

EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 4, 2021

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS for April 11th Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35

How are you sharing in what you have with the church; the needy?

What change of heart and mind do you need, to achieve unity?

1 John 5:1-6

Which of God's children is most difficult for you to love?

Are any of God's commandments burdensome to you?

John 20:19-31

Imagine yourself receiving Jesus' spirit; breathe his peace.

Imagine yourself as Thomas; touch Jesus' hands and side.

WEEKDAY MASSES April 6 - 9

Tues: 5:00 pm +Jack Bisenius

Wed: 8:40 am **School Mass** +Mike Gellner

Thurs: 5:00 pm +Jerry Dunmare

Fri: 10:30 am **Maple Manor** +Ronald & Agnes Kram **(No Public is Allowed)**

WEEKEND MASSES April 10 - 11

Sat: 5:00 pm St. Edward's - Nekoma +Patricia LaPorte

7:30 pm St. Alphonsus

Deceased Members of Louie & Anne Fischer

Reader: Holly Lyons

Family

EMHC: Holly Lyons

Sun: 8:30 am St. Alphonsus

+Linda & Art Spanier & The People of the Parishes

Reader: Kitty Bachman

EMHC: Alan Schill

Musicians: Bob & Cantor

St. Michael's - Wales

NO MASS AT WALES TODAY

10:30 am St. Alphonsus

+Ronald Stevens

Reader: Dennis Horpestad

EMHC: Dennis Horpestad

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: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays after Mass or by appointment

Weekly Reflection for March 28, 2021: This week's reflection of the parishioner's relationship with God and with the parish

Adult Envelopes	\$3,264.00
Intentional Givers	\$130.00
Plate	\$327.00
Children	\$32.00
Total	\$3,753.00

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

For John the evangelist, the story of Jesus ends on the cross. The crucifixion is the lifting up of Jesus in glory: it is his death, resurrection, ascension and giving of the Spirit all summed up in one event. The following episodes are part of the story of the disciples. Our Gospel passage today relates the circumstances surrounding the discovery that Jesus' tomb is empty. It opens with the three characters – Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter and the anonymous disciple whom Jesus loved – literally and symbolically in the dark. At the beginning, they do not understand the reason why Jesus' body is missing: at the end, Mary and Peter still do not know, but the unnamed disciple comes to believe. Peter may well have a position of authority and his companion defers to him by allowing him to enter first, but the latter has priority of place in Jesus' love.

There are clues in the text that God has been at work. We are told that “the stone had been moved away” and that the cloth which had been over Jesus' face was “rolled up”: this is a biblical way of expressing divine action. The signs of death – the stone, the cloths – have been deprived of their meaning; the tomb and the cloths are empty. We might contrast this scene with the raising of Lazarus, who is restored to the life he lost; Jesus is now in a different plane of existence altogether. Only John's model “beloved disciple” realizes this.

Taken from The Living Word

Easter Sunday

“Think of what is above, not of what is on earth.” - COLOSSIANS 3:2

On this day we thank God for His Son, Jesus, who died and rose for us. We celebrate and sing “*Alleluia*.” Let's try to keep the joy of this Easter season in our hearts throughout the year! Pray daily and listen for how He is calling each of us to joyfully use our gifts to fulfill His salvation plan.

CD of the Week: Resurrection & Mercy – 3 Homilies for the Easter Season – Fr.

Brian Larkin – Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Amid crisis, scandal, and confusion in the modern world, where does the good news of the Resurrection and God's endless mercy fit in? In these three homilies-on the Easter Vigil, Divine Mercy Sunday, and Pentecost-priest and pastor Fr. Brian Larkin shares stories and insights, including from G.K. Chesterton, George Weigel, St. John Paul II, St. Faustina Kowalska, and the Old and New Testaments, to proclaim the joy, hope, and mission of every Christian, to love and serve a God “who never tires of forgiving you”, and “who knows His way out of the grave.” **Happy Easter and thank you for supporting Lighthouse Catholic Media and Augustine Institute!**

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

Victor & Lea Waltz by Wayne & Sally Waltz & Family

Joe & Arlene Klemisch by Joann Klemisch

Ronald Mikkelsen & Vivian Novak by Kent & Carol Mikkelsen

Kathy, Jerry, Ella & Joe Kram by Jim Kram

John E. & Jon Delvo by Shirley Delvo & Family

Dennis Lyons by Holly Lyons & Family

Living & Deceased Members of the Mathias Girodat Family & Living & Deceased

Members of the Romeo Hoffarth Family by Jim & Carol Hoffarth

Isaac Hill by Elaine Hill & Family

Richard & Evelyn Schill & Bud & Ila Murie by Helen & Larry Murie

Eddie & Rhena Lorenz by Duane & Ruthann Olson & Family

Ron Mikkelsen by Bette, Marla, Kevin & Michelle

Lawrence & Tillie Schiestel, Edna Slama, John, Gert & Michael Wild by Jack Wild Family

Jake Kram & Michael Muhs by Judy Kram & Family

St. Joseph by Anonymous

William & Theresa Klemisch & Jake & Esther Spent by Ben & Audre Spent

Francis & Loran Illerbrunn by Judy Illerbrunn

Sharon Kalis & Pat Hoffarth by Theresa Hoffarth & Family

Justin Kruk by Deanne & Floyd Boesl

Philip & Agnes Waslaski by Ray & Wanda Howatt & Family

Oscar, Peggy & Greg Beauchamp by Marty & Sherry Pengilly & Family

Mike Gellner, Walter & Elise Crowston & Val by Donna Gellner

Mauris & Pearl Chaput & Edmund & Anna Hoffarth by Les & Doris Hoffarth

Richard Otto & Richard Chaput by Sally Otto & Family

NEXT SATURDAY we begin 5:00pm Mass in Nekoma and 7:30pm Mass in Langdon.

Catholic Daughters meeting will be on Monday, April 5th at 7:00pm in the KC room

Altar Society meeting will be on Tuesday, April 13 at 6:00pm in the fellowship hall.

Divine Mercy Sunday (April 11th) – there will be Adoration from 2:00 – 3:00 with confession during this time. At 3:00 Divine Mercy Chaplet, with benediction to follow.

EASTER WEEK - I leave Easter Sunday afternoon for a retreat in Minneapolis, returning Friday evening. Fr. Bill McDermott will be here for the weekday Masses Tues - Fri.

Easter Book and CD Sale: We are running a promotion on our Books and CD's that we have for sale in the kiosks in the gathering space and in the north (circle) entrance. Our normal price of the books is \$5. Books this Lent are for sale 3 for \$10. CD's usually sell for \$4 each or 3 for \$10. That are now on sale for 5 for \$10. We have some great titles in both books and CD's.

EASTER GREETINGS—GRATEFUL TO BE TOGETHER AGAIN - Last year, recall, we celebrated Easter in empty churches. Our minds were full of questions. It was strange.

A hundred years ago, the biologist J. B. S. Haldane said, "The Universe is not only stranger than we imagine; it is stranger than we *can* imagine."

The Holy Saturday liturgy, Queen Mother of them all, begins in holy darkness. It cannot begin until the Sun has gone down. The darkness is a spiritual carryover from Good Friday, a liturgy that ended in silence.

Every day the Sun sets. Like a blanket slowly drawn over the land, darkness engulfs us even as it lifts on the other side of the world. This is another kind of 'liturgy' that Jesus presides over in another way through the movement of a planet around the Sun.

Has this virus been yet another kind of liturgy?

A darkness has been drawn over the world's population. Some places, like here, it appears to be lifting, even as France and other areas, AGAIN, enter total lockdown. We're still not out of the woods. We just don't know.

Holy Saturday, Christ in the tomb, is a dark day. The disciples grapple with sadness, despair. Their dreams are shattered. It all happened so quickly.

At the beginning of the Easter Vigil, we might allow ourselves to sit symbolically in silence and meditate for a moment on what it must've been like for the first followers. Even if we try, it's hard to hold on to those thoughts.

Maybe last year was different. Last year the Sun rose on Easter Sunday morning with nary a peep of exultation. No wax drippings on the pews. No crowds filing into the churches. No family gatherings around big meals.

With this past year under our belt, can we look back and imagine we grew a little? Didn't we imitate more closely the first Christian community? Let's not forget! You celebrated Easter like Mary Magdalene and the Apostles—no fanfare, just sheer faith.

Madeleine runs to the Apostles to tell them her astonishing news—the tomb is empty!! Only in John's Gospel are the Apostles directly involved in finding the tomb empty. Neither Jesus nor any angel explains what's going on. The beloved disciple **together** with Peter saw the discarded burial-cloths within the tomb. The one whom Jesus loved at once realizes something. He *gets* what this means. He sees and believes: Jesus was risen from the dead!

Some people get emotional on seeing the Grand Canyon, Niagara Falls or the Northern Lights. Certain visions awaken our whole being with the thrill of wonder. When awestruck, the tendency is to share it. This is why we tell stories. If we've *really* seen something, even an 'empty something', we want others to 'see' it too, so we tell them about it. Why? Because we yearn for **togetherness**.

Whether alone or in a packed church, the Risen Christ connects. He brings together Heaven and Earth, saints and sinners, God and his Creation.

The Resurrection is, on the one hand, the ultimate **Togetherness**. On the other hand, it's just the beginning of a quilt of grace destined to knit together the whole Universe.

Something very strange is occurring, stranger than we can even imagine. Still, what escapes our comprehension we can still BELIEVE. How privileged we are to be gathered together in the light of a Faith that actually feeds off the darkness.

Remembering the past, let's move forward in Faith. The best is yet to come. I am so grateful we can venture for **together**.

Food Pantry – There's a bushel basket in the vestibule of the church for depositing food stuffs that will be transported to the Cavalier County Food Pantry. Thanks in advance for your contributions.

CLERGY SPRING EDUCATION DAY - Monday, April 12, the clergy of the Diocese of Fargo will gather for a day of continuing education. In the morning, we will hear two professionals address The Role of Faith Based Communities in Suicide Prevention. In the afternoon, Mary Hanbury, head of the diocesan Office for Catechesis, will speak to the priests about Family Faith Formation.

Fellowship Hall Cleaning for April - 3 - Sheila Beauchamp, Dawn Christianson & Patty Howatt; 10 - Whitney Bachman & Jessica Pengilly; 17 - Sarah Pritchard & Rachel Schaefer; 24 - Kathy Borgen & Patty Fetsch