

**THE FIFTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FEBRUARY 7, 2021

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS for February 14th Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

What uncleanness of sin should you bring to the priest this Lent?

Whom have you “declared unclean” and set apart from yourself?

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

What have you done that gives offense to the believing Church?

Does your eating and drinking – daily lifestyle – give glory to God?

Mark 1:40-45

What healing would you request from Jesus at this time?

How are you proclaiming to others what Jesus has done for you?

WEEKDAY MASSES February 9 - 12

Tues: 5:00 pm +Betty Bata

Wed: 8:40 am **School Mass** +Sally Stremick

Thurs: 5:00 pm +Jack Bisenius

Fri: 10:30 am **Osnabrock** +Gerry Waltz (No Public is Allowed)

WEEKEND MASSES February 13 - 14

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

5:00 pm St. Alphonsus +Lawrence Schiestel
Reader: Colin Fetsch
EMHC: Carol Hoffarth

Sun: **8:30 am St. Alphonsus** +Betty Muhs
Reader: Gary Metzger
EMHC: Linda Kempel
Musicians: Bob & Cantor

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

10:30 am St. Alphonsus +Oscar, Peggy & Greg Beauchamp
Reader: George Podhradsky
EMHC: Bev Otto
Musicians: Bob & Cantor

Fellowship Hall Host: Wil & Sue 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 31, 2021: This week's reflection of the parishioner's relationship with God and with the parish

Adult Envelopes	\$1,926.00
Intentional Givers	\$930.00
Plate	\$288.00
Children	\$54.00
Fuel	\$50.00
Total	\$3,248.00

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today our scripture readings help us to explore these deep human longings in the light of God's word and God's plan for us. If we know the story of Job, maybe we can recognize his changing fortunes as typical of the human condition. For reasons he doesn't know or understand, his life has become unbearable. Who is to blame? As far as he knows, he has been faithful to all the demands of the Law, so he refuses to accept that his troubles are a punishment from God. But he also knows the goodness of God and so he refuses to blame God for all that has gone wrong in his life. In the end, he simply has to surrender and entrust himself to God's loving mercy.

On the other hand, St. Paul is able to view the world in the light of the Good News of Jesus Christ. He sees that this is the final answer to everyone's quest for happiness, starting with himself, and so he commits himself to sharing this Gospel with everyone, whatever it might cost him.

In today's Gospel we find Jesus responding with love and compassion to those he meets. They know that Jesus can help them, whatever their need might be. They come to him from all around the town bringing people who are sick and those possessed by demons, and Jesus cures them all. But in this night-time prayer, Jesus realizes that his mission goes beyond this little seaside town. "Everybody is looking for you," he is told by the disciples and Jesus knows the truth that "everybody" is more than this local population – it is the whole of humanity, for all time. He has to move on. His mission for the salvation of the world is just beginning. Although "everybody" is looking for an immediate resolution to their problems, this is symptomatic of their deep, inner longing for happiness, and ours.

Taken from The Living Word

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed...He told them, 'Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose, have I come.'" - MARK 1:35, 38

In today's Gospel reading we see a perfect example of stewardship. Jesus gives His time to do all that God wishes - healing the sick and preaching. But before He begins, Jesus makes time to be alone with God in prayer. It is through prayer, spending time with God, that we find the strength to do what He wishes us to do. Be sure to find time every day to be with God.

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 through Feb. 9 or donate any time on Feb. 11.

Fellowship Hall Cleaning for February – 13 – Barb Karsky & Bernadette Fetsch, 20 – Emily Benoit & Carol Mikkelsen, 27 – Robyn Ramberg & Barb Hill

Decora - "Decora is a day retreat empowering high school and college-age women to live happy and healthy lives by embracing the gift of their femininity! This year Decora will be held Saturday, March 6th, from 8am-4pm at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church. This day includes inspiring speakers, fun breakouts, delicious food, a fashion show, and a guy panel – all to inspire young women to discover their feminine genius! High school women are encouraged, but not required, to share this special day with their mom or female mentor. This event is free for students and \$35 for non-students (inclusive of meals & materials). For more information and to register please visit bisoncatholic.org. The registration deadline is Feb 28."

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

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

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.

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

Knights of Columbus will have a supper and meeting at the Eagles on Tuesday, February 9th with social at 6:30pm and meal at 7:00pm. Regular meeting following supper. Spouses and widows of past members are welcome.

Knights of Columbus will have a Fish Fry every Friday during lent. The first one will be on Friday, February 19th. Serving from 5:00 – 7:00pm in the cafeteria. Everyone welcome. Takeout available and Delivery is available by calling 256-5966 extension 115

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.

The Baby Bottle Campaign is back!! The Pregnancy Help Center in Park River work includes over 300 families with children for help in our baby room; hosted high caliber speakers in area schools for over 1500 students; sponsored presentations by the PAL'S (post abortion ladies) panel, who speak about the devastation they experienced by the abortion experience in their lives. The bottles are due back Sunday, February 14th. Thank You

SUNDAY-MONDAY, FEB 7-8 Fr. Michael will be joining his Jesu Caritas (priestly fraternity) group. Fr. Phil is hosting us in West Fargo for Super Bowl LV.

TUESDAY, FEB 9, BISHOP FOLDA will be joining area priests at our local Deanery meeting, hosted this month by St. Alphonsus. There will be a Holy Hour from 10:30 – 11:30am, followed by lunch in the Fellowship Hall (provided by Carla Horpestad—THANK YOU!), and then the Deanery Meeting. I invited Bishop to stay on and celebrate our 5:00pm Mass, but he is moving on to another Deanery Meeting in Devils Lake.

ST A'S PARISH COUNCIL MET again this past Thursday - We each submitted proposals for the work to be done, working towards a unified plan of our restoration/renovation project. We will be ranking the various components according to their priority, and if needed, break the whole into phases. We're also looking closely at the financial component to set ourselves a budget. On Feb 23, we will meet with 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.

CALL FOR PHOTOS! So far, only one person has submitted an old photo of St. Alphonsus Church. We'll make copies and get the pictures back to you.

ANOTHER YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH PRAYER:

ST. JOSEPH, PROTECT OUR HOME. Pour blessings on our family. Remain in our midst. Help us to live in love and harmony, in peace and joy. Help us to work hard and sleep soundly. Bless our dreams and give us an ear for the Good Angel's guidance. Lead our family to heaven.

To you this day I give the key to our home. Lock out all that could do us harm. Keep safe my loved ones within. Teach us how to serve one another the way you cared for Jesus and Mary. Amen.