardship

For February 6-7, 2021, your *Stewardship* resulted in:

Weekly Collection

Envelopes	\$ 17,490.00
Unidentified	\$ 1,009.00
WeShare	\$ 2,266.00
Parish Soft	\$ 5,287.00

Building/Maintenance Fund

Envelopes	\$ 3,788.00
Unidentified	\$ 357.00
WeShare	\$ 30.00
Parish Soft	\$ 1,180.00

Children's Collection

\$ 73.00

Eastern Europe

\$ 382.00

Retirement Fund for Religious

\$ 50.00

Total Received

\$ 31,912.00

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