

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**

JULY 4, 2021

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS for July 11th 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Amos 7:12-15

What is God calling you to do in your ordinary work?
What special ministry or service might (do) you give the church?

Ephesians 1:3-14

What spiritual blessings have you received lately?
Have you praised the glory of God for this? Do it!

Mark 6:7-13

How are you welcoming Christ (and His disciples) in your home?
How can you travel lighter in your own journey of life?

WEEKDAY MASSES July 6 - 9

Tues: 5:00 pm +Soon Yae Park
Wed: 8:40 am +Danny Roy
Thurs: 5:00 pm +Mac & Jerry Machacek
Fri: 10:30 am **Osnabrock** +Robert & EdiAnn Otto (No Public is Allowed)

WEEKEND MASSES July 10 - 11

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

7:30 pm St. Alphonsus +Lea Waltz
Reader: Corey Stremick
EMHC: Holly Lyons

Sun: 8:30 am St. Alphonsus +Margaret Hiltner
Reader: Jackie Thom
EMHC: Harvey Metzger
Musicians: Bob & Cantor

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

10:30 am St. Alphonsus +Albert & Laura Horpestad
Reader: Dennis Horpestad
EMHC: Darlene Rutledge
Musicians: Bob & Cantor

Fellowship Hall Host: LaVern & Margaret Chaput

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 June 27, 2021: This week's reflection of the
parishioner's relationship with God and with the parish

Adult Envelopes	\$2,082.00
Intentional Givers	\$100.00
Plate	\$265.00
Children	\$32.00
Total	\$2,479.00

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Lord certainly does not begrudge us our successes. It's just that he doesn't want us to be carried away by them. Success can make us imagine that we've managed it without outside help. We might not say it in so many words, but we begin behaving as though we were, literally, self-made men and women. Success can blind us to the fact that we are utterly dependent upon the Lord: we can never earn anything from him. Our good deeds don't in some way put God in our debt. That is why weakness and failure are sometimes surer roads to God than strength and success.

Take St. Paul, for example, who spoke to us in today's second reading. He achieved amazing things. From the moment the risen Lord appeared to him – he was actually on the way to Damascus and the rounding up of Christians there – from that moment, he was totally dedicated to Jesus. He became an apostle, spreading the name of Jesus and setting up new Christian communities to the ends of the then known world. Yet he openly admits that he had a weakness – a “thorn in the flesh”, he calls it. We shall never know what it was, nor does that matter. The fact is that he had a chink in his armor, so to say, and it worried him. Three times he pleaded with God for help, and what reply did he get? “My grace is enough for you: my power is at its best in weakness.” That encourages Paul to say, “I shall be very happy to make my weaknesses my special boast so that the power of Christ may stay over me.” He adds, “For it is when I am weak that I am strong.”

Then there is the story in today's Gospel. Jesus is God's only Son, and yet he fails, fails in his own home town (where perhaps he most hoped to succeed). They don't want to listen to him because they know him too well, or think they do. It must have been a disappointment and yet it was only a foreshowing of what was to happen a few years later. He would be condemned to a brutal, utterly degrading death by crucifixion. There never was a greater apparent failure than that of Good Friday; yet the failure was the gateway to the glory of the resurrection and the salvation of the human race. Taken from the Living Word

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“As the Lord spoke to me, the spirit entered me and set me on my feet, and I heard the one who was speaking say to me, ‘Son of man, I am sending you...’” ~ EZEKIEL 2:2-3
God has a plan for each of us. He calls us to do something for Him. However, He does not leave us on our own to figure it out. He gives us the resources we need to do His work. Are you listening for God's call? When you hear it, do you get on your feet and do the work He asks of you? Do not be afraid. God doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called. Answer His call.

WORK AROUND THE HOUSE - Over the winter and into this summer, we've been working on a number of projects while we also gradually pave the way for the larger work on the interior of the church.

Earlier:

- 1) Trio Environmental Consulting, Inc. did a survey for asbestos
- 2) Plummer Construction poured concrete under the winter chapel and laid drain tile in the church basement
- 3) Cory Hoffarth and Corey Johnson worked on the Fellowship Hall ceiling.

So far this summer:

- 4) Marcotte laid new carpet in school
- 5) Dennis Schill is stripping and refinishing the hardwood floors, 2nd and 3rd floors of the school
- 6) The Insulation Place of Grafton is putting a fresh roof on the east wing of the school
- 7) Kendall Gemmill sprayed the lawn of the church, school, & park
- 8) Your pastor has had some fun playing with rocks.

Trinity Youth Camp - "Who Do You Say That I am?" is our theme and we invite you to join us as we explore how our words and actions can show others who Christ is today. More information & registration can be found on our NEW website: trinityyouthcampnd.com Dates and Locations for 2021: July 14-18 Pelican Lake | Bottineau, ND July 28-August 1 Pelican Lake | Bottineau, ND

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

OFFICE HOURS: The week starting July 5th Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 8:00am – 12:00pm

Parish Council meets on Thursday, July 8 at 7:00pm in the fellowship hall

ST. ALPHONSUS SCHOOL CENTENNIAL - Saturday, July 17, Bishop Folda will celebrate Mass for us at 4:00pm. PLEASE NOTE: this is the ONLY MASS SATURDAY EVENING. We are canceling 5:00pm at Nekoma and 7:30pm in Langdon.

Sunday, July 18th at 10:00am, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Chapel will be having Mass & Corpus Christi procession. Coffee and Donuts to follow. Everyone welcome

“WHEN I AM WEAK, THEN I AM STRONG” (2 Corinthians 12:10). St. Paul make this strange claim in today’s 2nd reading. What’s his point?

He is talking about “a thorn in the flesh that was given to me” (2 Corinthians 12:7). We don’t know exactly what he’s referring to. Probably some form of suffering or temptation he couldn’t shake. He prayed God to take it away. Begged three times in fact. But the Lord said Paul could handle whatever it was. He just needed to lean on God’s grace.

This is wisdom we’re probably more familiar with than we think. Gym-people to wear t-shirts saying “No pain, no gain” or “If it hurts, it works”. Haven’t seen any at the Activity Center, but I imagine they’re still out there. The principle at work is simple: resistance builds strength.

Paul is dealing with some uncomfortable issue. God is telling him it’s good for him. The arm curling a dumbbell or swinging a shovel is aching, but is also growing in strength. We struggle to see this when the ache is spiritual and not physical.

Growth comes at a price, an effort. We know that, but it doesn’t stop us from complaining when “to me!”

Like Ezekiel in the first reading and Jesus in the Gospel, St. Paul has to carry out a work God has given him in the face of resistance and difficulties.

Where’s the resistance coming from in your life? Are you fighting it? How? Have you, like Paul, asked to have it removed? Can weakness call us to prayer? If still persists, can you accept that maybe this is the path God wants for you?

Like Paul, maybe we can hear the Lord say, “My grace is sufficient for you.”

Maybe one day, with the Lord’s ‘go-ahead’, we can respond, “I gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell with me. Praise God, I’m content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Corinthians 12:8-10).

Can I name a weakness that, by the grace of God, I could one day be proud of? Hmmmm.

SURREAL AMERICAN HISTORY - Last week, we reflected on surreal moments, coincidences that make us stop and wonder. I suggested these experiences offer glimpses into the mystery of our interconnectivity. Moreover, they’re little introductions to a deeper connection between this world and The Next. Faith in God’s providential goodness and eternal designs finds support when we ponder moments of uncanny coincidence.

This weekend, our Nation proudly celebrates its birthday, July 4, 1776.

We don’t belong to a perfect country. We have our weaknesses. But are there some strange signs that, despite our faults, God loves us and has a plan for us? You betcha!

Take this—July 4, 1826, Golden Jubilee of the Nation, 50th anniversary of the meeting in Philadelphia to approve the Declaration of Independence, signed by two giants of the ‘American experiment’: John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. On this day, John Adams, 2nd president (age 90), and Thomas Jefferson, 3rd president (age 83), died within hours of each other.

The bitter political rivals rekindled their relationship after 1812. They exchanged some 380 letters, a rich deposit of thought on government, religion, philosophy, gardening and other issues. By the time of their deaths, they’d become fast friends.

The last words uttered by Adams were “Jefferson survives.” While Jefferson died a few hrs before Adams, Adams uttered those words in Boston just as Jefferson was passing, around 1 p.m., at Monticello. Kinda makes you wonder.... “Surreal,” some might say. **Happy 4th of July to All!**

GLACIER BACKPACKING - The first week in August, I’ve been asked to be the chaplain for a group of young adults hiking in Glacier National Park. They’re both men and women, and there’s room for one more young man, 18+ years of age. If interested, please see: <https://idretreats.org/2021-idretreats/glacier-backpacking/>.