

**FIFTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER**

MAY 2, 2021

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS for May 9th Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:25-48

Have you helped to introduce someone to Christ?
How are you giving evidence of the Holy Spirit at work?

1 John 4:7-10

How have you revealed God's love to another person?
How have you let God's love touch you through another?

John 15:9-17

Are you growing in friendship with God? In joyfulness?
What fruit of spiritual goodness is God bearing in you?

WEEKDAY MASSES May 4 - 7

Tues: 5:00 pm +Krista Jernigan
Wed: 8:40 am **School Mass** +John E. & Jon Delvo
Thurs: 5:00 pm +Jean & Garth Downey
Fri: 10:30 am **Maple Manor** +Felix & Judy Essler (No Public is Allowed)

WEEKEND MASSES May 8 - 9

Sat: **5:00 pm St. Edward's - Nekoma** +Vivian Crawford

7:30 pm St. Alphonsus +Bill & Clint Schefter
Reader: Michael Nuebert
EMHC: Carol Hoffarth

Sun: **8:30 am St. Alphonsus** +Robert Bata & People of the Parishes
Reader: Darlene Brooks
EMHC: Bill Brooks
Musicians: Bob & Cantor

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

10:30 am St. Alphonsus +Kathleen Delvo
Reader: Jenny Chaput
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: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays after Mass or
by appointment

Weekly Reflection for April 25, 2021: This week's reflection of the
parishioner's relationship with God and with the parish

Adult Envelopes	\$2,184.00
Intentional Givers	\$100.00
Plate	\$308.00
Children	\$57.00
Fuel	\$50.00
Total	\$2,699.00

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Today's in the Gospel reading about the vine, Jesus teaches us a new way to live in relationship with God. He uses the well-known image of the vine. In an agricultural society, people will understand how to get the best out of the vine. If the grapes are to develop so that they can be turned into good wine, they need careful management. The energy of the plant has to be directed to the fruit through proper pruning. The vine cannot be left to do its own thing or it will simply produce lots of leaves and poor quality grapes. There is an obvious connection between root and branch, leaf and fruit – they share the one life. Cut off from that life, they shrivel and die.

This same interdependence Jesus describes for us as the relationship which gives us eternal life. We are one with him and with each other, sharing the one life, his life, and in this way we can live with him and like him and produce the fruits of his love. But, Jesus warns us, the vine cannot be left to its own devices; it needs a vinedresser to manage its growth and encourage its fruitfulness, and God is such a vinedresser. God knows us and knows what part of us needs to be cut away and what needs encouragement. We are in partnership with God to produce the best version of ourselves, the best fruit, the best wine.

Taken from The Living Word

5th Sunday of Easter

"Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth." - 1 JOHN 3:18

Regarding our Catholic faith, do you "walk the talk?" Do your actions reflect what it means to be a good disciple? Are you an active participant at Sunday Mass? Are you joyful when participating in parish ministry? Do you give gratefully and generously with your financial support to your parish and other Church needs? If not, it's not too late to start!

St. Alphonsus School's Spring concerts are as follows: K-4 on Tuesday, May 4th; 5-8 on Wednesday, May 5th and Preschool & Pre-K on Thursday, May 6th. All concerts are at 7:00pm and in the St. Alphonsus Parish Center. We ask that you please wear a mask.

St. Alphonsus School Eighth Grade Graduation will be on Tuesday, May 18th at the 5:00pm Mass. Kindergarten Graduation will be on Wednesday, May 26th at the 8:40am Mass.

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

LITURGY SPEAKER - The week before, Paige Stransky, a Liturgical Design Consultant from Colorado, visited St. Alphonsus. She is in the diocese working with the Newman Center in Grand Forks, Holy Cross in West Fargo, and St. Benedict's in Wild Rice. She would like to return later in May to offer the parish an opportunity to reflect on our upcoming renovations and field questions about the choices before us. Stay tuned.

SUNDAY MASS - "Beginning May 1, 2021," wrote Bishop Folda, "the general obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation is reinstated in the Diocese of Fargo." The COVID pandemic changed many things for us. Little by little, we've come to this moment where we can welcome people back to celebrate the gifts of our faith. As we begin down this road of crafting post-pandemic church life, the Responsorial Psalm for this 5th Sunday of Easter rings wonderful: *"I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people."*

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* calls the Eucharist "the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice." As a result, "the faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation, unless excused for a serious reason (for example, illness, the care of infants) or dispensed by their own pastor. Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin" (2181).

Hope everyone has had a chance to read bishop's article in the *New Earth*. He noted many exemptions to the obligation. We count on everyone to do what their conscience tells them is best.

PRAYING THE ROSARY FOR UNBORN BABIES - This event 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. All are welcome. 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.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Our Sympathy to the family of Janet Dosmann who was called home last week. May she rest in the love of the Father.

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

THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES... AND THE VINEGROWER. Jesus is the vine. Through Jesus—like sap in a tree—the very love of God, the Holy Spirit, passes into the branches. We're branches. There's a vital bond between us and Jesus. Without Jesus, we wither. I'm not saying 'Try it, & you'll find out.' But if we've tried and found out, let's hope we've become the wiser.

Branches are not self-sufficient. "Without me," Jesus says, "you can do nothing" (Jn 15:5). Thing is, Jesus says the exact same thing about himself, "I can do nothing on my own" (Jn 5:19.30). As our attachment to Jesus is as vital as a branch to the vine, so is his attachment to the Father.

Jesus begins *the Vine & the Branches* with: "I am the vine, my Father is the vine grower." In the Latin we read, "**Pater meus agricola est,**" literally, "**my Father is a farmer.**"

Even if we're not all farmers, farming surrounds us. It's our atmosphere, the air we breathe. Famous 20th century radio man, Paul Harvey, addressing a national FFA convention offers a thoughtful commentary on how Jesus wanted us to see his Father—even if farming has a different feel today than in 1978.

And on the 8th day, God looked down on his planned paradise and said, "I need a caretaker"

-- so God made a Farmer.

God said, "I need somebody willing to get up before dawn, milk cows, work all day in the fields, milk cows again, eat supper, then go to town and stay past midnight at a meeting of the school board"

-- so God made a Farmer.

"I need somebody with arms strong enough to rustle a calf and yet gentle enough to deliver his own grandchild; somebody to call hogs, tame cantankerous machinery, come home hungry, have to wait lunch until his wife's done feeding visiting ladies, then tell the ladies to be sure and come back real soon -- and mean it"

-- so God made a Farmer.

God said, "I need somebody willing to sit up all night with a newborn colt, and watch it die, then dry his eyes and say, 'Maybe next year.' I need somebody who can shape an ax handle from a persimmon sprout, shoe a horse with a hunk of car tire, who can make harness out of haywire, feed sacks and shoe scraps; who, planting time and harvest season, will finish his forty-hour week by Tuesday noon, and then pain'n from tractor-back, put in another seventy-two hours"

-- so God made a Farmer.

God had to have somebody willing to ride the ruts at double speed to get the hay in ahead of the rain clouds, and yet stop in mid-field and race to help when he sees the first smoke from a neighbor's place

-- so God made a Farmer.

God said, "I need somebody strong enough to clear trees and heave bails, yet gentle enough to tame lambs and wean pigs and tend the pink-combed pullets, who will stop his mower for an hour to splint the broken leg of a meadow lark."

It had to be somebody who'd plow deep and straight and not cut corners; somebody to seed, weed, feed, breed and rake and disc and plow and plant and tie the fleece and strain the milk and replenish the self-feeder and finish a hard week's work with a five-mile drive to church; somebody who would bale a family together with the soft strong bonds of sharing, who would laugh, and then sigh, and then reply, with smiling eyes, when his son says that he wants to spend his life "doing what dad does"

-- so God made a Farmer.