

**FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**

DECEMBER 1, 2019

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS for Dec. 8th Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10

With which neighbor do you need to reconcile?
What can you do to advance the cause of world peace?

Romans 15:4-9

Where do you need patience and encouragement?
Pray Psalm 72, for justice and peace in our nation and world.

Matthew 3:1-12

Do you show evidence of reform in your lifestyle?
What fruits of the Spirit are evident on your "tree"?

WEEKDAY MASSES December 3 – 6

Tues: 5:00 pm +Joe Tholkes

Wed: 8:40 am **School Mass** +Felix Essler

Thurs: 5:00 pm +Rose Ann Hoffarth

Fri: 10:15 am **Maple Manor** +Bill & Myrtle Zettel Family

WEEKEND MASSES December 7 & 8

Sat: 5:00 pm St. Edward's - Nekoma +Tilden, Alma & Richard Crawford

7:30 pm St. Alphonsus +Mary Shankar

Reader: Corey Stremick

EMHC: Carol Hoffarth

Servers: Regner Family

Musicians:

Sun: 8:30 am St. Alphonsus +Bill & Clint Scheffter

Reader: Jackie Thom

EMHC: Dennis Karsky

Servers: Volunteer

Musicians: Bob & Choir

9:00 am St. Michael's – Wales People of the Parishes

10:30 am St. Alphonsus +Darlene Mikkelsen

Reader: Jenny Chaput

EMHC: Darlene Rutledge

Servers: Sean Gette

Musicians: Bob & Choir

Fellowship Hall Host: Dennis & Diane Schill

Fr. Phil's cell phone: 701-740-7593 and Fr. Will's cell phone: 701-640-2858

Website for St. Alphonsus Parish – <http://www.stalphonsuslangdon.com/>

Sacrament of Reconciliation – Tuesday after 5:00pm Mass, Wednesday after 8:40am Mass, Thursday after 5:00pm Mass & Saturday at 6:45

Weekly Reflection for November 24, 2019: This week's reflection of the parishioner's relationship with God and with the parish

Adult Envelopes	\$5,619.00
Intentional Givers	\$330.00
Plate	\$290.00
Total	\$6,239.00

First Sunday of Advent

Accountancy might not seem like a profession concerned with the end of all things, but actually it is the fundamental idea of accountancy. An accountant's job is to measure the value of the company, a charity, or some other association involving money. The question the accountant asks is this: "If this firm was to close, how much would it be worth at the time?" That is a question we should ask about our own lives and about every human institution that has come into being. What would it be worth when it ends?

But in this case, it is not a question about the financial worth, of course. The value we are concerned with is how much it is worth in the eyes of God. Earlier in the chapter of Matthew from which today's Gospel reading is taken, the warning of Christ is this: "false prophets... will deceive many and, with the increases of lawlessness, love in most men [and women] will grow cold". So the accountancy of life is measured in love. You notice that Jesus does not say that there will be no love; instead, love will have grown cold, which means that it no longer reaches out to others. It is a fire that warms only a few, and is not shared with the stranger. You might also notice that it is "lawlessness" that cools our love. Love and law are not opposites, but good law is the fuel of love.

Taken from The Living Word

1st Sunday of Advent

"Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come."

MATTHEW 24:42

People who have had health issues or near-death experiences generally have a greater appreciation for each day being a gift from God. The rest of us usually take for granted that we will be around tomorrow. But when you start to look at each day as a gift, you realize all the little miracles that happen daily and grow in gratitude for all that we have been given. You begin to see God's active presence in your life.

CD of the Week: Advent: Rethinking the Season – Dr. Tim Gray - Advent is an odd season. Unlike most other seasons, it's a season that isn't about itself, but is instead about preparing for Christmas. But that reality often gets lost in the shuffle and stress of trying to find all the right gifts, decorations, and dinner ingredients. In this talk, Dr. Tim Gray uses storytelling and the readings of the Old Testament to explain that we need to live the 'pre-season' of Advent well, so we can be prepared to welcome and receive the greatest gift God the Father wants to give us at Christmas: His Son, Jesus. **Thank you for your support of Lighthouse Catholic Media Products!**

Retrouvaille: Help for Hurting Marriages - Retrouvaille is an international, peer-run program that has helped hundreds of thousands of hurting married couples turn the tide, find new hope, and rediscover the love that initially brought them together. Surveys have shown that 3 out of 4 couples who complete the entire program are still married five years later with stronger, healthier marriages. Retrouvaille will be held locally **February 7-9, 2020** in Fargo. For more information visit HelpOurMarriage.com or contact us at (701) 356-7962 or via email at RedRiverRetrouvaille@fargodiocese.org.

WOMEN – THIS ONE IS FOR YOU! Redeemed 2020 Conference – *Trusted Sisters: Blessed to be a Blessing; Becoming the Woman God Created You to Be!* The conference begins Friday evening, March 27th, at the Fargo Avalon Events Center. The Vigil Project, through sacred music and personal testimonies, will guide you in worshipping Our Lord during Eucharistic Adoration, followed by a social hour. Saturday, March 28th, you will gain a new perspective on your femininity in relation to God and others through speakers, as well as Mass with Bishop Folda, confession, and fellowship with other women. For details and to register go to fargodiocese.org/redeemedwomen. Register by March 1, \$50 (after March 1, \$75). All food and refreshments included.

Donations for Christmas Flowers can be made by filling out the below form and can be placed in the collection marked "flowers" or brought to the parish office by Wednesday, December 12th. Thank You.

In Memory of/honor of _____

From _____

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Our Sympathy to the family of Ave M. Hiltner who was called home last week.
May she rest in the love of the Father.

Welcome Home, Deacon Eric Seitz! He will be returning from his Deacon Formation Program on Saturday, November 30th.

"Journey to the Inn:" The Knights of Columbus are hosting a special prayer service as we begin the Season of Advent. "Journey to the Inn" is about one hour in length and will be held next Sunday, December 1st at 2:00 PM at St Alphonsus Church. We hope you can join us.

Catholic Daughters meeting will be on Monday, December 2nd with a potluck supper starting at 6:00pm. Husbands are welcome! Meeting to follow

St. Alphonsus School Christmas Concert will be held on Wednesday, December 11th at 1:00 and 7:00pm

SAVE THE DATE! St. Alphonsus School's annual "Festival of Trees" will be held on **Sunday, December 8th**. This year's theme is "A Journey to Bethlehem." Come and enjoy joyful Christmas music, food, silent auction, beautiful themed trees, and a walk through Bethlehem. If you are interested in donating a silent auction basket, decorating a tree, etc, please contact Sue Bata @ 256-2354 ext. 128.

St. Alphonsus School is currently selling raffle tickets for the following prizes: 1st: \$1,500.00 Cash; **2nd:** \$1,000.00 Cash; **3rd:** 500.00 Cash. Drawing will be held on Sunday, December 8th at SAS Christmas Tree Festival (need not be present to win). Tickets can be purchased from any family that has a student attending SAS, any school board member or by stopping at the SAS School office. Ticket price is \$10.00.

Altar Society Position Open - The St. Alphonsus Altar Society is in need of a co-chair to fill the vacated position of Bev Metzger. Or if you have someone you would like to work with, there is the option to take over both co-chairs for all business other than the fall supper, which Bev and Lisa would still be in head of. If you are interested or know of anyone who would be a good fit for the job, please contact Lisa Howatt at 256-3757 or Bev Metzger at 256-5803. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this matter.

The Catholic Daughter Gift Case has Advent Candles as well as one Advent Wreath for sale in the Gift Case.

Altar Society Dues are now due – special cash and retired members only. Dues may be paid by sending them to Candace Bimler, 10028 103rd Ave. NE, Wales, ND 58281 or put it in an envelope marked "Altar Society" (be sure to include your name) and drop in the weekend collection baskets. Thank you.

Fellowship Hall cleaning for December – 20 – Barb Hill, Bernadette Fetsch & Maryl Borgen; 27 – Lisa Bodnar, Barb Karsky & Emily Benoit

Grieve Share will meet on Thursday's from 6:00 – 8:00pm at United Methodist church in Langdon through December 19th. Find comfort and support

Knights of Columbus will be collecting non perishable food items for the Cavalier County Food Pantry. There is a purple plastic tote at the back of the church.

New Parish Website: Check out our new parish website. It's at the same address - stalphonsuslangdon.com. It's wonderful! One of the new features is a parish calendar of events. It will be a very helpful resource for our parishioners.

Communion for the homebound: do you know of someone who is not able to get to Mass due to medical or health reasons? Call Fr Phil or Fr Will to be put on our Communion Call List.

Catholic Daughters are accepting religious articles (statues, pictures, rosaries, pray books and etc.) to send them to Universal Living Rosary Association in Texas. You can leave them at the back of the church or call Linda Kempel 256-2493