

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

The opening verse of the Gospel; *“The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.”* sets the theme for his Gospel. Unlike others Matthew and Luke, Mark does not begin his Gospel with the birth of Jesus, rather he reveals the identity of the man Jesus as *‘the Son of God’*, which is ultimately pronounced by a pagan soldier at the foot of the cross saying, *“He is truly the Son of God.”* By revealing the identity of Jesus as the son of God, Mark wants all of us to understand that Jesus is part of God’s saving plan to be fulfilled from the very beginning of creation. This opening verse is also the profession of faith.

Now, the First Reading provides the background for the Gospel reading. John the Baptist emerges here as the immediate forerunner of Jesus. *“Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of youPrepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.”* The prophetic cry made in the Old Testament is echoed in the New Testament through the Gospel of Mark, and St. John the Baptist responds to it by going around and proclaiming *“a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.”* Today, the echo reflected in the New Testament should be heard in our hearts. But how many of us are able to hear the echo and act upon it? If we Christians are not ready to hear and respond to this echo, whom do you expect to respond? If we fail to respond to the cry of the prophet; *“prepare the way of the Lord, and make straight his path,”* absolutely we have no right to celebrate Christmas in our lives; however, if we try to celebrate it without spiritual preparation of repentance of forgiveness, be sure, it is only a show. Remember, Jesus is not concerned about the decorations you have at your home. He is not concerned about the costly gifts you share among your dear and near ones. He is not concerned about the delicious food you are planning to prepare for Christmas. He is concerned about how well we have prepared in our hearts to welcome Him in our hearts. If Jesus is not in our hearts during our Christmas celebration, our celebrations becomes only an art. The call of the Gospel today is to *“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.”* John responds to the call by calling people to *“a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.”* He calls for a spiritual preparation. A spiritual preparation is crucial and important for the coming of the Messiah. The response of the people to his call of conversion is noteworthy, that the people confessed their sins. Today, the question for us is-am I ready to straighten my path of life according to the will of God, for Jesus to come into my life?

Travelling in the United States by road every road and street have their own names, so that without much difficulty and confusion we might reach our

destination. The same way, as Christians, we are on our final Journey to the Kingdom of God, but if we do not care about the road or street name called repentance, be sure we will miss our final destination. Does anyone follow the manual of a Toyota car, to function his or her Ford car? It is a common sense that we have to use the right manual. But when it comes to our own personal life, do we follow this simple common sense? Being created in the image and likeness of God, often we are tempted to use the manual of Satan and his foolish promptings and get into all kinds of troubles, rather than following the manual of God and promptings of the Holy Spirit to enjoy happiness. The result of this is lack of common sense we are experiencing in our daily lives. The season of Advent and St. John the Baptist in today’s Gospel are calling us to get back and use our common sense and follow the correct life manual of God for a healthy spiritual life or to say, live according to the will of God. Think about the story of the Prodigal Son, the Gospel says, *“when he came to his senses...”* he thought about his loving father and happy home and returns home. The same way, Repentance is a moment of regaining our lost senses, and going back to loving God and to His home. Let us ask the Eucharistic Lord to give us humility of heart to acknowledge our sins and there by acknowledge God and His will in our lives. **May the Good Lord Bless you.**

“Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could”
St. Gregory Nazianzen

St. Sebastian - Happy Birthday
Patricia Hayden - December 6
Andrea Searcy - December 6
Earlene Abney - December 8
Nathan Floyd - December 9
Jackson Lee - December 10
Sean Cooper - December 11

St. Charles - Happy Birthday
Beverly Hack - December 8
George Rhodes - December 13

Thanks to everyone for your generous contributions to Our Churches during this unfortunate time. God Bless & Be Safe.

Financial Report - November 29, 2020
St. Sebastian- Amount Needed: \$2,938.09 weekly
Regular Collection \$ 1,994.00 - 944.09
Emergency Fund \$ 305.00
Human Development \$ 25.00

Financial Report - November 29, 2020
St. Charles - Amount Needed: \$1,147.46 weekly
Regular Collection \$ 620.00 - 527.46
Emergency Fund \$ 50.00

Mass Schedule
December 6 - 13

Sunday - Second Sunday of Advent
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Dr. Robert Kraus Family
-10:30am - Mass at St. Charles
Randy Joe Marcum

Monday - Saint Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church (Memorial)
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Lisa Young
-5:30pm - Mass at St. Charles
Amelia Evans

Tuesday - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Robert Vollman

Wednesday - Advent Weekday
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Joe Bickett
-5:30pm - Mass at St. Charles
Stella Fogle

Thursday - Advent Weekday
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Martin Hamilton

Friday - Advent Weekday
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Justin Durbin

Saturday - Our Lady of Guadalupe
-5:30pm - Mass at St. Sebastian
V.J. Steele Jr.

Sunday - Third Sunday of Advent
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Joe Hayden
-10:30am - Mass at St. Charles
Randy Joe Marcum

Prayer List for members of our community:
Melanie Mayes, Jason Evans, Stella Ibrahims, Elaine West, Lisa Jackson, Howard Hillard, Brett McPherson, Stephanie Payne, Kathy Hudson, Evelyn Drury, Teresa Jones, Ethan Settle, Tom Schutte, Kim Staples, Katherine Roberts, Patricia Hardison, Tommy England, Dennis Millay, Todd Tichenor, Patricia Hayden, Jim Lebold, Jimmy Clayton, Candace Miller, Mary Jewell, Charlie May, David Abrams, Jackie Lee, Debbie Neal, James & Paula Tichenor, Tony Calvert, Mike Dant, Alice Durbin, Jim Logsdon, Betty Bickett, John Muster, Pat Calhoun, Kyle Hicks, Kathy Owen, James Lewis Dant, Gloria Farmer, Lisa Vaught, Louis Dant, Jacinta Tichenor, Sonny Renfrow, Laurine Sexton, & Brenda Payne

Guidelines for Resuming Parish Gatherings Outside the Liturgy

- Limit the persons in attendance to no more than 25.
- Maintain physical distance of six feet minimum from those not living within the same household.
- Wear face covering over mouth and nose. Based on CDC recommendations, everyone over the age of two must wear a mask for the duration of any event or meeting held on parish property. Those unable to wear a face mask at the event, whether it be due to age (the CDC does not recommend those under the age of two to wear a mask), health condition, or preference, are asked to stay healthy at home.
- Conduct temperature and health checks for each participant.
- Ensure proper, frequent cleaning and sanitation of the gathering space, including restrooms.
- Encourage those at high risk to stay Healthy at Home.
- Maintain a record of all persons attending the event/meeting and their contact information.
- Follow State of Kentucky Healthy at Work Requirements for Restaurants and Bars for any form of food service. A summary follows:
 - o No indoor food or beverage consumption.
 - o Carryout and delivery encouraged.
 - o Outside tables or booths should be placed six (6) feet apart.
 - o Only those living within the same household should sit together.
 - o Use disposable napkins, tablecloths, utensils and condiments. Condiments must be single-use, disposable packages.
 - o If non-disposable linens (such as cloth napkins, tablecloths, wiping cloths) are used, they must be laundered between uses.
- Ensure that gloves are worn by employees/volunteers who clean or handle high-touch areas of the gathering space.
- Encourage volunteers and attendees to frequently wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer, provided by the event organizer.
- Use appropriate disinfectants to clean frequently touched surfaces and shared equipment.
- Use signage to alert attendees of required occupancy limits, six feet of physical distance and the facial covering requirements.
- Parishes should add a rider to rental contracts specifying that the renter is bound to abide by all government and diocesan restrictions that are in place at the time of the event.

Saint Alphonsus Catholic Church
Part Time – Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant

Saint Alphonsus Catholic Church in Owensboro, Kentucky is seeking a **Part-Time Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant.**

Qualifications: High school diploma, Minimum 2-3 years’ experience of performing office duties, Applicant should have good organizational skills, telephone skills; bookkeeping skills and general office skills. Candidate will need to have knowledge of Microsoft programs and accounting software. Must have the ability to communicate effectively and cordially in both verbal and written form, and be able to work independently, multi-task and successfully complete a criminal background check.

Contact Details: Saint Alphonsus Catholic Church is an equal opportunity employer that provides a wide range of benefits. All interested applicants may submit a resume: Fr. Anthoni Ottagan, Anthoni.Ottagan@pastoral.org, or 7925 State Route 500, Owensboro, KY, 42301.

Please pray for our Military
MMN1 Andrew Logsdon, SSgt. James (J.P.) Dye, John Randall Zaremba, Major Jack Kaina, Major Bradley Summers, Lance Corporal Marine Joseph Ryan Hunter, Lt. Col. Michael Rezebek. A.B. Phillip Wilson, Specialist 4 Chaz McKay, Sgt. Adam Dickey & Corpsman Aly Franklin