

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

MAY 16, 2021

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS for May 23rd Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-11

How is the Holy Spirit at work in you? What signs or fruits do you show?
What marvel has God accomplished in your life, recent or past?

1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

How well does your life at this time say "Jesus is Lord?"
What do (can) you contribute to the common good of the church?

John 20:19-23

What is your greatest fear? Invite Jesus within, to bring you peace.
What sins of others have you still held bound, unforgiven?

WEEKDAY MASSES May 18 - 21

Tues: 4:30 pm +Alice Metzger **NOTE CHANGE OF TIME**

Wed: 8:40 am **School Mass** +Dennis Lyons

Thurs: 5:00 pm +Joe J. Kram

Fri: 10:30 am **Maple Manor** +Cal & Rita Crockett **(No Public is Allowed)**

WEEKEND MASSES May 22 - 23

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

7:30 pm St. Alphonsus +Oscar, Peggy & Greg Beauchamp
Reader: Nancy Kram
EMHC: Carol Hoffarth

Sun: 8:30 am St. Alphonsus +Edmund Hoffarth
Reader: Greg Fetsch
EMHC: Harvey Metzger
Musicians: Bob & Cantor

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

10:30 am St. Alphonsus +Elizabeth & Vincent Schaan
Reader: Zack Schaefer
EMHC: Darlene Rutledge
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 May 9, 2021: This week's reflection of the
parishioner's relationship with God and with the parish

Adult Envelopes	\$3,649.00
Plate	\$248.00
Children	\$60.00
Improvements	\$5.00
Total	\$3,962.00

The Ascension of the Lord

The end of Mark's Gospel is like the grand finale in a concert, crowned at the end with a firework spectacular. Jesus sends his disciples out on a mission to conquer the world – no small task for just a few ordinary working people. In case they are feeling apprehensive, he promises that their mission will be accompanied by astonishing miracles, which will surely convince all who witness them. They will heal sick people while suffering no harm themselves, even in deadly danger. They will speak in tongues and overcome all evil. Yet we know that from the beginning of the Church's life, Jesus' disciples faltered and failed, suffered and died. Was he just talking big to get them going? Or was he perhaps wrong in his predictions? Or are these promises about recognizing the hidden strength and transformative power that lies within the exercise of everyday virtues? The apostle did spread the Gospel, after all, and people are living that Gospel thousands of years later. Taken from The Living Word

Ascension of Our Lord

"Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God."

– 1 JOHN 4:15

How strong is your faith? When you have an opportunity to either defend or clarify a question about our Catholic faith, do you do it? Or, do you remain silent so that others don't think you are weird? Pray for the courage to be strong in all circumstances and to joyfully share your witness with others.

Congratulations

2021 St. Alphonsus Catholic School

Eighth Grade Graduates

Shanna Gette and Victor Long

You are invited to the St. Alphonsus Catholic School Eighth Grade Graduation on Tuesday, May 18th at 4:30pm Mass at the church with a reception and slide show to follow in the Parish Center

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

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.

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.

Knights of Columbus will be collecting non perishable food items for the Cavalier County Food Pantry. There is a purple plastic tote at the back of the church.

Catholic Daughters are accepting religious articles (statues, pictures, rosaries, pray books and etc.) to send them to Universal Living Rosary Association in Texas. You can leave them at the back of the church or call Linda Kempel 256-2493

St. Edward's Church cleaning for May/June – Joan Viger, Carol Novacek & Geri Newgard

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Tuesday's (May 18th) Mass will be at 4:30pm – this will be St. Alphonsus 8th graduation

Our Sympathy to the family of Marilyn Kartes & Mary Fetsch who were called home last week. May they rest in the love of the Father.

St. Alphonsus School Kindergarten Graduation will be on Wednesday, May 26th at the 8:40am Mass.

Wreaths and Flowers may be placed at Calvary Cemetery in Langdon, St. Edward's Cemetery in Nekoma and St. Michael's Cemetery in Wales from Sunday, May 16th through Sunday, June 6th.

THE ASCENSION joyously celebrates a change in power and presence. Christ is no longer present to a limited, small group in one place at a particular time; his presence is now diffused throughout creation through his body, the Church.

This is the mystery not so much of an event that happened as it is of a way of operating.

As the Lord Jesus was "taken up", his followers went forth.

"He worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs."

CATHOLIC RURAL LIFE & ST. ISIDORE - This Saturday, May 15, is the Feast of St Isidore, patron saint of farmers.

A story told about St. Isidore is about his coming late to work after attending Mass. His boss, Squire Vergas, to see what was up, hid himself in a clump of bushes near the field where the farmhands worked. Isidore arrived later than usual, walking slowly behind his team of oxen and the plow. Vergas' anger quickly turned to astonishment. Two angels, one on either side of Isidore, and each with a plow, were helping their companion.

St. Maria de la Cabeza, his wife (feast day September 14), always kept a pot of stew on the fireplace in their humble rural home. Often Isidore would bring hungry people home. One day in frustration, Maria told Isidore that there simply wasn't enough stew to give away. He insisted she look one more time and five more people were fed.

How many times have our farmers gotten more done than expected? How many times were taxing guests served cheerfully?

Is it possible that miracles have not slowed a bit? Maybe all that's needed is an adjustment of our perception. "Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels" (Letter to the Hebrews 13:1-2).

Catholic Rural Life helps farm communities in America continue the legacy found in the lives of Sts Isidore & Maria—commitment to family, social justice work, love of the land, service to the poor, and a deep Christian spirituality.

MANY THANKS to Ron Barta for making over 100 St. Isidore crosses to be passed out this weekend.

FAMILY VISIT - This weekend, please welcome my Mom and Dad accompanied by my sister Cathy. Tom and Carol both grew up in small towns in NE Ohio near Akron, where they now live. Cathy is about 40 minutes from them in Hartville, OH. They tried to get here last August, but covid kept them home.

This past week, they've been with another sister, Ann Marie and her family, in St. Cloud. I have one brother, David, who's married with 4 children, ages 16-23; he and his wife Jennie live in a suburb of Cleveland.

Mom & Dad are so happy to finally get to visit Cavalier County and meet the good folks of our parishes. I'm sure you'll enjoy their company. We don't have anything special planned—just hanging out and visiting and a drive around the region.

Family gatherings are about remembering and celebrating where you're from. Jesus' Ascension is maybe a little like that. He rejoins his Father in Heaven. We celebrate his homecoming remembering that our truest origin is in the twinkle of our Father's eye—He knew each of us from all eternity.

100th Anniversary Celebration Planning Committee: We are starting a committee to plan our big 100th celebration weekend in July of 2021. We know that plans can change, but we want to be prepared to welcome alumni home if we are able to do so. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact Carrie at 256-2354 or email at carrie.hope@k12.nd.us.