

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

JANUARY 31, 2021

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS for February 7th Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Job 7:1-7

What misery and drudgery are you experiencing?
Have you lost hope of improvement in something?

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

What has God called you to do "lest you be ruined?"
What are you doing to help others hear the Gospel?

Mark 1:29-39

Offer prayer for sick family and neighbors
Pray that Christ expel evil spirits disturbing ourselves.

WEEKDAY MASSES February 2 - 5

Tues: 5:00 pm +Ruth & Stacey Chaput
Wed: 8:40 am **School Mass** +Sally Stremick
Thurs: 5:00 pm +Larry Wheeler
Fri: 12:05 am +Sally Stremick

WEEKEND MASSES February 6 – 7

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

5:00 pm St. Alphonsus +John Wild
Reader: Holly Lyons
EMHC: Holly Lyons

Sun: 8:30 am St. Alphonsus +Anna Plante & People of the Parishes
Reader: Jackie Thom
EMHC: Dennis Karsky
Musicians: Bob & Cantor

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

10:30 am St. Alphonsus +Sally Stremick
Reader: Liz Sillers
EMHC: Carla Horpestad
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 January 24, 2021: This week's reflection of the
parishioner's relationship with God and with the parish

Adult Envelopes	\$9,720.00
Intentional Givers	\$180.00
Plate	\$229.00
Children	\$11.00
Total	\$10,140.00

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Jewish people revered Moses; they looked upon him as the greatest of their prophets, the greatest of God's spokespeople, but as we heard in today's first reading, Moses promised: "Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves." That was the promise, the Gospel in dramatic fashion shows its fulfillment.

It's the Sabbath day; in the local synagogue Jesus is invited to preach. The people are deeply impressed. In their astonishment, they ask each other what it can all mean. Jesus is a prophet like no other; his teaching is teaching with a difference: for he teaches with authority. Other religious leaders simply pass on what they've learned from others, but Jesus' teaching seems to well up from within himself. And he displays this authority not only in his words but also in his actions: he puts unclean spirits, devils, to flight. It's been said that in Mark's Gospel Jesus does not merely appear on the scene, he explodes onto it. His appearance is dramatic. Who can ignore a man like this? Indeed, who is he? Where does his power come from? Taken from *The Living Word*

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Brothers and sisters: I should like you to be free of anxieties." - 1 CORINTHIANS 7:32
How much anxiety do we bring upon ourselves by constantly worrying about not having enough or attaining more things? God won't necessarily give you everything you want, but He will provide everything you need. Try this – use the word "pray" instead of the word "worry" in the future. Then pray for things instead of worrying about them.

St. Alphonsus School is participating in Giving Hearts Day for the first time this year! They have matching funds of \$15,000 and hope to double that amount on Thursday, Feb. 11. Money raised will be used to create the school's first-ever STEAM Lab, purchase 15 iPads, and an electronic sign for the corner of campus. Donations are welcome by check (must be dated Feb. 11, 2021) or online at GivingHeartsDay.org > search St. Alphonsus School. You can schedule your online gift now through Feb. 9 or donate any time on Feb. 11.

Fellowship Hall Cleaning for February – 7- Connie Balsdon, Heidi Monette & Karla Gellner, 13 – Barb Karsky & Bernadette Fetsch, 20 – Emily Benoit & Carol Mikkelsen, 27 – Robyn Ramberg & Barb Hill

CANDLEMAS DAY - Tuesday, Feb 2 is the Feast of the Presentation. We have the funeral of Margaret Hiltner that day, one of our former beloved teachers at St. A's school. On this day, we will retire the statue of Sleeping Joseph, as the Presentation ends the cycle of feast commemorating Christ's childhood. Thanks to the many folks who have written their petitions and placed them under St. Joseph (like Pope Francis does) or in the wooden box. These pieces of paper will be ceremoniously burned and the ashes placed in the plants that stood vigil with Sleeping Joseph.

The Year of Joseph continues! As you may have noticed, we're lighting the candles at the small altar of Saint Joseph to the left of the sanctuary.

RETRIEVE FAMILY XMAS TREE BULBS -The foyer Christmas tree is returning to storage. The ornaments that don't get removed we'll pack with the tree 'til next year. Thanks for this display of our families 'hanging together'— as COVID has us often kept us apart.

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.

Nothing will transform your life so completely, absolutely, and forever like really learning how to pray. That's why this year's BEST LENT EVER journeys through Matthew Kelly's latest book, *I Heard God Laugh: A Practical Guide to Life's Essential Daily Habit*. Beginning on Ash Wednesday and continuing through all forty days of Lent, you will receive a daily email with a short video to help you reconnect with yourself and your God. If you choose to throw yourself into this experience, we promise you that you will be surprised by what God can do in your life with just an email, a short video and an open heart. So this year, don't just sign up for BEST LENT EVER, have your best lent ever! Sign up at dynamiccatholic.com. Journals are also available for ordering on the website.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

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

Altar Society meeting on Tuesday, February 9 at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall

We are excited to share, we will continue our annual Spaghetti Supper on Wednesday, Feb. 3. Supper will take place 5:00-7:00pm. We will have some dine-in seating ready. We will be social distancing the tables, sanitizing between each use, and we ask that you wear mask until you are seated at your table. We will also be providing the options of take-out and delivery. Please place your order for delivery by Noon on Wednesday, Feb. 3 by calling the school at 256-2354.

Along with our spaghetti supper we usually have a silent auction. We are excited to still be having the silent auction this year, but it will be done only on our St. Alphonsus School Facebook page. The auction will begin on Monday, Feb. 1st and will end at 7:00pm on Wednesday, Feb. 3. You can comment an amount on the picture that you are interested in purchasing. The highest bid as of 7:00pm on Feb. 3rd will win the basket. I will contact you if you are the highest bidder to arrange pick up of the item. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the school at 256-2354.

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.

Wales Fire Department Super Bowl Sunday Breakfast on Sunday, February 7th from 9:00am – 1:00pm at St. Michael's Parish Hall (Wales) serving Hickory Hut Sausage, Pancakes and Scrambled Eggs. Free will donation

ST. BLAISE, THROAT BLESSINGS - Wednesday, Feb 3, we will have the traditional throat blessing during the 8:40am Mass. Anyone who would like the blessing but is unable to attend the Mass, please call Fr. Michael or the Parish Office and we'll make arrangements.

CONFESSIONS - February 6-7, first weekend of February, there will be Confessions following the 5:00pm Saturday evening Mass and between Masses on Sunday morning.

THE NATIONAL THEME FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK THIS year is *Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service.*

We are so honored to be numbered among the 14 Catholic Schools in our diocese. Here the gift of faith is handed on to our young people. The faith, hope and love that flow from Jesus is kneaded into their overall education. This in turn creates countless strains of influence on the society they shape.

Please pray for our students and teachers to live this mission to the best of their abilities.

I take this occasion to thank our parishioners for **A FULL CENTURY** of support. For 100 years the good people of St. A's have kept this mission alive. This entails great sacrifice and I'm in awe of what you have accomplished.

Carrie Hope, our wonderful principal, will polish off the week by speaking at Masses next weekend to draw our attention to Giving Hearts Day and a special campaign for St. A's School.

PARISH COUNCIL, ST. MICHAEL'S, WALES met on Tuesday evening, Jan 26. The Council asked the pastor to get from the diocese a description of the process needed for the closing of parishes.

ST A'S PARISH COUNCIL MET this past Thursday to continue our discussion of restoration and renovation ideas. We are preparing for the return visit on Tuesday, Feb 23 of Susan Brandjord, the interior design consultant who visited us in August. Susan will help put together a plan we can present to the rest of the parish.

The Baby Bottle Campaign is back!! The Pregnancy Help Center in Park River needs your help in filling the baby bottles. Let's show them our support! The bottles are due back Sunday, February 14th. Thank You