

**TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2021**

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS for September 26th 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Numbers 11:25-29*

Of what people or gifts are you jealous?  
How are you using your own special talents?

*James 5:1-6*

What unneeded goods have you accumulated?

*Mark 9:38-48*

What special favors are you praying for, in Jesus' name?  
Are you responsible for leading anyone astray?  
How are you removing occasions of sins?

**WEEKDAY MASSES September 21 - 24**

Tues: 5:00 pm Living & Deceased Members of Marvin & Bernadine Mikkelsen Family  
Wed: 8:40 am **School Mass** Living & Deceased Members of Ernest & Adeline  
Thurs: 5:00 pm +Felix & Judy Essler Beauchamp Family  
Fri: 10:30 am **Maple Manor** +Rallan Beck **(No Public is Allowed)**

**WEEKEND MASSES September 25 - 26**

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

**7:30 pm St. Alphonsus** +Philip & Agnes Waslaski  
**Reader:** Michael Neubert  
**EMHC:** Carol Hoffarth

**Sun: 8:30 am St. Alphonsus** +Dorothy & Larry Schroeder  
**Reader:** Gary Metzger  
**EMHC:** Harvey Metzger  
**Musicians:** Bob & Choir

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

**10:30 am St. Alphonsus** +Danny Roy  
**Reader:** Zack Schaefer  
**EMHC:** Darlene Rutledge  
**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 September 12, 2021:** This week's reflection of the parishioner's relationship with God and with the parish

Adult Envelopes	\$5,675.00
Intentional Givers	\$0.00
Plate	\$327.01
Children	\$45.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,047.01</b>

## Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Zambian proverb declares, “He who has a tongue does not get lost in the forest.” In other words, if someone is lost, they should ask for directions from someone who knows the right path to take out of the forest. If Jesus’ disciples had taken heed of the saying, they might have been less confused when Jesus foretold his approaching arrest, execution, burial and, most importantly, his resurrection. They could not understand what he was saying but neither did they admit their ignorance and ask Jesus to explain.

When Jesus and his followers reached Capernaum, Jesus asked them why they had been arguing. The disciples were too embarrassed to give him a straight answer. They didn’t want to admit that they had been fighting about who was the greatest among them. Jesus had probably overheard the dispute and knew the sort of mess that they had created for themselves – and also the irritation as they heard how important or unimportant they were in the eyes of their companions. So Jesus called a small child to himself and suggested that the little one could be an example to these grown men who certainly hadn’t behaved like responsible adults. If they wanted to know the qualities he considered valuable, then they should try practicing simplicity, humility, honesty. If they didn’t understand, they should ask for explanations. If they wanted status, then they should be childlike, not childish.

Taken from The Living Word

### 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

*“If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.”*

– MARK 9:35

Jesus teaches us that we are called to love one another. Love involves sacrifice. Sacrifice is a word that many of us do not like to hear. We think it means that we must give up something that we want. However, the literal meaning of sacrifice is “to make holy,” from the words “*sacer*” = *sacred* and “*facere*” = *to make*. In other words, we make our lives holy by sharing our gifts in the service of God.

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

Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church – Devils Lake 10:30am – 1:30pm

Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> at St. Mary’s Catholic Church – Park River 11:15am – 1:15pm

Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> at St. Boniface Catholic Church – Walhalla 2:00 – 5:00pm

Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church - Langdon 4:00 – 7:00pm

**Fellowship Hall Cleaning for September** - 18 – Stephanie Fetsch & Min Gette; 25 – Judy Lill & Delores Weiner

**1<sup>st</sup> Annual Nepomuk Narly: Gravel Grinder Bike Race** - Pisek, ND Saturday, October 2, 2021

Sponsored by St. John Nepomucene Catholic Church **Choose Your Adventure:**

**GOLD Division:** 10:00 AM start, 50 Miles, a few hundred feet of climbing, 95% Dirt, 100% good times. \$5,500 in REAL GOLD for top seven finishers.

**SILVER Division:** 11:00 AM start, 25 Miles, less climbing :), - still an epic challenge, just a bit shorter. Over \$1,000 in REAL SILVER for top six finishers.

**Ice Cream Divison:** 12:00 PM start, 6 miles out and back with ice cream at the J-Mart for all! This ride is perfect for riders of all skill levels.

**Families are welcomed!** This is a family affair with Food Trucks, Craft Booths, and Jump for Joy Inflatables for Children COME have a MEMORABLE DAY in Pisek, ND !!!! \$7,000 Prize Purse REAL Gold & Silver (REAL ICE CREAM, TOO!!!!)!!! Post-race party - recover and relive the adventure with friends old and new while enjoying great local food and drinks. We can't wait to hang out with you all in **Pisek, North Dakota!! Contact: bikereg.com/nepomuk-narly or Fr. Lefor (701) 520-0369**

**RCIA (RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS)** is the process by which adults become members of the Catholic Church. In the past, I’ve used the 10-episode DVD series *Catholicism* to introduce people to the beauty of the Catholic Faith. Anyone in your life showing interest or signs of interest? Wednesday, Sept 29, I will show and discuss the first episode from Robert Barron’s *Catholicism*. Come and see if this might be for you.

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES SUNDAY, SEPT 25-26.** Next weekend we will be viewing a video from CCND. Please think about supporting CCND in their work of building and strengthening the lives of individuals, couples, and families across our State. With programs for children, families, adults with intellectual disabilities, and others in need, CCND serves Catholics and non-Catholics alike. Just in the past year, they’ve served over 2,500 local individuals in 49 of 53 counties in ND.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN.** One young mother has come forward to lead children in a Liturgy of the Word in the Fellowship Hall during the 10:30 Sunday morning Masses. Details to follow. Anyone else interested in this ministry, please contact the parish office or Fr. Michael.

**Our Sympathy** to the family of Bev Otto who was called home last week.  
May she rest in the love of the Father.

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.

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE ND** begins at 8:00am on Sept. 22, 2021 in front of the abortion facility, 512 1st Ave. North, Fargo. You are called to be part of this important prayer effort to bring an end to abortion across our nation and world. If you're travelling to Fargo and wish to participate with people praying on the sidewalk at the abortion facility, sign up for a time slot on the diocesan webpage, see <https://fargodiocese.net/40days>. If you need 40 Days For Life yard signs, they're free at the Diocese of Fargo. Contact Tim at (701) 356-7910 or Colleen Samson at (701) 284-6601 or (701) 331-1448 for more information. At St. Alphonsus, the 12:05 Rosary every Wednesday is offered for this intention. Anyone else interested in leading the Rosary or marking these 40 Days in a special way, see Linda Kempel or Fr Michael. Thank you.

**LAST WEDNESDAY, SEPT 15**, Paige Stransky, a liturgical design consultant, spoke to a generous turnout. During her PowerPoint presentation, we viewed a 24 min introductory segment of Bishop Robert Barron's 4-part series on the Mass, which can be viewed online at <https://mass.wordonfire.org/nowavailable>.

Paige went on to discuss our call to be a Eucharistic People. She highlighted 9 points from the Church's Second Vatican Council (1962-65), and made a case for how the interior of the church should proclaim to an uninformed outsider, not through words so much as through beauty, the core truths of our Catholic Faith.

She reviewed the principal sacramental features of the church: altar, baptismal font, tabernacle, ambo. She then addressed each of these elements in relation to our St. Alphonsus church where we personally, along with our guests of all sorts, encounter the Mystery of God.

We are an evangelizing people. The Eucharist is the main event that happens in this church. Our decoration choices should be driven by our desire to express visually the living faith that causes us to assemble for worship. Here in this place, we our God's People to offer the world the Real Presence of Jesus.

One of the main ways we wordlessly communicate our Faith is by the harmony of the interior pieces and their integration with the overall style of the church. Faith in our hearts is connected to the work of our hands. This is how people come to know love. The visual connections of the parts of the church to the whole is a subtle and effective way to share the truth and love that is the soul of our Christian walk of life.

This is what I got out of her talk.

After taking a break to view two renderings, that'll remain on display in the Fellowship Hall, we had a lengthy Q&A. I appreciate all that was shared. Paige had begun her presentation with the parable of the elephant. Here we saw it played out, and it's very interesting.

The parable is basically this: a group of blind men who've never come across an elephant, each approach and touch it. Each feels one part of the elephant's body—the trunk, the tusk, the tail, etc. They describe the elephant based on their experience. Understandably, their descriptions vary widely. In some versions, the group begins to suspect the others are dishonest and they come to blows. Clearly, that didn't happen here ☺. But the moral of the story is clear. Each person sees things from a particular and limited perspective. This is why we share, and why we listen to one another. It is also why we need to take time to see the Big Picture.

Our church has a history. That was mentioned more than once. Absolutely, we should all respect our history. One point, not to be lost, is about the broader history: St. Alphonsus parish is absorbing another community, St. Michael's, Wales, who also has a history. It's like a stream flowing into a larger river. How do we respond? In the future, this community will have to look back and account for this moment.

We are living through an intersection: one church is closing and offering furnishings that match the original harmony of our Gothic Revival church. Do we pass up this chance? Or do we gratefully accept it as a providential gift occurring just when this church stands in need of a major refreshing?

This is not something that as pastor I will impose, but I do think the moment needs to be weighed and deeply considered as we move toward bringing the work of the last 3 years into its final and most visible phase.

As I've been saying, the Good Lord has called us together at this particular time to set the stage for the next generation, or two or three. I want all of us to feel the weight of that responsibility. It is a daunting and a joyful call.

The look of the church is one thing, the life of the church, the living stones we are, is another. Christ called me to shepherd people, not paint walls. But as you know, to raise a family also means taking care of house and home.

Let's keep our eye on the ball. Everyone is entitled to their unique perspective, and it's good to hear people out. Our eyes are on the Lord and the community of Faith his Love has formed here. Like any love-life, it has a history. This is our moment and a very important chapter.

Stay tuned as our Parish Council continues to seek input and put together a plan of action. There will be no work done until we can present to Bishop Folda a united vision of what we want. With his approval, we will then hire the folks that can make it happen.

Thanks for your generosity and patience as we work hard to shape a visible expression of our rich and beautiful Catholic tradition—**JESUS IS HERE!**