

**THIRD SUNDAY
OF EASTER**

APRIL 18, 2021

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS for April 25th Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:8-12

What good deeds have you done in Christ's name?
Offer a prayer, accepting Christ as cornerstone of your life.

1 John 3:1-2

How have you experienced the Father's love lately?
Think of the face-to-face meeting in heaven; pray for it.

John 10:11-18

How are you listening to the voice of the Good Shepherd?
Have you sought his help when feeling "attacked by the wolf"?

WEEKDAY MASSES April 20 - 23

Tues: 5:00 pm +Joseph Karas Jr.
Wed: 8:40 am **School Mass** +Kathryn Shablow
Thurs: 5:00 pm +Mike Sauer
Fri: 10:30 am **Maple Manor** +Jack Bisenius **(No Public is Allowed)**

WEEKEND MASSES April 24 - 25

Sat: 5:00 pm St. Edward's - Nekoma People of the Parishes

7:30 pm St. Alphonsus +Gerry Watz
Reader: Colin Fetsch
EMHC: Carol Hoffarth

Sun: 8:30 am St. Alphonsus +DC & Betty McKenzie
Reader: Greg Fetsch
EMHC: Harvey Metzger
Musicians: Bob & Cantor

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

10:30 am St. Alphonsus +Ronald Mikkelsen
Reader: Zack 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: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays after Mass or
by appointment**

Weekly Reflection for April 11, 2021: This week's reflection of the
parishioner's relationship with God and with the parish

Adult Envelopes	\$10,507.00
Intentional Givers	\$2,483.67
Plate	\$375.00
Children	\$33.25
Total	\$13,398.92

Third Sunday of Easter

The theory has been applied by some people to the followers of Jesus. They believed he was the Messiah – that he would set Israel free and establish God's kingdom. But this was empirically proved to be wrong when Jesus was crucified. According to this theory, Jesus' disciples were unable to cope with the trauma of the crucifixion and so, rather than abandon their belief in Jesus, they came up with the idea of resurrection as a coping mechanism to help them deal with their psychological stress at his death.

Today's very unusual Gospel almost seems to have been written as a rebuttal to any idea that the first disciples "invented" the resurrection as a coping strategy. Not only does Jesus appear among them – he asks for something to eat. He's not a ghost or a figment of their imagination. And the sight of him is described as something terrifying, rather than wishful thinking. Look at the words used to describe the disciples' experience: "alarm and fright", "agitated", "dumbfounded", "they could not believe it". Rather than welcoming Jesus with great joy, it is almost as if they have to be shaken out of their disbelief by Jesus. "Touch me," he says, and he asks for something to eat. Far from clutching at straws to explain away the death of Jesus, they are so immersed in the brutal fact of his death that they are unable to process seeing him in the flesh. There is a stunned lack of understanding among those first disciples, even as they are overcome with joy.

Taken from The Living Word

3rd Sunday of Easter

"Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' But they were startled and frightened..." - LUKE 24:36-37

Throughout the day we have many opportunities to "see the face of Jesus" in others and to "be the face of Jesus" to others. Do we take that opportunity to provide "peace" to those we encounter or are we afraid of what others will think of us and do nothing? Pray for the strength to live a "God-centered" life and not a "self-centered" life.

CD of the Week: How to Love Yourself – Chris Stefanick - The words that we speak to ourselves shape our self-perception; how we see ourselves, and how we act. Despite being told perhaps more than any other generation to love and believe in themselves, this generation struggles more than any other with anxiety, self-loathing, and low self-esteem. In this talk, speaker and author Chris Stefanick tackles the lies which hold us captive to these struggles, and boldly shares the Good News of Jesus Christ—that Love Himself has come to redeem us, and destined us for eternal glory. **Thank you for your generous support of Lighthouse Catholic Media and Augustine Institute!**

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.

ROCKS - It's that time again. Please drop off rocks either behind the rectory or on the property west of the church with the empty green house. I'll find a place for them. If you want me to come out to your farm and clear off some rock piles (not boulders!, but 10-75 lbs), just give me directions and I'll be there.

A Big Thanks to everyone who made purchases at the **Catholic Daughter close out sale**, you have helped us to reduce our inventory. We will not have items in the entry of the church any longer, but the remainder of what we have left is in one gift case in the **Fellowship Hall and still is half price**. If you are interested in making a purchase call **Bev Otto 256-2646 or Margaret Chaput 256-2901**.

Cavalier County Cancer Crusaders Spring Rummage Sale – April 27 – May 1 at the Langdon American Legion Downtown Building. **Donation Drop Off:** Sunday & Monday April 25 & 26 from 9:00am – 6:00pm. (No Exercise Equipment, Computers, Printers or TV's) **SALE:** Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday (April 27, 28, 29, 30 & May 1) 9:00am – 6:00pm (Friday & Saturday – Bargain Bag Time). Volunteers Welcome!!

Fellowship Hall Cleaning for April - 17 - Sarah Pritchard & Rachel Schaefer; 24 - Kathy Borgen & Patty Fetsch

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

NOTE: CHANGE IN SATURDAY MASS TIME: 5:00 p.m. Mass in Nekoma and 7:30 p.m. Mass in Langdon.

Knights of Columbus will be having an Initiation on two different days the first one will be on Sunday, April 18th starting at 12:00pm and the second one on Tuesday, April 20th at 7:00pm. Both will take place in the KC Room at the St. Alphonsus School. Call Cory Hoffarth for more information 256-0070.

NOVENA FOR VOCATIONS On Sunday, April 25, 2021, the Catholic Church celebrates the 58th World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Bishop Folda has invited the pastors to pray with the people a novena. To respond to God's call to the priesthood is a work of grace. Sometimes, we know, even though God's grace is given, we feel the need to beg. The word *novena* comes from Latin *novem* meaning 'nine'. A novena is a devotion consisting of prayer said for nine consecutive days. This practice is grounded in Scripture. After Jesus's ascension into heaven, he told his disciples to pray together in the upper room and devote themselves to constant prayer (Acts 1:14). At the end came the Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

I will be leading this Novena before Masses beginning this Saturday, April 17.

CLERGY SPRING EDUCATION DAY - Monday, April 12, the clergy of the Diocese of Fargo gathered at Sts Ann & Joachim in Fargo for a day of continuing education.

In the afternoon, Mary Hanbury, head of the diocesan Office for Catechesis, spoke to us about Family Faith Formation. She led a power-point presentation demonstrating two methods of using our *Alive in Christ* Religious Ed series for a home-based catechesis that still involves the parish.

In the morning, we heard two excellent professionals representing the North Dakota chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide prevention.

Barb, a life-long nurse, brought a faith perspective, and Samantha, whose father took his own life when she was three, is a communications expert; she helps spread AFSP's mission of saving lives and bringing hope to those affected by suicide. Together they led us through a compassionate and scientific approach to the tragedy of suicide.

Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the US (2019 - 47,511 deaths); the 9th leading cause of death in ND. On average, for every death by suicide, there are 25 attempts.

Research shows that there is no single cause for suicide; but the majority have an existing mental health condition.

For the suicidal person, their perspective is dominated by having reached a point of crisis. They are desperate to escape pain. Their thinking becomes very narrow, like tunnel vision. Suicidal thinking is often temporary. Putting time and distance between the person and the means of suicide helps steer people away.

Depression is not a natural part of growing older, it's an illness.

To help protect one another, we should do what we can to help people stay connected. Show compassion, appreciation. Share hobbies. Encourage and speak positively about care for one's mental health.

This is just a small sampling of some of the things we learned. The morning ended by watching a very professionally done documentary, one of the Survivor Day videos. Survivor Day is the Saturday before Thanksgiving. See a selection of superbly done videos at <https://afsp.org/international-survivors-of-suicide-loss-day>.

When in doubt, reach out: National Suicide Lifeline 1-800-273-8255, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The service is available to anyone. All calls are confidential.

Knowing that we ourselves were recently touched by this reality in the loss of Brayden Schwartz, I approached the presenters for advice. They were gracious and listening. They gave me a lot of literature, which I in turn shared with our LAHS principal Ethen Askvig.

May the graces of the Risen Lord be with our community to respond with open ears and compassionate hearts when we see signs that someone is struggling.

GOD'S GIFT APPEAL - At the end of March, 63 out of 342 families (18.4%) have given \$19,594 towards our goal of \$32,700 (63.3%). Even a modest donation gives evidence that we believe in the largest truth of our diocesan family shepherded by Bishop Folda, successor of the Apostles and our vital link to the worldwide Flock of Christ.

DAILY DEVOTIONALS - Free copies of *Give Us This Day*, April edition only.