

**FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT**

**DECEMBER 23, 2018**

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS for Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**  
*1 Samuel 1:20-28*

Hannah longed for a child and, having pleaded with God, she fulfills her promise by dedicating him to God and a life of service.

*1 John 3:1-24*

John reminds us that we are the children of God. We are to be confident in God's love for each of us.

*Luke 2:41-52*

Mary and Joseph have been to Jerusalem with Jesus but, instead of returning with them, Jesus remains in the Temple, talking to and asking questions of the elders.

**WEEKDAY MASSES December 24 - 28**

Mon: 4:00 pm +Katherine & Albert Ackerman **Christmas Mass - St. Alphonsus**  
Mon: 5:00 pm +Pearl Chaput **Christmas Mass - Nekoma**  
Midnight +Ruth & Stacey Chaput **Christmas Mass - St. Alphonsus**  
Tues: 9:00 am +Justin Kruk **Christmas Mass - Wales**  
Tues: 10:30 am +Vincent & Elizabeth Schaan **Christmas Mass - St. Alphonsus**  
Wed: **NO MASS TODAY**  
Thurs: 5:00 pm +Dorothy Jakoubek  
Fri: 10:15 am **Maple Manor** +Flora Howell

**WEEKEND MASSES December 29 - 30**

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

**7:30 pm St. Alphonsus** +Philip & Agnes Waslaski

**Reader:** Colin Fetsch  
**EMHC:** Bernadette Fetsch  
**Servers:** Philomena & Maria Muhs  
**Musicians:**

**Sun: 8:30 am St. Alphonsus** +Melford Mikkelsen

**Reader:** George Podhradsky  
**EMHC:** Linda Kempel  
**Servers:** Volunteer  
**Musicians:** Dan & Choir

**9:00 am St. Michael's - Wales** +Jake Kram

**10:30 am St. Alphonsus** +Dan & Tony Schneider

**Reader:** Dennis Horpestad  
**EMHC:** Carla Horpestad  
**Servers:** Sean Gette  
**Musicians:** Dan & Choir

**Fellowship Hall Host:** Pat Wheeler

**Weekly Reflection for December 16, 2018:** This week's reflection of the parishioner's relationship with God and with the parish

Adult Envelopes	\$7,802.00
Intentional Givers	\$3,358.67
Plate	\$247.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,407.67</b>

*Thank you to all who donated money for Christmas  
Flowers in memory of the following:*

Jesus, Mary and Joseph by Anonymous

Anonymous

Joe & Arlene Klemisch by Joann Klemisch

Ted & Ken Barta by Ron & Patricia Barta

Kathy, Jerry, Ella & Joe Kram by Jim Kram

Jon Delvo by John & Shirley Delvo & Family

Lawrence, Peter & Mary Ann Kartes & Charles & Katie Koehmstedt by Cyrilla Kartes

Albert & Katherine Ackerman, Gordy Moen, Evan, Ruth & George Finney by Fr. Phil  
Ackerman

Frank (Bud) Bata, Howard & Nora Florence & Jon Delvo by Yvonne & Brad Bata

Jack Bisneius by Darwyn & Wendy Smith

Wallace Sauer & Christie Sauer by Annabelle Sauer McGhie

Percy Kram by Randy & Janelle Bata Family

Justin Kruk & Joe Tholkes by Carol & Dennis Thronset

Richard Otto & Richard Chaput by Sally Otto

Justin Kruk by Floyd & DeDe Boesl

Richard & Evelyn Schill & Bud & Ila Murie by Larry & Helen Murie

Lawrence & Tillie Schiestel & John & Gertrude Wild by Jack Wild Family

Walter, Olaf & Genera Rude, Larry & Pat Graveline, Joey & Lisa Hodge, Theodore,  
Angeline, Angie, Robert, Kody, Shawn & Jason Kalis, Cory Chaput, Reinhold &  
Martha Stegman, Robert Safranski, Neil & Liz Schill by Lorraine Rude & Chad

Kalis

Pat Hoffarth & Sharon Kalis by Theresa Hoffarth Family

JoAnn Beauchamp by Tom & Sheila Beauchamp

Isaac Hill by Elaine Hill & Family

Harry, Marie & Larry Everson & Dale Fetsch by Greg & Patty Fetsch & Family

Dennis Lyons by Holly Lyons & Family

Ron Mikkelsen by Bette Mikkelsen & Marla Zeis

Ed & Anna Hoffarth & Mauris & Pearl Chaput by Les & Doris Hoffarth & Family

Ronald Mikkelsen & Vivian Novak by Kent & Carol Mikkelsen & Family

William & Theresa Klemisch & Jake & Esther Spenst by Ben & Audre Spenst

Kathleen Delvo by Mary Briggs & Family

## **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

The perils Mary would have faced had she been travelling alone were many and great; so would she have had people with her? It's unlikely. We can imagine that in all likelihood she would have been shunned by relatives and neighbours anxious not to get caught up in the scandal of an unmarried mother. Luke the evangelist does not dwell on the journey. He merely states that around the time that the angel left Mary, she set out to the hill country of Judah to visit Elizabeth, who had kept the conception of her child to herself, living in seclusion in the house occupied by her and Zechariah.

This story is more that a visitation, in the sense that the issues are far greater than a young woman setting aside her own concerns with an unexpected pregnancy to visit her older relative, also dealing with an unexpected pregnancy. The meeting of these two women, however, reminds us of one of the many important features of Luke's infancy narrative.

Both of these women have things in common: they are under a cloud because of their circumstances. Mary is a young, unmarried mother-to-be; Elizabeth is sufficiently elderly to be considered beyond any possibility of having children. On the other hand, the two of them recognise that their children are not only a gift from God but critical to God's plan for humanity. Both of the women have been informed by unusual sources of the divine origin of their children. Mary was told by Gabriel that the sign that she would bear the Son of God was Elizabeth, now in her sixth month despite everyone coming to the conclusion that she was undoubtedly barren. But, said the angel, nothing is impossible to God. Elizabeth herself learns about Mary's child and God's purpose in him from her own child who leaps with joy when Mary comes as the mother of the Lord.

Elizabeth tells Mary: "blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled".

Taken from

The Living Word

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

*"For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy." (LUKE 1:44)*

When you hear the scripture readings and Gospel reading each Sunday, do you "leap for joy?" If not, don't blame the lecturer or priest, rather look inside yourself. Do you prepare for Mass each week or do you just show up and expect to be entertained? We are called to be active participants, not passive by-standers.

**CD of the Week: God Made Man – Fr. Shannon Collins** - In this Christmas themed presentation, Fr. Shannon Collins sheds new light on the biblical narratives of the birth of Jesus Christ, as well as the beautiful Christmas traditions of the Church. Fr. Collins serves as a preacher of parish missions and retreat master. Fr. Collins has appeared on EWTN and has been stationed at the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Hanceville Alabama. **Donations keep new CDs coming!**

### **PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS**

The Annual Christmas Dinner will be held on Tuesday, 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.

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>

NO Mass at St. Michael's – Wales on Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>

**Altar Server, Reader and EMHC Schedules lists are in the church sacristy. Please take your copy; they will not be mailed out.**

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

**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

Merry Christmas! On behalf of our Parish and School Staff, we wish all of you a blessed and holy Christmas and New Year.

Thank you to all who helped in any way to prepare for our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses – from decorating, environment, and all who help prepare for the Masses, our musicians, cantors and Choir. We are very grateful for all you do!

The Great Plains Mobile Food Pantry will be in the United Lutheran Church parking lot December 27<sup>th</sup> from 10:45-11:30 to distribute food packages for those in need. There is no preregistration, nor referrals needed to use this program. You can always find more information at [https://www.greatplainsfoodbank.org/get\\_help/mobile\\_pantries.html](https://www.greatplainsfoodbank.org/get_help/mobile_pantries.html)

The winners of the St. Alphonsus School Raffle are - \$2000.00 – David Barta; \$1000.00 – Kattrina 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.

**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 – 23-29** Sheila Beauchamp & Dawn Christianson

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.