

**SECOND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**

DECEMBER 8, 2019

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS for Dec. 15th Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10

Who is in mourning among us? Pray for their joy.

What is your greatest weakness? Pray for Christ's strength.

James 5:7-10

How are you doing in the virtue of patience?

Whom have you grumbled against? Pray or seek forgiveness.

Matthew 11:2-11

Have you received any signs of God at work in your life?

What are you looking for in Jesus today?

WEEKDAY MASSES December 9 – 13

Mon: 8:40 am **School Mass** +John E. & Jon Delvo Immaculate Conception Mass
7:00 pm +Mary Ann Hall Immaculate Conception Mass
Tues: 5:00 pm +Faith Ann Hoffarth
Wed: 8:40 am +Olga Feil
Thurs: 5:00 pm +Garth Downey
Fri: 10:15 am **Maple Manor** +Joseph Karas Jr.

WEEKEND MASSES December 14 & 15

Sat: 5:00 pm St. Edward's - Nekoma People of the Parishes

7:30 pm St. Alphonsus +Jack Bisenius

Reader: Holly Lyons

EMHC: Holly Lyons

Servers: Muhs Family

Musicians:

Sun: 8:30 am St. Alphonsus +Michael Muhs

Reader: Gary Metzger

EMHC: Harvey Metzger

Servers: Volunteer

Musicians: Bob & Choir

9:00 am St. Michael's – Wales +Alex & Delina Chaput

10:30 am St. Alphonsus +Dorothy Schroeder

Reader: Dennis Horpestad

EMHC: Carla Horpestad

Servers: EJ Cluchie

Musicians: Bob & Choir

Fellowship Hall Host: Duane & Bev Otto

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 December 1, 2019: This week's reflection of the parishioner's relationship with God and with the parish

Adult Envelopes	\$2,905.00
Intentional Givers	\$3,081.67
Plate	\$562.00
Fuel	\$42.00
Total	\$6,590.67

Second Sunday of Advent

Some would see the division we have described as being the difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament. In the Old Testament the picture of God is that of an angry judge, in the New Testament the picture is that of a loving savior. Our readings today undermine the simplicity of such a view. In our reading from Isaiah we are offered a vision of peace, even among those who are naturally enemies. The concern of the awaited savior will be to put right injustices and give a voice to people who are poor and wretched.

In our Gospel reading you feel John the Baptist would be perfectly at home in one of those old-style parish missions. As he prepares the way for the Lord he launches into a full-blooded attack on the powers that be, the Pharisees and the Sadducees. It is interesting that John does not specify the failings of his antagonists. He highlights their assumption that they are in the right through being children of Abraham, and he suggests that they are not producing good fruit. The image he chooses is that of a farmer separating wheat from the chaff with his winnowing fan, not an image we can perhaps conjure up easily today but an everyday sight at that time, and an activity that demanded energy and vigor. The one who is to come will be challenging and forceful too.

Taken from The Living Word

2nd Sunday of Advent

“Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” MATTHEW 3:10

Do you bear good fruit for Christ? Or, do you spend your time, talent and treasure constantly acquiring more toys, clutter and junk. Our time, our talent and our treasure are gifts that God has given us. What we do with them is our gift back to God. What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season?

CD of the Week: Our Lady of Guadalupe – Luis Soto - Many people have heard of Our Lady of Guadalupe, but few people know her story. In this talk, speaker and catechist Luis Soto (who himself was born and raised in Mexico) shares the little-known history and life-changing importance of Mary's appearance to a peasant man named Juan Diego, and the miraculous image she left behind. Loved by millions (including St. John Paul II), Our Lady of Guadalupe is a patron and example of how to share the Gospel with the whole world. **Lighthouse CDs, books and DVDs make great Christmas gifts!**

Discover What Every Woman has the Right to Know - Do you or do you know someone who struggles with painful periods, irregular cycles, miscarriages, infertility or want to avoid a pregnancy? Are you ready to use a system of fertility awareness that is 100% natural and can be used to help with all the issues listed above? Jen Lagein, FCPI offers an instructional course in the Creighton Model System of FertilityCare , scientifically proven to be as effective as any hormonal birth control in avoiding pregnancy and three times more effective than IVF in achieving pregnancy. An Introductory Session is scheduled at St. Joachim's Religious Education Center (210 2nd St. NE) in Rolla from 7:00pm – 9:00pm on December 10th. To register, call Jen at 701-367-6386. No fee.

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.

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

Feast of the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated on Monday, December 9th. It was moved because of the 2nd Sunday of Advent. This year, it is not a holy day of obligation. However, it's a holy day. Masses at St Alphonus will be at 8:40AM and 7:00PM.

Our Parish Advent Reconciliation Service will be held on Thursday, December 19th at around 5:30 PM (immediately after the 5:00 PM Daily Mass). 5 priests will be available for confessions that night.

Our Christmas Mass Schedule can be found on our parish website. Go to the calendar. All of our Masses are listed.

St. Alphonus School (K-8) Christmas Concert will be held on Wednesday, December 11th at 1:00 and 7:00pm in the Parish Center. Everyone welcome

Knights of Columbus meeting on Tuesday, December 10th with rosary at 6:30pm, meeting to follow. There will be a wine and cheese Christmas Party following the meeting. Spouses and Spouses of Deceased members are welcome to attend.

Pre-K and Preschool Christmas concert will be held on Thursday, December 12th at 11:30am and 5:30pm in the Parish Center. Everyone welcome

Knights of Columbus will have a Ham, Eggs, & Hashbrowns breakfast on Sunday, December 15th from 9:00 – noon at the cafeteria. All are welcome to attend.

There is a signup sheet for Altar Servers, Readers and EMHC's for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day Masses at the back of the church

Christmas Mass schedule is as follows: Christmas Eve (Dec. 24) 4:00pm – St. A's; 5:00pm Nekoma and Midnight – St. A's. Christmas Day (Dec. 25) 9:00am – Wales; 10:30am – St. A's.

St. Alphonus 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. 1:00pm Silent Auction; Tree Viewing & a visit to Bethlehem w/music by Dakota Blende; Soup & Hors d'oeuvres; 3:00pm Music – LAHS Band Ensemble; 3:45pm Music – The Frozen Four Quartet. Adults \$12.00, Students \$5.00/Preschool Free

The annual Christmas Dinner will be held on December 25th at the St. Alphonus Parish Center starting at 12:00pm Please join us weather you are alone or with many. All donations of salads, pies, turkeys or your time is greatly appreciated. For more information contact Carla or Dennis Horpestad. Dennis phone is 701-370-2924 and Carla is 701-370-0594

Altar Society Position Open - The St. Alphonus 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

United Communications is hosting a blood drive with Vitalant on Tuesday, December 17th from 11:15am to 5:30pm (please use Alley Entrance). Call Mikan at 256-5156 to schedule an appointment.