

OUR
Lady
OF
Fatima



2090 Pass Rd. • Biloxi, MS 39531 • 228-388-3887

2016 Guide Book & Directory

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church

2090 Pass Road, Biloxi, Mississippi 39531

228-388-3887 or 388-3891

Fax: 388-7069

Parish Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

E-mail: fatima@cableone.net

Web site: www.fatima-biloxi.com

Parish Hall: 388-3901

Dear Parishioners of Our Lady of Fatima,

Once again it is my pleasure to offer you this Parish Guide Book as a way to interact with other parish members. I myself find this booklet invaluable in contacting parishioners and always keep an additional copy in my car as I travel around the parish. You are encouraged to use it to keep in contact with fellow parishioners.

Any parish today, like most communities is quite fluid in that parishioners are moving in and moving out of the community on a regular basis. Keeping up with this movement keeps our volunteer secretaries occupied much of the time. In this parish we have many Military families and we all know how they rotate in and out on a regular schedule. This booklet also introduces you to our advertisers, most of who also happen to be members of the parish, so any support of their business will also be greatly appreciated by them. Keep them in mind for future business.

The front part of the booklet has all the parish information you need regarding Parish organizations, meetings, schedules, etc. - keep close by for pertinent information.

Please enjoy this booklet, use it and if you lose it, we will be glad to furnish you another one.

Sincerely in Christ,
Henry McNerney (Pastor)

A History of Our Lady of Fatima Parish

In the fall of 1953, the first efforts were made to establish a Catholic church in the West Biloxi area. A group of women, supported by Monsignor Geoffrey O'Connell, pastor of Nativity B.V.M. Parish, joined to generate support for a mission chapel. A Mission League was formed that was eventually called Our Lady of Fatima League. After several fund-raisers, which included the first Country Fair in May of 1955 and a program of contributions made from Nativity B.V.M. Parish going to the mission chapel and school, construction began on an all-purpose building. With materials used from the former Notre Dame Junior High School which was being dismantled and volunteer help, the building known today as Monica Hall was built. The first Mass was celebrated in the new building as a Mission of Nativity B.V.M. Parish on September 8, 1955 by Monsignor O'Connell.

In addition to the Fatima League, a group called "Men of Fatima" was formed in the fall of 1955. This was the forerunner of the Holy Name Society that was active in Fatima Parish for several decades. In May of 1956, the Legion of Mary at Fatima was organized by Reverend Morgan Kavanagh. The Legion continues to meet at Fatima Parish to this day. In May of 1958, the Altar & Rosary Society was formed and is still active today being responsible for maintaining the linens and vestments used in the celebration of Mass among other duties for our church.

On September 18, 1957, the establishment of Our Lady of Fatima Mission as a separate Parish was announced and Reverend Paul Hession was appointed pastor. In 1958, it became apparent that the new parish needed additional space, so a campaign was organized to raise funds for an elementary school, temporary church and rectory. On September 20, 1959, Bishop Richard O. Gerow came for the groundbreaking ceremony for the school and temporary church. Sisters from the Presentation Order in Ireland were recruited to staff the school. Fatima Elementary School opened on September 11, 1961. In 1962, the sisters moved from a private home into the Convent, which now serves as the base of operations for the Fatima St. Vincent de Paul Society. Father Hession continued to serve Fatima Parish as pastor until June of 1967 when he was transferred to St. Mary's Cathedral in Natchez. At that time, Monsignor Thomas E. Williams was transferred from St. John the Evangelist Church in Gulfport to Fatima. In June of 1973, plans for a new, permanent church were begun. Before construction of the church could begin, the beautiful shrine dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima depicting the three children (Lucia, Jacinto and Francisco) praying to Our Lady had to be dissembled and moved. The statues were moved to a place of honor at the west wall of Fatima Convent where a garden atmosphere for prayer and meditation was created. Now the original statues have been moved to a new shrine dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima that was erected closer to the current church in memory of Jacobina Gilich and donated by her daughter. The current church was dedicated on October 11, 1975. The building that had been used as the church was then renovated and used to enlarge Fatima School.

In June of 1979, Monsignor Williams retired but remained at Fatima Parish in residence until his death in 1983. Father John O'Brien, pastor of St. Paul in Pass Christian, was then assigned to Fatima as pastor. During his time at Fatima, Father O'Brien renovated the school and worked diligently to lead the parish to a new sense of the laity's role in the church.

On April 10, 1985, Father Francis Farrell replaced Father O'Brien as pastor. Father Farrell came to us from Our Lady of the Gulf in Bay St. Louis. Father Farrell was bestowed the Papal honor of Monsignor in July 1989. During Monsignor Farrell's fifteen years as pastor, he worked tirelessly. With his fiscal expertise he retired the church construction debt. Under Monsignor's guidance, a parish center was constructed and then enlarged; the school was enlarged; a new roof was put on the church, and the rectory was renovated and enlarged. All of these endeavors were completed and paid for prior to Monsignor Farrell's retiring in December of 2000. Monsignor Farrell recently celebrated his 85th birthday and continues to reside at Fatima Rectory, participating in many parish activities. Father Patrick Mockler was appointed to Our Lady of Fatima on January 20, 2001. He accomplished many things in his time at Fatima: the establishment of a Tuition Trust Fund to help ensure that every Catholic child in our parish desiring a Catholic education would not be denied one; a walking track; the updating and later the enlargement of the rectory; the refurbishing of the Church, the construction of a parish office building; and the construction of a new prayer chapel, used for private prayer, meditation and weekly Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Father Paddy's most cherished project in his time at Fatima has been the construction of five homes for retired priests of the Biloxi Diocese built on property that was donated to the Parish. Retired priests in residence at this time are Monsignor James McGough, Reverend John Kelly, Reverend Patrick McDermott and Reverend Dominic Phan. Guided by Father Paddy, several new groups and ministries were established including Steel Magnolias for single and single again women, the Yah-Yahs for those over 55, Fatima Men's Club and the Grandparents Club for support of Fatima School, a Jr. CYO, the P.L.A.Y. group for young children, the Young Adults Group, the Single Senior Adult Group, establishment of the Filipino Ministry and Mass, establishment of the Hispanic Ministry and Mass, a Tribute Walk to honor or memorialize loved ones with engraved bricks. Proceeds of the Tribute Walk are designated to help fund a sacred music teacher for the children of our parish, the Grotto honoring our patron saint, Our Lady of Fatima constructed with donated funds, a transformation of the Parish Bazaar into an International Spring Festival to celebrate the international diversity of our parish, establishment of choirs and music at all Masses, the introduction of retreat opportunities and involvement of many parishioners in every aspect of parish life. After Hurricane Katrina, Fatima Parish (having been spared major damage) was able, with volunteers, to offer disaster relief to the Biloxi community. We welcomed Father Henry McNerney as our new pastor on January 15, 2014. We look forward to seeing where he will lead Fatima's parishioners on their faith journey.

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Throughout the fifty-four years of our parish's history, we have had many associate priests to help the devoted pastors who have served here. They are Reverend Lorenzo Diamond, Reverend Kevin Reid, Reverend Patrick Egan, Reverend Richard Somers, Reverend James O'Riordan, Reverend Patrick Tierney, Reverend Charles Buciantini, Reverend George Kitchin, Reverend Fintan Kilmurray, Reverend Paddy Mockler, Reverend Charles Venus, Reverend Joe Romansky, Reverend Sergio Balderas, Reverend Satish Adhav and Reverend Ryan McCoy and currently Reverend Thomas White. Each has brought his own gifts and talents to the parish. Other priests who have assisted at Fatima are Reverend Francis Ackle, O.S.B. who served as Chaplain at the Biloxi V.A.; Father Denis Harlow who served as Hospital Chaplain in Biloxi for the Diocese of Biloxi and who assisted with all the duties of an associate; and retired priests Father John Ralph, now deceased, Father Joe Dilettuso, Father Frank Scott, now deceased, Father John Kelly, Father Dominic Phan, Monsignor James McGough and Father Pat McDermott. We have also been blessed with seminarians doing internship at our Parish. Of these seminarians we have hosted, five have been ordained priests for the Biloxi Diocese, Father Martin Gillespie, Father Mike O'Connor, Father Charles Nutter, Father Sergio Balderas and Father Jose Vazquez. A Permanent Deacon, Mr. Paul Bradford, was assigned to our parish to help with the demands of an ever-growing congregation. Sadly, Deacon Paul passed away, April 9, 2013. Deacon Lucian Moragas served Fatima as deacon from July to December 2013. We are grateful for those who had the vision to give birth to us. We hope that we have lived up to their expectations. We thank our founders and our God for our growth and our belief that we can do God's work better each day.



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Fax: 388-7069

Parish Office Hours - Monday-Friday - 8:00 AM-4:00 PM

After office hours - 388-3891

E-mail: fatima@cablone.net

Web site: www.fatima-biloxi.com

Parish Hall: 388-3901

Mass Schedule

Weekend Masses:

Saturday Vigil Masses

4:00 PM and 5:30 PM

Sunday Masses

8:30 AM, 10:00 AM

11:30 AM (Children's Mass)

5:00 PM, 8:00 PM

Weekday Masses:

Monday-Friday

6:20 AM and 8:30 AM

Saturday

8:30 AM

Monday

6:00 PM - Spanish Mass

Wednesday

6:00 PM - Tagalog/English Mass

Reconciliation:

Saturday 3:00-3:45 PM and 5:00-5:15 PM (Also by appointment)

Parish Staff

Rev. Henry McNerney, Pastor 388-3887/388-3891

Rev. Thomas White, Parochial Vicar 388-3887/388-3891

Gladys Simmons, Parish Office Manager 388-3887/388-3891

Rev. Everardo "Lalo" Mora-Torres, Parochial Vicar 388-3887/388-3891

Our Lady of Fatima Elementary School

320 Jim Money Rd. Biloxi, MS. 39531

SCHOOL: 388-3602

Fax: 385-1140

MONICA HALL: 388-7980

www.olschool.org

Principal - Cindy Hahn



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CONNIE RICHARDSON, CFNP

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Liturgical Life

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE - 388-5737

Dir. of Children's Religious Ed/CCD-Ann MacLeod

Children's Church - Sunday - during 10:00 AM Mass

CCD - Grades 1-11 Sunday 9:45-11:10 AM

All classes take place in Fatima Elementary School

Dir. of Adult Education - Betty Jean Hughes - 388-4552

R.C.I.A - Wednesday - 7:00-8:30 PM - August-May

St. Joseph and Mary Rooms of the Parish Center

The Rite of Adult Christian Education prepares those who would like to learn more about the Catholic faith and those interested in joining the Church.

BAPTISM INSTRUCTIONS: Mona Rose - 209-3961 or Norm Cyr - 697-1806

Assists parents desiring Baptism for their children

MARRIAGE PREPARATION: Linda Bradford - 396-8880 or Annette O'Keefe - 388-6306

Do not set a date until you present yourselves as candidates to the priest at least six months prior to wedding date. Attendance at Pre - Marriage Classes is required.

40 HOUR EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Saturday 5:00 AM through Sunday 9:00 PM in the Prayer chapel

Parish Life

ACTS - Madeline Rickman - 437-1470

Retreats for men and women.

Altar/Rosary Society - Joy Goundas - 388-7935

A group of parish ladies who take care of the altar linens, flowers, candles, baptismal bibs, and priests' vestments.

Altar Servers Training - Ron Alexander - 875-3632

Boys or girls of any age who have received their First Holy Communion.

Bereavement Committee - Frieda Thompson - 806-2962

Group of people who are available to prepare food for the bereaved family to bring to their home the day of funeral service.

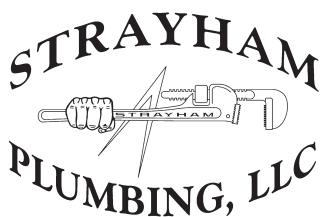
Bingo - Monday and Thursday - 6:30 PM - Fatima Parish Hall

Doors open at 5:30 PM - Danny Lechner - 388-5829

Bulletin - Joy Brimmer - 385-2405/brimjoy@cableone.net

E-mail or call before 1:00 PM Wednesdays to submit announcement for following weekend.

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Choirs

Saturday, 4:00 PM Vigil Mass - Jacqueline Coale - 861-6611
Saturday, 5:30 PM Vigil Mass - Elaine Schmidt - 396-3356/935-5154
Sunday, 8:30 AM Mass - Mike Kennedy - Cantor, Hilda Strayham - organist
Sunday, 10:00 AM Mass - Jacqueline Coale - 861-6611
Sunday, 11:30 AM Mass - Children's Choir - Jacqueline Coale - 861-6611
Sunday, 5:00 PM Mass - John M. Ridgeway
Sunday 8:00 PM Mass - Volunteer Musicians & Singers

Church Cleaners - Mireya Alexander - 875-3632

Volunteers keep the church clean and neat, during the week, on Saturdays and after Sunday 11:30 AM Mass.

Commentators/Readers - Jaye Brice - 388-6380

Proclaim the word of God, greet and read announcements to the congregation.

Counseling - John Snook - churchcounselor@cableone.net

Volunteer counseling by licensed counselor.

Cursillo - Wade and Sandra Howat - 392-8249

Retreats for Catholic men and women.

CCA (Catholic Collage Association) - Lisa Jones - 896-4661

Social and spiritual organization for College Students.

Sr. CYO - Carol Rigby - 435-5535

Social and spiritual organization for 9th through 12th graders.

Jr. CYO - Steven & Amiee Gautreaux - 337-296-5987

Social and spiritual organization for 7th and 8th graders.

Eucharistic Ministers - Janie Nyary - 324-0265

Assist in administering the Body and Blood of Christ to parishioners during Mass and to shut-ins, those in nursing homes and the hospitalized.

Filipino Ministry - Fr. Henry McInerney - 388-3887

Mass in Tagalog/English Wednesdays at 6:00 PM.

Flowers for the Altar - Diane Batia - 861-3895

A beautiful way to honor a deceased loved on or celebrate a special occasion by providing a flower arrangement for the altar on weekends.

Grief Support - Ron Alexander - 875-3632

Aid to those who have suffered a loss.

Knights of Columbus #9409-Steve Smith - 324-3130

A group of Catholic men from Fatima Parish who meet each month for charitable and social purposes.

Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary - Madeline Rickman - 437-1470

Group of women who have family members belonging to the Knights of Columbus who support the Knights in their activities and sponsor a scholarship program for deserving graduating high school seniors.

Legion of Mary - Jeanine Nelson - 388-5713

Meet Tuesdays at 9:30 AM in the Parish Center to honor the Blessed Virgin in prayer and service.

Maintenance - Monty Paggeot - 388-6353

Volunteer Group makes sure the parish buildings and grounds are in working order.

Men's Club - Chris Alley - 297-9601

Men who support Our Lady of Fatima Elementary School.

Parish Center Use - Paula April - 432-1878/326-7755

Parish Council

Advisory council to the pastor.

P.L.A.Y. - Nicole Smith - 424-4200

For children kindergarten - 6th grade meeting on Fridays 5:30-8:00 PM in the Parish Center.

Prayer Shawl Ministry - Mary Tell - 432-5639

Meets the 2nd Saturday of each month at 9:15 AM in the St. Patrick's Room of the Parish Center.

Publicity

Keeping the community updated on activities in our parish.

Saturday Food Providers - Parish Office - Gladys Simmons - 388-3887

Provides a hot meal for the priest at the rectory on Saturdays at 11:30 AM.

Spanish Ministry - Carlos & Maria Puig - 235-5820

Monday, 6:00 PM Spanish Mass with fellowship after in Parish Center.

Steel Magnolias - Linda Godsey - 374-8117

Social group of Ladies of the parish who are single or single again.

St. Vincent de Paul Society - Susan Taylor - 388-1837

Volunteers who minister to the homeless and the poor of our community with food, clothing and spiritual guidance.

Ushers/Greeters - Ed Granish - 436-4804

Welcome parishioners and guests as they enter church, assist in seating, and take up collections.

Vocations Committee - Jean Gazzo - 385-2555

Promotes, encourages and supports vocations to the religious life.

Website - Sandra Howat - 392-8249/sah3435@bellsouth.net

Keeping Fatima's web site up to date

Young at Heart (50+) - Jim Hinkle - 388-4549

Social and spiritual group for the senior citizens of our parish. Meet on the first Thursday of each month in the parish center at 11:30 AM

Weekly Parish Events

SUNDAY

Masses - 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM & 11:30 AM, 5:00 & 8:00 PM

Rosary - Before the 8:30 AM Mass

CCD - 9:45-11:10 AM in Fatima School

Children's Church - During the 10:00 AM Mass

5 PM Mass Choir Practice - 4:00 PM

Chaplet of the Divine Mercy - Before 5:00 PM Mass

MONDAY

Morning Masses - 6:20 AM, 8:30 AM

Rosary - Before the 6:20 AM & 8:30 AM Masses

Hispanic Mass - 6:00 PM

Bingo - Early Bird games 6:30 PM, regular games 7:00 PM (In the Parish Center)

TUESDAY

Morning Masses - 6:20 AM, 8:30 AM

Rosary - Before the 6:20 AM & 8:30 AM Masses

Legion of Mary meeting - 9:30 AM - St. Patrick's Room - Parish Center

Grief Counseling - 6:00 PM Parish Office

WEDNESDAY

Morning Masses - 6:20 AM, 8:30 AM

Rosary - Before the 8:30 AM Mass

Filipino Mass - 6:00 PM Mass, Prior to Mass - Rosary and Novena - 5:00 PM

Men's Prayer Group - 6:00 PM - St. Vincent de Paul Chapel

RCIA - 7:00 PM - Parish Center

THURSDAY

Morning Masses - 6:20 AM, 8:30 AM

Rosary - Before the 6:20 AM & 8:30 AM Masses

10:00 AM Sunday Choir Practice - 6:30 PM in Fatima School

Bingo - Early Bird games 6:30 PM, regular games 7:00 PM (in the Parish Center)

FRIDAY

Morning Masses - 6:20 AM, 8:30 AM

Rosary - Before the 6:20 AM & 8:30 AM Masses

P.L.A.Y. - 5:30-8:00 PM - Sts. Joseph & Mary Rooms, Parish Center

JR CYO - 5:30-8:00 PM - Holy Family Room, Parish Center

SATURDAY

Morning Mass - 8:30 AM

Rosary - Before the 8:30 AM Mass

Confessions - 3:00-3:45 & 5:00-5:15 PM - or by appointment

Vigil Masses - 4:00 PM & 5:30 PM