

**ST. ALPHONSUS**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
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# The Deacon's Desk

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

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## School Advisory Council:

Esmeralda Stadthagen  
Sheila Kowalewski  
Kristen Owens  
Kevin O'Connell  
Brian Sanderson  
Fr. Michael Snyder  
Deacon Jim Gunkel

## Parents at Mass...

Unless it proves to be too crowded (and we don't think it will), we'd like to open-up school masses to any parent who'd like to attend if your child is at mass that day! Please enter through the cloister doors (despite the sign saying otherwise). We'll see you soon!

## Coming Up...



12:00 Dismissal, Report Cards, Parent Conferences— <i>Monday</i>	JAN 11
PTO Virtual Meetings (& State of the School Address) — <i>Tuesday, 8:00 A.M. or 6:00 P.M.</i>	JAN 12
MLK, Jr. Holiday— <i>Monday</i>	JAN 18
2:00 Dismissal <i>Wednesday</i>	JAN 20
Catholic Schools Week— Monday–Friday	JAN 31 –FEB 6

## Two Teachers Receive Grants!



Congratulations to Mrs. Natalie Toomey in 4th grade, who has received an EEE Grant from Mississippi Power Company for general classroom use, and to Mrs. Suzanne Dudiak who has received a grant from Ingalls which will provide virtual reality devices for use in fifth and sixth grade science classes. We are so proud of these two teachers for their hard work, as we know you are... CONGRATULATIONS!



## Noon Dismissal this Monday!

This Monday is our annually-scheduled mid-year conference day, and school will release at 12:00 noon. These will be virtual conferences, and should have been scheduled by now with your child's teacher. Remember, we DO have aftercare available until 6:00 P.M. should you need it (at a cost of \$3.00 per hour, starting at 12:00 P.M.). Thank you!

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

### Ordinary Time means ACTION...

For the next five weeks or so, we are in "ordinary time" during the weekdays (and Sundays), which means we are in an "ordered" or "numbered" liturgical cycle. We just began our liturgical year "B" with Our Lord's manifestation into our world, and we'll now see his active ministry as he "hurries" toward Jerusalem. We'll be in the Gospel according to Mark from now until Lent, and this is a good thing, as this gospel can have a lot of meaning to us as Catholics. Its author, John-Mark, wrote this work as a treatise on the preaching of Peter, our first pope! During the first four weeks in our ordinary time cycle, we'll take selected readings from Hebrews, which will put our beloved savior's role in our lives into context. This book (surprisingly not written by Paul, even though attributed to him in early times)

paints a picture of Christ in a priestly and sacrificial role, which goes nicely hand-in-hand with Mark's gospel.

This week, the first week in Ordinary Time, our readings from Hebrews give us a preview of the suffering Messiah. At the same time, the beginning of Mark's gospel works from the other direction, taking us through the preparation of Jesus' public ministry. On Monday, John-Mark begins with the calling of the first apostles (the brothers Peter and Andrew), and then through the week, we see Jesus' ministry of healing snowball quickly as his fame spreads throughout Galilee. On Saturday, the gospel recounts the call of Levi (Matthew), and this leads us to Sunday when we hear John the Baptist (in the gospel of John) proclaim Jesus as "the Lamb of God" to his disciples, who leave everything and

follow Him.

The importance of this week's readings that should be communicated to children (and to adults, as well) is that Jesus is not a passive teacher who preaches the word without action. As our readings this week show us, Jesus hits the ground RUNNING after his baptism! Christ is the perfect teacher: He models what He preaches. All of us are called to do the same, but we don't always understand ("How can we 'heal' as Jesus did???"); yet, we are called nonetheless. For homework this week, ask yourself how your words and actions toward others affect them: do they *heal*? Or do they *hurt*? This is great food for thought. We look forward to seeing you soon at mass!

Blessings and Peace,

*Deacon David*

**Forming Intentional Disciples for CHRIST!**

