

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF
JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

DECEMBER 26, 2021

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS for January 2nd The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6

How have you radiated light, hope, joy to someone this week?
What gift of prayer and praise have you given to God this week?

Ephesians 3:2-6

Which neighbor do you need to accept as “co-heir”?
Think of, and pray for, someone you have misjudged or resented.

Matthew 2:1-12

What gift will you give to acknowledge Jesus in your life?
How have you given homage to Christ during the Christmas season?

WEEKDAY MASSES December 28 – January 1

Tues: 5:00 pm +Pearl Chaput
Wed: 8:40 am +Philip & Agnes Waslaski
Thurs: 5:00 pm +Jake Kram & +Michael Muhs
Fri: 5:00 pm +Hilda Wilhelmi **New Year's Mass**
Sat: 10:30 am +Wally Stevens **New Year's Mass**

WEEKEND MASSES January 1 - 2

Sat: St. Edward's - Nekoma NO MASS UNTIL SPRING

5:00 pm St. Alphonsus +Vic & Lea Waltz
Reader: Corey Stremick
EMHC: Carol Hoffarth

Sun: 8:30 am St. Alphonsus Living & Deceased Member of Earl & Leda Cleary
Reader: Kitty Bachman Family
EMHC: Dennis Karsky
Musicians: Bob & Choir

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

10:30 am St. Alphonsus Living & Deceased Members of Clarence &
Reader: George Podhradsky Genevieve Ballweg Family
EMHC: Dennis 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 December 19, 2021: This week's reflection of the
parishioner's relationship with God and with the parish

Adult Envelopes	\$3,348.00
Intentional Givers	\$2,503.67
Plate	\$329.00
Christmas	\$180.00
Children	\$23.00
Total	\$6,383.67

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

The word “person” may not sound like a theological word, still less the words that derive from it, such as “personality” or “personally”, yet it has its origin in Christian theology. It was adapted from the Latin word for “mask” as used by actors in ancient drama so that the actors could portray a multitude of characters. It was used to describe the persons of the Trinity and applied to human beings and angels as created persons. Person means the fundamental reality of each one of us, whatever we may be. Human weakness, or illness such as dementia, can limit our ability to act as free persons. Newborn children are limited in their ability to make decisions for themselves. There are limitations of nature, but nature cannot destroy the fact of personhood.

Children grow up and become more capable of making decisions for themselves, which is often difficult for their parents to accept. The story of Jesus in the Temple is precisely about that fact: that in his humanity Christ had to grow up to become able to fulfill his mission. This story might seem to suggest that Mary and Joseph were unaware of his divinity, but it is more a case that they were coming to terms with his humanity. A real humanity is always limited and, by accepting these limitations, the Son of God was deepening his humanity. If his Godhead had overwhelmed his humanity, the redemption would have been imperfect. Instead Jesus is truly dependent on his family and ultimately humanity as a whole, even to the point of death. Only at the resurrection is our personhood fully affirmed, where all redeemed humanity will be about their Father’s business.

Taken from The Living Word

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.” (1 JOHN 3:1)

During this season of giving, let us remember a beautiful gift that we have received – being children of God! As God’s children, it’s in our DNA that we share and express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children, other family members and friends that you love them, every day! Also, pray for those people who are different than you, those who you may not like or those that go out of their way to annoy you. Your prayers may be the start of a new friendship.

The best way to prevent flu is to get vaccinated, but healthy habits like covering your cough and washing your hands often can help stop the spread of germs and prevent respiratory illnesses like flu. Learn more about how healthy habits help prevent flu:

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/disease/spread.htm>

SYNOD - The end of December and beginning of January are full of travel. Some are vacationing or visiting. Others, receiving guests from near or afar. And this is what we find in our Readings for Christmas, Mary Mother of God, Epiphany, Baptism of the Lord.

The Synod is about ‘journeying together’ as Pope Francis and the documents continually remind us. This is how we discover the work of the Spirit.

What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow as a synodal Church, a Church that explicitly chooses to walk together as equals shoulder to shoulder? To answer requires listening to the Holy Spirit. The Spirit, Jesus says, is like the wind “blows where it will; you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes” (Jn 3:8).

Jesus no doubt used this analogy because that is how he also experienced the Spirit growing up with Mary and Jesus. His life was full of twists and turns. It was no pre-programmed existence. Remaining open to surprises is part of how the Spirit calls us to advance along this path of synodality. This is what God expects of the Church of the third millennium.

Reminder, pray over your Questionnaire sheets and place your answers in the designated box in the Fellowship Hall. Extra blank sheets also available at the same location. Our Synod small group meets again on January 9.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Welcome Daizie Rae Sivertson daughter of Cody & McKinzie who was baptized last weekend. May she continue to be filled with grace.

Lector, EMHC Schedules are in the sacristy. Please take your copy; they will not be mailed out.

There is a signup sheet for Readers, and EMHC's for New Year's Eve and New Year's Day Masses is at the back of the church.

New Year's Mass schedule is as follows: New Year's Eve (Dec. 31) 5:00pm and New Year's Day (Jan. 1) 10:30am

Altar Society meeting on Tuesday, January 11 at 6:00pm in the fellowship hall. All new circle leaders should attend. We will be reading the Constitution.

SUNDAY 10:30 MASS IS IN NEED OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS & READERS. We've had one volunteer to read. No one has come forward to help distribute Holy Communion. Please consider helping. Let Jackie know by contacting the parish office. Thank you.

No Eucharistic Adoration 28th, 29th, and 30th. Eucharistic Adoration will resume January 4th, 2022. Happy New Year!!

Religious Education Department is having a Net Retreat at St. Alphonsus on Tuesday, January 11th for grades 7 – 12. We are in need of housing for the team members; there are 6 girls and 4 boys if anyone would be willing to take them overnight that would be great. Please let Carla know 370-0594

WHETHER STAYING CLOSE TO HOME OR ON THE ROAD, WARM WISHES TO ALL FOR A MOST BLESSED CHRISTMAS.

TANNENBAUM! OH CHRISTMAS TREE! The tree in the entryway of the church is for Family Ornaments. We invite each family to place an ornament that represents them. The tree will remain up until February 2.

MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO SENT THEIR PASTOR WARM WISHES AND/OR TREATS FOR CHRISTMAS. IT IS SUCH A BLESSING TO BELONG TO A FAMILY OF FAITH.

On this Feast of the Holy Family, I place all of our cares and needs and brokenness and dreams and hopes and gifts in the lap of this humble Family in the stable at Bethlehem. Nobody is claiming to be perfect, but we are proclaiming to be in Perfect Company. Jesus-Mary-Joseph – this is the beginning and the enduring core of every Catholic community.

We have a lot to do. So many things call for our attention. One step at a time, we'll keep at it.

The beautiful thing about this time of year is putting a pause on most everything and focusing on Family, the sheer gift of our togetherness.

With each passing month, I feel more deeply rooted in the people and the area. Thank you for letting me journey with you, for opening doors and hearts and walking together. I have so enjoyed exploring the wonders of the Pembina Gorge and becoming gradually more familiar with the neighborhood and all its people and their histories. Pray for me to have another good year and I pray for you to stay poised and ready for the adventures that await us.

You're invited to join us on Wednesdays at 12:05pm as we pray the Rosary for the protection of the unborn.

St. Edward's Church cleaning for November/December – Jean Wilhelmi & Megin Mitchell

FR. DALE KINZLER. There is a newsletter on the bulletin board giving an update on Fr. Dale's recovery. Please take a look at it. He's doing remarkably well and tells a good story of where's been and what God's doing with him now.