

Welcome to . . .

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF WEXFORD

SAINT ALPHONSUS & SAINT ALEXIS

“Grow in Jesus, engage in community, and go forth to make disciples.”



*Jesus said to him, “Have you come to believe because you have seen me?
Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”*

Sunday Mass Times

4:00 p.m. Saint Alexis (Saturday Anticipated Mass)
7:30 a.m. Saint Alphonsus
9:30 a.m. Saint Alphonsus
10:00 a.m. Saint Alexis
11:30 a.m. Saint Alphonsus
5:00 p.m. Saint Alexis

Weekday Mass Schedule

8:00 a.m. Saint Alexis (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday,
Friday, and Saturday)
9:00 a.m. Saint Alphonsus (Wednesday)
12:00 p.m. Saint Alphonsus (Monday, Wednesday, Friday)

ALL MASSES ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

APRIL 19, 2020

SUNDAY OF
DIVINE MERCY

FROM FATHER ZYWAN

SIGNS AND WONDERS!



Blessed Divine Mercy

Sunday to you and your family!

On this Second Sunday of Easter, the Gospel of John directs our attention to the Upper Room where Mary and the Apostles were gathered. In John's Gospel, we hear that Jesus transformed water into wine, he cured the royal official's son, cured a paralytic, fed a crowd of five thousand with five barley loaves and two fish, walked on water, gave sight to a man born blind *and* raised Lazarus from the dead.

Last week, we watched as Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, spoke words of comfort to his followers, suffered his passion, and rose from the dead! We accompanied Mary to the tomb, and with her, experienced the risen Jesus, the Word made flesh who continues to dwell among us.

John makes this interesting statement at the end of his Gospel: "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God" (Jn 20.30-31). But why? *Why stop* with just seven signs? Why just a few accounts of his resurrection appearances? Why not include them all? Can we *possibly* get tired of hearing *more about* Jesus and the many ways he manifested himself as the Son of the living God and made flesh to his disciples?

To understand what Saint John is doing, we have to look at today's Gospel; one that's very familiar. The disciples were locked in the Upper Room, paralyzed in fear. Jesus suddenly appears in their midst, and breathes the Holy Spirit upon them. Thomas however, wasn't there. Thomas didn't see. He doesn't encounter the resurrected body of Jesus. Poor Thomas. He's become the "whipping boy" in homilies throughout the ages. He's dubbed the skeptic who has to see to believe.

I think that at times, we all share the same doubt expressed by absent Thomas. Like Thomas, we tell ourselves that we have not seen the risen body of the Lord. We tell ourselves that he hasn't spoken face to face with us. He hasn't personally announced to us "*Peace be with you.*"

And when Jesus comes back to the Upper Room the following week, seeing Thomas, Jesus invites him to place his hand in his side and put his finger in his wounded hands. Thomas responds by crying out, worshiping and adoring risen Jesus! Jesus then goes on to tell Thomas, "*Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen me and believed*" (Jn 20.29).

In other words, blessed are we, the Church TODAY, as we recognize the Lamb once slain in our midst, though currently separated sacramentally from him in these unusual times. Yes, Jesus did many more signs that are not

recorded. Right now, in the Church, Jesus makes himself present through signs, beginning with the Eucharist. He appears in the sign of the hungry, the homeless, the elderly, the weak, the lonely, and those paralyzed by fear. He appears in the sign of those to be baptized, those preparing for reception of Holy Eucharist and Confirmation, those looking forward to celebrating Holy Matrimony, and yes, and even in the dying.

Friends, the Church is *thirsting* for these signs and, we are *depending on one another* to BE witnesses - *living signs* that **Christ is risen from the dead and dwells among us!** And that is because we as Church, the assembly of disciples, is where we continue to meet the risen Lord.

And yes, there are many more signs to see. The Easter season is a time for each us to focus our sights on the risen Lord present in our midst. He's not done healing the sick, feeding the hungry, comforting sick and the dying, bring comfort to those in fear, and hope to all especially now, when we are separated from one another and yet still are the Church. Good people, recognize the risen Lord in your midst, and BE the healing presence of Jesus that our community and our world continue to thirst for. Simply put, we *are* an Easter people! Alleluia!

MASS INTENTIONS

Among the irregularities caused by the COVID-19 virus, there has been a significant decline in the number of Mass requests being made. The Mass is always offered for all of God's people, living and deceased, but the first and primary fruits of the sacrifice are directed toward the intention for which it has been requested.

Father Will and I have been celebrating the Eucharist privately - without people present daily. Not having a backlog of intentions to begin with, we are particularly grateful at this time and welcome any Mass intention requests that you make. You may do so by contacting MaryEllen, the Office Manager at parish@stalexis.org Unfortunately due to current circumstances, we are unable to invite you to join us at the actual celebration of the Mass or, be able to guarantee that your intention will be offered on a specific day. We will, however, notify you when your Mass request has been satisfied.

Know that with the whole Church, we pray daily for the sick - especially those who have contracted the COVID-19 virus, the medical professionals and staff who are caring for them, those who are working to keep our lives as normal as possible, and you, the good people we are blessed to serve.

Please be safe and stay well. Draw close to the Lord who hears all our prayers. And looking forward to being together soon! God bless...



(continued)

To *love* is to learn to follow Christ with others.

FROM FATHER ZYWAN ... *continued*

PARISHES' FINANCIAL UPDATE

In response to the federal government's Small Business Loan Assistance Program, our parishes here in Wexford were among the first in the Diocese to apply for loans. We are unaware of what the position of our application is, however, national news outlets reported that the designated funds allocated to this program have all been dispersed. We will be following up with our bank where we applied for the loan for an update on our status. There is talk of additional funds being designated for small businesses to meet the many requests that have been filed. However, there is *no guarantee* that with these additional funds, our request will be accepted. This is why it is important that everyone in our community tries to do their best in responding to the call to be good stewards. Even with the loan, we are not dispensed from making the best gift that we can to God's love. Since before the Masses were cancelled, we have seen the offertory collections for both parishes combined down an average of 45 to 50 percent, which is good, but still not where we need to be. The parishes still have financial responsibilities that must be met on a monthly basis as well as expenditures that, even if we receive the federal loan, will not cover a number of obligations that both parishes remain responsible for. In the meantime, a *sincere thank you* for your generosity in these difficult times. Be assured that we will keep you updated on any new information on this matter as soon as it is made available to us.

How you can help: First and always, **PRAY**. Pray first and foremost for those who have contracted the COVID-19 virus. We pray for their wellbeing and recovery and the wellbeing of those who are caring for them – medical professionals and a host of others. We pray for a vaccine to prevent this scourge from reoccurring in the future. Simply put, pray for a cure. It is prayer that connects us with God who enables us all to see the light beyond these times of darkness. Pray too, for those who have been separated from their work and ministry and for those employees who remain who are extending themselves in countless ways.

Secondly, if you have not recently been adversely affected in your employment situation, and if you are not already participating in an electronic giving program, please, **please, please, do so now**. Use this time of adversity as an opportunity to help our parishes in the long run by signing-up for *e-giving*. In doing so, it becomes more convenient *for you* to faithfully make your weekly or monthly return to the Lord, while being helpful for our parishes to receive a more predictable cash flow which enables us to better forecast the annual operating budget. In addition, e-giving saves the parish the additional expense of the envelopes and postage. If you choose not to take this route, we appreciate the mailing of your weekly gift to the Parish Center. In in this time of social awkwardness and restrictions in our public gatherings, your generosity and practice of stewardship means so much. Thank you for all that you do in the name of the Lord!

Be assured of Father Will's and my prayers with you, your family and loved ones. We pray with and for you daily. Know that you are loved and missed, while being loved most by our God. Blessings...

In Jesus' love,
Fr. Zywan

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK

We entrust to the care of Christ the Divine Physician, those members of our parish families of Saint Alphonsus and Saint Alexis who are in need of healing in body, mind or spirit, especially:

Brian Bart	Patricia Gross	Diane Miller
Rachel Borck	Stanley Hofstetter	G. James Neelan
Jeannie Bukaukus	Betty Howell	Larry Sampietro
Emma Bullick	John Hunsinger	Irene Schultz
Rick Collins	Al Korade	Amber VanVickle
Connor Cunic	Eugene Mancino	David Zappa
Gloria Dudowski	Michelle Mehok	Prayer Shawl
Nancy Greer	Ron Mehok	Recipients

If you know of a parishioner or have a loved one who is ill, please contact the Parish Center and let us know. We will place that person's name on the prayer list for **four weeks**. Intentions may return to the list upon monthly requests. Contact the Parish Center at 724.935.4343 or 724.935.1151 to add a loved one onto the list.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. (Acts 2:46b-47a)

Psalm: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his love is everlasting. (Ps 118) or Alleluia

Second Reading: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (1 Pt 1:3-9)

Gospel: Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." (Jn 20:19-31)

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Acts 2:42-47/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]/
1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31

Monday: Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9 [cf. 11d]/
Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5 [1a]/
Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [7a]/
Jn 3:16-21

Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20
[7a]/Jn 3:31-36

Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [cf. 4abc]/ Jn
6:1-15

Saturday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14/Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17 [2]/
Mk16:15-20

Next Sunday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10,
11[11a]/1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35

SAINT ALPHONSUS INCOME

April 6 through April 12, 2020

	Regular	Electronic	Total
Offertory	\$ 1,804	\$ 5,256	\$ 7,060
Parish Share	\$ 600	\$ 431	\$ 1,031
School	\$	\$ 1,135	\$ 1,135
Major Maintenance	\$ 38	\$ 262	\$ 300
Easter Flowers	\$	\$ 5	\$ 5
Holy Thursday	\$ 60	\$ 20	\$ 80
Good Friday	\$ 50	\$ 171	\$ 221
Future Diocesan Collection	\$ 20	\$ 19	\$ 39
Easter	\$ 420	\$ 186	\$ 606
Holy Days	\$	\$ 22	\$ 22
Votives	\$ 115	\$	\$ 115
TOTAL	\$ 3,107	\$ 7,507	\$ 10,614

2020 Parish Share Assessment: \$ 133,380
Collected: \$ 15,514

SAINT ALEXIS INCOME

April 6 through April 12, 2020

	Regular	Electronic (11th & 22nd)	Total
Offertory	\$ 4,755	\$ 29,217	\$ 33,972
General Donation	\$	\$ 739	\$ 739
Parish Share	\$ 4,015	\$ 6,744	\$ 10,759
School	\$ 65	\$ 952	\$ 1,017
Catholic Campaign	\$ 70	\$	\$ 70
Holy Thursday	\$ 135	\$ 632	\$ 767
Good Friday	\$ 195	\$ 732	\$ 927
Easter	\$ 3,285	\$ 2,329	\$ 5,614
Easter Flowers	\$ 5	\$	\$ 5
Votives	\$	\$	\$
TOTAL	\$ 12,525	\$ 41,345	\$ 53,870

2020 Parish Share Assessment: \$ 151,696
Collected: \$ 49,890

ONLINE GIVING

We appreciate and thank all of you who have recently signed up for online giving.

With Masses being suspended indefinitely, **if you are not already participating in online giving, we are still strongly encouraging parishioners to do so at this time.** E-giving is of great convenience to you and helpful in cost savings to the parish.

This is how you can register:

1. Visit catholicwexford.com
 2. At the top of the homepage on the red banner, click DONATE.
 3. Click on your parish name
 4. Create a username and password to register your account
- You can just make a one-time donation or sign-up for recurring donations.

If you choose to continue using traditional offertory envelopes, **please mail them to the address below:**
Saint Alphonsus or Saint Alexis
10090 Old Perry Highway
Wexford, PA 15090

For those parishioners who are now facing financial hardship due to the pandemic, know that we, as Church, understand your challenges and are there to offer assistance to you beginning with the commitment of our prayers.

OUR ADVERTISERS

Thanks to our bulletin advertisers for supporting our parish this week:

Saint Alphonsus:

Eichner's Whole Farm and Greenhouses

Saint Alexis:

Gary Carmassi, DMD



Please offer your patronage to our sponsors or be sure to thank them when you have the opportunity to do so. It is through their support that our weekly bulletin is made possible!



LITANY TO THE DIVINE MERCY

DIARY OF SAINT MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA, ENTRY #949



God's love is the flower – Mercy the fruit.
Let the doubting soul read these considerations on Divine Mercy and become trusting.

Divine Mercy, gushing forth from the bosom of the Father, I trust in You.
Divine Mercy, greatest attribute of God, I trust in You.
Divine Mercy, incomprehensible mystery, I trust in You.
Divine Mercy, fount gushing forth from the mystery of the Most Blessed Trinity,
I trust in You.
Divine Mercy, unfathomed by any intellect, human or angelic, I trust in You.
Divine Mercy, from which wells forth all life and happiness, I trust in You.
Divine Mercy, better than the heavens, I trust in You.
Divine Mercy, source of miracles and wonders, I trust in You.
Divine Mercy, encompassing the whole universe, I trust in You
Divine Mercy, descending to earth in the Person of the Incarnate Word, I trust in You.
Divine Mercy, which flowed out from the open wound of the Heart of Jesus,
I trust in You.
Divine Mercy, enclosed in the Heart of Jesus for us, and especially for sinners,
I trust in You.
Divine Mercy, unfathomed in the institution of the Sacred Host, I trust in You.
Divine Mercy, in the founding of Holy Church, I trust in You.
Divine Mercy, in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, I trust in You.
Divine Mercy, in our justification through Jesus Christ, I trust in You.
Divine Mercy, accompanying us through our whole life, I trust in You.
Divine Mercy, embracing us especially at the hour of death, I trust in You.
Divine Mercy, endowing us with immortal life, I trust in You.
Divine Mercy, accompanying us every moment of our life, I trust in You.
Divine Mercy, shielding us from the fire of hell, I trust in You.
Divine Mercy, in the conversion of hardened sinners, I trust in You.
Divine Mercy, astonishment for Angels, incomprehensible to Saints, I trust in You.
Divine Mercy, unfathomed in all the mysteries of God, I trust in You.
Divine Mercy, lifting us out of every misery, I trust in You.
Divine Mercy, source of our happiness and joy, I trust in You.
Divine Mercy, in calling us forth from nothingness to existence, I trust in You.
Divine Mercy, embracing all the works of His hands, I trust in You.
Divine Mercy, crown of all of God's handiwork, I trust in You.
Divine Mercy, in which we are all immersed, I trust in You.
Divine Mercy, sweet relief for anguished hearts, I trust in You.
Divine Mercy, only hope for despairing souls, I trust in You.
Divine Mercy, repose of hearts, peace amidst fear, I trust in You.
Divine Mercy, delight and ecstasy of holy souls, I trust in You.
Divine Mercy, inspiring hope against all hope, I trust in You.

+ Eternal God, in whom mercy is unfathomable and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy, itself' (*Diary* 950).

+ O incomprehensible and limitless Divine Mercy, to extol and adore You worthily, who can? Supreme attribute of Almighty God, You are the sweet hope for sinful man. Into one hymn yourselves unite, stars, earth and sea, and in one accord, thankfully and fervently sing of the incomprehensible Divine Mercy (*Diary* 951).

CREATE A FAMILY PRAYER SPACE AT HOME

In these weeks of the pandemic, families are spending more time together at home. One good use of this time would be to pray together on a regular basis. This prayer time together can be enhanced by creating a place in your home dedicated to prayer. Making a place for prayer in our home can help us do what the Gospel tells us: to go into an “inner room” to pray (Matthew 6:6). Make your prayer place as quiet, uncluttered, and “desert-like” as possible. It can be the corner of a room or any unused space. Furnish your prayer place with a Bible, prayer books, cross, rosary, icons, and a candle. Encourage family members to use the prayer place for personal as well as family prayer.



You can bless your place of prayer, saying:
Come, Holy God. Dwell in this place of prayer,
and bless it with your peace and presence.

Bless all who seek you here.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

With the worldwide outbreak of the coronavirus, we are confronted once more with the fragility of our lives, and again we are reminded of our common humanity — that the peoples of this world are our brothers and sisters, that we are all one family under God.

God does not abandon us, he goes with us even now in this time of trial and testing. In this moment, it is important for us to anchor our hearts in the hope that we have in Jesus Christ. Now is the time to intensify our prayers and sacrifices for the love of God and the love of our neighbor. Let us draw closer to one another in our love for him, and rediscover the things that truly matter in our lives.

United with our Holy Father Pope Francis, let us pray in solidarity for our brothers and sisters here and around the world who are sick. Let us pray for those who have lost loved ones to this virus. May God console them and grant them peace.

We pray also for doctors, nurses, and caregivers, for public health officials and all civic leaders. May God grant them courage and prudence as they seek to respond to this emergency with compassion and in service to the common good.

In this time of need, I invite all the faithful to seek together the maternal intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and I share this prayer with you:

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe,
Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.
We fly to you today as your beloved children.
We ask you to intercede for us with your Son,
as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother,
and gain for our nation and world,
and for all our families and loved ones,
the protection of your holy angels,
that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted,
we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.
Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing,
teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind.
Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence,
knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother,
health of the sick and cause of our joy.

Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,
keep us in the embrace of your arms,
help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Courtesy of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

SAINT ALPHONSUS AND SAINT ALEXIS CHURCHES - *THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF WEXFORD*



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

A Parish of the Diocese of Pittsburgh - diopitt.org

SERVED BY

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BLESSED FRANCIS SEELOS ACADEMY

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School Secretary K-8

Patty Anfang - panfang@seelosacademy.org

724.935.1152

School Secretary Pre-K

Chris Schlieper - cschlieper@seelosacademy.org

724.935.3940

North Hills Regional School Board - www.nhrccs.org



** Bulletin announcements and flyers are due by
12:00 p.m. Friday, a week in advance of publication. **

Parish Office: 10090 Old Perry Highway Wexford, PA 15090

Phones - 724.935.1151 or 724.935.4343 Fax - 724.935.1270

saintalphonsuswexford.org or stalexis.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

JOIN US!

To become a registered member of the parish family, please visit our website at www.stalexis.org or at www.SaintAlphonsusWexford.org. Introduce yourself to us at Mass!

RECONCILIATION

Saint Alexis: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday,

Saturday - 7:30 a.m.-7:55 a.m. Saturday - 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Saint Alphonsus: Wednesday 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

PRAYER

Eucharistic Adoration

Saint Alphonsus: Wednesday 12:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Saint Alexis: First Friday of every month from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Divine Mercy Devotion: Wednesday 3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Saint Alphonsus

Prayer Ministry- To initiate a request for urgent prayers contact the following people:

Saint Alexis - Barb Busi at 412.366.4829

Saint Alphonsus - Norma Heyl at 724.935.1094 or Jo Labrise at 724.935.3826.

If you would like to be a part of this important ministry to pray for

MARRIAGE

Arrangements must be made with a priest at least six months in advance of the desired wedding date.

HOLY ORDERS

For information about the priesthood or the vowed religious life, please contact Fr. Zywan or the Vocation Office of the diocese at 412.456.3131 or visit pghpriest.com.

BAPTISM

Celebrated on Sundays at 11:15 a.m. at Saint Alexis or at 12:45 p.m. at Saint Alphonsus by appointment. Arrangements should be made through the Parish Center several months in advance. Parents need to be registered parishioners and complete a pre-baptism class before scheduling a baptism.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND

Communal anointing is celebrated periodically. Anyone who is anticipating surgery is encouraged to request this sacrament prior to being admitted to the hospital. Individuals who are unable to attend Sunday Mass and want to receive the sacraments are asked to please call the Parish Center.

DIOCESAN VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR

412.456.3093 (Office)

1.888.808.1235 (Hot Line)

PA Child Line - 1.800.932.0313

Call 911 immediately if a child is in danger.

WE WELCOME YOU HOME!