

Second Sunday of Advent
December 9, 2018

SAINT ALPHONSUS CHURCH

607 South Jackson St.
Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641



2nd SUNDAY of Advent

*A voice of one crying out in the desert:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths." (Is 40)*
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2nd Sunday of Advent

John the Baptist received quite a prelude today as Luke described the religious and political leadership of the time period. Scripture is divinely inspired, and we believe that everything that made it into the Bible is there for a reason. These lines remind us of an important truth. The Christmas story isn't a fairy tale or nursery rhyme. It's not a parable we say to give meaning to the holiday. At Christmas, God's presence is made tangible in a precise moment in time. The birth of Christ is a historical event. As precursor to Jesus' preaching, the ministry of John the Baptist is also a historical event.

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." John's call to repentance and the forgiveness of sins happened in a particular time and place. But that does not mean it is limited to first century Palestine! God continues to move in our daily lives. What we hear in today's Gospel - and what we anticipate at Christmas - occurs in our daily lives. God works in concrete ways in time and space. He did that 2,000 years ago, and He continues to do so today!

This Sunday, examine your own Christmas preparations. Is there anything you need to repent of before the Christmas season? Are there low points in your life, valleys to "be filled" by the love of God? Are their mountainous obstacles in your spiritual life? How can they be "made low"? Are you making decisions that have moved you away from God? This Advent season is the time for them to "be made straight and made smooth." Prepare the way in your heart for Christ today!

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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

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 10	NO MASS		Weekday	Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26
Tue, Dec 11	7:00 AM	Bernice Becker †	St. Damasus I	Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14
Wed, Dec 12	5:30 PM	Victor Fraise †	Our Lady of Guadalupe	Zec 2:14-17/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Thu, Dec 13	12:00 PM	Ann Nhon Le †	St. Lucy	Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15
Fri, Dec 14	12:00 PM	Paul Mertens †	St. John of the Cross	Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19
Sat, Dec 15	5:30 PM	Joe Gehringer †		
Sun, Dec 16	8:00 AM 11:00 AM	Ron Thompson † For Parishioners	3rd Sunday of Advent	Zep 3:14-18a/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

MINISTERS FOR DEC 15 & 16

LECTORS

- 5:30 PM Mike Vance
- 8:00 AM Jacki Holtkamp
- 11:00 AM Greg Peck

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

- 5:30 PM Team A Mary Ann Messer
- 8:00 AM Team B Marlene Donnolly
- 11:00 AM Team C Gary Crawford

SERVER

- 5:30 PM Ajay/Alexis Wagner
- 8:00 AM Chris Dyar/Jordan Watznauer
- 11:00 AM Jackie/Katherine Tansey

USHERS

- 5:30 PM Gary Welcher/Jerry Keeley
- 8:00 AM Jeep Grilliot/Tim Lohmann
- 11:00 AM Colin/Nick McCormick

GREETERS

- 5:30 PM Karen Stevens/Cathy Lampe
- 8:00 AM Doris Grilliot/Joann Mallams
- 11:00 AM Jared/Janet Smith

Inspiration for the Week

Making straight the path of Christ is not only the vocation of John the Baptist but of every baptized believer. God desires to lead us with His mercy and justice. These are essentials in God’s kingdom and some of the gifts Christ’s future coming will bring. But our world’s systems do not place emphasis on these values. Wanting greater profits, downsizing companies in order to reduce expense, using others for personal or corporate gain, and valuing institutions over people are just a few of the “values” we encounter every day. We are called to straighten the path to Christ. In a world that places value on things that are counter to our call, how do we respond? We need to learn to discern what is of real value and then take the risk of bringing it into the marketplace.

Autumn Festival Charitable Donations

The Autumn Festival Committee allocated the 10% donations to Charitable Organizations and it was approved by the Parish Council. The following groups received money: The Family Connection, Henry County Food Resource Bank, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Help To Others, Relay for Life, Christamore House, Habitat for Humanity, Women 4 Women, St. Alphonsus Rosary Makers, and the St. Alphonsus Venture Youth Group. It was also decided to give \$5,235.00 to the Disaster Relief fund.
Thank you to all for supporting this year’s Autumn Festival!

Offertory for December 1 & 2

Envelopes.....	4945.00
Offertory.....	274.61
Direct Deposit	3979.00
Retired Religious Collection	<u>25.00</u>
Total.....	9223.61

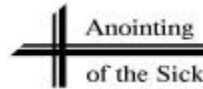
Thank you! Your donations make our ministries possible!

ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

Sunday, Dec 9	Mon, Dec 10	Tues, Dec 11	Wed, Dec 12	Thurs, Dec 13	Fri, Dec 14	Sat, Dec 15
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 Ministers-Team 2	NO MASS	Men Scrip, 6:00 am Women Scrip, 6:00 am Mass, 7:00 am Ladies for Charity, 12:30 pm RCIA, 1:00 pm Quilters, 6:00 pm Social Action, 6:30 pm	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	Ministerial meeting, 8 am Mass, Noon Buildings & Grounds, 6:30	Adoration 9 am-Noon Mass at Park Place, 10:00 am Mass, Noon Widow’s luncheon, 12:30 pm	Confessions— 4:30-5:00 pm Mass 5:30 pm
Sunday, Dec 16 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 3	Mon, Dec 17 NO MASS Bulletin goes in today	Tues, Dec 18 Men Scrip, 6:00 am Women Scrip, 6:00 am Mass, 7:00 am Prayer Shawl, 2:00 pm Quilters, 6:00 pm Communal Penance, 7:00 pm	Wed, Dec 19 Women Scrip, 9:30 am Mass, 5:30 pm RE Advent Program, 6:45 pm	Thurs, Dec 20 Mass, Noon	Fri, Dec 21 Adoration 9 am-Noon Mass, Noon	Sat, Dec 22 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.



**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.

All Are Invited



All are invited to come to the Religious Education Advent Program on Wednesday, December 19 at 6:45 PM in the Church.

Support the Retirement Fund for Religious

Do you remember the sisters, brothers, or religious order priests who made a positive difference in your life? Today many are elderly and need assistance. Their religious communities struggle to meet retirement needs while continuing to serve the People of God. Please give to the second collection for the Retired Religious Fund. There are envelopes in the back of church for your convenience.

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.

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

I remember growing up in Catholic school and having to make construction paper Advent wreaths every single year! The little yellow flames would be cut out and held until each new candle was lit. Great idea, except for the fact that the chance you could find the flames greatly diminished as each week passed. I will bet over 50% of the wreaths never received a 4th flame! Of course by then, most kids in elementary school had moved on to Christmas. Christmas was not a day. It was an entire experience of vacation from school.

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.

You may or may not have an Advent wreath in your home or office, but those flames are rather insignificant to the flame that should be burning in our hearts during this season. How are you finding ways to light your fire? How are you preparing the way for Christ to come into your life and the lives of those around you in a more profound way?

Keep in Your Prayers

Our condolences to Helen Nebelle and family and friends on the passing of Helen's sister, Donna Fisher. May Donna be welcomed into the ever lasting life.

The ritual of an Advent wreath is a good idea for anyone. But don't think that your preparations are done simply because you have one. You are called to be a flame to others during this season, reminding them of why we celebrate this time at all. Each person is a candle to be lit, and you have the gifts, given to you by God, to light them. At Christmas, you want God to look at you and see all the light generated by those He lit through you. Now is the time. Don't wait until Advent is almost over. You might not be able to find your own flames if you wait too long.

Mark Your Calendars

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**

Mary, the Holy Mother of God Mass

Monday, December 31, 5:30 PM

Tuesday, January 1, 9:00 AM

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS


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