

**FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**

NOVEMBER 29, 2020

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS for December 6th Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11

What valley, or lack of virtue, do you need to fill in?

What mountain, or obstacle to God, do you need to level?

2 Peter 3:8-14

What is your most pleasant memory from past years seeming like yesterday?

What do you impatiently wait for, seeming like it will never come about?

Mark 1:1-8

What discipline will you practice in Advent, for repentance of sin?

How will you prepare yourself for baptism in the Holy Spirit?

WEEKDAY MASSES December 1 – 4

Tues: 5:00 pm +Mary Mann

Wed: 8:40 am **School Mass** +Margaret Kappes

Thurs: 5:00 pm +Kerry Machacek

Fri: 12:05 pm +Susan & Kurt Chaput

WEEKEND MASSES December 5 – 6

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

7:30 pm St. Alphonsus +Kathy Kram
Reader: Michael Neubert
EMHC: Bernadette Fetsch

Sun: 8:30 am St. Alphonsus +Wayne Gendreau
Reader: Darlene Brooks
EMHC: Bill Brooks
Musicians: Bob & Cantor

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

10:30 am St. Alphonsus +Francis & Loran Illerbrunn
Reader: Jenny Chaput
EMHC: Bev Otto
Musicians: Bob & Cantor

Fellowship Hall Host: Dorothy Sauer

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 22, 2020: This week's reflection of the parishioner's relationship with God and with the parish

Adult Envelopes	\$1,803.00
Intentional Givers	\$100.00
Plate	\$56.87
Fuel	\$25.00
Total	\$1,984.87

First Sunday of Advent

Today the coming of the Christ child at Christmas is set against the context of the final coming. We take up the theme of last Sunday, where we encountered Christ as the majestic king enthroned in heaven, passing a last judgment on his creation. Today we are reminded that the child in the manger will not be just another Christmas baby but the Word made flesh. He is the Son of God, creator of the world, who has humbled himself to be human. And he is the Son of Man who will come in glory on the clouds of heaven to call the whole of his creation to account. We miss the significance of all that because we prefer to slumber. Like Israel before us, we prefer to stay in our comfort zone, live with our sins, and hope that God will get off our backs and go away. It is at this point that we hear the voice of Isaiah, the great prophet of Advent.

In Advent we relive the prophecies of the Old Testament as they point forward to the coming of the Messiah. Isaiah is the most eloquent of these voices. He tells us that the worst possible thing for us is for God to leave us alone. When we are left alone we wander around lost and our hearts harden. We are withered like autumn leaves blown away by the wind. Isaiah turns to God and begs, "Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down", asking God to break into our boxed-in world, which is closed in on itself and needs not just consumer satisfaction but the transcendent mystery of a cosmic God who enters into God's own creation and takes the form of a baby. Taken from The Living Word

First Sunday of Advent

"Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time will come."

- MARK 13:33

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. We make our lives too busy. We plan our time, our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to how God is calling you right now to help build His kingdom on earth.

Adopt A Student Program: For families who want their students to attend St. Alphonsus School, but need tuition assistance, we have developed the Adopt A Student program. The program is set up to help with students' tuition with any financial contribution that is possible for anonymous donors. For the current school year 2020-2021 we have around 10 students that are in need of the Adopt A Student program. If you are interested in helping with the Adopt A Student program, please contact please contact Carrie at 256-2354 or email at carrie.hope@k12.nd.us. Donors and student information is known to those who administer the program but is kept confidential. We also ask that donors pray throughout the school year for the student they are helping. Students and families who benefit from the financial assistance are so grateful for the help.

Giving Hearts Day: St. Alphonsus School will participate in its first Giving Hearts Day in February. Giving Hearts Day is a 24-hour fundraising event for non-profits in North Dakota and northwest Minnesota. Since the first event in 2008, generous donors have given more than \$90 million – 100% of which goes directly to participating charities.

Wanted! Match donors. We are looking for up to 7 donors for our \$7,000 match pool, please contact Carrie at 256-2354 or email at carrie.hope@k12.nd.us.

Wanted! Giving Hearts Day donors! Donate online any time on Thursday, Feb. 11, 2021 at givingheartsday.org. Checks are also welcome on the day of the event, they must be dated February 11 and can be dropped off at our school. We will reserve special parking spots in front of our school for Giving Hearts Day donors who wish to donate in person.

Donations for Christmas Flowers can be made by filling out the below form and can be placed in the collection marked "flowers" or brought to the parish office by Friday, December 11th. Thank You.

In Memory of/honor of _____

From _____

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Due to the nursing homes being locked down Mass on Friday's until further notice will be held at the church at 12:05pm. Note the change of time

We have decided to cancel the Altar Society meeting for Monday, November 30. We will meet again in January with the new circle leaders. General church cleaning on December 7 will still be held as scheduled.

MASS TIMES - I've discussed Christmas Mass times with the Staff and have kicked it over to the Choir to get their input. Next week we'll list the times of Mass for Christmas and New Year's.

We've begun a discussion at St. Edward's, Nekoma, about suspending Saturday evening Mass there until after Easter. We'll finalize that decision shortly. From the input I've received, if the Nekoma Mass is suspended, we would move the Saturday evening Mass in Langdon to 5:00pm. Stay tuned.

CONFESSIONS - Next week, 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 Thurs., Dec 17, 5:30pm, follows the 5:00pm Mass.

COVID-19 - Widespread distribution of an effective vaccine is still months away for most of us. As the world awaits, we continue to take precautions. We remain vigilant.

This is the Advent message: Watch! We are committed to the health and safety of our parishioners and our guests. Most especially, we're focused on your focus: we turn our eyes to the Infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. We're used to this. We do this every year. But this year will be different. And that's okay.

I was pleased to read about the lively discussion our Cavalier County Commissioners had with local health professionals, and the conclusions they reached about supporting Gov Burghum's executive order on COVID. See pg. 18 of this past week's "Republican".

Facial coverings are not mandated by the bishop, and so I will abide by that. That said, they are strongly encouraged. I have fielded a few calls and comments from people who have difficulties with masks. I also get messages from people asking why we're not more stringent about protecting one another.

As we head into the depths of a winter unlike any we've experienced before, let's do our utmost to be understanding of one another.

First, let's refrain from judgment. Mask wearing is **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED**, but if someone doesn't wear a mask, let's presume they have serious reasons.

Second, let's take care of one another. Check in on your neighbors. If you're aware of someone who doesn't get out much, give'm a call; ask if they're alright or need anything. They might just like to hear your voice and your concern. It takes the edge off of all the isolation that is happening.

Our Gospel last wk was about the Final Judgment. We'll be asked in the End how attentive we were to meeting one another's needs. We know what the test is. Let's be the answer. It's a beautiful way to live—no matter what the weather.

100th Anniversary Celebration Planning Committee: We are starting a committee to plan our big 100th celebration weekend in July of 2021. We know that plans can change, but we want to be prepared to welcome alumni home if we are able to do so. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact Carrie at 256-2354 or email at carrie.hope@k12.nd.us.

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

Fellowship Hall Cleaning for November – 28 – Marilyn Shephard & Kirsten Gendron