

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

**SEPTEMBER 5, 2021**

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS for September 12th 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Isaiah 50:4-9*

The anonymous servant of the Lord faces terrible persecution on account of his preaching. He does not resist.

*James 2:14-18*

James maintains that the real sign of faith is putting that faith into practice.

*Mark 8:27-35*

Peter says, "You are the Christ," but he fails to see that the Christ must suffer.

**WEEKDAY MASSES September 7 - 10**

Tues: 5:00 pm +Dennis Lyons & +Laura Bruers

Wed: 8:40 am **School Mass** Living & Deceased Members of Matt & Mary Alice

Thurs: **NO MASS TODAY – Fr. is out of town for a meeting** Girodat Family

Fri: 10:30 am **Maple Manor** +Elmer Schneider & in honor of Gerry Schneider (**No**

**Public is Allowed**)

**WEEKEND MASSES September 11 - 12**

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

**7:30 pm St. Alphonsus** +Richard Lorenz

**Reader:** Holly Lyons

**EMHC:** Holly Lyons

**Sun: 8:30 am St. Alphonsus** +Brayden Schwartz

**Reader:** Darlene Brooks

**EMHC:** Bill Brooks

**Musicians:** Bob & Choir

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

**10:30 am St. Alphonsus** +Danny Roy

**Reader:** Dennis Horpestad

**EMHC:** Dennis Horpestad

**Musicians:** Bob & Choir

**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 August 29, 2021:** This week's reflection of the parishioner's relationship with God and with the parish

Adult Envelopes	\$2,406.00
Intentional Givers	\$240.00
Plate	\$248.00
Children	\$23.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,917.00</b>

## Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

In today's readings the riches of the kingdom of heaven are offered to those who are poor, deaf and blind, who are chosen to remind us that God does not have preferences of culture, class or race. We might say God only views us through one lens – the lens of the heart. We are being asked to look beyond external appearances and to see the holiness and beauty within the heart of others. It's not always obvious at first sight, but we are called to look through God's lens, God's eyes. In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah speaks of a time of joy to come, when "the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed" and the tongues of those without words will "sing for joy". It would seem that the Lord is offering everything to those who, having little or nothing in this world, still cling on to faith and hope; to these the prophet proclaims the words of God, "Courage!" Do not be afraid... your God... is coming to save you."

It is apparent from today's second reading that St. James does not feel that faith in Christ Jesus is compatible with making distinctions between classes of people. We are offered a very clear example of preferential treatment being given to a rich man, while a poor man is ignored, left to "stand over there" or to "sit on the floor". Our own partiality may not be as obvious, though it can be just as real. We are reminded that it is those who are poor by the standards of our world whom God chooses to be rich in faith and to be beneficiaries of God's kingdom.

Jesus in the Gospel goes by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee. Taking this route brings Jesus into the world of the Gentiles, people regarded as being outside the love and care of the God of Israel. Jesus chooses to open the ears and give back the voice to the deaf man who has an impediment in his speech. Jesus is showing his love for this man, who is an outsider in the Jewish society of his day, by touching his ears and his tongue. Jesus is giving this man back his dignity as a beloved child of God, his Father. The man obviously has faith, as Jesus is able to cure him. We know from other healing stories in the Gospels that faith and trust would seem to be hallmarks of those chosen by God, those poor by the world's standards

Taken from the Living Word

### 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him?" - JAMES 2:5*

What is more important – being rich in faith or rich in possessions? Society tells us that possessions are most important. God teaches a different lesson. When we are rich in faith, we keep God first and experience true joy and peace. When we put possessions first, we soon realize we can never have enough and happiness is fleeting. When we put faith over possessions, we truly realize it is better to give than receive.

### **Fall Dinner/Suppers – see bulletin board for complete details**

Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> at St. Jude's Catholic Church – Thompson 12:00 – 5:00pm – Take Out Only  
Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church - Langdon 4:00 – 7:00pm

**Fellowship Hall Cleaning for September** - 4 – Maryl Borgen & Lisa Bodnar; 11 – Jenny Chaput & Val Darling; 18 – Stephanie Fetsch & Min Gette; 25 – Judy Lill & Delores Weiner

Cavalier County Cancer Crusaders Fall Rummage Sale – Sept. 14 – 18 at the Langdon American Legion Downtown Building. **NOTE NEW START TIME FOR DROP OFF AND SALE Donation Drop Off:** Sunday & Monday Sept. 12 & 13 10:00am – 6:00pm. (No Exercise Equipment, Computers, Printers or TV's) **SALE:** Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday (Sept. 14, 15, 16, 17 & 18) 10:00am – 6:00pm (Friday & Saturday – Bargain Bag Time). Volunteers Welcome

**Discover what every couple needs to know and what every woman has the right to know!** Do you or do you know someone who struggles with painful periods, irregular cycles, miscarriages, infertility or wants to avoid a pregnancy? Are you ready to use a system of fertility awareness that is 100% natural and can be used to help with all the issues listed above? Jen Lagein, FCPI offers an instructional course in the Creighton Model System of FertilityCare, scientifically proven to be as effective as any hormonal birth control in avoiding pregnancy and three times more effective than IVF in achieving pregnancy. Call Jen Lagein at 701-367-6386 for an Introductory Session.

## PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

**OFFICE HOURS: When school is in session Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 3:00 pm**

**THURSDAY, SEPT 8, NO EVENING MASS** - The Superintendent of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Fargo is hosting a Pastors and Principals Workshop from 9:00am – 3:00pm.

Catholic Daughters meeting on Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the KC Room. Dues are due and booklets will be handed out.

Altar Society meeting on Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Mark your calendars - St. Alphonsus Altar Society Fall Supper will be on Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at the St. Alphonsus Cafeteria. Raffles tickets are being sold.

The St. Alphonsus Religious Education Department is in need of volunteer teachers for this upcoming year. Classes will be starting on Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. We are in need of 2 teachers. Please contact Carla Horpestad @ 370-0594 for more information. Teachers can pick up the Teacher's Manuals in the RE Office on Wednesday's in September. Thank you and God Bless.

**SEPTEMBER 15 IS APPROACHING** Wednesday evening, September 15, Paige Stransky, a liturgical design consultant from Colorado Springs, CO will present to our parish community the spiritual and catechetical foundations of church design. Bishop Folda recommended her.

Last week, Jesus addressed 'tradition'. Jesus was a man of the tradition, but he also knew how traditions need to change. He started new traditions and challenged ones that had grown old. The time has come for us to address the tradition we stand for. How do we package our Catholic Faith for the next generation? How do we design our church so it speaks to what we are handing down to following generations?

As your pastor, I'm counting on you to come to this meeting. This community has a beautiful faith. I know you want to do right by the future. We have to go about this with as much togetherness as possible.

At this meeting we will listen to the speaker and to one another. Out of this will come the way forward for our community. Please be part of shaping our future and the beautiful Catholic tradition we stand for.

**RCIA (RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS)** is the process by which adults become members of the Catholic Church.

Becoming Catholic means entering into full communion with the Catholic Church. This requires a period of instruction.

To prepare the way, I would like to introduce interested persons to a DVD series called *Catholicism*, which explores the beauty and teachings of the Church. If interest continues, then at Easter Time, the candidates will receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

Anyone in your life showing interest or signs of interest?

Wednesday, Sept. 29, I will show and discuss the first of 10 episodes from Robert Barron's *Catholicism*. Come and see.

**FOR OUR CHILDREN** – a special Liturgy of the Word for Children. Anyone interested in leading the children into the Fellowship Hall after we sing the Gloria until after the homily? In the Hall, there would be a short Bible reading with an age-appropriate instruction. Any adult or Youth Group member interested in this ministry, please contact the parish office or Fr. Michael.

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time this appeal has been placed in the bulletin. No takers so far. I'm holding out for a few more weeks. It's a very good idea. But ideas are only as good as the people willing to make them reality.

**ALTAR SERVERS AND GREETERS** Sign-up sheets in the vestibule of the church. If there is sufficient willingness to carry out these highly appreciated ministries, we will set up training sessions and come up with a schedule. Please prayerfully consider helping at the altar and at the door.