

**FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**

DECEMBER 20, 2020

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS for Dec. 27th The Holy Family, Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3

Abram, a name which means “father figure”, is told his name is to be Abraham, which means “father of a great nation”.

Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Abraham is extolled as the example of great faith, trusting in God, even when what he experienced appeared to be the opposite of what God promised.

Luke 2:22-40

What “saving deeds” have your eyes witnessed recently?

How have you experienced downfall, and rising, in your Christian life?

WEEKDAY MASSES December 22 – 25

Tues: 5:00 pm +Mike Gellner
Wed: 8:40 am +Francis Muhs
Thurs: 4:00 pm +Kathryn Shablow Christmas Mass
Midnight +Ruth & Stacey Chaput Christmas Mass
Fri: 10:30 am +Vincent & Elizabeth Schaan Christmas Mass

WEEKEND MASSES December 26 – 27

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

5:00 pm St. Alphonsus +RoseAnn Hoffarth
Reader: Nancy Kram
EMHC: Carol Hoffarth

Sun: 8:30 am St. Alphonsus +Dorothy Jakoubek & People of the Parishes
Reader: Carleen Schill
EMHC: Alan Schill
Musicians: Bob & Cantor

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

10:30 am St. Alphonsus +Gerald & Marge Mikkelsen
Reader: George Podhradsky
EMHC: Dennis Schill
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 December 13, 2020: This week's reflection of the parishioner's relationship with God and with the parish

Adult Envelopes	\$2,553.00
Intentional Givers	\$2,583.67
Plate	\$214.00
Children	\$30.00
Total	\$5,380.67

Thank you to all who donated money for Christmas Flowers in memory of the following:

Cody Livingood by Danny & Sharon Livingood & Family
Dennis Lyons by Holly Lyons & Family
John E. & Jon Delvo by Shirley Delvo & Family
Oscar, Peggy & Greg Beauchamp by Marty & Sherry Pengilly
Kathy, Jerry, Ella & Joe Kram by Jim Kram
Richard & Evelyn Schill & Bud & Ila Murie by Larry & Helen Murie
Ronald Mikkelsen & Vivian Novak by Kent & Carol Mikkelsen
Justin Kruk by DeDe & Floyd Boesl
Art, Lena, Lloyd & Bernard Ottesen & Roman Michaels by Norb & Bernice Schneider
Bachman & Rutledge Families by Wayne & Darlene Rutledge
Walter Rude, Neil & Liz Schill, Theodore, Angeline, Angie, Robert, Jason, Shawn &
Kody Kalis, Joey & Lisa Hodge, Larry & Patricia Graveline, Reinhold & Martha
Stegman, by Lorraine Rude
Ron Mikkelsen by Bette Mikkelsen & Marla Zeis
Lawrence & Tillie Schiestel, Edna Slama, John, Gertrude & Michael Wild by
Jack Wild Family
Pat Hoffarth & Sharon Kalis by Theresa Hoffarth & Family
Maures & Pearl Chaput & Ed & Anna Hoffarth by Les & Doris Hoffarth
William & Theresa Klemisch & Jake & Esther Spenst by Ben & Audre Spenst
Bill, Eva, & Jerry Regner & Percy Kram by Shawn & Julie Regner

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

In today's Gospel, we have the arrival of the angel Gabriel, who invites Mary to rejoice that she has been chosen to be the mother of Jesus. Classical artists tend to depict Mary as a docile young woman, often kneeling in prayer as she accepts the awesome invitation. Mary, though, is also eminently practical and asks the angel to explain how this will be possible since she has no husband. Mary is testing the wisdom of the message she has received. She is being invited to risk her reputation and perhaps even her life. The law of Moses would have classified her as someone deserving death by stoning, since she would have been regarded as an adulteress. She would also have known that her parents would have been disgraced in their community because of their daughter's shame. The angel, in reply, is able to offer compelling evidence that the invitation to Mary is genuine. Against all the odds, Mary's kinswoman Elizabeth, well beyond the age of child-bearing, is now expecting a baby herself as a sign of God's blessing.

We, of course, know that the story of Jesus unfolded to reveal all sorts of joy and sorrow, contradictions and challenges, leading to his death on the cross of a criminal and, ultimately, his resurrection in glory. But, like the uncertainty which has been the hallmark of this year, let us simply sit with the tensions and the challenges of what Mary was asked to do and be assured that it all worked out well for her, and for us, in the end. Taken from The Living Word

4th Sunday of Advent

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" – LUKE 1:28

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.

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 givingheartday.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.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

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

Catholic Daughters – NO meetings until further notice

MASS TIMES 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.

Here are addresses if you would like to send them a card:

Seth Skjervheim
Mt. St. Mary's Seminary
16300 Old Emmitsburg Rd
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

Sean Gette
1st RTBN BRAVO CO PLT 1034
39011 Midway Avenue
San Diego, CA 92140-5640

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. 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.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE in the front entrance of the church is for families. We ask our families and students to each supply an ornament. Give our Christmas Hope a very personal touch. Let's show one another and our guests how we hang together in honor of our Infant Savior.

CHRISTMAS CARDS have been sent out to all our parishioners. We tried to get everyone, but if you were missed, please let us know and we'll make sure it doesn't happen again.

In the card and accompanying letter from St. A's Parish Council is expressed our heartfelt Christmas greetings.

This 'COVID-Christmas' will be different. There is a low-level grief in our midst. And yet, the Christ Child is every bit as Present. It is both a moment of diminishment and opportunity.

Grace is alive and creative. God embraces hardship. It's his way. Listen for Angel choirs and you will hear them. If you want to share ways grace is working in you this Winter, let us know. We can put it in the bulletin (anonymous or not). Might be the gift to give somebody a lift.

To all our parishioners and to all our guests, Blessings for a very Merry Christmas.

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.

MATTHEW KELLY BOOK. Still a few dozen copies of *I Heard God Laugh: A practical guide to life's essential daily habit*. Please help us to clean up. Take a few for 'stocking stuffers'. Great way to spread abroad the graces being poured upon our parish community in these days.

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.

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!