

# ST. ALPHONSUS ST. PETER

DAVENPORT

BUFFALO

**Pastor: Rev. Paul J. Appel**

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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.

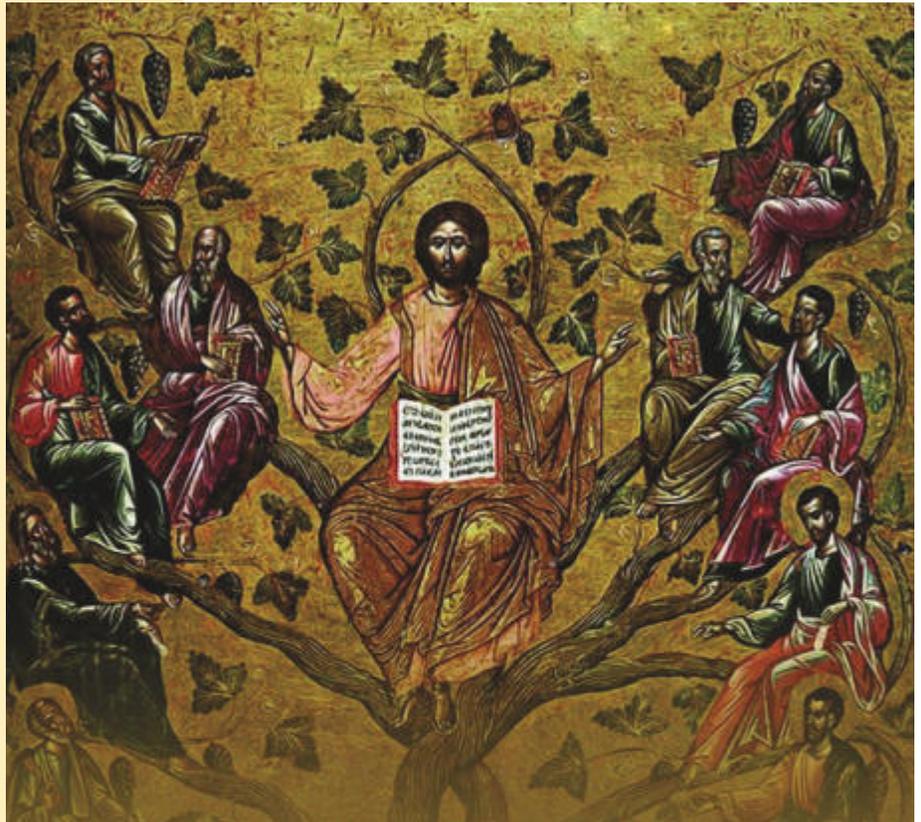
- **RCIA:** Classes begin mid-Sept for adults wishing to join the Catholic church and/or wanting to enter more fully by receiving the other sacraments. Please contact the parish office to register.

- **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**

<b>Saturday</b>	4:00 PM	St. Alphonsus
<b>Sunday</b>	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.



## 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

“I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.” - Jn 15:5

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

**MAY 2, 2021.-.5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

# GENERAL NEWS

From Father's Desk

## Long Range Planning Questions and Feedback

As of writing this article, I have conducted two long range planning sessions with the parishes. The first two were held at Holy Family. There were lots of good comments and questions, so I thought it would be a good idea to relate them to you.

First, there were a series of questions about the number of clergy and the number of parishes. While we do have a number of good men in the seminary now, the number of clergy retirements will outpace the number of ordinations for many years to come. We must pray and encourage vocations as this is the clearest solution to the problems facing many of our parishes. More priests means better pastoral care and stronger parishes. If numbers continue as they are, it will be several decades before the number of active clergy begins to grow. It is highly likely that the parishes on the West side of Scott County will see one or two less priests in the next few years.

A number of questions related to population growth. If we take 2020 out of the mix, most of our parishes saw a decline in attendance but were beginning to level off or rise before Covid. St. Peter's in Buffalo continues to grow as does our Latin Mass community. There are large numbers of people who are registered but do not regularly attend Mass. These are typically younger families with children in our schools. Since these folks represent the future of our parish, it is critically important that we reach out to them and increase their involvement in parish life.

If we were to build a new parish church to serve West Scott County, it would include a number of features we are currently lacking. These would include: better handicapped access, convenient parking, a capacious parish hall, modern bathrooms, and a state-of-the-art school. Most people seemed to favor building a church that looks like a church. Many of our current sanctuary appointments could be brought with us to outfit the new structure. Many people were concerned about what might happen to our old churches. I am not in favor of demolishing or closing churches. Hopefully we can find ways to maintain our worship sites as churches or at least repurpose them in a way that is consistent with ministry and respectful of their history.

So far everyone has agreed that a study is in order. I will begin the selection process for a company to come in and make a feasibility study so that we can better gauge the interest in moving forward with a new plan. It is highly likely that we will either consolidate or build in the near future. Please pray that we make the right decisions and that God will bless our plans!

-Fr. Paul

## Time for Discernment

Starting on May 13<sup>th</sup> I am asking all parishioners to pray the Novena to the Holy Spirit. There will be a handout in the next bulletin with instructions on how to pray this with your family. The prayers focus on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. These are powerful gifts that can be used to increase our own piety and work the conversion of people who need it! Pay attention to how the Spirit is working in your life during this Easter season and be sure to share with me your experience of this powerful prayer.

-Fr. Paul

St Alphonsus quilting group will resume regular hours Tuesday afternoons from 1-3 pm. We have lots of fabrics to inspire your creativity. Please join us in the 3rd floor sewing room; use the junior high entrance north of the gym and ring the buzzer. Masks required.

**ATTENTION** St. Alphonsus & St. Peter parishioners, students, and parents/guardians! Assumption High School will be hosting an Information Knight on Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

**“Abortion is a Violation of Providing Life to a Human Being”**

*-Archbishop Charles J. Chaput*

**NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48/  
Ps 98:1,2-3,3-4/ 1Jn 4:7-10/ Jn 15:9-17**

# 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 MAY 3 - 9

<b>Mon.</b>	8:00	Shirley Kay Mattingly†
<b>Tues.</b>	8:00	Sandra Peters†
<b>Wed.</b>	7:15	Souls in Purgatory†
<b>Thurs.</b>	8:00	Carol Schlichting†
<b>Fri.</b>	8:00	Tim Heskett†
<b>Sat.</b>	4:00	L/D Cyril Parker Family
<b>Sun.</b>	8:00	Mary Soto†

### LITURGICAL ROLES FOR MAY 8 & 9

#### LECTOR

Saturday 4 PM.....	Lynn Schiffke
Sunday 8 AM.....	Liz Hartman

#### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER

Saturday 4 PM.....	Mary Podhirny
Sunday 8 AM.....	Liz Hartman

## ST. PETER – BUFFALO

### MASS INTENTION - MAY 9

**Sun.** 10:00 Pro Populo

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>Today May 2</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>
	10:00 AM First Communion/ St. Peter
<b>Tue. May 4</b>	01:00 PM Quilting Group/ St. Alphonsus
<b>Wed. May 5</b>	02:00 PM Sewing Group/ St. Alphonsus
	06:30 PM Religious Ed/ St. Alphonsus
<b>Sun. May 9</b>	<b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>
	<b>Mother's Day</b>
	10:00 AM May Crowning/ St. Peter

*St Alphonsus Weekly Offerings April 24 & 25*  
*Weekly Budget: \$4,250 Offering: \$1,889*

### GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

“Spiraling out of control,” is a phrase that can easily describe the current display of human existence. In addition to the violence, unrest, uneasiness and turmoil that are common elements of our daily news, other essential pieces are misplaced or missing. Many lack an objective center around which to order and structure their lives or a clear set of definable goals or mores to act as guideposts and life directives. It appears that “feelings” have become a “new god” and traditional structures and ideals set aside. It is almost as if history only shows that we got this whole thing wrong and many are determined to finally set things right. The real truth, however, is that while wrongs and errors are certainly a part of our often-checked past, it is hardly the case that all was wrong. It is not our task to rewrite the history of our lives, but to learn from mistakes that were made, and preserve the perennial wisdom at the root of our successes. Learning is an essential part of being human.

The question becomes, however, from whom do we learn? Some have such a hard time placing God in that position, but that is precisely where God needs to be. God is the Master Teacher from whom all of humanity learns and gets its cues. It is in and through this relationship with the Gardener of Life that we are fashioned and pruned into the people we are intended to be and can be. It is only in God that we are able to find our best selves. Sadly, many think that religion too, as well as history in general, has also gotten all this wrong. Yet, our resurrection faith tells us differently. We are reminded, today especially, that we are meant to remain in Christ as Christ remains in us. We are also reminded that Jesus, the Incarnate God, is the vine upon which we grow, the branches that flow from the source of God's life.

Giving up our will to God's can be a painful endeavor. It is not easy to set our own desires and wants aside and allow God to step in and direct and guide our growth. But this is the only way to prevent deadly weeds from overtaking us and bringing us to a place of self-destruction. God's commandments are the very guideposts and benchmarks we need, yet many seek to remove them from all public view because they appear to limit self-expression and suppress what is considered by many to be “human freedom.” They are the only way we can find freedom, however. And, until we learn this fundamental lesson, we will continue to spiral out of control, never really knowing who we are, what our potential can be or how life really can be lived. We will not know peace.

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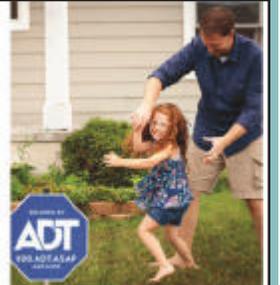
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