

**THIRD SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT**

**DECEMBER 16, 2018**

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS for December 23<sup>rd</sup> Fourth Sunday of Advent**

*Micah 5:1-4*

In what way do you judge yourself “too small?”

Invite the Lord to shepherd you with His strength.

*Hebrews 10:5-10*

How have you offered yourself to God (sacrifice)?

Have you accepted Jesus’ offer of Himself to you?

*Luke 1:39-45*

What area of concern will you trust to God?

Which family or neighbor needs your visitation today?

**WEEKDAY MASSES December 18 - 21**

Tues: 5:00 pm +Faith Ann Hoffarth

Wed: 8:40 am **School Mass** +Jon Delvo

Thurs: 5:00 pm +Harold & Dolores Berg Schneider Family

Fri: 10:15 am **Maple Manor** Living & Deceased Members of Tony & Dorothy

**WEEKEND MASSES December 22 - 23**

**Sat: 5:00 pm St. Edward’s - Nekoma** +Mary Ann Lenz & Mike Petri

**7:30 pm St. Alphonsus** +Kathy Kram

**Reader:** Holly Lyons

**EMHC:** Holly Lyons

**Servers:** Regner Family

**Musicians:**

**Sun: 8:30 am St. Alphonsus** +Francis Muhs

**Reader:** Carleen Schill

**EMHC:** Alan Schill

**Servers:** Volunteer

**Musicians:** Bob & Choir

**9:00 am St. Michael’s – Wales** People of the Parishes

**10:30 am St. Alphonsus** +Ted & Betty Nowatzki

**Reader:** Terian Chaput

**EMHC:** Dennis Schill

**Servers:** EJ Cluchie

**Musicians:** Bob & Choir

**Fellowship Hall Host:** Wil & Sue Schill

Fr. Phil’s cell phone: 701-740-7593 and Fr. Will’s cell phone: 701-640-2858

Website for St. Alphonsus Parish – <http://www.stalphonsuslangdon.com/>

Sacrament of Reconciliation – Tuesday after 5:00pm Mass, Wednesday after

8:40am Mass, Thursday after 5:00pm Mass & Saturday at 6:45

**Weekly Reflection for December 9, 2018:** This week’s reflection of the parishioner’s relationship with God and with the parish

Adult Envelopes	\$3,429.00
Intentional Givers	\$275.00
Plate	\$565.00
Fuel	\$50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,319.00</b>

## Third Sunday of Advent

Today we hear the prophetic words of John the Baptist. They are words of judgement and yet we are told he announced “the Good News”. How can judgement be good news? Last Sunday John was introduced as one who preached a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. He wants people to change but they are reluctant. They want to stay as they are, undisturbed. But John has been sent to prepare the people for the coming of the Lord who will bring salvation. He warns them of the judgement to come and their consciences are touched. They ask him, “What must we do?”

In St. Luke’s Gospel, especially, Jesus links salvation to what we do with our possessions. So many of his parables will warn of the danger of riches and the accumulation of possessions, whether it is the story of the rich man and Lazarus or the farmer who hoards and does not share his harvest. Now John does not just tell his listeners that they must produce fruits, he specifies what each group should do in practice. He demands change that is not just superficial but makes them uncomfortable, for they are called to share their possessions more justly. He tells them to share their food, and even their clothing, with those in need. The tax collectors who exploit the people must restrain their greed and act fairly. Soldiers must be satisfied with their pay and not misuse their power to rob and blackmail. John’s words of judgement arouse the people from their complacency but prepare them to receive the good news of salvation which Christ will bring.

Taken from The Living

Word

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

*“Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.” (PHILIPPIANS 4:6)*

St. Paul reminds us that our God is an abundant God, the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to give us all that we need. When we trust that God will take care of us, it is easier for us to share what we have been given.

**CD of the Week: The Battle Within – Jeff Cavins**, an internationally-recognized authority on Scripture, provides an ultra-practical guide on how to battle sin in the areas of our lives where we tend to fall, and he helps us examine the root causes of our sin in order to understand the “why” behind our actions. In this presentation, Jeff explains four major wounds that exist as part of our human nature, and he equips his listeners with three “secret weapons” we can use to help us effectively overcome sin and serve the Lord from a place of freedom and love. **Thank you for your generous support of our Lighthouse Media stand!**

**Best Advent Ever** – Advent is a time to prepare our hearts for Christmas, but we often get distracted and busy. Don’t let this Advent pass you by. Slow down and focus on what matters most with BEST ADVENT EVER. Each Day, you’ll receive an email with short inspirational videos from Allen Hunt and Dominick Albano, practical tips for your everyday life, and real-life stories to encourage you in your faith journey. All you have to do is sign up at [BestAdventEver.com](http://BestAdventEver.com).

Eucharistic Adoration is the backbone of any parish’s spiritual growth. All are invited to spend time in front of the Holy Eucharist in the adoration chapel anytime between 12 pm and 12 am, Monday through Friday. **We especially need someone to commit to an hour per week on Monday’s at 2:00pm, and Thursday’s at 6:00pm** or if you would be interested in subbing for someone who can’t make it at their scheduled time, so that we always have at least one person in front of the Blessed Sacrament at all times. Please call Sally Stremick if you are interested in signing up at 256-2642. Thanks to those who have already committed, and are already enjoying the fruits of prayer in front of our Lord.

Experience God in a personal and real way. SEARCH for Christian Maturity has a retreat coming up January 11-13, 2019 at Maryvale Convent in Valley City, ND. Youth and young adults, 16 and older are invited to attend. Details and application at <http://www.fargodiocese-search.org/home>. Applications due 12/27.

Knights of Columbus will be collecting non perishable food items for the Cavalier County Food Pantry. There is a purple plastic tote at the back of the church.

**St. Edward's Church cleaning for November/December – Janet Schill & Sarah**

Schill

## **PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS**

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

St. Edward's, Nekoma and St. Michael's, Wales: next weekend, Confessions will be offered ½ hour before Mass

We are in need of altar servers for the 8:30am Mass on Sunday's – please call the parish office (256-5966) if interested or contact Fr. Phil

Knights of Columbus will have a Ham, Eggs & Hashbrowns breakfast on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 – noon at the cafeteria. All are welcome to attend

There is a sign up sheet for Altar Server, Readers and EMHC's for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day Masses at the back of the church

**The Advent Reconciliation Service** will be held on Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup> immediately after 5:00pm Mass (just after 5:30pm). There will be 5 priests present for confessions.

**Christmas Mass schedule is as follows:** Christmas Eve (Dec. 24) 4:00pm – St. A's; 5:00pm – Nekoma and Midnight - St. A's. Christmas Day (Dec. 25) 9:00am – Wales and 10:30am - St. A's

The winners of the St. Alphonsus School Raffle are - \$2000.00 – David Barta; \$1000.00 – Katrina Muhs; Medora Musical package – David Girodat; Frost Fire package – Ryan Brekke. Thank you to all for your continued support of our raffle.

You're invited to join us on Wednesdays at 12:05 PM as we pray the Rosary for the protection of the unborn. It will take place at the Church unless there is an afternoon funeral scheduled.

United Communications will be sponsoring a blood drive on Tuesday, December 18 from 11:00am – 5:30pm please use the Alley Entrance. To schedule an appointment contact Mikan Lovcik at 256-5156 or go to vitalant.org sponsor code: Langdon

No Adoration Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday, January 1<sup>st</sup> Merry Christmas & Happy New Year. Adoration will start again on Wednesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>

**The Catholic Daughter Gift Stand has Advent Candles** as well as other gift items for your Christmas giving stop by after Mass. If you need to stop other times call Margaret 256-2901 or Bev 256-256-2646.

**Be sure to check out the Christmas Gift Giving table in the back entrance of the church! There is something for everyone, young and old! Supplies are limited so shop early!**

**St. Alphonsus Fellowship Hall cleaning for December – 16-22 Helen Berg & Patty Fetsch; 23-29 Sheila Beauchamp & Dawn Christianson**

**Religious Ed** – we are still in need of a 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher to team teach with Fr. Will. Contact Carla at 256-5966 ext. 133

The Annual Christmas Dinner will be held on December 25<sup>th</sup> at the St. Alphonsus Parish Center starting at 12:00pm. Please join us whether you are alone or with many. All donations of food, salads, pies or time is greatly appreciated. For more information contact Carla Horpestad 701-370-0594 or Dennis Horpestad 701-370-2924.

Al-Anon is open to anyone who feels his or her life has been affected by someone else's drinking, either now or in the past. Hope Al-Anon Family Group meets weekly at United Lutheran, Thursdays at 12:00pm, in the church library – please use the east door.

**Communion for the homebound:** do you know of someone who is not able to get to Mass due to medical or health reasons? Call Fr Phil or Fr Will to be put on our Communion Call List.