

**THE HOLY FAMILY,
JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH**

DECEMBER 27, 2020

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS for January 3rd The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6

How has God come to visit you (revealed himself) recently?

What is the best gift you received this Christmas?

Ephesians 3:2-6

What is your attitude toward Jewish people?

Do you think there is any religion God will exclude from heaven?

Matthew 2:1-12

What gifts have you offered Jesus this week (time, work, prayer?)

How will you show Christ is your king this year?

WEEKDAY MASSES December 29 – January 1

Tues: 5:00 pm +Pearl Chaput

Wed: 8:40 am +Kerry Machacek

Thurs: 5:00 pm +Faith Ann Hoffarth

Solemnity of Mary

Fri: 10:30 am +Rose & Tony Hickin

Solemnity of Mary

WEEKEND MASSES January 2 – 3

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

5:00 pm St. Alphonsus

+Pat Schuler

Reader:

Corey Stremick

EMHC:

Carol Hoffarth

Sun: 8:30 am St. Alphonsus

+Mark & Della Metzger & People of the Parishes

Reader:

Darlene Brooks

EMHC:

Dennis Karsky

Musicians:

Bob & Cantor

St. Michael's – Wales

NO MASS AT WALES TODAY

10:30 am St. Alphonsus

+Gerry Tholkes

Reader:

Terian Chaput

EMHC:

Bev Otto

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 20, 2020: This week's reflection of the parishioner's relationship with God and with the parish

Adult Envelopes	\$6,580.00
Intentional Givers	\$320.00
Plate	\$438.00
Children	\$87.00
Improvement	\$1,000.00
Total	\$8,425.00

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

Kathleen Delvo by her daughter

Frank & Ruby Gellner & Ed & Elsie Heck by Ken & Mary Ellen Heck

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

There's a lot we're not told about this event. Yes, there is a lack of accommodation – no room at the inn. As a matter of interest, the Greek word Luke used for the “inn” is a word used in only one other place – referring to the so-called “upper room” where Jesus will eat the Passover with his disciples on the night before he dies. Does Luke deliberately use the word on these two occasions, and never otherwise, to remind us that this child, newly born, will go to his death as our redeemer, and will rise from the dead so that we too may have life? We just don't know, but it should not be ruled out too easily.

Certainly, the story of the presentation of the child Jesus in the Temple points forward to the death Jesus will face, the knowledge of which – Simeon says to Jesus' mother Mary – will be a sword that will pierce Mary's own soul too. This story is, of course, about parents with a new baby who are anxious to do what their tradition, their religion, requires following the birth of the first male child. In fact, this is related to an ancient custom which Israelites had taken over from people of other races around them. This was to offer the first fruits of all produce to the gods at the beginning of the season: the first sheaves of the harvest, the firstborn of each flock or herd. This custom became extended through the Law of Moses to the dedication of the firstborn male child of every family to God. This was done by a kind of proxy – the firstborn male child was not actually given away – the child was “redeemed” from this by the substitution of a lamb for those who could afford it, or two turtledoves or young pigeons for those who couldn't. Mary and Joseph fell into the latter category.

Taken from *The Living Word*

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

“...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive.” - COLOSSIANS 3:13

Forgiving is one of the hardest things for people to do. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others. Go to the sacrament of Reconciliation and receive God's mercy and forgiveness. Then, give the gift of forgiveness with someone – a family member, a friend or a co-worker. Pick up the phone or text someone right now.

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.

WORLD DAY OF PEACE, JANUARY 1 In his message for the 2021 World Day of Peace, Pope Francis appeals to all the people of the world to foster a “culture of care.”

The massive Covid-19 health crisis has aggravated deeply interrelated crises such as those of the climate, food, the economy and migration, causing great sorrow and suffering to many. The Pope appeals to political leaders and the private sector to spare no effort to ensure access to Covid-19 vaccines and to the essential technologies needed to care for the sick, the poor and those who are most vulnerable.

Alongside the pandemic, Francis also notes a surge in various forms of nationalism, racism and xenophobia, and wars and conflicts that bring only death and destruction in their wake. These and other events of 2020, he says, have underscored the importance of caring for one another and for creation in our efforts to build a more fraternal society. Hence, “A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace” is a “way to combat the culture of indifference, waste and confrontation so prevalent in our time,” he says.

After the creation of the world, God entrusts it to Adam to “till it and keep it”. Cain's response to God – “Am I my brother's keeper?” – after killing his brother, Abel, is a reminder that all of us are keepers of one another. God's protection of Cain, despite his crime, confirms the inviolable dignity of the person created in God's image and likeness. Later, the institution of the Sabbath aimed to restore the social order and concern for the poor, while the Jubilee year provided a respite for the land, slaves and those in debt. All this, the Pope says, shows that “everything is interconnected, and that genuine care for our own lives and our relationship with nature is inseparable from fraternity, justice and faithfulness to others.”

NO Eucharistic Adoration December 31st Happy New Year!

MASS TIMES: New Year's Eve will be 5:00pm and New Year's Day will be 10:30am.

Lector and EMHC Schedule is in the sacristy. Please take your copy; it will not be mailed out.

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

HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY SPOTLIGHT, ST. JOSEPH Back on December 8, Pope Francis called for a Holy Year of St. Joseph to mark the 150th anniversary of Pius IX's declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church.

Francis wrote his letter about Joseph during Covid-time. He said the pandemic has highlighted the importance of "ordinary" people. Patient folks, out of the limelight, who offer hope every day, resemble Saint Joseph. Joseph is "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence," who nonetheless played "an incomparable role in the history of salvation."

Joseph protected Mary and Jesus and taught his foster Child to "do the will of the Father."

"The carpenter of Nazareth could turn a problem into a possibility by trusting in divine providence." He had to deal with "the concrete problems" his Family faced, problems faced by other families in the world, and especially those of migrants and refugees. St. Joseph is "the special patron of all those forced to leave their native lands because of war, hatred, persecution and poverty."

"A carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family," St Joseph teaches us "the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one's own labor." Work "is an opportunity to hasten the coming of the Kingdom, to develop our talents and abilities, and to put them at the service of others." Those who work, he explains, "are cooperating with God himself, and in some way become creators of the world around us." Especially in light of rising unemployment due to the pandemic, the Pope calls everyone to "review our priorities" and to express our firm conviction that no young person or family should be without work!"

"Fathers are not born, but made. A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child." Children, the Pope says, need fathers who will not try to dominate them, but instead raise them to be "capable of deciding for themselves, enjoying freedom and exploring new possibilities."

Pope Francis says that "every day, for over forty years," he said the following prayer challenging Saint Joseph "My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power."

We look forward to how the year ahead will be a time to deepen our relationship with Joseph, foster-father of Jesus and husband of Mary.

MATTHEW KELLY BOOK Only a few copies are left of *I Heard God Laugh: A practical guide to life's essential daily habit*. I've been trying to follow his 21-Day challenge to pray 10 min/day according to the outline he provides. Have you given it a try?

THE GREAT CONJUNCTION - It was a modest but beautiful spectacle. Viewed it Monday evening without obstruction from the SE corner of the golf course for almost 90 minutes—please don't tell me that's not allowed.

Jupiter orbits the Sun every 12 years, while Saturn's orbit takes 30 years. So, every few decades Jupiter laps Saturn. When their orbits align it looks like Jupiter and Saturn are extremely close to one another. They haven't been observable this close together at night since medieval times, in 1226.

The conjunction is sometimes nicknamed the *Christmas Star*. In St Matthew's Nativity account, the star guides the wise men to Baby Jesus in Bethlehem. Astronomers have attempted to link the star to several rare celestial events — a comet, a supernova and a conjunction.

This conjunction of planets will appear extremely close for about a month, but December 21 was supposed to be the closest appearance. I took the occasion to offer our flock to the Lord in prayer. Let's keep seeking him and offering him our gifts.