

**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
KING OF THE UNIVERSE**

NOVEMBER 22, 2020

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS for November 29th First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 63:16-19 64:2-7

How have you gone astray from God?
Speak to God, asking to mold you as new clay.

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

What gifts and favors has God given to you lately?
What spiritual gift would you seek in order to be “blameless” at the end?

Mark 13:33-37

As you make Christmas preparations, think about Christ’s return.
How are you preparing yourself for the day of Christ’s coming?

WEEKDAY MASSES November 24 – 27

Tues: 5:00 pm +Gerry Tholkes

Wed: 8:40 am **School Mass** +Dennis Lyons

Thurs: 9:00 am +Michael Muhs Thanksgiving Day – Note the change of time

Fri: 12:05 pm +John & Barb Schaffer Note the change of time

WEEKEND MASSES November 28 – 29

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

7:30 pm St. Alphonsus +Dick Perius

Reader: Colin Fetsch

EMHC: Holly Lyons

Sun: 8:30 am St. Alphonsus Living & Deceased Members of Albert & Theresa

Reader: Greg Fetsch Muhs Family

EMHC: Harvey Metzger

Musicians: Bob & Cantor

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

10:30 am St. Alphonsus +Dorothy Kroetsch

Reader: Dennis Horpestad

EMHC: Dennis Horpestad

Musicians: Bob & Cantor

Fellowship Hall Host: Wil & Sue Schill

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 & 15, 2020: This week’s reflection of the
parishioner’s relationship with God and with the parish

Adult Envelopes \$1,893.00

Intentional Givers \$3,133.67

Total \$5,026.67

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Some people may well find that they are uncomfortable with the idea of Christ as king; it suggests an archaic and outdated view of society and government. So it might be useful to think about how the Bible views the idea of what it meant to be a king. First of all, the human ruler, who, with one notable exception, was always male, was not regarded as having absolute power. The king was God's representative, and his chief function was to be a unifying force among the people, especially in matters of justice. If the king exceeded royal powers, it was the duty of the prophet to remind him that he was not above the law of God. The person regarded as the ideal ruler was David, the shepherd who was anointed as the one to govern Israel in God's name, and to be the focal point of unity for the twelve tribes.

The biblical idea of Law, or Torah, means teaching or instruction. In the Gospel writings, Jesus shows a way of life, rather than an updated set of legal rules. In today's extract from Matthew's account, we hear about the last judgment, when the Lord will hold the people to account. We might note that the basis of judgment is social justice, not keeping the rules of the religious institution. It focuses on how we have treated one another, especially those most in need. This reflects the teaching of the prophets that social justice must go hand in hand with religious observance: one without the other is incomplete. We find this throughout the teaching of Jesus. Perhaps the most intriguing detail in our story today is that the members of both groups are surprised at the king's declaring that he is the one who has been the object of their concern or their neglect.

Taken from The Living Word

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

"...whatever you did for one of the least of my brothers, you did for me" – MATTHEW 25:40

Most of us are generous when it's convenient for us. We are generous when we have the time or the money. But, generosity is the opposite of that. It means giving of one's time, money, compassion, forgiveness or mercy when it's not convenient; when it's not on our schedule, but on the other person's schedule.

FOOD PANTRY - Last month, the Wednesday before Halloween, Youth Groups in the various Langdon area churches called around asking for donations on behalf of our local Cavalier County Emergency Food Bank. The GRAND total came in at \$2132.03!!!! Thank you to our Youth and to all those participating through their generous giving.

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 last month. 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 POUR SOULS - In the month of November, we remember those who have gone before us in death.

Human beings were created to ripen spiritually. As we grow, we hope to become more tolerant and subtle in our judgments. We hope to become larger and more inclusive in our love and our capacity to embrace truths that stretch us beyond our limited imaginations.

This gradual growth process, once begun as early as in mother's womb, shows no signs of halting, even at death. We, the followers of Jesus, believe that our ripening is hardly complete by the time Death comes for us. God in his infinite Mercy has opened Death. It is no longer an ending as much as a beginning.

The aging process is instructive. The changing of our outer shell signals the ripening of a fruit within. This whole phenomenon hints at what Catholics mean by Purgatory. Heaven is an endless growth. As we pray for the Dead we continue to grow with them into the Mystery we are becoming.

We wish everyone a uniquely Happy Thanksgiving. Even if we can't gather as usual, nothing can stop our hearts from expressing thanks for all the goodness that sustains us – even and especially in times of trial. *It's not happy people that are grateful, but grateful people who are happy.* Good wisdom; pass it on.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Our Sympathy to the family of Audrey Schell & Jeff Stevens who was called home last week. May they rest in the love of the Father.

Due to COVID-19 Mass on Friday's until further notice will be held at the church at 12:05pm. Note the change of time

Eucharistic Adoration will be canceled on Thursday, November 26th. May your Thanksgiving day be filled with many blessings!

Altar Society meeting on 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.

CONFESSIONS - In two weeks, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available Saturday evening, Dec 5, 6:45-7:15pm and Sunday morning, Dec 6, 9:45-10:15am. We'll continue this for the first full weekend of each month. There are still Confessions after Mass Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday

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

COVID-19 - WE HAVE POSTED GOV BURGHUM'S new standards for virus protocols.

Public religious services remain suspended or strictly curtailed in a number of countries around the world in an effort to stop the spread of the coronavirus. For Catholics in countries such as Ireland, England and France, that means not being able to gather together for Mass on Sunday. We are grateful for the opportunity to continue worshipping, but let it not be at the risk of irresponsible with our health or that of others.

Even though Mass, Weddings, Funerals, etc. are specifically exempt from the ND executive orders regarding occupancy and face coverings, the City of Fargo gives no such exemption and requires masking. Bishop Folda has not specifically mandated the wearing of masks during worship, although he urges our cooperation with these emergency measures and compliance with the laws that aim to protect our people.

I tested negative and am off quarantine. A few other priests have been infected, including our Dean, Fr. Brian Moen of Minto. Two retired priests, Msgrs Senger and Gross have passed away as victims of COVID. Even though our numbers are dropping, we're far from 'out of the woods'. This remains a critical time for our community. It shall continue to be for the foreseeable future.

While our celebrations of the Eucharist remain open. I wouldn't discourage anyone from participating. Still, we need to exercise good judgment. If you have any cold or flu symptoms, please stay home. Also, don't be afraid to ask for assistance. Our Parish Family wants to be present and helpful. If you call the office, we'll find you some help.

Also, if you know of anyone in particularly difficult financial situations, the Ministerial Association has funds available to assist them. The Food Pantry too has resources available, especially for our shut-ins and folks with special needs.

This is a precious time to be on the alert for one another. The pandemic is a scourge, but the Holy Spirit can transform it into a time of heightened charity.

We are unable to plan and meet and SING and hug like we used to. If we are turning down the dial on physical contact, okay. But there's no reason we can't turn up the dial on spiritually connecting. This is a choice time to look within and listen. Jesus continues to call us forth. He is still urging us to look out for one another, to be present to one another.

STOP BY THE CHURCH! Light a candle. Say 'Hello!' to Jesus. Ask Mary to help you be open, the way she is, to the movements of the Holy Spirit.

Let's each do our part to make this a memorable time. The world is going through a **MOMENT**. Be in the **MOMENT**. We give this **MOMENT** to the Lord. A purification is going on. Of what? That's for each to discover. We can each be a window through which the Lord enters and takes possession of this **MOMENT**. *We are God's children now, what we shall be* (on the other side of this pandemic) *has not yet come to light* (1Jn 3). I offer each and every one of you (along with myself) to Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. Whatever awaits us on the other side will be God's response to how we respond today.