

ST. ALPHONSUS

ST. PETER

DAVENPORT

BUFFALO

Pastor: Rev. Paul J. Appel

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Phone: (563) 322-0901
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Web Page: www.holyfamilydavenport.com

Office Hours: Monday — Friday: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Paige King — Administrative Assistant
Susan Marshall — Bulletin

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH

Religious Education Director

Mary Ann Hagemann..... 391-8593

RCIA Director

Sister Susan Rueve, O.S.F..... 323-1502

ST. ALPHONSUS EARLY CHILDHOOD

EDUCATION CENTER

Shelly McIntosh, Director..... 323-3204

ST. PETER CHURCH — BUFFALO

406 4th Street, Buffalo, IA 52728

Deacon Larry Dankert..... 381-2741

Parish Council President

Larry Cawiezell..... 381-5288

Religious Education

Elementary - Nancy Stalder..... 381-2058

Intermediate - Scott Heskett..... 381-4991

PARISH SACRAMENTS

- **Baptism:** Baptismal preparation class by appointment.
- Please contact office for more information.

- **Weddings:** Make arrangements pastor at least six months before the wedding date. Dates and times for wedding in both parishes must be scheduled by contacting the pastor.

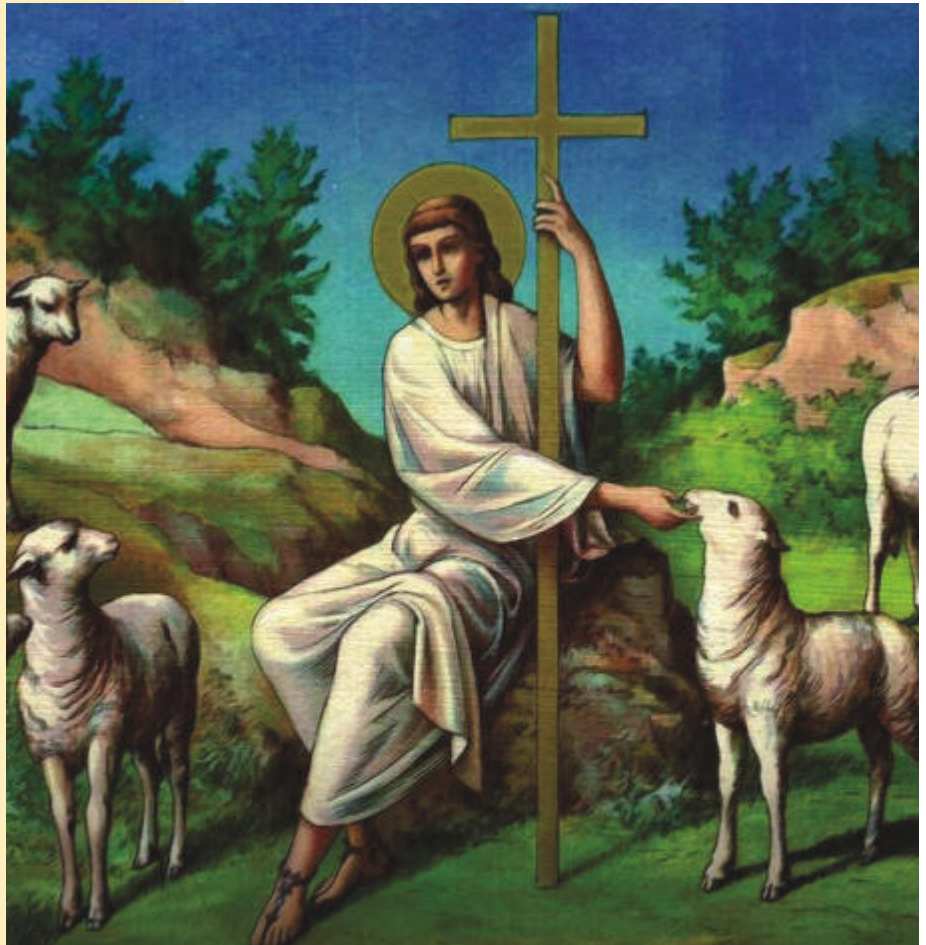
- **RCIA:** Classes begin mid-Sept for adults wishing to join the Catholic church and/or wanting to enter more fully by receiving the other sacraments. Please contact the parish office to register.

- **CHILD ABUSE REPORTING:** Call Iowa Department of Human Services Child Abuse Hotline: 800-362-2178 and if it involves clergy or church personnel also notify Alicia Owens, the Victim Assistance coordinator, 563-349-5002; vac@diodav.org

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday	4:00 PM	St. Alphonsus
Sunday	8:00 AM	St. Alphonsus
	10:00 AM	St. Peter

Confessions beginning at 3 pm on Saturdays before 4:00 PM Mass. Available by appointment, please call the parish office.



4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

“I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep.” - Jn 10:14-15

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

APRIL 25, 2021--4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

GENERAL NEWS

From Father's Desk

More Thoughts on Parish Planning

By now I hope that some of you have been able to attend one of our parish planning meetings. I have already heard a good amount of feedback and questions, so I can address those a little bit.

First, what happens to our parish buildings, savings accounts, and religious articles if a parish is closed or merged? The simple answer is that the moveable goods follow the people wherever they go. The immovable goods are repurposed or sold. For example, a parish church and rectory could be turned over to a religious institute, converted to a retreat center, or used as second site for worship when circumstances require it. I would do everything possible to maintain the buildings for the purposes of ministry. Unfortunately, I have heard of some dioceses where the people failed to plan and the buildings were turned into barns, shops, or apartments when the time came to downsize. I would consider this result a failure to be avoided.

Second, how do we keep our unique community alive if we are merged? This is up to the people themselves, but should not stand in the way of Christian charity. What I mean by this is that certain traditions can be maintained, but only if they are not a barrier to unity among those same communities. For instance, a parish dinner is great. A parish dinner *only* for the previous members of one parish is not. You may have noticed that all of our parishes are quite a bit different from how they were twenty or forty years ago. Healthy parishes are constantly growing, maturing, and developing. Ailing parishes tend to hold on to the past so much that there is no room for the next generation to thrive.

Third, how can we actually know what the future brings? We can't, but we can make some pretty safe assumptions. Based on data from the last several decades, we can expect that the number of clergy will continue to decline unless our parish families get serious about promoting vocations among their sons. We can also expect the number of Catholics to increase, while the number of them who actually attend Sunday Mass regularly will decrease. The parishes that are growing nationwide tend to have a more "traditional" message as young, conservative Catholics are more likely to attend Mass than their counterparts. Finally, as our buildings continue to age, the repairs will tend to become more costly over time. This creates a situation where we see diminishing returns over time.

Finally, who will actually make the decision about what is to be done? If we fail to plan or discuss the future, someone else will make that decision. It will be some other planning commission, or a bishop, or a future pastor who is dealing with some crisis. If we do the hard work of planning ourselves, the decision will be in our hands. If done in a spirit of prayer and humility, it will happen according to God's will. Let me be clear that while I have my own preferences and assumptions about the future, nothing has been decided yet. This process will be open, transparent, and honest. I won't hide anything from the parishioners and you will know what I know as soon as I know it. If you have ideas, we want to hear them.

-Fr. Paul

2 | 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ATTENTION St. Alphonsus & St. Peter parishioners, students, and parents/guardians! Assumption High School will be hosting an Information Knight on Wednesday, May 5th in the AHS Carroll Lab from 5-6 pm! During the event, you will have the opportunity to

- ⇒ Learn about AHS clubs, activities, organizations, and sports
- ⇒ Take a tour of AHS
- ⇒ Watch a presentation about the Family Tuition Plan (FTP), which provides financial aid to more than 30% of current AHS students
- ⇒ Hear about the college credits earned here on campus during the regular school day and taught by our own qualified instructors

Cinderella Cellar

New Hours: Effective May 1 the resale shop will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00am – 3:00pm and Saturdays 9:00am – Noon. Masks and social distancing required. Follow us on Facebook (CinderellasCellarDavenport).
230 W. 35th St., Davenport, 563-323-1923.



Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you came to birth I consecrated you.

Jeremiah 1:5

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: Acts 9:26-31/ Ps 22:26-27,28,30,31-32/ 1Jn 3:18-24/ Jn 15:1-8

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

ST. ALPHONSUS – DAVENPORT

Parishioners will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday's at 3 p.m.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR APRIL 26 - MAY 2

Mon.	8:00	Barb Poster†
Tues.	8:00	Chris Hayes†
Wed.	7:15	Kay Lent†
Thurs.	8:00	L/D Nienaber & Stahler Families
Fri.	8:00	Mary Langfeldt†
Sat.	4:00	L/D Williams & Taylor Families
Sun.	8:00	Sharon Linz†

LITURGICAL ROLES FOR MAY 1 & 2

LECTOR

Saturday 4 PM.....	Sara Lannan
Sunday 8 AM.....	Mary Kraxner

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER

Saturday 4 PM.....	Sara Lannan
Sunday 8 AM.....	Dick Poster

ST. PETER – BUFFALO

MASS INTENTION - MAY 2

Sun. 10:00 Pro Populo

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Today Apr. 25	Fourth Sunday of Easter
08:30 AM	Elementary Religious Ed/ St. Peter
01:00 PM	Fish Fry Appreciation Dinner/ KoC Hall
Wed. Apr. 28	06:00 PM Long Range Planning Meeting/St. Al's
	06:30 PM Religious Ed/ St. Alphonsus
Sat. May 1	After 4PM Mass Long Range Planning Meeting/St. Al's
Sun. May 2	Fifth Sunday of Easter
10:00 AM	First Communion/ St. Peter

St Alphonsus Weekly Offerings April 17 & 18
Weekly Budget: \$4,250 Offering: \$4,384

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Any builder worth his or her salt knows the value and importance of a cornerstone. Properly laying and securing this primary unit determines how the rest of the project unfolds and its success. Cornerstones are necessary elements not only of buildings but of lives as well. Many human beings conduct the business of their lives paying little attention to a grounding reference or starting point. Hence, what unfolds is a tapestry of relativism, with few anchors or guideposts and many impulsive choices. Some consider love to be their cornerstone. While this may sound attractive and useful, the pursuit of love without a simultaneous pursuit of its source can be shallow and self-focused. Just because a person chooses to do no harm and love others does not mean that they are living in truth and properly anchored to the real cornerstone.

Jesus is the true and authentic cornerstone and shepherd. It is only in following the Risen One as the way, the truth, and the life that we can move from being well grounded ethical people to properly focused moral ones. Proper conduct, a true sense of justice, wisdom, virtue, moral principles, faith, hope, and love will be difficult to find unless we listen to the right Voice. It is when we learn to listen to the voice of God that we begin our journey on the road to salvation. It is only the Good Shepherd, the authentic and solid cornerstone, who can guide us through life's questions and challenges and bring us to the safe and proper pasture.

A person's life only has meaning when the cornerstone is properly selected and set. Understanding themselves only as random acts of creation, existing without intent or purpose, will color their choices and influence their decisions. The foundation of their lives will be simply a matter of preference and choice, leaving benchmarks of growth and higher ideals optional to pursue. Whereas people who believe that they are fashioned and loved into existence by a God who purposely made them, have this incredible unconditional relationship at their source which has tremendous significance. Their allegiance is not to themselves but to their Creator. Life, then, is an adventure in search of this Creator God and a journey of self-discovery that seeks to unite their will to His. There is a cost. We have to give up our life in order to gain our life. As ironic as that sounds, it is true. It is only when we finally figure this out that the true cornerstone of our lives will be properly laid and we can, with God's help, get about the business of properly constructing a temple that endures.

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Edward Jones

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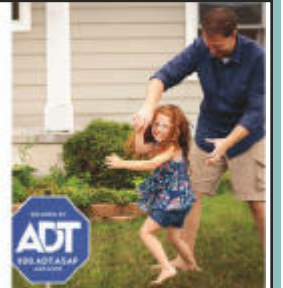
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