

**TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

OCTOBER 3, 2021

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS for October 10th 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 7:7-11

How do you rank these in importance to you:
power, wealth, health, beauty, wisdom?

Hebrews 4:12-13

Are you using God's Word to divide right and wrong?

Mark 10:17-30

Which of the commandments do you still violate?
What "one more thing" do you need to do for holiness?
What sacrifice are you making in order to follow Christ?

WEEKDAY MASSES October 5 - 8

Tues: 5:00 pm +Mary Fetsch

Wed: 8:40 am **School Mass** +Justin Kruk

Thurs: 5:00 pm +Jack Bisenius

Fri: 10:30 am **Maple Manor** +George & Nelda Marcotte **(No Public is Allowed)**

WEEKEND MASSES October 9 - 10

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

7:30 pm St. Alphonsus +Michael Wild
Reader: Nancy Kram
EMHC: Bernadette Fetsch

Sun: 8:30 am St. Alphonsus Living & Deceased Members of the Art Spanier
Reader: Greg Fetsch Family
EMHC: Dennis Karsky
Musicians: Bob & Choir

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

10:30 am St. Alphonsus +Wilfred & Imelda Chaput
Reader: Jenny Chaput
EMHC: Diane Schill
Musicians: Bob & Choir

Fellowship Hall Host: Dennis & Diane Schill

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 September 26, 2021: This week's reflection of the parishioner's relationship with God and with the parish

Adult Envelopes	\$2,868.00
Intentional Givers	\$180.00
Plate	\$432.00
Children	\$101.00
Fuel	\$60.00
Total	\$3,641.00

ALTAR SERVERS AND GREETERS - Sign-up sheets remain in the entryways of the church. This is week 5 of their presence. Please prayerfully consider to help us at the altar and at the door.

PARISHIONER INPUT ON INTERIOR DESIGN - Last weekend we began a process of soliciting input from parishioners. The prior Tuesday, Parish Council thought a presentation at all the Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses would be better than another all-parish meeting. Certainly, more of the parish was introduced to what's happening. Once the Council receives the input and organizes it, it is likely another all-parish will share the results.

Basically, we need to narrow our discussion to a single choice, which will require bishop's approval, and from which we can get more precise bids on the work to be done.

In last week's bulletin, I described the upcoming National Eucharistic Revival. This highlights one of the chief points I made last weekend.

For those who weren't there, or for those who need a refresher, after Communion, I lined up three images/renderings of the St. Alphonsus sanctuary area.

I shared 3 points from our Wednesday evening, Sept 15 gathering:

1.) We are a Eucharistic community. Jesus' Real Presence is the great gift our church brings to the Langdon area. The Eucharist is the source and summit of all we do.

2.) We are called to evangelize, to share our faith. A big part of life for a Christian is sharing the One we've come to know as *Savoir*. Jesus is the goal of our whole existence.

3.) Humans are made for Beauty. Beauty, the harmony of parts with the whole, is one of the principle ways a church building silently evangelizes. When someone unfamiliar with the Catholic Faith enters our church, they should be able to pick up, just by being here and looking around, some of our highest values and the truths of our faith.

The main liturgical parts of the church are: the altar, baptismal font, tabernacle, and ambo/pulpit. After months of discussion, the Parish Council understands that it boils down to whether or not we use the furnishings from St. Michael's church in Wales. Of those furnishings, the largest is often called the high altar.

To be more specific, the piece of furniture in question is not so much the altar, which is the long, flat table, but the taller structure attached to it. I was calling it a 'reredos', but have found it's actually a 'retable'. If you've been to St. Michael's in Grand Forks, against the back of the sanctuary is a large, decorative stone/plaster screen—that is a reredos, from an old English word for *rear* and the Latin word for *back*. The retable, from *retro* – back + *tabula* – table, is a raised architectural feature set on the back of or behind the altar.

Back to last weekend's presentation, I gave three basic reasons why I support using this beautiful piece of furniture in St. Alphonsus.

1.) The retable, which holds the Cross and candles, flowers or other things, showcases the Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. It is a structure that functions as an extension of the tabernacle and makes a bold statement about Jesus' central identity, Source and Summit of all we do.

2.) This architectural feature goes with the original Gothic Revival architecture, featured in the shape of our windows, and our monumental bell tower. It accomplishes the goal of harmony we seek.

3.) Historically, the Wales' furnishings have become available at the very same time this church is due for a renovation. Incorporating some or all would be a meaningful sign of welcome to the new community we are absorbing, not to mention Wales citizens have been moving to Langdon for many years. This retable piece is a kind of family heirloom.

My contention is—wouldn't it be a shame to let it slip through our hands to some other church that has no ties to its congregation.

The Parish Council is honestly asking for your input. I think this is important and a providential opportunity. But it's only a piece of furniture, and I would never impose it on the community. So let us know if it is welcome or not. If we do not use this large wooden screen, at least let the record show that the pastor tried.

There is a wooden box for your feedback. The three renderings are marked 1.), 2.), & 3.). Make whatever comments you think helpful to us. The numbers are there so you can reference one or the other renderings, each with varying features.

It is not entirely clear on #2.), but there is a canopy or baldachin over the tabernacle. This would have to be constructed.

#3.) is an attempt to combine what I consider the best of 1.) & 2.). It is a slightly different hue because the image was produced from a different printer.

Thanks in advance for your participation. Speak freely!

Let's recall the great words of Pope St. John XXIII, who opened the Second Vatican Council, **"In essentials unity, in nonessentials liberty, and in all things, charity."**

CATHOLIC CHARITIES SUNDAY - I am trying again this weekend to show the video from Catholic Charities ND, "Planting Seeds for Our Future". Please support CCND. They do excellent work building and strengthening the lives of individuals, couples, and families across our State. With programs for children, families, adults with intellectual disabilities, and others in need, CCND serves Catholics and non-Catholics alike. This past year, they've served over 2,500 local individuals in 49 of ND's 53 counties.

Welcome Maisie Lucille Benoit, daughter of Chris & Emily and Lyle Wesley Overby, son of Justin & Megan who were baptized last weekend. May they continue to be filled with grace.

Catholic Daughters Meeting on Monday, October 4th at 3:45pm – Note the change of time.

40 Day for Life – the Rosary will be said at 12:05 on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday at the church park, unless of bad weather it will be held in the church

BLESSING OF ANIMALS - DO you love your pet? Well, God does too! St. Francis of Assisi is the patron saint of animals and its part of our Catholic tradition to bless our furry friends on or near Francis' feast day. So bring your cat or dog, fish or frog, or any creature companion you have to get blessed. **This Sunday, October 3, at 1:00PM.** Please bring your pet to the KC Park where we will have a brief ritual of blessing for all gathered.

LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN - This Sunday, during the 10:30 Mass, Laura Preble is leading any children who wish in a Liturgy of the Word in the Fellowship Hall. As for the departure and return of the children, we'll probably draw attention to it for the first few weeks until it becomes a normal feature.

St. Edward's Country Store donations are due (\$75.00). Put in collection plate with "Country Store" on the check or envelope.

Religious Education has started but you can still register. It's not too late, Class is from 6:30 to 7:30pm on Wednesday nights. For more information you can contact Carla Horpestad at 701-370-0594.

RCIA (RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS) is the process by which adults become members of the Catholic Church. Last Wednesday, one person showed. The journey begins. Anyone else interested, please contact Fr Michael for information on meeting times.

St. Alphonsus Altar Society Fall Supper will be on Sunday, October 17th at the St. Alphonsus Cafeteria. Serving will be from 4:00-7:00pm with ham, turkey and all the trimmings. The cake walk starts at 4:00pm. Prices are \$12.00 for adults, \$5.00 students (K-6), \$3.00 preschool and Take-Outs \$13.00. Raffles tickets are being sold.

Fellowship Hall Cleaning for October - 9 – Julie Fisk & Lori Roy; 16 – Nancy Downs; 23 – Diane Schill & Sue Schill; 30 – Marie Mack & Vicki Samuelson

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus gives us a lot to think about in today's Gospel. He speaks especially on behalf of married women and the children. Both were vulnerable in his society and had little value or official protection. Women were too often seen as property, without social power to protect themselves from the whims of a husband's disloyalty or disinterest. Jesus defends women and speaks out for the protection of marriage. He seems to accept the reality of separation in some marriages but the passage is less about the regulations for ordering relationships and more a glimpse or vision of God's loving plan. Jesus' words urge us to see the importance of marriage, rather than seeing commitment and love as fleeting.

Then Jesus rebukes the disciples who try to block children who are being brought by their parents for his blessing. "Let the little children come to me," says Jesus, "do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs." While the disciples see the small children as unimportant, with little economic or social power, Jesus wants to meet them for they are precious and worthy of his blessing. To emphasize their value, he makes the claim, "I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." Jesus blesses the children because he loves vulnerable people and has compassion for those whose innocence and powerlessness make them susceptible to abuse and exploitation. Taken from The Living Word

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"So out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name." (GENESIS 2:19)

The creation story reminds us of two important points. First, since the start, God has put the entire world into our care. Second, stewardship has been around since the beginning of mankind, it isn't something recently invented by the Church. Just as past generations built our Church, it is now our responsibility to continue to nurture and develop these gifts for future generations.