

**FIRST SUNDAY  
OF LENT**

**FEBRUARY 21, 2021**

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS for February 28th Second Sunday of Lent**

*Genesis 22:1-18*

What is the most difficult choice you ever had to make?  
How did God provide an answer in your time of difficulty?

*Romans 8:31-34*

Have you ever felt someone was "against you? How and why?"  
Ask Jesus to intercede for you in a special need; He is "for you".

*Mark 9:2-10*

When have you felt closest to God, most full of wonder?  
What do you think heaven will be like?

**WEEKDAY MASSES February 23 - 26**

Tues: 5:00 pm +Msgr Jeffrey Wald  
Wed: 8:40 am **School Mass** +Kathryn Shablow  
Thurs: 5:00 pm +Pat Schuler  
Fri: 10:30 am **Osnabrock** Deceased Members of the (No Public is Allowed)  
Hickin & Brastaski Families

**WEEKEND MASSES February 27 - 28**

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

**5:00 pm St. Alphonsus** +Helen Allen  
Reader: Holly Lyons  
EMHC: Holly Lyons

**Sun: 8:30 am St. Alphonsus** +Jack Bisenius & The People of the Parishes  
Reader: Darlene Brooks  
EMHC: Darlene Brooks  
Musicians: Bob & Cantor

**St. Michael's - Wales NO MASS AT WALES TODAY**

**10:30 am St. Alphonsus** +Larry Wheeler  
Reader: Dennis Horpestad  
EMHC: Dennis Horpestad  
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 February 14, 2021: This week's reflection of the  
parishioner's relationship with God and with the parish**

Adult Envelopes	\$3,749.00
Intentional Givers	\$2,483.67
Plate	\$258.00
Children	\$9.00
Fuel	\$20.00
Improvements	\$20.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,539.67</b>

## First Sunday of Lent

The word "repent", which we heard in today's Gospel, is derived from the Greek word *metanoia*, which means a change of heart, seeing things differently, a new direction, a fresh beginning. The Gospel writers tell us that it was after John the Baptist had been arrested that Jesus began his mission with the message, "Repent, and believe the Good News." Jesus prepared for this by spending time in the wilderness, where he was, in Mark's words, "tempted by Satan". Matthew and Luke give more details of his temptations, telling of how the devil tried to persuade Jesus to turn stones into bread, or to seek political power and influence, or to abandon his commitment to the kingdom of God.

Our first two readings use images relating to water to convey the idea of a new start. The covenant between God and Noah, made after the great flood, is symbolized by the rainbow, which is itself caused by light refracting through water droplets. Through the water of baptism, referred to by Peter in his letter, we are saved by a pledge "made to God from a good conscience", not from fear. This is the repentance, the change of direction, which Jesus preached – going forward with joy, knowing that the Lord is with us. Taken from The Living Word

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent

*"After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God...."*  
- MARK 1:14

Do you ever think about how difficult it must have been for Jesus to come into Galilee, knowing that John had just been arrested for teaching the same message that Jesus was proclaiming? It must have taken great love and trust for Jesus to do what the Father had sent Him here on earth to do. In the same way, following a life of stewardship takes great love and trust from us. We must be willing to surrender completely to God, trusting that God will always give us all that we need to fulfill His plan for us.

**PARISH MISSION** - We kick off the Lenten Season with a Parish Mission, welcoming the eloquent and energetic Fr. Kyle Metzger, Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Fargo. His theme touches upon the various ways God speaks to us and gives us grace.

The title of the Mission is *What is God's Native Language?* He will illustrate God's 'speech' through Scripture, Sacred Art, and the Sacraments. Fr. Metzger is preaching this weekend, then the Mission takes place Sunday, 2:00pm; Monday, 7:00pm; Tuesday, 7:00pm. After each talk, the Altar Society will be hosting a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

**ST A'S PARISH COUNCIL** meet Tuesday, Feb 23, 11:30-2:00pm. We will be having a meal catered by the Bread Pan and host Susan Brandjord, the interior design consultant who visited us in August. Susan is working with us to put together a plan we can present to the rest of the parish.

I met with Susan this past Tuesday. She showed me samples that she'll be bringing along for the rest of the Council to view.

On Friday, Feb 19, I'm expecting a visit Doug Henning of Henning Restorations, Forest Lake, MN. He did some renderings for Fr. Bill back in 2003. He's just stopping in to see the church. We'll see if this turns into a working relationship.

Patrick Ratigan of Ratigan-Schottler Manufacturing, Beatrice, NE is also due to pay us a visit in a week or two to inspect our church pews.

Anyone is welcome to lookup on the www either or both of the two companies mentioned above.

Please pray to Saint Joseph during this Year of Joseph for the work ahead.

*Joseph, by the work of your hands  
and the sweat of your brow,  
you supported Jesus and Mary.  
You even had the Son of God as your co-worker.  
Teach us to work as you did, with patience and perseverance.  
Teach us to see Christ in all our fellow workers.  
Help us look upon the work ahead in our church with eyes of faith,  
to recognize in it our share in God's own creative activity  
and Christ's work of redemption.  
With you, let us build something beautiful  
that honors our roots and reaches toward future generations of faith.  
Work with us that all we decide and do will be  
for God's glory and the salvation of His People.*

## PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

**Our Sympathy** to the families of Paul Schneider who was called home last week. May he rest in the love of the Father.

**Stations of the Cross will be held on Friday's at 7:00pm in the church during lent.**

**Knights of Columbus will have a Fish Fry every Friday during lent.** Serving from 5:00 – 7:00pm in the cafeteria. Everyone welcome. Takeout available and Delivery is available by calling 256-5966 extension 115

Catholic Daughters meeting will be on Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm in the KC Room

Altar Society meeting will be on Monday, March 8 at 6:00pm in the fellowship hall.

**GOD'S GIFT APPEAL.** We started the 2021 appeal last week with Bishop Folda's video message. The theme this year is *Steadfast in Faith, Joyful in Hope.*

**Cavalier County Friends for Life *will not* be holding their annual Friends for Life Brunch this February 2021, due to the pandemic.** We ask for your support to meet our monthly commitments in support of the Pregnancy Help Center in Park River, St. Gianna Home in Warsaw, the Women's Pregnancy Center in Grand Forks, the Perry Center in Fargo and Women's Care Clinic in West Fargo. Your contribution also pays for abortion alternative listings for help in the Durum Triangle and United Communications telephone directories. If you wish to renew your \$10 membership or become a new member, you may also do so at this time. Membership fees and/or donations in support of our mission may be made out to Cavalier County Friends for Life and mailed to Duane Otto (Treasurer) at 1114 5th Street, Langdon, ND 58249. Your continued support is greatly appreciated, thank you so much!!

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT** - The last two Sundays I've been building on a phrase from Mark's Gospel about 'deserted places' – Jesus' getaway place, then the fact that his ministry was forced to the outskirts.

Lent begins with a quite literal 'deserted place'. Jesus is in the desert.

Like our Lent, Jesus spends 40 days preparing for his life's mission. We're preparing to renew with force the vows of our Baptism. Sprinkled with Holy Water, we celebrate the meaning of our lives as followers of Jesus Christ who alone opens this life up to something indescribably beautiful beyond death.

We are on a pilgrimage into Eternity. Thanks for the company.

We mirror Jesus' time in the desert through gestures of self-denial. What are you giving up for Lent?

**REMINDER, FRIDAYS OF LENT** are days of abstinence from meat for all Catholics ages 14 and older.

Catholics abstain from meat to honor Jesus' 40 day fast in the desert; it is a minor adjustment to our diet to remind us of what Jesus did for us. Other spiritual meanings vary by person and denomination. Among the top reasons the Church prescribed meatless Fridays was because fish has traditionally been for Mediterranean peoples the food of the poor. Only wealthy land owners had regular access to flesh meat. Fish was available to anyone near water, which is plentiful on the European continent. Fish Fridays were aimed primarily at the well-to-do, so they'd eat more like those less well off.

**ST. MICHAEL'S, WALES** - February 17, David Girodat and Marc Greening and Fr. Michael met with Earl Wilhelm, Projects Manager of the Diocese of Fargo. Earl visited both the church and the church hall. He took pictures and we had a discussion about the process that needs to take place for a parish to close.

There are several steps and it takes a few months. The first step will be on All-Parish meeting for the St. Michael parishioners, Wednesday, March 3, 7:00pm, at the Parish Hall, Wales.

**Fellowship Hall Cleaning for February – 20** – Emily Benoit & Carol Mikkelsen, 27 – Robyn Ramberg & Barb Hill

The Pregnancy Help Center in Park River, ND work includes emails and verbal messages to over 1000 prayer partners every week on abortion days – wherein 103 lives have been saved since 2007 by the grace of God, through your prayers and the work of faithful sidewalk advocates.