

**THE THIRD SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

JANUARY 24, 2021

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS for January 31st Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

God's words will be placed on the lips of a Moses-like prophet who is raised up from among his kinsfolk.

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Paul sees the unmarried person as single-mindedly committed to the Lord.

Mark 1:21-28

Jesus speaks with an authority that leaves the people spellbound, and with a similar authority he drives out evil spirits.

WEEKDAY MASSES January 26 - 29

Tues: 5:00 pm +Darlene Girodat

Wed: 8:40 am **School Mass** +Dorothy Muhs

Thurs: 5:00 pm +Pat Schuler

Fri: 10:30 am **Osnabrock** +Deceased Members of Cassidy & Gorick Families (No Public is Allowed)

WEEKEND MASSES January 30 – 31

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

5:00 pm St. Alphonsus +Dorothy Jakoubek
Reader: Corey Stremick
EMHC: Bernadette Fetsch

Sun: 8:30 am St. Alphonsus +Cody Livingood & The People of the Parishes
Reader: Darlene Brooks
EMHC: Bill Brooks
Musicians: Bob & Cantor

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

10:30 am St. Alphonsus +Myrtle Freschett
Reader: Zach Schaefer
EMHC: Diane Schill
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 January 17, 2021: This week's reflection of the parishioner's relationship with God and with the parish

Adult Envelopes	\$4,997.00
Intentional Givers	\$570.00
Plate	\$197.00
Children	\$29.00
Fuel	\$25.00
Total	\$5,818.00

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

The word “Gospel” means good news, and St. Mark’s intention behind his Gospel is to persuade his listeners and readers that, despite the persecution they were undergoing, it really was “good news”. He does this by showing Jesus in action. There are far fewer of the teachings of Jesus in St. Mark’s Gospel than in the other Gospels. He talks about Jesus teaching but, apart from the parables, the Jesus we encounter is the person who heals and nourishes and calls people to follow him.

There is something very restless in St. Mark’s account, an urgency right from the start in the underlying message that the kingdom is close at hand and we need to change our hearts, change our ways. The kingdom is Mark’s description of the presence of God, brought about through and in the person of Jesus, and it is the person of Jesus who is the good news. There is also something very curt about the way Jesus calls his disciples. Simon and Andrew, James and John are going about their daily activities, fishing and preparing to fish. With his joke about now being made “fishers of men” rather than of fish, Jesus calls them and, immediately, they follow him. There is no debate or discussion, seemingly not even farewells. The meeting with Jesus is sufficient for them to get up and go.

Taken from The Living Word

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.” - MARK 1:17

Jesus’ call to “*Follow me*” is a call to all Christians! The call is in the here and now, in our present circumstances, not when we think we are “ready” or have everything in order. Good stewardship of our God-given gifts means that things aren’t always going to go according to our schedule and that God has a much better plan in store for each of us.

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.

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.

Fellowship Hall Cleaning for January – 23- RuthAnn Olson & Lori Benoit, 30 - Brooke Downs & Gael Balsdon

Cavalier County Health District COVID-19 Vaccination will be moving to the next priority group for COVID vaccination starting next week, pending vaccine allocations. This group will be individuals 75+ years of age and Individuals 65+ years of Age with 2 or more High Risk Health Conditions. **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY** Find clinic dates and set up an appointment at <https://tinyurl.com/y3j7sjwo> Or call for assistance with online scheduling: 256-3911—Cavalier County Emergency Manager. Masks are required to attend. *Limited number of doses available. Allocations are determined one week before clinics. Appointments are pending weekly vaccine delivery.

THE DIOCESAN VOCATION OFFICE is sponsoring a Discernment Weekend (Feb 5-6) at Maryvale, Valley City for guys 16 and older who are open to a vocation to the priesthood. It will bring together young men to pray about their vocations, and join with priests and seminarians to hear about how they navigated the difficult waters of discerning the Lord’s will. No cost for the weekend, but pre-registration is required at www.fargodiocese.org/vdw.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Catholic Daughters meeting on Monday, February 1st at 7:00pm in the KC Room.

The next Altar Society meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 9 at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall

The Business Office is looking for a medium sized safe. If anyone has one they would donate, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Catholic Schools' Week is coming up soon. The spaghetti supper will be on Wednesday, February 3rd. St. Alphonsus School Foundation will be helping out the School Committee by sponsoring the Silent Auction which will be done on Facebook this year. If you would like to help by donating a basket, please drop it off with Jackie at the school office or call Holly at 256-2613

CATHOLIC UNITED FINANCIAL RAFFLE: St. Alphonsus students and staff will be selling the raffle tickets to help support the school. 100% of the ticket income stays with the school. Catholic United Financial pays for all the prizes. Grand Prize is a 2021 Ford EcoSport or \$20,000.00. Plus a lot of other prizes. Your generous support of this fund raiser will be greatly appreciated.

RETRIEVE FAMILY XMAS TREE BULBS, otherwise, at the end of the month, they will be packed up until next year. Thank you! It is good to see this beautiful display of our families 'hanging together'—especially when COVID has us so often separated.

SLEEPING JOSEPH - I thank the many folks who have dropped off a note with St. Joseph, under the statue or in the box. The Sleeping Joseph statue will remain in until Feb 2.

HOLY WATER - A few suggestions have come in about making Holy Water available even during our pandemic precautions. There are some devices on the market that allow Holy Water to be dispensed more hygienically.

I resist for two reasons. One, these restrictions will pass, at which point the devices will become obsolete and have to be trashed.

Two, we do have Holy Water available in the large steel receptacle in the back of the church. The spout used to leak, but Dan L. repaired it. It might be a nice change of pace if you were to have your own Holy Water and share it with your family upon entering the church. Just a suggestion.

PARISH COUNCIL MET this past Tuesday. Tucker Regner, our youth rep on the Council, put together a Power Point presentation for us to view. Lots of lively discussion followed. We have a meeting with our interior design person Feb 23. The discussion will have to turn toward decision, then further refined decisions as these weeks unfold. On Thursday, Earl Wilhelm, Projects Manager for the Diocese of Fargo, came to evaluate and discuss with a group of us various options for our pews. Keep our work in your prayers, please.

CALL FOR PHOTOS! Do you have any old photos of St. Alphonsus Church, specifically the interior? As we form a vision of what we want to accomplish, we'd like to know what previous versions of the church looked like. There's the sanctuary area, but we'd also like to see what the entryway used to look like. We'll make copies and get the pictures back to you.

PROTECTING THE SEAL OF CONFESSION. A bill in the North Dakota Senate (SB 2180) would force priests to reveal what is said during confession and spiritual counseling in cases of suspected child abuse or vulnerable adult abuse. This means violating the seal of confession or face criminal fines, even jail time.

The Catholic Church is committed to protecting children and vulnerable adults. Clergy are already mandated reporters when the information is learned outside the capacity of a spiritual advisor. The seal of confession, however, is inviolable. It can never be violated for any reason.

We must protect the freedom of those who come to confess. As ministers of mercy, the Church doesn't want anyone to hold back from confession.

Act now to defeat this dangerous attack on a fundamental religious freedom. Contact the Senate Message Center directly by phone or email. Feel free to share it on facebook or other social media platforms.

Sample Message: **"Please vote No on SB 2180. Protect religious freedom."**