

First Sunday of Advent
December 2, 2018

SAINT ALPHONSUS CHURCH

607 South Jackson St.
Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641

St. Alphonsus Mission Statement

We, the family of St. Alphonsus Catholic Parish, strengthened by Word and Sacrament, strive to live out Jesus Christ's call to discipleship by worshiping faithfully, serving willingly, and growing spiritually.

Parish Staff

Pastor.....Fr. Paul Connolly.....385-8410
Office ManagerVicki Lohmann.....385-8410
Director of MusicCarmen Heaton.....385-9342
Adult Faith Form/RE Cdtr....Margi Mountz.....385-4937
Confirmation Contact.....Ted Mountz.....385-4937
Custodian Russell Hill.....385-8410

Parish Council President.....Bob Cardoni
Finance Council President...Tom Holtkamp

Weekend Mass Schedule... Saturday 5:30 PM
Sunday 8:00 and 11:00 AM

Daily Mass Schedule...Monday NO Mass,
Tuesday—7:00 AM, Wednesday—5:30 PM,
Thursday and Friday Noon Mass

Confessions...Saturday 4:30 PM or by appointment.

Eucharistic Devotion:

Friday Adoration: 9:00 AM to Noon

Monthly Adoration: 1st Thursday Noon to 9:00 PM

Rosary: Led by KC Members, 7:30 AM Sundays

Parish Office Phone (319) 385-8410
RE Office..... (319) 385-4937
Manning Hall.....(319) 385-0544
Church fax.....(319)385-0545
Church Emailstalphonsus@windstream.net
St. Alphonsus Web Site...www.stalphonsus.weconnect.com



1st SUNDAY of Advent

"Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." Mk 24:27

Reprinted from the Adversary, 1st Ed. 2001, 1998, 1970, CDD.

1st Sunday of Advent

Tribulation. Wildfires. Tsunamis. Moral corruption. Disease. War. We tend to associate these things with the end times, and perhaps for good reason! In today's Gospel, Jesus says: "People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world." Not exactly putting us in the Christmas spirit, is it. During Advent, we anticipate a celebration of Christ's first coming. There is a quiet stillness about our waiting, or at least we try to encourage that in ourselves. Perhaps we have an Advent devotional or we take time to pray together as a family around the Advent wreath.


But Jesus did not come only once into history. During Advent, we remember that he will come again. You may remember the rapture craze in the early 2000s, when a series of books and movies envisioned a future where Jesus was coming soon and all the true believers had been whisked away. Everyone else had one more chance to repent before things really went to hell...literally, in this case!

But is that what Jesus is talking about here? The truth is, we don't know what Jesus' Second Coming will be like. The actual return of Christ - though sudden and perhaps frightening to some - should not frighten us. Despite all the stories we may have heard about the apocalypse, the advice of Jesus is not to hang our heads or cower in fear. "Stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." In a certain sense, we are already living in the end times. We already encounter great tribulation. We all find it easy to get distracted or discouraged in the grind of daily life. Today's Gospel reminds us that vigilance for God's presence is needed now.

MASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

	<u>Mass time</u>	<u>Mass Intention</u>	<u>Saint of the Day</u>	<u>Readings for the day</u>
Mon, Dec 3	NO MASS		St. Francis Xavier	Is 2:1-5/Mt 8:5-11
Tue, Dec 4	7:00 AM	Mark Fitzpatrick †	St. John Damascene	Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24
Wed, Dec 5	5:30 PM	Larry Rodruck †	Weekday	Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37
Thu, Dec 6	12:00 PM	Baby Shy †	St. Nicholas	Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27
Fri, Dec 7	12:00 PM	Tyler Zickefooze †	St. Ambrose	Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31
Sat, Dec 8	12:00 PM	For Parishioners	Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary	
	5:30 PM	Buena Messer †		
Sun, Dec 9	8:00 AM	Virginia Bomber †	2nd Sunday of Advent	Bar 5:1-9/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6
	11:00 AM	For Parishioners		
	2:00 PM	Ann Hoover†	Spanish Mass	

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
December 8th—one Mass at Noon
Holy Day of Obligation



This does not count as your Sunday Mass obligation.

Inspiration for the Week

As we begin our Advent journey in preparation for the celebration of Christ’s birth and in anticipation of his coming again in glory, we are reminded of our need to be vigilant and prepared. This short season of Advent can be a mini-retreat for us who find ourselves living in a world that is often counterproductive to developing mature, focused, and meaningful relationships with God. Being a Christian and standing firm in our faith requires a strength that can only come from prayer. These four short preparatory weeks can help us look back to what God has done in history, to what God continues to do in our lives today, and to what God promises for the future. May we use this Advent time wisely, calling us to greater holiness.

MINISTERS FOR DECEMBER 8 & 9

LECTORS

- 5:30 PM Deb Mascarenas
- 8:00 AM Ken Feldmann
- 11:00 AM Janet Smith

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

- 5:30 PM Team G Paul Maher
- 8:00 AM Team H Ted Mountz
- 11:00 AM Team I Mary Shy

SERVER

- 5:30 PM Andrea/Roman Lopreato
- 8:00 AM Thomas Schnicker/Owen Baker
- 11:00 AM Abby/Lucy West

USHERS

- 5:30 PM Marc/Maureen Lindeen
- 8:00 AM Denny Heaton/John Newton
- 11:00 AM Robb/Alec Gardner


GREETERS

- 5:30 PM Mike/Kim Shelangoski
- 8:00 AM Jeff/Jill Baker
- 11:00 AM Mike/Kelly Burgmeier

Offertory for November 24 & 25

Envelopes.....	5167.00
Offertory.....	383.42
Campaign for Human Development	255.00
Disaster Collection	<u>700.00</u>
Total.....	6505.42

Thank you! Your donations make our ministries possible!



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 Thursday, December 6, 2018
 Noon to 9:00 PM
 Come spend quiet time with the Lord!

ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

Sunday, Dec 2 Rosary, 7:30 am Mass, 8:00 & 11:00 am KC Breakfast, 9:00 am RE Class K-8th, 9:30 am Homebound Ministers-Team 1	Mon, Dec 3 NO MASS	Tues, Dec 4 Men Scrip, 6:00 am Women Scrip, 6:00 am Mass, 7:00 am RCIA, 4:30 pm Quilters, 6:00 pm KC meeting, 7:00 pm	Wed, Dec 5 Women Scrip, 9:30 am Mass, 5:30 pm Choir practice, 6:30 pm RE Class K-8th and Confirmation I & II, 6:45 pm	Thurs, Dec 6 Mass, Noon Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Noon to 9:00 pm	Fri, Dec 7 Adoration 9 am-Noon Mass at Sunnybrook, 10 am Mass, Noon	Sat, Dec 8 Mass, Noon for Holy Day Confessions—4:30-5:00 pm Mass 5:30 pm Anointing at all Masses
Sunday, Dec 9 Rosary, 7:30 am Mass, 8:00 & 11:00 am Church Life donuts, 9:00 am RE Class K-8th, 9:30 am Spanish Mass, 2:00 pm Homebound Minister-Team 2	Mon, Dec 10 NO MASS	Tues, Dec 11 Men Scrip, 6:00 am Women Scrip, 6:00 am Mass, 7:00 am <u>Ladies for Charity, 12:30</u> RCIA, 4:30 pm Quilters, 6:00 pm Social Action, 6:30 pm	Wed, Dec 12 Women Scrip, 9:30 am Mass, 5:30 pm Choir practice, 6:30 pm RE Class K-8th and Confirmation I & II, 6:45 pm	Thurs, Dec 13 Mass, Noon	Fri, Dec 14 Adoration 9 am-Noon Mass at Park Place, 10:00 am Mass, Noon Widow’s luncheon, 12:30 pm	Sat, Dec 15 Confessions—4:30-5:00 pm Mass 5:30 pm

Wanted: Mary, Joseph, Angels and Shepherds

At the Children’s Mass on Christmas Eve, we will be proclaiming the gospel with a drama by our children. We have openings for several children for the roles of Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds and other roles. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Gathering space. Please check the age requirements for each role. We will have two practices, one on Sunday, December 23 at 3:00 PM and one at 3:30 PM on Christmas Eve. Please sign up your child only if they can be there for BOTH practices. If you have any questions, please call Margi at the church office @ 385-8410.

Sign up to Light the Advent Wreath

If you and your family would like to light the Advent Wreath candles in Church, see the sign up sheet in the Gathering Space.



Keep in Your Prayers

Our condolences to Dorothy Welcher and family and friends on the passing of Dorothy’s brother, Joe Gehringer. May Joe be welcomed into the ever lasting life.



the weekend of December 8 & 9

Our Catholic Church encourages those who are experiencing health concerns, those who are preparing for surgery and those who are elderly to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing.

If you or your family members desire to receive the Sacrament of Anointing and/or Holy Communion, but are not able to attend Mass, please call the parish office, 385-8410.

John the Baptist

Next week and the week after we shall hear of this one called: “The Baptist.” With great precision, Luke puts him into history – into time: Tiberius in his fifteenth year, Pilate is in Judea, Herod is in Galilee. It is Roman time. Annas and Caiaphas are High Priests. It is also Jewish time. What Luke reveals is real. It happens in time and is a matter of history. It is not a matter of the future.

John emerges from the desert where trial and danger have prepared him and clarified his mission. He is strange and wild saying the same thing over and over:

“Prepare the Way of the Lord.”

His image of this Lord is wilder than he is. It is an image of wrath and punishment reflecting more the expectations of the time and these people oppressed by the Romans than the truth. The fact that people rally around him would suggest they liked the image of wrath. As is often the case, it was probably the “wish” of the people – that God would “give it to them” -those oppressors, those enemies, but not to them! And who comes? Jesus. It’s as though John suggests that Ivan the Terrible is coming, but a gentleman with a loving hand comes instead!

This is history, not the future. The spirit of anticipation in this season is not about what God is going to do. It has already happened. The spirit of anticipation in this season is about what we are going to do because of what has happened.

Ladies for Charity

The December 11 meeting for the Ladies for Charity will begin at 12:30 PM with a soup luncheon. Please bring a dish to share. Tableware and drink will be provided. All women of the parish are invited to attend.

Widows and Widower’s Luncheon

The next widows and widower’s luncheon will be held on Friday, December 14 at 12:30 PM. Join us for Mass at Noon and then to Manning Hall for lunch and fellowship. Call the Parish Office to sign up @ 385-8410.

Mark Your Calendars

Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary
Holy Day of Obligation—Mass Saturday, December 8-Noon

Anointing of the Sick at all Masses: December 8 & 9

Communal Penance-Tuesday, December 18-7:00 PM

RE Advent Program-Wednesday, December 19, 6:45 PM

Christmas Eve Masses-Monday, December 24-5:00 & 10:30 PM
Christmas Day Mass-Tuesday, December 25-9:00 AM

Marriage Encounter Weekend Dates

The holidays are coming! Give your spouse the perfect gift, the gift of quality time with you for an entire weekend. Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekends allow couples private time to focus on their relationship and rediscover the one they fell in love with. Sign up for upcoming weekends to ensure your spot. Gift certificates are available by calling the phone number below. Upcoming dates: Mar 8-10 LaCrosse, WI; Apr 12-14 Ankeny, IA; May 3-5 Dubuque, IA For more information visit our website at: iowa-wwme.org or call 563-608-3305 or email jljwwme08@gmail.com


GOODYEAR
*Mt. Pleasant
 Tire & Service*
 GARY CRAWFORD
 MANAGER
 1305 E. WASHINGTON
 MT. PLEASANT, IA 52641
 Bus: 319-385-3022

Compliments of
RESCHLY CONST. CORP.
OLDS, IOWA
 254-2189
 Ken & Joyce Reschly

**Holiday Satellite Sales
 and Service**
Since 1991

 Authorized Retailer
Jim Holaday
 OWNER
 219 W. Monroe 1-319-986-6113
 Mt. Pleasant 1-800-696-4539

mount-pleasant
dental
 ASSOCIATES
 Jeffrey E. Sauer, D.D.S. | Kara L. Mahler, D.D.S.
 304 NORTH JEFFERSON
 MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA 52641
 319.385.8912

bp

**PEP
 STOP**
 901 E. WASHINGTON
 MT. PLEASANT, IA 52641
 385-4112
 Tony & Lynn Fedler

Jim Cordes Motors
Sales, Service
 Jim & Louise Cordes
 205 E. Cleveland • New London
367-2271
 (TF) **877-918-7663**

**VANCE
 LAW OFFICE**
Michael C. Vance
 101 N. Jefferson St.
 Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641
 Ph (319) 385-3736

**FITZ
 FARMS, LTD.**
 JOHN, MATT, & JAN
 Parishioners
 New London, IA
319-367-2679

Score Big With... DISH Deals!!
 190 Channels... **\$49.99**
 Now only ... /mo.
 ADD HIGH-SPEED INTERNET
\$14.95 /mo.
 Subject to availability. Restrictions apply.
CALL TODAY - 1-888-246-8017
 Save 25%


HELP PROTECT YOUR FAMILY
CALL NOW! 1-888-891-6806

 AUTHORIZED DEALER

 HOME SECURITY TEAM

**Mt Pleasant
 Chiropractic**
Dr. Matt Donnolly, DC
 204 N. Jefferson Street • Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641
319-385-3000
 Walk-Ins Welcome!

**COTTAGE
 REALTY LLC**
 Jim and Holly Burden, Parishioners
 118 S. Main St. - Mt. Pleasant
 Office: (319) 385- SOLD
 Cell: (319) 931-0614
 hollyburden@lisco.com
 www.cottagerealty.com

BRAD HOLTkamp

AUTOMOTIVE INC.
 986-5193
 907 E. WASHINGTON ST. • MT. PLEASANT, IA
 PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE • AUTO REPAIR
 QUALITY WORK AT REASONABLE RATES
 PARISHIONERS

**FREE
 AD DESIGN
 WITH PURCHASE
 OF THIS SPACE.**
 - 800-950-9952 -

**DOUDS STONE
 LLC**
 Mt. Pleasant Quarry Coppock Quarry
 319-986-5268 319-653-3270

Online Shopping
 for Catholic
 Gifts of Faith

www.parishstore.com

**ALL
 AMERICAN**
PEST CONTROL
 Locally Owned & Operated
 Serving SE Iowa since 1971
 Mt. Pleasant 319-385-7411

**WILEY'S
 Interior Furnishings
 and DESIGN**
 Furniture - Appliances - Floor Covering
 Cabinetry - Fireplaces
 2235 E. Washington • Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641
www.wileysinteriors.com
 319-385-2726

Vermeer
 Walljasper Imp, LLC
 Bob 319-750-2866
 Doug 319-470-2053

**AVAILABLE
 FOR A LIMITED TIME**
**ADVERTISE YOUR
 BUSINESS HERE**
 Contact **Rob Witte** to place an ad today!
 rwitte@4LPi.com or (800) 950-9952 x2501

**Little Mexico
 Restaurant**
 Authentic Mexican Food,
 Margaritas, & Mixed Drinks

 Daily Lunch Specials
 11am-2:30pm
 Dinner
 4pm-9pm
 SUN - THU 11-9 • FRI & SAT 11-10
 107 S. Jefferson St.
 Mt. Pleasant
385-8424

Quality & Service
 for 5 Generations

 212 N. Main St.
 Mt. Pleasant, IA
 319-385-8421
www.CaseMemorials.com

Wells Fargo Advisors
Dan McCabe
 Financial Advisor
 101 S Cherry St. #4
 Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641
319-385-3750
 Wells Fargo Advisors is a trade name used by
 Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC Member SIPC

**AMERICAN FAMILY
 INSURANCE**
M A Hamilton Agency, Inc.
MARK A. HAMILTON
 100 S MAIN ST
 MOUNT PLEASANT, IA 52641-0463
 Office: 319-385-7137
 Website: **www.mahamilton.com**

LR
 Full-Recall Service
 319-986-6826
**Fulfilling All Your
 Residential & Commercial
 Waste Hauling Needs**

**ASPELMEIER, FISCH, POWER,
 ENGBERG & HELLING, P.L.C.**
 ATTORNEYS AT LAW
 304 N. Locust St., Winfield, IA
 319-257-6700 or 319-754-6587

SPREAD THE WORD
 A Thriving, Vibrant Community Matters

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

Mt. Pleasant Lumber
 2177 Iowa St., Mt. Pleasant
 (319) 385-4800
 Lumber Yard - Hardware Store
 Kitchen & Bath Showroom

**PROTECTING SENIORS NATIONWIDE
 MEDICAL ALERT SYSTEM**

\$29.95/MO PLUS SPECIAL OFFER
 BILLED QUARTERLY
CALL NOW! 1.877.801.7772
WWW.24-7MEDALARM.COM

Helping families connect,
 honor & remember
Kimzey
 FUNERAL HOME
 213 N. Main St., Mt. Pleasant
 319-385-2244
www.kimzeyfh.com

**EGLI
 Landscapes**
 Inc.
 BRINGING CUSTOM LANDSCAPE VISIONS TOGETHER
 1426 Hwy 78, Wayland, Ia 52654
 571@eglandscapes.com www.eglandscapes.com
 Tim Egli, Owner
319-296-8111

**catholicmatch
 iowa**

CatholicMatch.com/IA

Sparrow Building Services
 Roofing • Windows
 Siding • Doors
 & Much More
 20+ Years of Experience
319-931-0668

**Pilot Grove
 Savings Bank**
 www.pilotgrovesavingsbank.com
 888-283-2265 • 319-469-3951
 Member FDIC Equal Housing Lender
GAMRATH-DOYLE-VENS
 A Tradition of Insurance Excellence
 207 S. Harrison St.
 Mt. Pleasant, IA
 Phone: 385-4240

