

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 5, 2023

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS for Feb 5th. Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 58:7-10

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Matthew 5:13-16

- Reflect on a time when you were in need and someone responded to that need from generosity. How were they God's light for you?
- Can you think of a time when you had the opportunity to be God's light for someone else? How did you respond to the invitation?
- How can you stay committed to works of mercy and justice when your earthly eyes do not always see the rewarding beauty that God promises in these readings?

WEEKDAY MASSES February 7 - 10

Tues: 5:15 pm + Young Ja Kim

Wed: 8:40 am + Lawrence Schiestal

Thurs: 5:15 pm + LaVern Chaput

Fri: 10:30 am **Maple Manor** + Rallan Beck **(NO Public Allowed)**

Sat: 10:30 am +Judy Lill

WEEKEND MASSES February 11 – 12

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

5:00 pm St. Alphonsus People of the Parish

Reader: Corey Stremick

EMHC: Carol Hoffarth

Sun: 9:30 am St. Alphonsus + Bev Otto

Reader: George Podhradsky

EMHC: Darlene Brooks

Fr. Kurtis Gunwall's cell phone: 701-540-8751

Website for St. Alphonsus Parish – <http://www.stalphonsuslangdon.com/>

Sacrament of Reconciliation is normally available - 30 minutes before every Mass. Confessions are also heard after Masses or other times when requested

Weekly Reflection for **January 29, 2023:** This week's reflection of the parishioner's relationship with God and with the parish

Adult Envelopes	\$1,120.00
Plate	\$238.00
Children	\$67.00
Total	\$1,425.00

Please pray for the following people of our Parish/Community:

Evarist Barta, Betty Braun, Doug Bodnar, Nargis Byram, Jerome Dosmann, Tom Johnson, Harry Kram, Tony Lill, Candyce Pengilly McClean, Larry Metzger, Bernie Peterson, Jared Ryan, Patricia Wheeler &

#2 Myth: mRNA vaccines change your DNA.

Fact: mRNA is simply a message that the body reads. It cannot change your DNA or your genes. Think of this one like a wanted poster for COVID-19. Now your body knows what it looks like. The wanted poster degrades quickly, but your body remembers what to look for. For any questions or to schedule vaccinations, please contact Cavalier County Health District at 701-256-2402.

Calendar items:

Mon, Feb 6 7:00 pm Catholic Daughters

Wed, Feb 8 5:30 School Board / 6:30 RE / 7:00 CYO

Fri, Feb 10 7:00 pm Wake for Judy Lill (Brooks Funeral Home – not Church)

Sat, Feb 11 10:30 am Funeral Mass for Judy Lill (St Alphonsus)

Sun, Feb 12 10-Noon KC breakfast / Noon-3pm KC retreat

Last weekend I taught/preached at a marriage preparation weekend in Grand Forks. During Friday evening and Saturday morning, a few couples commented to me that they were thankful for the content and my presenting. I appreciated that – mostly thankful to God that they were understanding and receiving what we were trying to share. I know that no everyone hears the deeper message, a call to invite God into every facet of their relationship and marriage. After the weekend, the facilitator emailed the evals to us who presented. I saw many positive comments that they received something helpful from the weekend, but sadly, a couple people checked that they have a worse impression of the Church or the Faith after the weekend, but they did not write a comment as to why. Even when we offer a gift to help someone, we cannot force them to receive and or use the gift.

“I resolved to know nothing while I was with you, except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.” (1 Corinthians 2:2)

This weekend we hear of God’s gifts and His presence, and we hear what a response of faith should include: concern and mercy to those in need (material and spiritual needs); faith and trust offered to God (especially in our weakness). God cares for and takes care of us. Christ Jesus suffered and died for us. Therefore, we are free to be salt and light for the world – living in God (in Love), and sharing God’s love with others. We bring the light of Jesus into the darkness of sin and our fallen world; we are salt when we preserve what is good around us.

St Paul shared with the Corinthian Christians that he resolved only to know and share Jesus Christ with them. First and foremost the Crucified One – Love that gave all to save us, Love that reveals God’s power in our weakness, suffering for others, and dying to ourselves. This is the foundation for the miraculous power of God present to us in the Holy Spirit and the Eucharist.

This is why I’ve pointed to the crucifix numerous times when preaching or teaching, as I did at the Marriage Prep weekend. I want you to see, understand, and share the sign of True Love and God’s power over sin and death. It is why I gave each of my brothers and sisters and their families, and why I give every newly married couple a crucifix and a letter explaining why this gift is so important for ourselves and as a witness to God in our homes, churches, and school.

The core content of the letter is included in this bulletin as I hope it encourages you to display “Jesus Christ, and Him crucified” in your home, and to give this gift (and a letter) to your family and friends. (You are free to use the core info in your letter as you like) – Fr Kurtis Gunwall

We thank Fr Bill McDermott for celebrating the Eucharist this weekend and Fr Bernard Pfau for celebrating during the weekdays of my vacation. We thank God for our retired, yet very active priests. Thank you to everyone who helped with our events for Catholic Schools Week!

Thank you!

Fr Gunwall is gone this week for vacation. Cell phone use will be minimal. Fr Bill McDermott (218-779-2787) is here this weekend. Fr Bernard Pfau (701-650-8680) will be here Feb 7-10 for daily Masses. Call the office during daytime hours. Call the priests when office is closed.

As we visited, I shared the simple truth that the deepest, truest, and only lasting love is not a warm emotional feeling but the choice to sacrifice for your beloved (spouse, children, etc.). The greatest example we have of this is Jesus death on the cross for us. An empty cross is a reminder of God’s triumph over death; the crucifix is the visible reminder of Jesus’ sacrifice to save each of us from the power of sin and death. St. Paul said that he desired to know and preach nothing but Christ crucified. (1 Cor 1:23, 2:2; Gal 3:1)

I give you this crucifix to put in your home in a visible place where you will see it every day – throughout the day preferably as the reminder to die to your own selfishness and sin each day and to love sacrificially for the others in your home. It is the same reminder for children as you teach and remind them of that.

I also invite you to place it somewhere where guests can see it as a witness to God’s love and a quiet simple statement that your family follows Christ. What items will be visible to guests that say this is a Christian home? This can be one of them. I encourage you to share God’s love in your home in this simple way.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Catholic Daughter's Meeting Monday February 6th at 7:00pm in the Cafeteria.

St. Alphonsus School Collects, empty ink cartridges, Our Family Brand UPC codes, Coca-Cola bottle caps, and pop box tops with codes. **These items can be left at the school office or in a basket in the Fellowship hall on the display counter.** We turn these items in to receive money back from the companies.

FORMED.org – This website includes hundreds of movies, videos and ebooks from Ignatius Press, hundreds more of audio stories of conversion, teaching, inspiration from Lighthouse CDs, new podcasts and vlogs every day. See all the titles using this link (watch.formed.org/browse), and sign up for a week free trial if you want. We have a page with links to free content and more info on our parish website. Everyone, including your family or friends can have total, free access if our parish subscribes for only \$999 (the cost of 10 family subscriptions). Access these resources anytime, anywhere using computer, Roku, ChromeCast, tablet, phone, etc. **Are you willing to help sponsor a portion of the cost for this first year?** Check out the info on our website and talk to Fr Gunwall. We would like to begin this by Lent if we have the support.

Parish Pictorial Directory – It has been 6 years since the last directory was printed. I (Fr. Gunwall) would like more recent photos to help me continue to match names and faces. Others have also indicated that it is important that we update it – all kids under 6 are not even in the current copy. We need two people who see the importance of this to help coordinate the project with Fr Gunwall and the parish staff. We are also looking for 1 (or 2) local photographers to take pictures (we need to arrange a fair payment). The directory will be available via PDF, printed, and possibly online access. Please contact the staff ASAP if you want to help in any way.

FT Newman House Director

The Newman House (www.newmanhouse.org) on the University of North Dakota Campus in Grand Forks, ND is looking to hire a full-time Director for the 2023-2024 school year. Duties would include: serving a community of women by providing leadership and formation, overseeing maintenance and improvements to the facility, building and grounds, and complete all business and public relation needs to create a united and thriving culture to help serve the Newman Center and UND communities. For a more detailed job description go to <https://www.undcatholic.org/newman-house-director>. Apply immediately. Position starts in June of 2023. Please send cover letter, resume and two references to: chris.markman@undcatholic.org.

Youth and Young Adults... Want to spend time on a retreat that is put on by your peers? Do you want to grow closer to God? Do you need a “retreat” from the world around you? Experience God in a personal and REAL way. SEARCH for Christian Maturity has a retreat coming up February 24-26th at Maryvale Retreat Center in Valley City, ND. Youth and young adults, 16 and older are invited to attend. Details and application at <https://www.fargodiocese.org/search4cm> or call Dori at 952-210-2219. Applications are due no later than Monday, February 6th.

Palms to Ashes – drop your old palms in the Fellowship Hall this week. We will burn them and use them for Ash Wednesday.

KC retreat – all Knights are encouraged to give God 3 hours this next weekend and attend the short retreat with Fr Gunwall. You can still get to a SuperBowl party later that afternoon. Will you give Jesus 3 hours before you listen to 3 hours of TV babble?

Lenten Bible Study using the Sunday readings. The books arrived and are available in the Church entrance. Take a copy. A donation of \$18 covers the cost of a study book. I invite, encourage, and challenge you to join us Thursday nights beginning Feb 23 throughout Lent. Come any week you are able and/or use the workbook on your own.

Wells of Salvation – is a Lenten Project we will do with Cross Catholic Outreach this year. Watch the bulletin the next couple weeks for more information on this opportunity to pray, fast, and give alms to help those who do not even have fresh water in three diocese in Africa. You can check out the information now on their website crosscatholic.org/lent/