

**THIRD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**

DECEMBER 13, 2020

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS for December 20th Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-16

What kind of dwelling have you built for God in your body?

From what "enemy" (person or situation) do you seek rest?

Romans 16:25-27

Offer praise and glory to God who gives you strength in the Holy Spirit.

Ask for Mary's heart of trust and confidence in God's help.

Luke 1:26-38

What decision are you anxious or fearful about?

Have you made it through any seemingly impossible situation?

WEEKDAY MASSES December 15 – 16

Tues: 5:00 pm +Gerry Waltz

Wed: 8:40 am **School Mass** Living & Deceased Members of Ed & Fern Chaput Family

Thurs: 5:00 pm +Bob & Betty Bata

Fri: 12:05 pm +Kurt Chaput

WEEKEND MASSES December 19 – 20

Sat: St. Edward's - Nekoma NO MASS AT NEKOMA TODAY

5:00 pm St. Alphonsus +Philip & Agnes Waslaski

Reader: Holly Lyons

EMHC: Holly Lyons

Sun: 8:30 am St. Alphonsus +Agnes Biewer & People of the Parishes

Reader: Gary Metzger

EMHC: Harvey Metzger

Musicians: Bob & Cantor

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

10:30 am St. Alphonsus Living & Deceased Members of William Kram

Reader: Terian Chaput Family

EMHC: Carla Horpestad

Musicians: Bob & Cantor

Fellowship Hall Host: Dennis & Diane 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 December 6, 2020: This week's reflection of the parishioner's relationship with God and with the parish

Adult Envelopes	\$3,744.00
Intentional Givers	\$3,216.67
Plate	\$134.27
Children	\$21.00
Improvements	\$20.00
Total	\$7,135.94

The Third Sunday of Advent

There is always an element of surprise in the meetings between Jesus and new disciples. Usually they are surprised by Jesus, but sometimes it is Jesus who is surprised. Jesus is amazed at the centurion's faith, but he is also amazed at the fact that only one of the ten lepers, a Samaritan, should come back to thank him. Perhaps this is why Jesus did not come in an age of mass media. We do not meet the Christ as these people did, but we can pray, and we can be amazed by his presence in our life. We understand that he is present in our own meetings with other people, particularly people we might not trust, people such as the Romans and the Samaritans in his day.

If we meet anyone in faith then Christ is there, and the meetings of Christ with John the Baptist and so many other figures in the New Testament are models for our own encounters with other people. John the Baptist at this moment thinks he knows what his encounter with the Messiah will be like. He is wrong, as the Christ asks to be baptized, showing humility rather than power. Yet there is one piece of wisdom that John has, even before he meets Christ. He knows what he is not. In fact, he does not say what he is. Only Jesus says, "I am", in the Gospel of John. In one context this is what God alone can say, but it also means that the divine identity of Christ is the root of his human identity. Through this, the divine identity becomes the foundation of our human identity. John is merely a voice, but what he says becomes what he is, when he meets Jesus, just as we too become who we truly are by proclaiming Christ. Taken from *The Living Word*

3rd Sunday of Advent

"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." – 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16 – 18

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.

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.

Thank You and Update from Catholic Charities North Dakota

This year we are so thankful for all of you who have faithfully supported our mission to help those in need and advocate for the common good of all! We have received wonderful feedback on our video for Catholic Charities Sunday and over \$155,000 toward our goal of \$175,000. During these challenging times, supporting Catholic Charities North Dakota is a concrete way to help others. Please join us at www.CatholicCharitiesND.org to learn more and make your gift online today!

MATTHEW KELLY BOOK. Most by now have in your possession *I Heard God Laugh: A practical guide to life's essential daily habit*. If not, you can find them in the entrances to the church. There are enough for every household in the parish. Take one for a friend or neighbor. Again, thanks to our anonymous benefactor.

It might feel at times like the Church is coming apart at the seams. But it's not. Prayer is the glue that holds together what Jesus set in motion. Prayer is the bond between God and his people. This pandemic is an opportunity to work on some super basic skills, like how to talk to and listen to God. Matthew helps us to experience prayer as a conversation. Dive in! Immerse yourself in the invitation this book contains. I wonder if it doesn't contain the future of our parish. What might that mean?

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Our Sympathy to the family of Patricia LaPorte and Anna Plante, who were called home last week. May they rest in the love of the Father.

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

NO Eucharistic Adoration December 22nd, 23rd, 24th and 31st Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Catholic Daughters – NO meetings until further notice

ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE Thursday, Dec 17, 5:30 pm, follows the 5:00pm Mass. Guest priests will be in attendance.

MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS will be 4:00pm Christmas Eve, Midnight, and 10:30am Christmas Day. New Year's Eve will be 5:00pm and New Year's Day will be 10:30am.

The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a "Consecration to the Holy Family" after both Masses on Sunday, December 27th the first Sunday after Christmas. Join us in consecrating ourselves under the protection of the Holy Family.

NEW SATURDAY MASS SCHEDULE - St. Edward's-Nekoma is suspending Saturday Mass until Saturday, April 10, the week after Easter. Until Easter, the Saturday evening Mass in Langdon will be at 5:00 pm. I have promised the good people of St. Edward's that, come April, we will return the 5:00pm Mass time to Nekoma. Any changes are likely to not work for certain people. We apologize for any inconvenience this poses, but it is a reasonable response to our current situation.

CHRISTMAS DINNER - Because we will regrettably not be hosting the traditional Christmas Dinner this year, we are making two donations to Cavalier County Social Services and the Cavalier County Emergency Food Pantry.

We received a nice hand-written Thank You note from the Food Pantry to our Youth Group for the Trick or Treat Food Drive.

"Your willingness to help vulnerable families is ever more critical now that we will be in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Your generosity provides nutritious meals to families. Thank you Again!"

CHRISTMAS TREE - *"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas...."* 🎵🎵🎵...

Thanks to those who put up our trees near the sanctuary. It looks lovely! Christmas wouldn't be quite the same without the legendary evergreens. Real or artificial, they speak to us of the season. Why is that?

The evergreen fir tree symbolizes immortality, precisely what the Christ Child came to offer us. When all the other trees in the North are bare at this time of year, the ever-green is a sign of life and life ever-lasting.

Because fir trees do not last forever, but remain green all their lives, no matter the season, they are excellent symbols of hope. Hope during a long, cold winter is a perfect attitude for the Christmas season. Decorations create mood and moods quietly suggest attitudes and attitudes determine our actions.

THERE IS ONE MORE TREE TO PUT UP

We'd like to put it in the front entrance of the church. It's been suggested that we ask our families to supply the ornaments. If every family put one ornament on, whatever kind they like, the tree would give our Christmas Hope a very personal touch. Maybe our students would like to add their own touches.

United Communications will be having a blood drive on Tuesday, December 15th from 12:15pm-6:00pm at United Communications. Call Mikan @ 256-5156 to schedule an appointment or click on www.vitalant.org.

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.