

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

JULY 12, 2020

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS for July 19th Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 12:13-19

How have you exercised justice recently?

How have you practiced kindness lately?

Romans 8:26-27

What words do you use to speak to God in prayer?

Allow the Holy Spirit to pray within you, for God's will.

Matthew 13:24-43

What are the weeds choking out your spiritual growth right now?

What have you done lately to help the church to grow?

WEEKDAY MASSES July 14 - 17

Tues: 5:00 pm NO MASS TODAY

Wed: 8:40 am NO MASS TODAY

Thurs: 5:00 pm NO MASS TODAY

Fri: 10:15 am NO MASS TODAY

WEEKEND MASSES July 18 - 19

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

7:30 pm St. Alphonsus

Living & Deceased Members of Ignatius &

Reader: Michael Nuebert Elizabeth Gette Family

EMHC: Carol Hoffarth

Servers: Muhs Family

Musicians:

Sun: 8:30 am St. Alphonsus +Art & Fern Spanier

Reader: Carleen Schill

EMHC: Alan Schill

Servers: Volunteer

Musicians: Bob & Cantor

Our Lady of Mt Carmel- Mt Carmel NO MASS TODAY

10:30 am St. Alphonsus

+Albert & Laura Horpestad

Reader: George Podhradsky

EMHC: Bev Otto

Servers: Sean Gette

Musicians: Bob & Cantor

Fellowship Hall Host: Dorothy Sauer

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

Confessions: Tuesdays and Thursdays after Mass or by appointment

Weekly Reflection for July 5, 2020: This week's reflection of the parishioner's relationship with God and with the parish

Adult Envelopes	\$3,493.00
Intentional Givers	\$3,056.67
Plate	\$284.50
Total	\$6,834.17

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In today's Gospel Jesus preaches in parables and his disciples' question why he does this: would it not be better to speak plainly, in black and white? Yet faith does not offer easy solutions to complex questions, and the "grey areas" of life are often precisely where there is room for faith to grow and mature.

We also hear echoes in this Gospel of the difficulties facing the early Church. Jesus' first disciples were all Jews, and they had to come to terms over time with the painful truth that many of their fellow Jews did not become believers. The evangelization of the pagan world emerged from the conflicts and failures encountered by the first generation of disciples. In Jesus' words we hear reflected their explanation to themselves of how the rejection of Jesus' ministry could have happened. There is room for caution here, however. There have been tragic and terrible consequences in history of a too-easy blaming of the Jewish people as a race for not accepting the teaching of Jesus. In the Gospel Jesus blesses those who never had the advantage of being exposed to the teachings of the prophets and yet believe. This is an acknowledgement by the Gospel writers, a generation later, of the faith of the pagans. Yet his warnings about closed eyes and hard hearts are not intended just for the Jewish people. They challenge every person who resists God's grace, for the reasons Jesus goes on to give.

Jesus does not focus on any particular group of people but on the thwarted tendency to good that lies in every human heart. God's good news, in whatever form it comes, is thwarted by superficiality, complacency, lack of confidence and the desire for a security based on consumption and status. These are universal human dilemmas. Our response to grace is part of the freedom given to us from the beginning of creation. God is a God of surprises, but is also ready to be surprised by us.

Taken from The Living Word

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word but then the cares of the world and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit." - MATTHEW 13:22

Does the lure of riches and material goods choke God out of your life? Are you so caught up in earthly activities that you have no time for God? Gratitude and generosity are virtues that we should strive to do on a daily basis. Every decision we make either takes us one step closer to God or one step further away. What we receive at Mass every Sunday should be shared with others all the other days of the week as well.

Here's a little backstory on your new pastor.

Born Sept 5, 1963, oldest of 5 kids. Mom and Dad are Tom and Carol, who hopefully will be paying us a visit at the end of the summer.

Grew up in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, between Akron and Cleveland. 1-8 grades at Immaculate Heart of Mary school; public high school; Catholic liberal arts college in Virginia. After building a house with a buddy, took my earnings and backpacked Europe for 3 months (my graduation present was a roundtrip ticket to Luxembourg and a 2-month Eurail pass). There I met monks. Returned, taught 6-7-8th grades at a Catholic school in Greenbelt, MD. Unsure of my future direction and needing some discipline and time to think, joined the U.S. Army serving with the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, 1986-89. During that time, I explored different religious communities, but finally decided at the end of my military service to join a monastery of Benedictines in France, 1990-1992. Studied theology in Rome, met Bishop Sullivan of Fargo, who sent me to Washington, D.C. for further studies. Ordained a priest in 1997, I served 2 years as director of the diocesan office of catechesis while helping at St. Mary's Cathedral; 1999-2003 on the faculty at the Pontifical College Josephinum (Columbus, OH); 2004-2009 pastor in Harvey-Selz; 2009-2014 spiritual director at the North American College, Rome; 2014-2020 pastor in Bottineau-Westhope. It's a bit sparse, but the following years will give us plenty of time to fill in the blanks. So, honored to be on this journey with you.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

OFFICE HOURS: The week starting July 13th - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:00am – 12:00pm.

There will be NO daily Masses on July 14, 15, 16 and 17 – Fr. Hickin will be at a retreat with Fr Phil and his priest pray group.

The Mass scheduled for Sunday; July 19th at Our Lady of Mount Carmel has been cancelled. Plan to see you next year

The Knights of Columbus Annual Picnic will be held on Tuesday, July 14th at 6:30pm in the St. Alphonsus Cafeteria. All Knights, their families and spouses of deceased Knights are welcome to attend. Meeting to follow

Fellowship Hall cleaning for July - 11 – Steph Fetsch & Monica Heck; 18 - Min Gette & Barb Hill; 24 - Emily Benoit & Carol Mikkelsen

Once again St. Alphonsus will be holding their annual rummage sale on Wednesday, July 29th from 12:00-6:00 and on Thursday, July 30th from 9:00-12:00 in the Parish Center (please use door #1 & #2). **“Masks are required”** If you are interested in donating items for the sale, drop off date is on Tuesday, July 28th from 12:00-3:00. No clothing, no encyclopedias, no electronics, no magazines. If you have questions, contact Carrie Hope 256-2354. **“Masks are required”**

NOTICE: We are planning to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of St. Alphonsus School next summer (2021) Fr. Phil has asked us to work on establishing a data base of all who have attended St. Alphonsus School since 1921 (not necessary to have graduated). If you have a class list or know of someone who does we would appreciate getting that information. Parents, it would be helpful if you could supply information on your children too. Any information would make our job much easier. What we need is name (maiden and married), years attended, living or deceased, address and maybe email. You can email information to us dbbrooks@utma.com or call us at 701-370-5266.

Thank you . . . Bill & Darlene Brooks

Here are addresses for Fr. Phil, Fr. Will and Dcn Eric

Our Addresses:

Fr Phil Ackerman	Fr. Will Ovsak	Dcn Eric Seitz
Holy Cross Church	720 North 5 th Street	St. John’s Church
2711 7 th Street East	Breckenridge, MN 56526	115 North 2 nd Street
West Fargo, ND 58078		Wahpeton, ND 58075

The coronavirus pandemic has forced thousands of pilgrims to leave the Holy Land. The streets of Bethlehem and Jerusalem are empty for quite some time. The cancellation of pilgrimages having a serious repercussion for many Christian families. In the past, when the Holy Land experienced wartime conditions, some people managed to temporarily find an economic niche outside tourism. However, the pandemic measures have affected all business sectors, including olive wood industry, and everything to shut down. Even we as Holy Land Crafts & Pilgrimage group; are unable to lend them a hand during this difficult time because of the closures here in the U.S. Because our visit to your parish this year is unpredictable, we humbly ask you to visit our website WWW.HOLYLANDCRAFTS.NET and browse through the beautiful hand carved religious items. We value your support through these unprecedented times. May God bless you and keep you safe.

Putt 4 a Purpose – Bishops charity golf classic on Monday, August 3rd at Rose Creek Golf course. Registration 11:00, Shotgun start 12:30. More information on the back-bulletin board

Trinity Youth Camp directors and staff are looking forward to our summer 2020 camp sessions! Come to one of our two camp sessions this summer to discover what it means to BE a saint and how we are all called to BE saints! The camps offered this summer are: July 15-19 at Camp of the Cross near Garrison, ND and July 22-26 at Pelican Lake near Bottineau, ND. Register your camper (youth entering grades 4 - 8 in the fall) now for a great Catholic camping experience at: www.trinityyouthcampnd.com