

**ST. ALPHONSUS**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
504 Jackson Avenue  
Ocean Springs, MS 39564  
228.875.5329  
Deacon David Allen, Principal  
Mrs. Judy Illich, Asst. Principal  
**#calledtobeasaint**  
[www.stal.org](http://www.stal.org)

# The Deacon's Desk

...a Parent Guide to the Week Ahead at St. Alphonsus Catholic School

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**School Advisory Council:**

Matthew Mestayer  
George Sliman  
Dr. Gregory Patiño  
Esmeralda Stadthagen  
Sheila Kowalewski  
Fr. Michael Snyder  
Deacon Jim Gunkel

**Back Pages...**

PAGE 2: BOOSTERTHON info  
PAGE 3: The Lord is My Help for MARCH...  
THANK YOU for your help!

**Coming Up...**



<b>Boosterthon Pep Rally—</b> Monday, 2:15, Gym	<b>MAR 9</b>
<b>PTO Meeting—</b> Tuesday, 8AM or 6PM, Cafeteria	<b>MAR 10</b>
<b>Stations of the Cross—Friday,</b> 2:30, Church	<b>MAR 13</b>
<b>Boosterthon Free-Dress Day</b> Monday, for pledgers only	<b>MAR 16</b>
<b>Report Cards Issued—</b> Wednesday	<b>MAR 18</b>
<b>Boosterthon Fun-Run Event</b> Thursday	<b>MAR 19</b>
<b>“Fun on the Lawn”—Friday,</b> 3:45-5:30	<b>MAR 20</b>

**Volunteers Needed for Test Week: March 30-April 2**



Once again this year, our school is utilizing PARENT VOLUNTEERS for ITBS test proctors. **CAN YOU HELP?** Having parents volunteer will free-up our activity teachers to maintain regular classes for younger grades, and keep the school running smoothly during testing week. **PLEASE SEND ME AN EMAIL** ([dallen@stal.org](mailto:dallen@stal.org)) with your name and valid email address and phone number **if you can help me. We need up to seven (7) parents (grandparents, etc.) PER DAY, Monday-Thursday 8:30-12:00 for the week of April 8-12.** Please specify on the email which days you can work and not work, and I'll get back with you soon to confirm your schedule with us. In about a week or so, I'll schedule a quick training in my office for test proctors (keep an eye on your email). MANY thanks for assisting us with our ITBS testing!

*Deacon David*

**Liturgy Lookout: This Week in Mass...**

**Humility begets Exaltedness...**

As we journey further into Lent, the theme of the need for humility grows increasingly louder, and we see this in our readings this week. This message is timely for us in this age, as we continue to see the influences of the secular world try to teach us that this life is all about us and our own selfish needs. While our self-esteem may be important, the world has taught us that this life should be devoted to us doing all we can to gain a place in the spotlight (as Zebedee's wife tries to win for her sons in Wednesday's gospel).

But on the contrary, we learn this week that true greatness is measured not by our prominence before others, but by how well we serve the needs of others. In Tuesday's gospel, Jesus condemns the Pharisees for their constant self-promotion in the public forum and tells His disciples, "Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, but whoever humbles himself will be exalted." In the other readings this week, the same theme is echoed, such as the story of Lazarus and the rich man (Thursday). As this story teaches, when we work to gain prominence in this life only, the

consequences are disastrous. The rich man's sin was one that can happen to many of us without even thinking: overlooking the poor in our midst. How many times do we avoid the beggar at the gas station or grocery store? Or skimp on our tithing because we're "having a tight month"?

Another sin we need to avoid is jealousy, which is preached in the readings on Friday. The popular Bible stories of Joseph (being thrown into the cistern) and the parable of the vineyard owner's son show just how savagely the sins of pride and jealousy can take hold of us without even realizing it. In our own times, jealousy has crept into the political spotlight through class warfare, redistribution of wealth disguised as taxation legislation, etc. How do we avoid this? As preached in several readings this week, we need only to turn to God and earnestly repent of our sins. No matter what they are, He stands ready to forgive and create us anew!

Humility truly begets exaltedness in the heavenly kingdom. Our children know this well... how do I know? I regularly visit their religion

classes and witness first-hand their amazing extemporaneous prayers and intentions. Their hearts are in the right place! That is the greatest gift of a Catholic education. The spirituality of our school is sound and growing, and we hope you are joining us this Lent to witness this with us! Remember, you have an open invitation to mass and stations of the cross each Friday, as well as all the other great events taking place throughout the school. For a real treat, come early one morning into the Pre-K hall and stay for our PK3, PK4 and Kindergarten classes' Lenten devotional each morning... it will warm your heart and prepare you for an amazing Lenten weekday. And let's face it, humility begins at home, and you're doing a wonderful job as parents giving your children the foundation they need for a successful life in service to Christ. We are a part of your family, and we love you as part of *our* family, as well. Let's continue having a holy and meaningful Lent, and we'll see you at mass!

Blessings and Peace,

*Deacon David*



## **THIS MONDAY is Our Pep Rally Kick-off Day**

Two quick reminders:

1. Pledgebooks are coming home **MONDAY, March 9th!**
2. Complete your challenge by logging on to [FUNRUN.COM](https://FUNRUN.COM) by this MONDAY and get your FIRST PLEDGE!

Parents and Families,

Monday our **Boosterthon Fun Run** will kick-off with an exciting Pep Rally. This year, we're raising funds for **technology, STEM resources, and playground equipment**, and we need your help! The first step is to register your student on [FUN-RUN.COM](https://FUN-RUN.COM) using our school's registration code (**639749**) or by searching our school name. After that, please support us by gathering pledges from family and friends and entering them on [FUNRUN.COM](https://FUNRUN.COM). Your student should be bringing home a Pledgebook this MONDAY—make sure to check it out to learn more about our fundraiser. Thanks for helping us make **St. Alphonsus Catholic School** even better!

The generosity of our parents, families, and sponsors will help us to reach our **\$18,000** goal. Just log those pledges on [FUNRUN.COM](https://FUNRUN.COM)—it's that simple!

Also, please save the date —**THURSDAY, MARCH 19th**— to come cheer on your students at the **BOOSTERTHON GLOW FUN RUN**. It's going to be so much fun. Hope to see you there!

### *To register your child/children...*

1. Go to [FUNRUN.COM](https://FUNRUN.COM)
2. Click Sign Up
3. Click blue tab - I'm a Parent/Guardian
4. Create Account (input personal information)
5. Search for St. Alphonsus School or enter code 639749
6. Enter child's name and choose grade (may add additional students)
7. Once sent, click no more students

### *AFTER you register your child/children...*

1. Click Add Photo and upload a picture of your child.
2. Once you complete the photo editing, click Save Photo to Create Video. (Your personalized video may take up to one hour to process)
3. Click blue Save and continue tab at the bottom of the page.
4. You will then receive an email once the pledging video is ready to share.

For the month of March, we will collect:

**Canned meats**  
**Canned fruit**  
**Peanut Butter**  
**Pasta**  
**Spaghetti Sauce**

For The Lord Is My Help



*"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me in". (Matthew 25:35)*

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