

**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
KING OF THE UNIVERSE**

NOVEMBER 21, 2021

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS for November 28th First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Where is justice needed in your family? church?

Where is justice needed in our nation?

1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

In what (area of) conduct do you need greater progress?

How are you conducting yourself in a way pleasing to God?

Luke 21:25-36

What catastrophe or chastisement do you most fear?

What worldly cares still preoccupy you?

WEEKDAY MASSES November 23 - 26

Tues: **NO MASS TODAY**

Wed: 8:40 am **School Mass** +Art Perius & + Mary Bisenius

Thurs: 10:30 am +Michael Muhs & +Jake Kram **Not change of time-Thanksgiving**

Fri: 10:30 am **Osnabrock** +Tony & Clara Forest Family **(No Public is Allowed)**

WEEKEND MASSES November 27 – 28

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

7:30 pm St. Alphonsus +Vic & Leah Waltz

Reader: Colin Fetsch

EMHC: Bernadette Fetsch

Sun: 8:30 am St. Alphonsus Living & Deceased Members of Albert &

Reader: Greg Fetsch Theresa Family

EMHC: Harvey Metzger

Musicians: Bob & Choir

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

10:30 am St. Alphonsus +Dennis Lyons

Reader: George Podhradsky

EMHC: Dennis Horpestad

Musicians: Bob & Choir

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 November 14, 2021: This week's reflection of the parishioner's relationship with God and with the parish

Adult Envelopes	\$2,301.00
Intentional Givers	\$2,553.67
Plate	\$342.25
Children	\$14.00
Total	\$5,210.92

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Today's Gospel is all about the reversal of power and of the rule of might. We celebrate God's eternal triumph over evil, but when that triumph took place in the life of Jesus it looked like a thorough defeat. His own disciples on the road to Emmaus talked of the disappointment of their dreams of glory, "Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free." Even after he had appeared for forty days in his risen body, the disciples still could not shake off their attachment to the trappings of worldly power, asking, "Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" It took the early Church a very long time to accept that Jesus was operating to an entirely different scale of values. The crucifixion came as a huge shock to those who had followed him, dreaming of triumph over Rome. The history of the Church has been, and still is, beset by our continuing addiction to the exercise of power.

Taken from The Living Word

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

"Jesus answered, 'My kingdom does not belong to this world.'" (JOHN 18:36)

Life is short. How much time, energy and money do you put into building "your" kingdom here on earth? We all know we cannot take it with us. The real kingdom is in the next life. Yet, how much time, energy and money do you invest in working for that eternal kingdom? Ask God for His guidance. Detach from earthly possessions. Generously share your material goods with others for the greater glory of God.

SYNOD – syn- (together) + -od (way) AND CHRIST THE KING. Jesus called himself the Way-Truth-Life (Jn14:6). A synod is being on the way together. According to Pope Francis, God is calling his Church to adopt this a style of wayfaring Are we ready for that?

Probably not, but here we go anyWay.

'Synod' is an ancient word in the Tradition of the Church. First, it refers to the Lord Jesus (Jn 14:6) and to the fact that His followers, Christians, were originally called 'followers of the Way' (cf. Acts 9:2; 19:9.23; 22:4; 24:14.22). First and foremost, synodality expresses the Church's nature as the People of God journeying together and gathering in assembly, summoned by the Lord Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Gospel.

The Gospel shows us what kind of King Jesus is—humble, self-sacrificing, ruling through service (footwashing, etc.). It's up to the Church to proclaim that to the world, not only in teachings but in how she goes about her business, how she governs.

Just as it took 60 years for Pope Pius X's changes about active participation at Mass to find a foothold in practice, (Vatican II's 1962 Constitution on Divine Liturgy), it's taken 60 yrs for the mustard seed of synodality to rise above the ground in the Synod launched by Pope Francis for 2023.

With the impacts of secularization on people's religious identity, a decline in vocations, parish closings, aging congregations, the Way of the King might seem to be retreating from view. Do we just need to double-down on our message or do we re-evaluate the *status quo*? Christ the King shows us by the *way* he works with his disciples that he envisions a leadership style that is less about top-down orders and more about co-responsibility. This is where synodality is taking us.

This 3rd of 4 installments of Pope Francis' opening address from Oct 10, 2021, builds on the Gospel about the rich young man. He highlights 3 verbs. The first was to encounter. He continues to unfold the passage in light of the coming world-wide Synod.

The second verb is *listen*. True encounter arises only from listening. Jesus listened to that man's question and to the religious and existential concerns that lay behind it. He did not give a non-committal reply or offer a prepackaged solution; he did not pretend to respond politely, simply as a way of dismissing him and continuing on his way. Jesus simply listens, for whatever amount of time it takes; he is not rushed. Most importantly, he is not afraid to *listen to him with his heart* and not just with his ears. Indeed, he does more than simply answer the rich man's question; he lets him tell his story, to speak freely about himself. Christ reminds him of the commandments, and the man starts to talk about his youth, to share his religious journey and his efforts to seek God. This happens whenever we listen with the heart: people feel that they are being heard, not judged; they feel free to recount their own experiences and their spiritual journey. **Continued on page 3**

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Our Sympathy to the families of Edward Kuchar and Irene Reidhammer who were called home last week. May they rest in the love of the Father.

The Religious Ed Department is looking for someone to teach 5th grade RE on Wednesday nights for the rest of the school year. If interested please call Carla at 370-0594.

You're invited to join us on Wednesdays at 12:05pm as we pray the Rosary for the protection of the unborn.

Knights of Columbus will have a Pancake, Sausage & French Toast breakfast on Sunday, November 21st (**today**) serving from 9:00am till noon in the cafeteria. All are welcome to attend.

St. Edward's in Nekoma would like to thank everyone that attended their fall supper. We would especially like to thank the people from St. Alphonsus that brought desserts.

This Advent, discover and choose the things that draw you to the light! Get inspiring daily video reflections sent straight to your inbox—for free. Sign up for the daily emails at <https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent.html>. Taken from Matthew Kelly's life-changing new book, *Life Is Messy*, each reflection will help you infuse your life with prayer, reading, authentic love of self, genuine friendship, beautiful kindness and so much more! The book, *Life Is Messy*, will be available at the St Alphonsus weekend Masses. Make this your BEST ADVENT EVER and take advantage of the book and emails available to you at no cost.

Fellowship Hall Cleaning for November - 20 Kari Blake & Helen Berg; 27 – Kathy Borgen & Patty Fetsch

PARISH COUNCIL At our meeting Tuesday evening, we conducted a Zoom interview of an architect from Fargo. Afterwards, the Council unanimously decided to hire him. See PC Minutes posted in the Fellowship Hall for further details.

We also welcomed Denise Otto as new Lay Representative of the Parish. The corporate board of the parish is made up of the bishop (president), pastor (vice-president), and two lay representatives (secretary and treasurer), who currently are Bev Metzger and Denise Otto. These persons also make up the core of the parish's Finance Council. We take this opportunity to thank Dennis Horpestad as an outgoing lay representative for his many years of faithful service.

THANKFUL Saying thank you doesn't always come naturally. It's taught. It's a habit we develop through practice and reminders. To express our gratitude communicates love and appreciation.

Psalm 92 begins "It is good to give thanks to the Lord, and to sing praises to your name, O Most High." It is good to give thanks to the Lord for his creation, his love, his provision, his protection, his Wisdom, his Son, his Spirit.

These and countless other gifts flow into our lives through channels. I give thanks to God for the channels that all of you are for me. What is a shepherd without a flock? Thank You for your companionship along this journey. You are a unique and unrepeatable group of people who are forever changing the shape of my life. I start again now being eternally grateful J.

Continued from page 2 Let us ask ourselves frankly during this synodal process: Are we good at listening? How good is the "hearing" of our heart? Do we allow people to express themselves, to walk in faith even though they have had difficulties in life, and to be part of the life of the community without being hindered, rejected or judged? Participating in a Synod means placing ourselves on the same path as the Word made flesh. It means following in his footsteps, listening to his word along with the words of others. It means discovering with amazement that the Holy Spirit always surprises us, to suggest fresh paths and new ways of speaking. It is a slow and perhaps tiring exercise, this learning to listen to one another – bishops, priests, religious and laity, all the baptized – and to avoid artificial and shallow and pre-packaged responses. The Spirit asks us to listen to the questions, concerns and hopes of every Church, people and nation. And to listen to the world, to the challenges and changes that it sets before us. Let us not soundproof our hearts; let us not remain barricaded in our certainties. So often our certainties can make us closed. Let us listen to one another.