

**THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

NOVEMBER 15, 2020

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS for November 22nd Our Lord Jesus Christ, King

Ezekiel 34:11-17

How have the “sheep” of the church been scattered today?

How can you help Jesus to “shepherd them rightly?”

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

How have you shared in the spiritual death of Adam and Eve’s sin?

How have you experienced the spiritual resurrection of Jesus Christ?

Matthew 25:31-46

As of today, would you belong with “sheep” or “goats” at the last judgment?

How have you fed the hungry, visited the imprisoned and sick, etc, lately?

WEEKDAY MASSES November 17 – 20

Tues: 5:00 pm +Anna Hoffarth

Wed: 8:40 am **School Mass** +Oscar, Peggy & Greg Beauchamp

Thurs: 5:00 pm +Bernadine Mikkelsen

Fri: 10:30 am +Beatrice Delvo

WEEKEND MASSES November 21 – 22

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

7:30 pm St. Alphonsus +Louis & Ann Fischer Family

Reader: Corey Stremick

EMHC: Carol Hoffarth

Sun: 8:30 am St. Alphonsus +Rose Lorenz

Reader: Gary Metzger

EMHC: Daryl Kempel

Musicians: Bob & Cantor

St. Michael’s – Wales **NO MASS AT WALES TODAY**

10:30 am St. Alphonsus +Gerald & Marge Mikkelsen

Reader: George Podhradsky

EMHC: Darlene Rutledge

Musicians: Bob & Cantor

Fellowship Hall Host: Duane & Bev Otto

Fr. Michael Hickin’s cell phone: 701-891-1238

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

Confessions: Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays after Mass or by appointment

Weekly Reflection for November 8, 2020: See next week’s bulletin

Thanksgiving is almost here. *It’s not happy people that are grateful, but grateful people who are happy.* Good wisdom; pass it on.

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

A servant of God, however, is called always to go that extra mile. Love overrides “the principle of least effort”. It goes out of its way to do everything possible. We do not ask, “How little can I get away with?” but “What else may I do?” The kingdom of heaven operates by the principle of utmost effort, not least.

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the story of three servants to whom a rich man entrusted his fortune. Imposing loans on people was common in ancient times as a profitable way to deposit cash. Two of his employees were delighted to have such trust placed in them. After all, a talent was a coin of value, and he had lent them five and ten talents apiece. Eager to please him, they showed enterprise in their use of his money; unlike the third servant, who wanted to save himself any trouble or anxiety. He simply dug a hole and buried it.

God does not exploit people; nor was Jesus a financial advisor. He was interested in a different kind of treasure. God is rich in kindness and we are distributors of that grace. What God bestows is not meant to be hoarded. God gives us wisdom and skills that we may be of service; God forgives us that we might treat other people generously. Such is the “commerce” of God's kingdom: a reckless investment of ourselves with no certainty of return, other than to increase the circulation of love in this world. Taken from The Living Word

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you have been faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities.”- MATTHEW 25:21

God calls us to nurture and develop the gifts He has given us and then generously return a portion with increase. He doesn't want us to waste or hoard the gifts He has given us. He expects us to grow our gifts, use them wisely and be generous with them. Unfortunately, many of us are not generous in proportion to all that God has given us.

What is an endowment?

An endowment fund is a perpetual fund. It is created by charitable donations in the form of cash, stocks, mutual funds, real property, or other personal property to a foundation, such as the Catholic Development Foundation (CDF), to support a specific ministry such as a parish or cemetery. To learn more about endowments or the Catholic Development Foundation, go to www.cdfnd.org.

Did you know?

Did you know that St. Alphonsus Catholic Church has a permanent endowment fund? YES – we do! In partnership with the Catholic Development Foundation, our parish established this fund to help secure our future as a parish family. St. Alphonsus' endowment fund provides a perpetual income stream annually which helps us maintain our church and provides for the necessary ministry our members depend on. Please join me in supporting the St. Alphonsus endowment fund; whether it's a gift today or someday as part of your will/estate plan. May God continue to bless our parish family for years to come. Fr. Michael Hickin

Advent Communal Penance Service Thursday, Dec 17, 5:30pm, follows the 5 pm Mass.

Fellowship Hall Cleaning for November – 14 – Koree Hoffman & Emily Schaefer; 21 – Jody Klindt & Nichole Schefter; 28 – Marilyn Shephard & Kirsten Gendron

Women's Care Center is looking for special people committed to our mission, who are personable with excellent communication skills. We are looking for a counselor, nurse, sonographer, or counselor assistant. Training is provided. Degreed and non-degreed candidates encouraged to apply. Full and part-time positions available. Please forward your resume to anna@wccnd.com or call 701-662-2229 for further details or questions.

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.

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

St. Edward's Church cleaning for November/December – Jean Wilhelmi & Megin Mitchell

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

COVID-19. ND still ranks first in the nation for 7 day average per capita cases. Cavalier County remains the 2nd highest county, trailing Walsh. For over a week, Cavalier and Walsh Counties have remained in the top ten counties in the country for intensity of covid cases. As you're well aware, several local churches and institutions have temporarily closed their doors. I personally remain on quarantine until Monday, Nov 16.

As stated last week, after broad consultation locally and with the Diocese, we are only live streaming the Sunday Mass and ask parishioners to remain home.

I am still awaiting test results. If negative, we can resume Masses next week, unless the situation worsens still. Stay tuned. If positive, my quarantine will continue.

Thank you for your understanding and patience.

PLEASE STOP BY THE CHURCH! This is a great opportunity for you and your family to make a visit and open your heart in a 1-on-1 with Jesus.

Everywhere and always our Good Shepherd, Jesus is especially present to his flock through the Eucharist. His Real Presence in the Blessed Sacrament remains forever the Bread of Life.

Stop in! Say 'Hello!' Offer a prayer especially for the vulnerable and for those who suffer most from this ongoing isolation, our playful children and the elderly confined to their rooms.

Our hours of Eucharistic Adoration remain intact for now, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Please take advantage of that. Jesus sees. Jesus guides. Jesus responds to our responses. He will continue to bless us. Let's do our part to be present to one another through him. That's the Mystical Body of Christ at work!

CATHOLIC CHARITIES ND - Helping People. Changing Lives.

Catholic Charities North Dakota serves people in need and advocates for the common good of all. We saw their video 3 weeks ago. Please consider a response to their appeal. Belong to their beautiful ministry across our state. Envelopes at the entrances of our churches make it easy. Thanks!

PRAYERS FOR THE POOR SOULS - November, we traditionally turn an eye to those who have gone before us in death. Naturally, our hearts want to remember them in prayer. We're connected! There is a real solidarity between the communion of saints and the communion of sinners.

Saints are sinners who've been transformed by God's grace. That begins in Baptism. For those who die without fully being transformed, we speak of a state of purification which the Catholic tradition calls Purgatory. Those in this state can no longer pray for themselves, but they can pray for us. Their care for us does not cease. We, here on Earth, can help them by our love and prayers, just like we pray for our living friends and family every day.

"The Church has always urged us to pray for the dead. She invites believers to regard the mystery of death not as the last word on human fate but as a journey toward eternal life. It is an important to pray for the dead. Even if they died in grace and in friendship with God, they may still need a last purification in order to enter into the joy of Heaven." St. John Paul II, All Souls Day, 2003.

We know that the greatest prayer of all is Jesus' Prayer, the Eucharist we offer. Here, we're transported in the one great act of Jesus offering himself to the Father on our behalf: "*This is my Body offered up for you... my Blood poured out for you...*"

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "From the beginning the Church has honored the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic Sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God"

ROCKS - Our plans on the drainage around the church are being re-tooled. I'm quarantined but not crippled. If anyone wants me to pick up rocks on their farm, I'll do what I can. If anybody wants to drop them off, I'll try to find a home for them. Rock on!

Due to Covid the Altar Society meeting has been rescheduled to Monday, November 30th at 6:00pm in the fellowship hall. It will be our annual wine and hors d'oeuvres meeting. All Altar Society members are welcome to attend. There will be no meeting in December.