

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JANUARY 9, 2022

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS for Jan 16th Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 62:1-5

How has God shown his delight in you?
How have you espoused yourself to God?

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

What spiritual gifts have you received from God?
How are you using them for the common good?

John 2:1-11

What signs has Jesus worked in your life lately?
Ask Mary's intercession with Jesus for a special need.

WEEKDAY MASSES January 11 - 14

Tues: 5:00 pm +Mary Bisenius & +Bev Otto

Wed: 8:40 am **School Mass** Living & Deceased Members of Albert & Theresa

Thurs: **NO MASS TODAY FR. IS GONE** Muhs Family

Fri: **NO MASS TODAY FR. IS OUT OF TOWN**

WEEKEND MASSES January 15 – 16

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

5:00 pm St. Alphonsus +James & Louise Stevens
Reader: Colin Fetsch
EMHC: Bernadette Fetsch

Sun: 8:30 am St. Alphonsus +Richard Lorenz & People of the Parishes
Reader: Gary Metzger
EMHC: Daryl Kempel
Musicians: Bob & Choir

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

10:30 am St. Alphonsus +Ronald Mikkelsen
Reader: Judy Draffin
EMHC: Volunteer
Musicians: Bob & Choir

Fellowship Hall Host: Wil & Sue 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 January 2, 2022: This week's reflection of the
parishioner's relationship with God and with the parish

Adult Envelopes	\$9,159.43
Intentional Givers	\$2,815.00
Plate	\$265.00
Fuel	\$50.00
Children	\$61.50
Total	\$12,350.93

The Baptism of the Lord

We often associate baptism with John the Baptist. And it's true that baptism only appears in the Gospels at the beginning of Jesus' ministry, although there are also references to people being baptized in the Acts of the Apostles.

Baptism as a ritual was used by various communities, the best known being the Essenes who lived in the mountain caves near the Dead Sea. This community produced a large number of scrolls, known to us today as the Dead Sea Scrolls. The Essenes were a Jewish sect and they adopted the practice of baptism – the immersion in water was a symbol for immersing themselves in a new way of living. John the Baptist may have belonged to the Essenes at one point, which might help explain his appearance, although that is usually attributed to him emulating the prophet Elijah. John famously encouraged people to immerse themselves in water. This is often described as a spiritual cleansing, but there is much more to it than that. John's baptism was a baptism of repentance.

Taken from The Living Word

The Baptism of Our Lord

"John answered them all, 'I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming...he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit...' " (Luke 3:16)

The Catholic Catechism states that *"Jesus' immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God's will."* In other words, as baptized Catholics there is only one gift that we need to give to Jesus – the gift of ourselves. Surrender yourself to God, place your trust in Him and allow the Holy Spirit to work through you for the greater glory of God.

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>

CHURCH RENOVATION - As reported earlier, we hired an architect, Chris Hawley of Craftwell, Inc. Following a visit on Friday, Dec 17, we discovered frost as well as a column of ice & snow in the NW corner of the church attic.

First order of business is to map out a plan for fixing what appears to be incomplete work in the roof and rafter area before we can consider proceeding with the interior design stuff that everyone is looking forward to. We have set Jan 25 for a Zoom meeting with him. The week before, he'll send his report so Parish Council will have time to review his findings and be ready for questions when we meet.

This might seem like a setback, but it is a real gift to do it right and not engage in work that could be ruined in a single storm later down the road. "Chaos often precedes great creativity" —Richard Rohr.

SYNOD 2023 – this 2-year process of consultation of ordinary faithful aims to revitalize the Catholic Church. It's a communal process of praying, sharing, listening and reflecting. The word 'synod' goes back to Christianity's origin, meaning 'on the road together'.

Our bishop needs your advice. What will you tell him? 4th Wk of Advent, a questionnaire was distributed and discussed. There is a box in the Fellowship Hall for your responses. This Sunday afternoon, a group will gather to read them and begin the work of summarizing the feedback.

This launch by Pope Francis of a consultation of all the world's Catholics is an ambitious project. Jesus calls those who dare to follow him to empty themselves of worldliness, including worn out models of being Church. Our 84-year-old pope is encouraging Catholics to meet and listen to one another. We have to let God help us walk together 'where we're at.'

Are we prepared for the adventure of this journey? Are we fearful of the unknown?

Do we prefer to take refuge in the same ol' same ol'?

Will we give the future the same recipe for following Jesus that we received? Or can we possibly do better?

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PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

ABSENT PASTOR - This Thursday, Jan 13, I leave for Washington, D.C. & Baltimore, returning Friday, Jan 21. Fr. Kyle Metzger will be the substitute priest for Jan 15-16.

In D.C., I will be staying with some priest-friends at Immaculate Conception parish, less than 2 miles from the Washington Memorial and the Smithsonian. On Monday, I go to Baltimore to meet up with a group planning a national assembly of priests for later this summer. Keep me in your prayers, and I'll light a candle for you in the Nation's Capital.

Lector & EMHC Schedules are in the sacristy. Please take your copy; they will not be mailed out. The 10:30 Lector lists has a change please take a new copy

Knights of Columbus Breakfast on Sunday, January 9 from 9:00am – Noon serving Pancakes, Sausage & French Toast. Everyone welcome Proceeds go to Cavalier County Friends for Life

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.

Preschool/Pre-K registration for the 2022-2023 school year will open on Thursday, January 20th at 8:00am. Please come to door #3 the south door of the school. There is a registration form and \$30.00 registration fee due at the time of registration to guarantee a spot. Questions contact Carrie Hope at 256-2354.

Kindergarten Registration for the 2022-2023 school year is now open. Please contact Carrie Hope at 256-2354 for more information.

Catholic Schools' Week is coming up soon. The spaghetti supper will be held on Wednesday, February 2; St. Alphonsus School Foundation will be helping out the School Committee by sponsoring the Silent Auction. If you would like to help by donating a basket, please call Holly Lyons, 256-2613 or 256-2354. Baskets may be dropped off at the school. Thank You!

Christmas Dinner was a huge success again this year. We would like to thank everyone who donated the turkeys, ham, salads and pies. Thank you to all who were so kind to donate their time to help us serve the meal and clean up afterwards also a special thanks to Linda Kempel for her talent of decorating the tables they looked so nice.

God Bless all of you Dennis, Carla & Travis

N.E.T. – THE NEW EVANGELIZATION TEAM. For the past 40 years, NET Ministries has trained over 3,000 young adults in how to proclaim the Gospel. This year, 148 young adults from all across the U.S.A., split into 14 teams, to answer the call to mission. While serving on a NET team for 9months, missionaries, ages 18-28, lead transformative retreats and personal discipleship groups in over 110 dioceses.

Tuesday, January 11, a NET Team is coming to Langdon. They'll join us for 5:00pm Mass, then work with our Youth, grades 7-12, until about 8:00pm. We have local families offering to host them for the night. Spread the word! All local parishes invited to participate.

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If the Church is, as Pope Francis says, a “field hospital” engaged in the midst of the world's turmoil, then our God “is not found in neat and orderly places, distant from reality”; rather, God “walks ever at our side. He meets us where we are, on the often rocky roads of life.”

It's not about organizing events or bouncing around ideas about problems.

The synodal process should “suggest fresh paths and new ways of speaking” for the Catholic Church. “Let's not remain barricaded in our certainties,” the pope insisted. He encourages us Catholics to get out of our “old habits” by avoiding “shallow, pre-packaged responses.” Francis warned that the synod is not a study group. It's “a process of healing guided by the Spirit.”

Fr. Bob Bonnot, a priest from the Diocese of Youngstown, Ohio, will be offering our annual Lenten Retreat the first weekend of March. Fr. Bonnot will shed some important light on the whole Synod process.

Reminder, please turn your Questionnaire sheets in at 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.