

**SECOND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**

DECEMBER 9, 2018

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS for December 16th Third Sunday of Advent
Zephaniah 3:14-18

What joyful experiences can you celebrate recently?

What discouragement and misfortune have you suffered?

Philippians 4:4-7

How have you practiced generosity, unselfishness?

What anxiety is in your mind? Pray about it.

Luke 3:10-18

What change of conduct would help you do your work better?

Invite the Holy Spirit to effect this change in you.

WEEKDAY MASSES December 11 - 14

Tues: 5:00 pm In honor of Joshua Spenst

Wed: 8:40 am **School Mass** +Bill & Clint Schefter

Thurs: 5:00 pm +Dan & Tony Schneider

Fri: 10:15 am **Maple Manor** +Joseph Karas Jr.

WEEKEND MASSES December 15 - 16

Sat: 5:00 pm St. Edward's - Nekoma +Fr Dan Mrnarevic

7:30 pm St. Alphonsus +Bernice Larson

Reader: Michael Neubert

EMHC: Carol Hoffarth

Servers: Philomena & Maria Muhs

Musicians:

Sun: 8:30 am St. Alphonsus +Richard & Evelyn Schill

Reader: Carleen Schill

EMHC: Harvey Metzger

Servers: Volunteer

Musicians: Bob & Choir

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

10:30 am St. Alphonsus +Oscar Beauchamp

Reader: Jenny Chaput

EMHC: Bev Otto

Servers: Sean Gette

Musicians: Bob & Choir

Fellowship Hall Host: Duane & Bev Otto

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 2, 2018: This week's reflection of the parishioner's relationship with God and with the parish

Adult Envelopes	\$5,146.00
Intentional Givers	\$2,944.67
Plate	\$373.00
Fuel	\$1.00
Total	\$8,464.67

Second Sunday of Advent

Whatever you think of the strange figure of John the Baptist, this wild ascetic living in the terrible desert beyond the river Jordan, you could not deny his courage. To live in the desert is to depend utterly on God and to live without protection. This is, in fact, the appeal of the desert for the prophets of Israel in the desert. What was tested was their faith. In the desert, as the people of Israel made their escape from Egypt, they could not live without the direct protection of God, a fire by night and a cloud by day. Yet still they rebelled against the Lord and complained, even about the food he gave them.

So in New Testament times John lives in the desert to re-enact this testing. He is trying to restore Israel by returning to its roots, to the time when Israel was a desert people. Yet there is something more, as Luke shows, quoting Isaiah: this bold choice of John will be for all humanity, not just for Israel: "And all mankind shall see the salvation of God." To live in the desert is to be open to what is coming, yet not even John fully realised what the coming of Christ would mean. The world becomes completely open when Jesus the Messiah arrives. He is to be the saviour not just of one people, or one nation, but of the whole of humanity, and humanity must have not more barriers. Perhaps that doesn't sound like our world but, as Pope Francis has said, we are to build bridges, not walls. At the first coming of Christ the people were not willing to accept him, but we are called to undo their failure. The business of receiving Christ means trying to be constantly open to his coming into our lives. Taken from The Living Word

2nd Sunday of Advent

"And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value..." (PHILIPPIANS 1:9-10)
Glittery holiday ads can blind us to our stewardship values and distort our needs and wants. It is important that during this season of endless buying we remember that each of us also has the need to give back to God and to those who are in need.

CD of the Week: The Sacrament of Penance - Fr. Bill Casey, Superior General of the Fathers of Mercy, reminds us that the Sacrament of Penance ("the forgotten Sacrament") is the ordinary means for the forgiveness of mortal sins after Baptism. It's also a veritable treasury of graces and spiritual strength for us in our daily struggles against temptation and sin. Discover how this Confession can transform your life if you allow it! **Be sure to check out all the new titles in the kiosk!**

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.

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.

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

Schill

Donations for Christmas Flowers can be made by filling out the below form and can be placed in the collection marked "flowers" or brought to the parish office by Friday, December 14th. Thank You.

In Memory of/honor of

From

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Welcome Everett Henry Olson, son of Adam & Lia who was baptized last weekend. May he continue to be filled with grace.

Our Sympathy to the family of Vic Bachman who was called home last week. May he rest in the love of the Father.

St. Alphonsus Church and School Presents: an Evening in December on Sunday, **December 9th from 1:00 – 5:00pm at the Parish Center** **NOTE THE CHANGE IN THE START TIME** Christmas Tree Viewing, Hors d'oeuvres, Silent Auction. **Music by: Dakota Blende:** Keyboard & Violin/Fiddle Duo - Bonnie Deegan & Marcie Grohs and **Back by Popular Demand & Featured Act: The Wales Quartet** – Curt Kram, Kim & Steve Hart and Darby Hart

We are in need of readers and 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 be having a meeting on Tuesday, December 11th at 6:30pm. Following the meeting there will be a wine and cheese Christmas Party. Spouses and Spouses of Deceased members are welcome to attend.

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

St. Alphonsus Catholic School's Christmas Concert will be held on Wednesday, December 12th at 1:00 & 7:00pm in the Parish Center. All are welcome

There is a signup 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 20th 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

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.

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.

Coming soon – new children's books just in time for Christmas, as well as "Bible in a Year" (leather or paperback), "Blue Christmas" and many more! Watch the Lighthouse Media Stand next week for these new items at special Christmas pricing! Give the gift of faith this Christmas! Very limited quantities – don't delay!

St. Alphonsus Fellowship Hall cleaning for December – 9-15 Andrea Lorenz & Jessica Pengilly; 16-22 Helen Berg & Patty Fetsch; 23-29 Sheila Beauchamp & Dawn Christianson

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

The Annual Christmas Dinner will be held on December 25th 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.