

**THIRD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**

DECEMBER 15, 2019

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS for Dec. 22nd Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-14

What sign would you ask from God today?
Ask Mary?

Romans 1:1-7

How have you "proclaimed the Gospel" this week?
How have you lived your "call to holiness" this week?

Matthew 1:18-24

What fears, like Joseph's, have kept you from acting?
Have any dreams like Joseph's, influenced your life?

WEEKDAY MASSES December 17 - 20

Tues: 5:00 pm +Terry Johnson

Wed: 8:40 am **School Mass** +Jerry Wild

Thurs: 5:00 pm +Joe Tholkes

Fri: 10:15 am **Maple Manor** +Joe, Alice & David Bata

WEEKEND MASSES December 21 & 22

Sat: 5:00 pm St. Edward's - Nekoma +Dorothy Schroeder

7:30 pm St. Alphonsus +Garth Downey

Reader: Nancy Kram

EMHC: Carol Hoffarth

Servers: Regner Family

Musicians:

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

Reader: Carleen Schill

EMHC: Volunteer

Servers: Volunteer

Musicians: Bob & Choir

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

10:30 am St. Alphonsus In honor of Lowell & Marilyn Kartes

Reader: George Podhradsky

EMHC: Diane Schill

Servers: Sean Gette

Musicians: Bob & Choir

Fellowship Hall Host: Wil & Sue 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 6:45pm

Weekly Reflection for December 8, 2019: This week's reflection of the parishioner's relationship with God and with the parish

Adult Envelopes	\$5,860.00
Intentional Givers	\$275.00
Plate	\$355.26
Fuel	\$50.00
Total	\$6,540.26

Third Sunday of Advent

On this third Sunday of Advent each year, John the Baptist features in the Gospel; only in Year A, however, do we encounter John in prison, near the end of his life. He has heard of the things that Jesus has done and said. John knows his life is likely to end very soon on the command of Herod, so he wants to make sure he has not been mistaken in identifying Jesus as the awaited one. He sends his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?"

Jesus' answer is that to see the signs of God requires noticing what is all around. In the monastery that was slowly dying, the brothers had to start looking for signs of the Messiah's presence. Jesus tells John's disciples to tell their master what they had seen and heard, the signs of the messianic age: "the blind see... the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor". There is one more statement that Jesus makes about the signs he has produced to show the kingdom of God is at hand. He says, "happy is the [one] who does not lose faith in me". Does this refer to John? Is John wavering now that his life is in danger? Perhaps it is more likely that Jesus is describing John as the one who is most likely to see the signs of the Messiah's presence. Taken from *The Living Word*

3rd Sunday of Advent

"You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand." JAMES 5:8

Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer we better align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.

CD of the Week: The Healing Power of Confession – Dr. Scott Hahn presents the historical and biblical origins of the Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation). He provides an important guide for new Catholics, a source of renewal for "old hands", and a challenge to all of us to deepen our relationship with Christ through regular use of the Sacrament of Penance. **Gift Certificates for Lighthouse products are available by contacting Carleen Schill @ 256-2635.**

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.

St. Alphonsus School is collecting Box Tops, Our Family Brand UPC codes, used printer ink cartridges and Coca-Cola bottle and box lids. The Coca-Cola box codes are on the little flap that you pull off the top. The codes consist of lots of number and letters. All these items can be dropped off at the entrance of the school and church and at the Bread Pan Bakery. We turn in these items to get money for our school. Thank you for your continued support.

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

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

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.

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

NO EUCHARISTIC ADORATION Dec. 24-27, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. Have a Merry Christmas and many blessings in the New Year!

The **Knights of Columbus** will be sponsoring a “Consecration to the Holy Family” after both Masses on December 29th the first Sunday after Christmas. Join us in consecrating ourselves under the protection of the Holy Family.

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.

The **annual Christmas Dinner** will be held on December 25th at the St. Alphonsus Parish Center starting at 12:00pm Please join us whether 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. 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.

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.

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.