

**FOURTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER**

APRIL 25, 2021

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS for May 2nd Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:26-31

What things from your past do others hold against you?

How are you participating in building up the Church?

1 John 3:18-24

What sins is your conscience charging you with?

How well are you living God's commandment of love?

John 15:1-8

What "barren branches" will you allow God to prune away in you?

What fruit of spiritual goodness is God bearding in you?

WEEKDAY MASSES April 27 - 30

Tues: 5:00 pm +Pat Schuler

Wed: 8:40 am **School Mass** +Justin Kruk

Thurs: 5:00 pm +Bernice Larson

Fri: 10:30 am **Osnabrock** +Elaine Machacek **(No Public is Allowed)**

WEEKEND MASSES May 1 - 2

Sat: 5:00 pm St. Edward's - Nekoma +Tilden, Alma & Richard Crawford

7:30 pm St. Alphonsus +Lea Waltz

Reader: Corey Stremick

EMHC: Holly Lyons

Sun: 8:30 am St. Alphonsus Living & Deceased Members of Art Spanier Family

Reader: Kitty Bachman & People of the Parishes

EMHC: Dennis Karsky

Musicians: Bob & Cantor

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

10:30 am St. Alphonsus +Joseph & Alvina Barron

Reader: George Podhradsky

EMHC: Dennis Schill

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: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays after Mass or
by appointment**

Weekly Reflection for April 18, 2021: This week's reflection of the parishioner's relationship with God and with the parish

Adult Envelopes	\$9,352.44
Intentional Givers	\$650.00
Plate	\$213.00
Children	\$42.00
Fuel	\$50.00
Total	\$10,307.44

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Shepherding was very different in Jesus' day. Shepherds did not "drive" their sheep: they walked with them, or went ahead if the path was narrow. Shepherds knew each sheep by name and understood their needs. If a wolf appeared, they would see it off. The sheep knew their shepherd and trusted that the shepherd was not trying to take away their freedom. On the contrary, the shepherd was expanding their horizons, for the springtime grass which carpeted the Judean hillsides soon turned brown, so shepherds would need to keep leading them to fresh pasture. They might even cut down leafy branches to feed their sheep. When the time came to move on, they would call to them and, hearing their names, the sheep came willingly. Waiting for the stragglers, the shepherd set off and, wherever the shepherd went, the sheep would be sure to follow.

In today's Gospel, Jesus describes himself as that kind of shepherd, leading us, his flock, to where he knows we will find personal nourishment and fulfillment. We are known to him as individuals. We can trust him, for Jesus gave his life for us. No one made him do it; he did it because he loves us. This is the difference between a job and a vocation: the feeling of being called to something; doing it because you care; not looking for reward or recognition, just wanting to give.

Taken from The Living Word

4th Sunday of Easter

"I am the good shepherd...and I lay down my life for the sheep...and they will heed my voice." - JOHN 10:14-16

When you pray, do you only ask Jesus for the things that you want? Do you ever ask Him what He wants from you? How do you listen for His response? Usually, the answer is in "quiet whispers", so take time every day, in silence, to actively listen for His response.

PRAYING THE ROSARY FOR UNBORN BABIES

For over ten years, the St. Michael the Archangel Organization has coordinated an annual multinational ONE MILLION ROSARIES FOR UNBORN BABIES PRAYER EVENT. For 2021, it takes place May 7-9. They invite people to pray at least one Rosary each day for the following intention: an end to the surgical and non-surgical killing of unborn human persons.

The St. Alphonsus School students and teachers will start the event on Friday at 10:30, praying the Rosary in St. Alphonsus Church led by Mrs. Bata and her class. All are welcome. Students and teachers will be recorded on a signup sheet; others present will sign up and add it to their total to be turned in towards the One Million Rosaries.

May is the month of the Rosary. The Catholic Daughters will lead the Rosary about twenty minutes before Masses during the month of May. They will lead the Rosary May 8-9. The Catholic Daughters will put out a sign-up sheet at both entrances for participants to sign their names and number of Rosaries they're planning to pray for the Unborn Babies Prayer Event. Fr. Michael will lead the Rosary at St. Edwards for this intention on Saturday, May 8, there will also be a sign up sheet.

The number of Rosaries from St. Alphonsus and St. Edward Parishes, whether prayed in church or at home during these three days, for the Unborn Babies Event will be added to the Fargo Diocese and the Nation we live in.

Thank you in advance for bringing to God through the Mother of Jesus the priceless lives of our dear children.

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 - 24 - Kathy Borgen & Patty Fetsch

Fellowship Hall Cleaning for May - 8 - Penny Hoffarth & Janine Witzel; 15 - Darlene Christianson & Heather Horpestad; 22- Jane Hart & Sharon Livingood; 29 - Peggy Gross & Andrea Moser

Catholic Daughters Meeting on Monday, May 3rd at 7:00pm in the KC Room

Welcome Isla Mae Ullyott, daughter of Justin & Cassie who was baptized last weekend. May she continue to be filled with grace.

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY - The Gospel of the 4th Sunday of Easter is always from Jesus' *Good Shepherd discourse* in John, Chapter 10. Jesus' simple but heroic portrait of the shepherd who calls, leads and lays down his life for his flock is heard as a model of Christian leadership.

This is the leadership the Church should expect of her pastors. It is not always the case. In fact, it might even feel that it is rarely the case. Church leaders are called to bring healing not pain. They lead by alleviating suffering, not increasing it.

This is a Sunday for the Church to pray for her pastors. Whether as principal, teacher, parent, bishop, priest, deacon, etc., it is not at all easy to follow in Jesus' footsteps.

In the Christian community, to lead is to serve. To serve is to put the needs of others ahead of your own. Jesus would have his closest followers see themselves as the least and the servants of all.

Bishop Folda has asked our parishes to pray a Novena for Priestly Vocations. The Church will always need shepherds after the Heart of Jesus. But these days especially, it is a call that can be hard to hear.

We pray for the whole Church and for the vocations of all our young people as they approach the pathways of life.

We will be praying the following prayer at all Masses this weekend to conclude the Novena. Feel free to continue this prayer on your own.

PRAYER FOR PRIESTLY VOCATIONS

**God our Father, from eternity You called Your only begotten Son
to be the High Priest of the human race.**

Pour Your Holy Spirit upon the Diocese of Fargo.

Purify the hearts of all to hear their personal calling.

In an extra outpouring of grace, multiply vocations to the priesthood.

Lord Jesus, give us holy priests:

To serve your Holy People;

To study your Word and share it generously;

To offer the sacrifice of the Mass

and feed hungry pilgrims with the Bread of Life;

To lead the little ones to You;

To strengthen the faith of believers;

To shower sinners with forgiveness;

To comfort the suffering;

To hold the hands of the dying;

To spread Your Kingdom everywhere and always.

Mary, Mother of our High Priest, pray for us;

Obtain for us an increase of holy priests.

All this we ask in the Holy Spirit through Christ Jesus, Our Lord. Amen.

A PEEK AT VOCATIONS, BY THE NUMBERS: At the end of 2019, the worldwide Catholic population exceeded 1.34 billion, which continued to be about 17.7% of the world's population, said an article published March 26 in the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*.

It marked an increase of 16 million Catholics—a 1.12% increase compared to 2018 while the world's population grew by 1.08%.

According to the Vatican's statistical yearbook, *Annuario Pontificio*, the number of Catholics increased in every continent except Europe.

At the end of 2019, 48.1% of the world's Catholics were living in the Americas, followed by Europe with 21.2%, Africa with 18.7%, about 11% in Asia (all figures for Asia exclude China) and 0.8 percent in Oceania.

The yearbook showed the number of bishops in the world (5,364) dipped slightly with 13 fewer bishops than in 2018.

The total number of priests—diocesan and religious order—around the world slightly increased from 414,065 in 2018 to 414,336 in 2019. The largest increases were seen in Africa and Asia, with a growth of 3.45% and 2.91%, respectively, followed by Europe with a 1.5% increase and the Americas with about 0.5% more.

At the end of 2019, 40.6% of the world's priests were serving in Europe, while 28% of priests were in Africa and Asia.

The number of candidates for the priesthood—diocesan seminarians and members of religious orders—showed a continued slight decline worldwide, from 115,880 at the end of 2018 to 114,058 in 2019, a change of -1.6%.

The number of women in religious orders showed an ongoing downward trend with a 1.8% decrease, going from 641,661 women in 2018 to 630,099 in 2019.