

**FIFTH SUNDAY  
OF LENT**

**MARCH 29, 2020**

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS for April 5<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday**

*Isaiah 50:4-7*

Have you trained your tongue to give encouragement?  
Have you closed your ears to a person who insults you?

*Philippians 2:6-11*

How have you been humbled this week?  
How have you been lifted up this week?

*Matthew 26:14-27:66*

Read the Crucifixion; pray in sorrow for sin.  
Read the Burial; ask God for a new beginning.

**WEEKDAY MASSES March 31 – April 3**

**“Our priests are offering two Masses a day for our intentions.”**

Tues: +Mac & Jerry Machacek  
+Don Charbonneau  
Wed: +Justin Kruk  
+Mary Spaeth  
Thurs: +Richard Chaput  
+Fr Larry Haas  
Fri: In Healing for Florence Liebersbach  
+Edi Ann Otto

**WEEKEND MASSES March 28 & 29**

Sat: **St. Alphonsus** +Mary Mann

**St. Alphonsus** People of the Parishes

Sun: **St. Alphonsus** In Honor of Daryl & Linda Kempel

**St. Alphonsus** +Edi Ann Otto

**Weekly Reflection for March 22, 2020:** This week’s reflection of the parishioner’s relationship with God and with the parish

Adult Envelopes	\$525.00
Plate	\$2,993.67
Visitors	\$1,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,518.67</b>

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. 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.

**For Homilies, Sunday celebration guide, talks and up to date information please check the parish website at [www.stalphonsuslangdon.com](http://www.stalphonsuslangdon.com)**

## Fifth Sunday of Lent

It is easy to imagine just how petrified and astounded people would have been to see Lazarus suddenly emerge from his tomb after four days. It is curious that Jesus waited until he knew Lazarus was dead before going to Bethany. One possibility is that there was a Jewish belief that the soul hovered near the body for three days after death, but by the fourth day, all hope of life was gone. Lazarus really was dead.

Jesus himself is quite clear that this whole situation will lead to God's glory and the glory of the Son. He says repeatedly throughout this story that this great sign will lead people to faith – as it does for his disciples, for Martha and Mary, and for the people standing round the tomb. He wants them to believe that he is the one sent by the Father. Jesus explains to Martha that faith in him is the only way to resurrection and life. And the story concludes by telling us that many of the people who witnessed this miracle did in fact come to believe in him.

Raising the dead to life is a sure sign of the presence and action of God. In Ezekiel, the Lord says: "you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people... and I shall resettle you on your own soil". Here is Bethany, we see Jesus exercising that divine power, fulfilling God's promise.

Over the last three Sundays the Church has been focusing in its readings and prayers on the many people across the world who will be receiving the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil: the sacraments of life, of new, eternal life. These Sunday Gospels have presented us with various images of what coming to faith is like: Christ is like: having a spring of water inside us, welling up into eternal life (the woman of Samaria); moving from blindness to sight, from darkness to light (the blind man); and today, in the story of Lazarus, it is described as being a movement from lying down to being lifted up, from being bound to being free, from death to life. This is the difference believing in Christ make to our lives – whether we are new to faith in Christ or old hands.

Taken from The Living Word

### **Fifth Sunday of Lent**

*"Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?'"*

*JOHN 11:40*

Many of us say that we believe in God. We go to church on Sunday. We volunteer for events at our parish. But when life gets hard, the pressure is on, when things aren't going our way, do we really believe, do we really put our trust in the Lord? When we live a life of gratitude, being thankful for the gifts we have been given, we really do see that God is providing all that we need. It opens our hearts to see God's active presence in our daily lives.

**Book of the Month: 7 Secrets of Confession – Vinny Flynn** - The understanding that many Catholics have of the Sacrament of Confession is so limited and narrow in its focus that it keeps them from discovering the real beauty and value of this Sacrament... beauty and value that even a young child can understand if it's presented properly. For too many Catholics, Confession is just a means to an end: cleaning us up from sin so we can receive Communion. But, as Pope Francis tells us, Confession is much more than "going to the dry cleaner." It's "an encounter with Jesus, who waits for us as we are." **Donations keep new CDs, books, DVDs, etc. coming!**

**All Lenten Ecumenical Services – scheduled for 7:00 PM on Sunday's have been cancelled (March 29<sup>th</sup> & April 5<sup>th</sup>) due to the Coronavirus Pandemic**

**Donations for Easter Flowers** can be made by filling out the below form and drop it in the mail (209 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue) by Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. Thank You.

In Memory of/honor of \_\_\_\_\_

From \_\_\_\_\_

## **PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS**

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### **Observing The Lord's Day at home**

Sunday has been observed as The Lord's Day since the time of the apostles. Ordinarily, we attend Mass. However, since for the time being we are unable to celebrate Mass publicly, it is necessary for us to observe The Lord's Day in our homes. To there are many ways to do this.

1. Find our Sunday Celebrations at Home program on our website (or call the parish for details)
2. Recite the rosary as a family
3. Spend thirty minutes to an hour reflecting on the scriptures of the day
4. **Watch a TV Mass - 10:30am – WDAZ Channel 8/WDAY Channel 6** Just because the world has shut down doesn't mean or faith shuts down too. We can pray to God under any circumstances.

### **Palm Sunday: Pick up your blessed palms at the church Saturday or Sunday April 4 & 5**

**CANCELLED:** NO Stations of the Cross until further notice  
NO Knights of Columbus Fish Fry's until further notice.  
NO Eucharistic Adoration until further notice.

**NOT CANCELLED:** **Rosary** on Wednesdays at 12:05 will be held in the church.

**How to read the Bible is now online.** Same time, different place. To watch the live events, go to [www.stalphonsuslangdon.com](http://www.stalphonsuslangdon.com): Find the How to read the Bible announcement on the front page(scroll down). Click it. Find the video box on the new page. Click it. Enjoy! The video will go live at 6:20PM, and the program will start at 6:30. All the other videos will be archived underneath. The next broadcast will be on Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. If you have questions you would like to have Dcn. Eric answer, just contact Fr. Phil either on the parish line or on his cell phone.

**Men's group (40 Days in the Desert)** is now online. To watch the live events, go to [www.stalphonsuslangdon.com](http://www.stalphonsuslangdon.com): Find the 40 Days in the Desert announcement on the front page(scroll down). Click it. Find the video box on the new page. Click it. Enjoy! The video will go live at 6:20AM, and the program will start at 6:30AM. All the other videos will be archived underneath. The next broadcast will be on Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>.

For those who use Discord, we have a chat room set up. Email [eric.seitz@fargodiocese.org](mailto:eric.seitz@fargodiocese.org) to receive a room invite. (Not on Discord? Signing up is free and easy to do.)

Don't Give Up Chocolate for Lent...

**Instead, you can join us for BEST LENT EVER—a free email program that will help you have a deep, powerful and unforgettable Lent! It's not what you give up. It's who you become.** Sign up now at <https://dynamiccatholic/bestlentever>

**CANCELLED: The Middle School Extravaganza** (Rally) is cancelled. This event for students in grades 6-8 was to happen on Saturday, April 18, 2020 in Wimbledon, ND. Because of the Coronavirus Pandemic we will not be having this event this spring.

**The SEARCH** weekend for April 17-19, 2020 has been cancelled. Again because of the Coronavirus Pandemic we will not be having this last weekend of Search for this school year. Stay tuned for next school years SEARCH weekends.

**REDEEMED Women's Conference** scheduled for March 27-28 has been canceled. Plans are currently underway to reschedule the conference for early 2021. The new dates will be communicated in the weeks to come.

### **Fellowship Hall cleaning for March - 27 - Barb Crockett & Carla Horpestad**

Thanks to all our parishioners who have made their gift to the 2020 God's Gift Appeal. St. Alphonsus is 67% towards our goal of \$36,334.00, St. Edward's is 23% towards our goal of \$2,782.00 and St. Michael's is 23% towards our goal of \$3,033.00. If you have not yet made a gift or pledge, please fill out a commitment card located in the entry of the church. Please participate in the support of our diocesan church.