

**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**

JULY 25, 2021

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS for August 1st 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15

Which is worth more to you: having enough material goods, or freedom?

Which is worth more: unrestricted "free choice," or choosing God's way?

Ephesians 4:17-24

What pagan or ungodly ways of life have you still not laid aside?

How have you grown in spiritual thinking, truth, justice, holiness, godliness?

John 6:24-35

Thank God for your physical bread, your income and family security.

Thank Jesus for your spiritual bread, the Eucharist, source of your grace.

WEEKDAY MASSES July 27 - 30

Tues: **NO MASS TODAY – FR. IS OUT OF TOWN**

Wed: **NO MASS TODAY – FR. IS OUT OF TOWN**

Thurs: **NO MASS TODAY – FR. IS OUT OF TOWN**

Fri: **NO MASS TODAY – FR. IS OUT OF TOWN**

WEEKEND MASSES July 31 – August 1

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

7:30 pm St. Alphonsus +Sally Stremick

Reader: Nancy Kram

EMHC: Carol Hoffarth

Sun: 8:30 am St. Alphonsus Living & Deceased Members of Marvin &
Reader: Kitty Bachman Bernadine Mikkelsen Family
EMHC: Linda Kempel
Musicians: Bob & Choir

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

10:30 am St. Alphonsus +Jim Bachman

Reader: George Podhradsky

EMHC: Diane Schill

Musicians: Bob & Choir

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 July 18, 2021: This week's reflection of the
parishioner's relationship with God and with the parish

Adult Envelopes	\$2,693.00
Intentional Givers	\$3,193.67
Plate	\$1,323.00
Children	\$20.00
Total	\$7,229.67

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

These glimpses of followers of Christ giving food to hungry people in our time reflect today's Gospel, which demonstrates the compassion of Jesus and God's great power and mercy. This is the only miracle found in all four Gospels, which means it is an exceptional event. When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's killing, he and the disciples withdrew by boat to a lonely place by the Sea of Galilee. But thousands of people went after him on foot. So, as he stepped ashore, he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed those who were sick. But he also recognized their hunger, not only for his words but for food. When the disciples attempted to disperse the crowd because food was scarce, Jesus instructed them to feed the people and then showed them how.

The feeding of the thousands – probably at least ten thousand, if we take women and children into account – is a favorite Gospel miracle for many. But there is some debate today about what the miracle was. Yes, it is possible that Jesus turned a scarcity of loaves and fishes into an abundance of food; but Jesus was not just in the business of feeding others – he was also teaching others how to feed hungry people. Some scholars think it possible that, when Jesus encouraged sharing, the generosity of the small boy prompted others to bring out their packed lunches and share with others in a miraculous outpouring of love. We hear that everybody ate as much as they wanted, with leftovers gathered so they would not be wasted.

Taken from The Living Word

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?" ~ JOHN 6:9

The miracle of the Loaves and Fishes carries two important messages. First, no matter how little we have, we always have enough to share. Second, Christ can take our humble gifts and do great things with them if we are just willing to let Him. Nothing is impossible with God. All of our gifts, big or small, were given to us for a reason. No gift is too small or insignificant!

THE MASS - This weekend we begin a series of 5 Gospels from Jesus' Bread of Life Discourse, John 6. It's an opportunity to reconsider the meaning of the Mass.

Have you ever heard the saying, "Be the change you want to see in the world"? I think it comes from Gandhi. Apply it as you like, for instance, to our parish. Change the world. Change our parish. Change it by being the change.

Once upon a time, Jesus changed bread and wine into his Body and Blood.

There is no change we could desire that could be more radical. When we receive this changed bread and wine in the Eucharist, we have to admit, anything is possible. If you are changing into Jesus, then the world, and our little world of the parish, can't help but continue shifting.

The Eucharist is the center of Everything. Do you believe that?

I don't know how to get other people to live the Eucharist as the center of life. But I can try it myself and see what happens.

Our weekly celebrations of the Eucharist carry **THE MYSTERY** that carries humanity forward toward our one common goal – eternal communion in Love.

The Eucharist is Jesus in our midst. He feeds the multitudes with what we're destined to become – the Body of Christ.

To see beyond the ritual of our weekly liturgies into the Mystery, we need to appreciate the Sacred Rites that carry this Gift down through the ages.

"Liturgy" simply means, in Greek, 'the work of the people'. Liturgical prayer, therefore, refers to our 'public work' of prayer. Unlike our personal prayer, *liturgy* has a structure and format. It's ritual. The mechanics (words and movements) are keys to opening doors to the Mystery. To learn a bit more about the Eucharist brings us closer to Jesus and one another.

Basically, the Mass has Two Sections: the *Liturgy of the Word* and the *Liturgy of the Eucharist*. There is an intro/warm-up (*Penitential Rite*), a transition between the two sections (*Preparation of the Gifts*), and a climax/dismissal (*Holy Communion & sending forth*). These are the 5 parts. We'll take one each week.

The St. Alphonsus School will hold its 5th Annual Rummage Sale in the Parish Center on **Wednesday, July 28th** from 12:00-6:00 and on **Thursday, July 29th** from 9:00-12:00. If you wish to donate items for this event, items can be dropped off on Tuesday, July 27th from 12:00-4:00. Please **DO NOT DONATE** the following items: exercise equipment, electronics, clothing, or damaged goods. Any questions about the sale, please contact Carol Girodat @ 370-8527, Sue Bata @ 370-1458, or Carrie Hope @ 370-9848.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

There will do NO daily Mass July 27, 28, 29 & 30 & August 3, 4, 5 & 6 Fr. is out of town

Altar Society meeting on Tuesday, August 10 at 6:00pm in the fellowship hall.

WELCOME TO CROSS CATHOLIC OUTREACH, a ministry that partners with bishops, priests, religious and lay workers to provide food, water, housing, education, orphan support, medical care, microenterprise and disaster relief — and the love of our Lord Jesus Christ — to the poorest of the poor in over 30 countries around the world.

Father James Quinlan of Cross Catholic Outreach visits our parish this weekend to speak at all the Masses on behalf of the poor in developing countries. Cross Catholic Outreach was founded to create a meaningful link between parishes in America and the priests and nuns working in the Church overseas in the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Central and South America. Please give Father Quinlan a warm welcome and an attentive listening. We are honored to have him in our midst.

ABSENT PASTOR - In Ohio, all goes well. Long visits and long walks in the woods. This Saturday, my niece Genevieve marries. She is the eldest of my brother Dave's 4 children. I have 14 nieces and nephews.

I return from Ohio Thursday evening, July 29. On the following Sunday, I'm off again to be chaplain for a group of young adults hiking in Glacier National Park, returning the following Saturday. Just purchased my backpack and other essentials. Trying to get my legs and back ready for a workout.

WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS - Sts Anne & Joachim are Mary's parents, and thus Jesus' grandparents. Their feast day is July 26. This Sunday, 25 July 2021, has been designated by Pope Francis, as the First World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.

Occurring in the Year of Amoris Laetitia Family 2021-22 with the theme, 'I am with you always', the day draws attention to the vital role grandparents and the elderly play in our communities and in the mission of the Church.

SAINT A'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION - Thank you to all who participated and especially those who prepared for and so graciously served our hundreds of guests.

It all went so smoothly and the people were so appreciative.

Mass with Bishop Folda on Saturday, July 17 was packed. The participation was powerful and friendliness was palpable. We happily welcomed Fathers Al Bitz and Phil Ackerman. Many alumni took great pleasure in visiting with three Presentation Sisters who were former teachers with a combined service of 37 years at our school. The Sisters also received multiple rounds of applause at Mass.

The whole weekend was an experience of overflowing grace—full of gratitude for services rendered over the course of an entire century and energy for the future.

Please pray for our St. A's school. It is a gem. It has accomplished so much good, as reflected in the joyful alumni, and its mission is as vital today as ever.

Section One, the Liturgy of the Word, part one, *Introduction and Penitential Rite.*

One of the best ways to prepare for Mass is to read the readings ahead of time. Then, the seeds are already planted. The gathering together, singing, offering prayers become soft rains to help the seeds open and grow.

The priest salutes Jesus with a genuflection and then reverences the Altar with a kiss, a tender sign of intimacy. The Altar is a symbol of Christ. We hold Jesus Christ to be, in His very Body-Person, the Priest, the Victim, and the Altar of sacrifice.

From the presider's chair, the priest makes the Sign of the Cross and starts us off in the Name of God, the Three-in-One Trinity. All that begins and ends with God.

Entering into an attitude of humility, the congregation prepares to approach God. We acknowledge our sinfulness and beg God's mercy upon us. Often, I allude to a theme in the day's Scriptures. We need to repent, especially of stuff that gets in the way of our receiving the nudge God has in store for each of us that day. The opening hymn often shines a light on where the Scriptures that day intend to lead us. Our conversion is an on-going thing. We should come to each Mass ready for change.

Except during Lent, we pray or sing the *Gloria*, the song of the Angels to the shepherds outside of Bethlehem. It's a song of praise that brings our initial *act of repentance* to a happy conclusion.

Next week, the Readings.