



While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him." - Lk 9:34-35

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

2nd Sunday of Lent

As we march through Lent, it can be easy to think it's all about sacrifice. No chocolate, no alcohol, no meat on Fridays. Yet here, only in the second week of Lent, we have the story of the transfiguration. This reading reminds us of the "why" behind what we do. We don't fast from dessert to lose weight. We don't donate money or serve others because it's merely a nice thing to do. Lent is about transformation!

Peter, James and John trudged up the mountainside behind Jesus. This must have been a difficult hike, because when they reached the top, "Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep." Despite our best efforts, perhaps we, too, can be asleep to the deeper meaning of the Lenten season. Jesus is transfigured while they slumber, but eventually they become "fully awake, and they saw his glory and the two men standing with him."

This is no small thing! The disciples witness Jesus in his divine splendor and see the miraculous apparitions of Moses and Elijah. The entire mountain becomes a spiritual breakthrough. "A cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud." These symbols are present in the Old Testament. They are present on Mount Sinai when Moses prayed alone and received the 10 Commandments. Elijah had a similar experience when he prayed alone before God. But here are ordinary men, former fisherman, who have been drawn up into an adventure beyond their wildest expectations. Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the fulfillment of all that came before. But Christianity is not the religion of the elite, where only the select few are allowed to participate. We are all invited into spiritual transformation. Lent is a privileged time for this!

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2nd Sunday of Lent
March 17, 2019

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 Manager Vicki Lohmann.....385-8410
Director of Music Carmen 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—6:00 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..https://stalphonsus.weconnect.com

MASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

| | Mass time | Mass Intention | Saint of the Day | Readings for the day |
|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Mon, Mar 18 | NO MASS | | St. Cyril of Jerusalem | Dn 9:4b-10/Lk 6:36-38 |
| Tue, Mar 19 | 7:00 AM | Buena Messer † | St. Joseph | 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Lk 2:41-51a |
| Wed, Mar 20 | 6:00 PM | Bernice Becker † | Weekday | Jer 18:18-20/Mt 20:17-28 |
| Thu, Mar 21 | 12:00 PM | Eileen Watson † | Weekday | Jer 17:5-10/Lk 16:19-31 |
| Fri, Mar 22 | 12:00 PM | Joseph Gehringer † | Weekday | Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46 |
| Sat, Mar 23 | 5:30 PM | Dan Keeley † | St. Turibius | |
| Sun, Mar 24 | 8:00 AM | For Parishioners | 3rd Sunday of Lent | Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15/ 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/Lk 13:1-9 |
| | 11:00 AM | Judy Menke † | | |

MINISTERS FOR MARCH 23 & 24

LECTORS

- 5:30 PM Jerry Keeley
- 8:00 AM Jacki Holtkamp
- 11:00 AM Mary Lou Perry

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 Julia Kinzer/Jordan Watznauer
- 11:00 AM Abby/Lucy West

USHERS

- 5:30 PM Marc/Maureen Lindeen
- 8:00 AM Denny Heaton/John Newton
- 11:00 AM Colin/Nick McCormick

GREETERS

- 5:30 PM Cathy Lampe/Karen Stevens
- 8:00 AM Judy McNeill/Vicki Lohmann
- 11:00 AM Jeremy/Amy McLaughlin

Inspiration for the Week

Our minds are often preoccupied with the things of this world, and we forget about the things of heaven. We live our lives as if what we see before us is all there is and almost place the truth of eternity on hold until it is absolutely necessary to confront it. We fail to see the connection between earth and heaven and to see the road of transformation we are all called to travel. When Jesus was transfigured before his disciples, they saw the truth of who he was. Earth and heaven were wed that day, just as they will one day come together for us. God desires to transfigure us as well, changing our earthly body into our heavenly one. We miss our true destiny if we don't factor this into the choices we make and the paths we choose to walk.

Offertory for March 9 & 10

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Envelopes..... | 3288.00 |
| Offertory..... | 349.66 |
| Catholic Relief Services | 742.00 |
| Churches in Eastern Europe | 614.19 |
| Total..... | 4993.85 |

Thank you! Your donations make our ministries possible!

Keep in Your Prayers

Our condolences to Marlene Donnolly and family and friends on the passing of Marlene's mother, Bertha Wiseman. May Bertha be welcomed into the ever lasting life.

Our condolence to the Leonard Noll family. Leonard was a resident at Arbor Court and passed away this past week. May Leonard be welcomed into the ever lasting life.



Family Fun Day

Where: Iris Bowling Lanes
When: Sunday, March 24th
 1:00 to 4:00 PM
 Polish up your bowling ball and shoes and plan to attend.
 There will be pizza, pop, and prizes!!

ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

| Sunday, Mar 17 | Mon, Mar 18 | Tues, Mar 19 | Wed, Mar 20 | Thurs, Mar 21 | Fri, Mar 22 | Sat, Mar 23 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 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 4 | NO MASS | Men Scrip, 6:00 am Women Scrip, 6:00 am Mass, 7:00 am RCIA, 1:00 pm Prayer Shawl, 2:00 pm Quilters, 6:00 pm | Women Scrip, 9:30 am Mass, 6:00 pm RE Class K-8th and Confirmation I & II, 6:45 pm | Mass, Noon | Adoration 9 am-Noon Mass, Noon Stations of Cross by Parish Council, 5:30 KC Fish Fry, 6:00 pm | Confessions—4:30-5:00 pm Mass 5:30 pm |
| Sunday, Mar 24 | Mon, 25 | Tues, Mar 26 | Wed, Mar 27 | Thurs, Mar 28 | Fri, Mar 29 | Sat, Mar 30 |
| Rosary, 7:30 am Mass, 8:00 & 11:00 am Faith Formation donuts, 9:00 am RE Class K-8th, 9:30 am Family Fun Day at Iris Bowling Lanes, 1:00 to 4:00 pm Homebound Ministers-Team 1 | NO MASS | Men Scrip, 6:00 am Women Scrip, 6:00 am Mass, 7:00 am Rosary Makers, 2:00 pm Quilters, 6:00 pm Parish Council, 6:00 pm | Women Scrip, 9:30 am Mass, 6:00 pm RE Class K-8th and Confirmation I & II, 6:45 pm | Mass, Noon | Adoration 9 am-Noon Mass, Noon Stations of the Cross by Staff, 5:30 pm KC Fish Fry, 6:00 pm | Confessions—4:30-5:00 pm Mass 5:30 pm |

Job Openings

St. Alphonsus has the following job openings: beginning June 1, 2019 Parish Secretary/Office Manager and beginning July 1, 2019 Director of Faith Formation.

If you are interested, come to the Parish Office for an application and job description or go to the St. Alphonsus website: <https://stalphonsus.weconnect.com>. Send cover letter, job application, and references to Fr. Paul Connolly, 607 South Jackson, Mt. Pleasant or email to Fr. Paul at connollyp@diodav.org by April 15th, 2019.

**Let Us Celebrate Together the Seder Meal!
Tuesday, April 16 at 6:00 PM
in Manning Hall.**

Come share in the meal and the story, which was the turning point between His Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem and His Death on the Cross. The dinner, with all its symbolism, was used by Jesus to explain His Ministry one last time. Join us! To make your reservation for the Seder Meal, see the sign up sheet in the Gathering Space or call the Parish Office @ 385-8410 by Friday, April 12th.



Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

Where do you live? I live in North Carolina. There I pay taxes, own a home, and belong to a parish. North Carolina is in the United States, so I also abide by federal laws, pay taxes, and vote for candidates in all sorts of elections. I identify as an American and try my best to meet certain expectations placed on me by the government, state, and fellow Americans. I do certain things because of my identity.

Paul wrote to the Philippians, "Our citizenship is in heaven." Being a US citizen living in North Carolina places certain requirements on me. How many of us "citizens of heaven" take seriously the expectations and requirements of that citizenship? Sometimes we act like nothing is truly required of us.

Stewardship as a way of life requires us to take seriously what it means to be a citizen of heaven. We are called to follow the laws of the land we live in on this earth, but we are called to adhere to an even greater authority. Whether it be our call to act with charity and love or to follow the precepts of the Church, we must take seriously our status as citizen.

Unfortunately, many don't take seriously their citizenship on this earth either. People have given their very lives so that we may have the freedom to be citizens of our country and our state. Of course, many people have died for the citizenship of heaven as well. So it comes down to the question, who are you and to whom do you belong?

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Parish Planning Questionnaires

Please return your questionnaire, the questions will assist the Parish Council in planning for the future of St. Alphonsus. Place your filled out questionnaire in the collection basket or drop off at the parish office.

**2019 Manning Annual Speaker Series
Real Conversation:
Migration in Your Community
Sunday, April 7, 2019 - 1:30pm-5:30 pm
Iowa Wesleyan University Chapel
Please join us!**



Keynote Address: Rev. Alexia Salvatierra

Dynamic, sought-after speaker on the topics of working poverty and immigration Lutheran Pastor with over 35 years of experience in congregational and community organizing and legislative advocacy. Author of *Faith-Rooted Organizing: Mobilizing the Church in Service to the World* (Intervarsity Press)

Presenters for Breakout Sessions include: Sonia Reyes Snyder, Office of Latino Affairs, Iowa Department of Human Rights
Nick Salazar, League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
Ann Naffier, Immigration Lawyer, Justice for our Neighbors (JFON)
Nicole Novak, Eastern Iowa Community Bond Project
DeWayne Frazier, Provost, Iowa Wesleyan University
Kristi Ray, Mount Pleasant Area Chamber Alliance
Rev. Trey Hegar, Iowa Welcomes Immigrant Neighbor(IowaWINS)

And more!

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Marriage Encounter Weekend

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend has something in it for every married couple. The Weekend has value for couples married one year on up to 50 years or more. Register for a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend today! Sign up for upcoming weekends to ensure your spot. Gift certificates are available by calling the phone number below. Upcoming dates: March 8-10 LaCrosse, WI; April 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 jljwwmeo8@gmail.com.




During this Easter season we invite you to donate towards the purchase of flowers/decorations for the Church in honor or memory of your loved ones. Please complete the form below with Name of person or persons to be honored or remembered along with your name and drop in the collection basket or bring to the Parish Office.

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