

**THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

OCTOBER 31, 2021

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS for November 7th 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kings 17:10-16

The starving prophet Elijah begs a poor widow for food and she shares her last meal with him.

Hebrews 9:24-28

Jesus' offering of himself surpasses any sacrifice a Temple high priest might have made for the sins of his people.

Mark 12:38-44

Jesus observes how some people take advantage of others. He watches a widow donate her last pennies to the lucrative Temple cult.

WEEKDAY MASSES November 1 - 5

Mon: 8:40 am **School Mass** +Richard Lorenz & +Jake Kram & + Michael Muhs (**All Saints Day – Not a Holy Day this year**)

Mon: 5:00 pm Yeon-Tai Kim (**All Saints Day – Not a Holy Day this year**)

Tues: 5:00 pm +Mary Fetsch

Wed: 8:40 am +Joseph Bata

Thurs: 5:00 pm +Mary Bisenius

Fri: 10:30 am **Maple Manor** +Marilyn Kartes (**No Public is Allowed**)

WEEKEND MASSES November 6 – 7

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

7:30 pm St. Alphonsus

Living & Deceased Members of Medric & Laura

Reader: Holly Lyons

Chaput

EMHC: Holly Lyons

Sun: 8:30 am St. Alphonsus +Mary Fetsch

Reader: Kitty Bachman

EMHC: Dennis Karsky

Musicians: Bob & Choir

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

10:30 am St. Alphonsus +Vincent Schaan

Reader: Jenny Chaput

EMHC: Dennis Schill

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 October 24, 2021: This week's reflection of the parishioner's relationship with God and with the parish

Adult Envelopes	\$5,124.00
Intentional Givers	\$80.00
Plate	\$406.00
Children	\$75.00
Total	\$5,685.00

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus' response to the question about which is the first commandment of all directs us to the heart of the identity of the people of God. For people of the Jewish faith, the most succinct way of expressing their identity was – and is to this day – by reciting the *Shema Yisrael*, quoted in both today's first reading and Gospel: "Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord." It's something to be recited daily and so important that often these are the last words a dying Jewish person utters. Jesus links this core belief with his second commandment: love of neighbor as oneself.

Up to this point in Mark's Gospel, the scribes and Pharisees have been presented as implacable enemies of Jesus, but something in Jesus' response touches one scribe. He agrees with Jesus and goes further: love of God and neighbor is far more important than sacrifice or ritual offering. True worship is not an end in itself, but points us to what is truly authentic in the life of faith: love. It is love which connects or binds us with God, love which connects us with our neighbor and love which connects us with our truest self. The very word "religion" means "that which binds together". Love is the deepest meaning of religion. Jesus' profound summary becomes the identity card of his followers: We are a people who seek to love the Lord our God and love our neighbor as ourselves. This is the definitive expression of the identity of the Christian because it is the expression of God's own identity. As St. John tells us in his first letter: "God is love."
Taken from The Living Word

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

"And 'to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself' is worth more than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices." (MARK 12:33)

Of all the gifts that God gives us, the one He wants the most is our heart. He wants us to share out of our love for Him, not out of obligation. Using our talent in parish ministry and contributing money to support our parish mission is important, but it is more important to spend time in prayer with God daily and discern how He is calling us to be generous with all of our gifts. Not just the visible ones, but also the invisible ones like love, mercy and forgiveness.

Fall Supper Nov. 7th at Minto Community Center(Sacred Heart Church)- 11:00 – 2:00pm
Nov. 14th at the Pain Reliever in Nekoma – Nekoma Churches - 12:00 – 3:00

PARISHIONER INPUT ON INTERIOR DESIGN - The basic numbers on the feedback we received are as follows:

Rendering #1 – Wales' pieces with statues, 23.

Rendering #2 – a reduced use of Wales' pieces with a canopy over the tabernacle and different sanctuary ceiling, windows from Wales instead of statues, 24.

Rendering #3 – using the high altar but open with backings removed, side altars, windows, 35.

Those who wanted to keep things more or less the same, not incorporating any Wales' furniture, 11.

All the contributions were appreciated. Many thoughtful comments. Still, it's hard; not everyone is on the same page. But we definitely have a sense of where people are at.

I think we should wait to have another all parish meeting. If we hire an architect, that person will be key to the conversation. If the minority wanting no inclusion of the Wales furnishings in the St. Alphonsus sanctuary wishes to meet, I'm happy to do so. I may invite a few who represent the majority, so we can have a balanced discussion.

My two takeaways from comments against the Wales' gothic furnishings are 1.) there is a sense that the original intention was betrayed; 2.) these architectural pieces are moving us backwards.

Two responses

1.) Every major project is an organic process. Yes, there was an original intention to paint the walls a single color and lay new flooring. The closure of the Wales church came along as a point in history we needed to deal with. Not only are those parishioners being welcomed to St. Alphonsus, but many current parishioners are from the Wales area, besides the fact that the original furnishings of St. Alphonsus church were similar in style to those of St. Michael's. Furthermore, the deeper we considered the work

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There will be Mass on Monday, November 1st at 8:40am(school Mass) and 5:00pm for all Saints Day – Not a holy day of obligation this year.

Welcome Boone Zachary Schaefer son of Zach & Emily who was baptized last weekend. May he continue to be filled with grace.

Catholic Daughters Meeting on Monday, November 8th at 3:45pm in the Fellowship Hall

Looking for a few volunteers to take communion to the home bound. If you are interested in helping please contact Fr. Michael.

Fellowship Hall Cleaning for October - 30 – Marie Mack & Vicki Samuelson

Fellowship Hall Cleaning for November - 6 – Dawn Christianson, Connie Stremick & Tina Olson; 13 – Megan Hartz & Jane Hayden; 20 Kari Blake & Helen Berg; 27 – Kathy Borgen & Patty Fetsch

Nekoma Lutheran and St. Edward's Catholic Churches in Nekoma will be putting on their annual Noon meal on Sunday, November 14th serving from 12:00 – 3:00pm at the Pain Reliever. Please bring a dessert and come and help if you can. Thank you

Grieving? Know someone who is please join us for Surviving the Holidays on Sunday, November 14th at 7:00pm at the United Methodist Church

Shower Gene & Theresa Marcotte with cards to help them celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on October 25th (317 1st Street)

Continued from page 2 of taking up all the pews and bringing in scaffolding for the painting, the more it became clear that this was a moment that called for a comprehensive consideration of the entire facility, to include the ceiling, the winter chapel area and the entryways (including their lack of ADA compliance), and how the all the parts speak to the harmony of the whole. Expanding our scope became a natural consequence as we got more serious about the concrete roll-out of a renovation. In time, the number of parts to this project made it clear we need expertise to tie it all together. As for the expenses, sure, this expansion will cost more, but the original funds raised will be used for the specific purposes for which they were intended. Additional costs will be covered by our savings, memorials (if parishioners wish to give to certain aspects of the renovation once a comprehensive vision is established), and if needed, we can take out a loan. All this will be done in collaboration with the Parish and Finance Councils. No surprises.

2.) As for 'moving backwards', this is not the view shared by the overwhelming majority of people approving the incorporation of the Wales architectural pieces. If I was in Lakota or Grafton or Park River, contemporary style churches, I could see the point. Modern art and architecture are wonderful developments and deserve to inform spaces of worship. Thing is, our church is 1905. Welcoming the Wales' furnishings is about meeting a historical moment and overall harmony; nothing at all about moving backwards. When the job is done, we can be confident it will do an amazing thing: preserve the past and look boldly toward the future. Personally, I have been with people and in places that really did want to go backwards; I know what that feels like and that is **NOT** what's happening here.

If these responses do not satisfy, please contact me to set up a time for the conversation I proposed above. With love and respect and open ears and an open heart for all, *your pastor*.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY. At our last Parish Council meeting, Mike and Michelle ??? from St. Joseph's, Devils Lake, told us about their work with those in need. Currently, there are only four chapters of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in our diocese, 2 in Fargo, Devils Lake, and Rugby. Is there a place for one here in Cavalier County? Two basic questions: 1.) Are their people interested in this ministry and would welcome support from a network of friends motivated by a similar spirituality of outreach? 2.) What are the actual needs that warrant such a ministry?

To #1, if interested, please make yourself known.

To #2, in our region there are people with special health needs that could use help with travel to their appointments; items for infants; children's winter clothes; meal deliveries; electric and water bills. These are just some of the examples surfaced at our last Ministerial Association meeting. Certainly there are others. Help us name them.

If we do not see the problems, it's impossible to respond.

What's in it for me? Simply to be the hands and feet of Jesus, and to collaborate with others who want to be the same.