

**THE SIXTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FEBRUARY 14, 2021

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS for February 21st First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 9:8-15

Do you expect or fear any devastation of life on earth?

What promise would you make in return for God's promise to us?

1 Peter 3:18-22

How have you grown in your "life in the spirit" recently?

What Lenten opportunities are you choosing to participate in?

Mark 1:12-15

What greatest temptation are you facing at this time?

How will you seek to reform your life in Lent?

WEEKDAY MASSES February 16 - 19

Tues: 5:00 pm +Joseph Karas Sr.

Wed: 8:40 am **School Mass** +John E. & Jon Delvo **Ash Wednesday**

7:00 pm +Marvin Mikkelsen **Ash Wednesday**

Thurs: 5:00 pm +Romaine Schaan

Fri: 10:30 am **Maple Manor** +Sam & Bea Kram **(No Public is Allowed)**

WEEKEND MASSES February 20 - 21

Sat: St. Edward's - Nekoma NO MASS AT NEKOMA TODAY

5:00 pm St. Alphonsus +Tillie Schiestel
Reader: Nancy Kram
EMHC: Bernadette Fetsch

Sun: 8:30 am St. Alphonsus +Richard & Evelyn Schill & People of the Parishes
Reader: Greg Fetsch
EMHC: Harvey Metzger
Musicians: Bob & Cantor

St. Michael's - Wales NO MASS AT WALES TODAY

10:30 am St. Alphonsus +Gerry Tholkes
Reader: Jenny Chaput
EMHC: Dennis Schill
Musicians: Bob & Cantor

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: Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays after Mass or
by appointment**

Weekly Reflection for February 7, 2021: This week's reflection of the
parishioner's relationship with God and with the parish

Adult Envelopes	\$2,433.00
Intentional Givers	\$2,176.67
Plate	\$112.00
Children	\$53.00
Total	\$4,774.67

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

These fears would have been familiar in Jesus' time, when contact with a person who had a skin disease meant inevitable contamination, either physical or ritual. The diseased other was a person of dread and fear in an era with few reliable medical remedies. You stayed clean or you died, simple as that. Small wonder, then, that the man with a skin disease is doubtful about Jesus' willingness to come near him. Yet he also has faith that God can work a gift of healing through him, "If you want to... you can cure me." Jesus feels compassion for him and does completely the opposite of what makes sense. Anyone with a knowledge of contagion would shrink from a person so obviously diseased, but Jesus actively goes towards him and stretches out his hand to reach him. "Of course I want to!" It's the opposite of the survival instinct. Jesus is willing to go into the darkest and most fearful places that human beings can find themselves in. There are no "no go" areas for Jesus, not even death itself. He is willing to come into the memories and experiences that we most deeply wish to hide from in order to free us from the darkness that they contain.

We don't only fear physical contagion. For many people there is an instinctive shrinking away from whoever is thought to be "other", whether it be in cultural terms or in terms of morality and lifestyle. It's as if we fear that we will be contaminated by a different way of thinking or behaving. It's so much easier to judge and to erect barriers: them and us, insiders and outsiders, the virtuous and sinners. Jesus tells some powerful stories about this, for example the Pharisee praying, "I thank you, God, that I am not like other people..." In St Paul's time it was common for formerly Jewish Christians to worry about mixing with pagans in the new Christian community. Paul tries to be culturally sensitive. He doesn't want to impose burdens on the conscience of others. But he also stresses the freedom of the children of God. Taken from The Living Word

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Brothers and sisters, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God." - 1 CORINTHIANS 10:31

Do a quick check of your priorities. Where does God rank in that list? If He's not first, you have some work to do. Putting God first in everything helps us from putting other "gods" (like our pride, ego, money and possessions) before God. Before making a decision, ask yourself, "Am I doing this for the glory of God or for the glory of me?"

Congratulations to our Second Graders who received their First Reconciliation

Terner Askvig

Paizleigh Ratzlaff

Chiles Karsky

Reid Spanier

Noah Nelson

Aria Olson

Jenna Wild

Fellowship Hall Cleaning for February – 13 – Barb Karsky & Bernadette Fetsch, 20 – Emily Benoit & Carol Mikkelsen, 27 – Robyn Ramberg & Barb Hill

PARISH MISSION - Another way we kick off the Lenten Season is with a Parish Mission.

This year, we are very pleased to welcome the eloquent and energetic Fr. Kyle Metzger. He will be covering the various ways God speaks to us and gives us grace.

The title of the Mission is *What is God's Native Language?* He will be dipping into Scripture, Sacred Art, and the Sacraments.

Fr. Metzger will preach at the weekend Masses Feb 20-21. His Mission will then take place Sunday, 2:00pm; Monday, 7:00pm; Tuesday, 7:00pm. After each talk, the Altar Society will be hosting a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

ST A'S PARISH COUNCIL will meet Tues, Feb 23, 11:30-2:00pm. We will be having a meal catered by the Bread Pan and host Susan Brandjord, the interior design consultant who visited us in August. Susan is working with us to put together a plan we can present to the rest of the parish.

MANY THANKS to Carla Horpestad and Holly Lyons for the lovely lunch they provided for our deanery meeting with Bishop Folda last Tuesday. Excellent job! Delicious, elegant, & efficient.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Our Sympathy to the families of Margaret Hiltner and Lea Waltz who were called home last week. May they rest in the love of the Father.

LENT IS HERE-This Wednesday we celebrate **ASH WEDNESDAY**. If you wish to drop off your old palms to be burned for ashes, there is a basket sitting at the base of the Baptismal Font. According to Fr. Phil, Dennis Horpestad is a master at turning them into ash.

A huge **THANK YOU** to those who donated baskets for the Silent Auction at the recent St. Alphonsus School Spaghetti Supper and to those who purchased baskets. This successful endeavor raised \$1662.00 to be used towards the school's fundraising!!

CONFESSIONS - first weekend of every month, there will be Confessions following the 5:00pm Saturday evening Mass and between Masses on Sunday morning.

CATHOLIC UNITED FINANCIAL RAFFLE: St. Alphonsus students and staff will be selling the raffle tickets to help support the school. 100% of the ticket income stays with the school. Catholic United Financial pays for all the prizes. Grand Prize is a 2021 Ford EcoSport or \$20,000.00. Plus a lot of other prizes. Your generous support of this fund raiser will be greatly appreciated.

Knights of Columbus will have a Fish Fry every Friday during lent. The first one will be on Friday, February 19th. Serving from 5:00 – 7:00pm in the cafeteria. Everyone welcome. Takeout available and Delivery is available by calling 256-5966 extension 115

PARISH COUNCIL, ST. MICHAEL'S, WALES met on Tuesday evening, Jan 26. The Council asked the pastor to get from the diocese a description of the process needed for the closing of parishes.

The Baby Bottle Campaign is back!! The Pregnancy Help Center in Park River, ND has received donations of beautiful hand crafted items of every kind for our families and babies; afghans, sweaters and hats, quilts and blankets, baby clothes, diapers, toys and maternity clothing, laundry soaps, body wash and lotions. Clothing items that are donated are all laundered, sorted by size and season, and then bagged for families and their needs. As needed, we purchase larger size diapers and new items for our layettes. The bottles are due back Sunday, February 14th. Thank You

1971, a Canadian band had a hit song, "Signs". The refrain went, "*Sign, sign / Everywhere a sign / Blockin' out the scenery / Breakin' my mind / Do this, don't do that / Can't you read the sign?*" The lyrics end with the singer in church and putting his own little sign in the collection basket thanking the Lord for being alive.

50 year later, here we are getting ready to once again be 'signed' with ashes. In ashes we will be marked with the sign of our Faith, the Cross. "Can't you read the sign?"

The Cross of ashes is a sign of making a commitment: we're undertaking Lent as a season of prayer and penitence. We're dying to ourselves. We're preparing to renew our baptismal promises and celebrate the Paschal Mystery, Jesus' Passion-Death-Resurrection.

The ashes also mark our human condition: they signify that we're broken. We are sinners and we need redemption. We are dust and unto dust we shall return. We will die. And we cannot save ourselves. Our only hope for life beyond the grave is Jesus Christ, thanks to what he did for us on the Cross.

Now that congregational singing is back, we've got lots to sing about. COVID isn't over, but our redemption is at hand. And Bishop promises that there'll be no canceling of Holy Week this year (or for the rest of his life, he quipped).

Also, following the **Friday Fish Fries**, we will be having 7:00pm **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**.

REMINDER - ASH WEDNESDAY & GOOD FRIDAY are days of fasting (one full meal, two smaller meals that combined do not equal the full meal, no eating between meals) for all Catholics ages 18-59, and of abstinence from meat for all Catholics ages 14 and older.

Fasting from eating between meals and abstaining from meat are small signs that reinforce our penitential prayer during the Lenten season. The prophet Joel, 1st reading Ash Weds, calls us to experience a **complete** conversion of heart and not simply sorrow for our sins. Fast and abstinence are ways of getting our bodies involved in what our souls believe.