

# Saint Alphonsus Church

3rd Sunday of Lent  
March 24, 2019

607 South Jackson St.

Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641



## Confirmation Retreat

On Saturday, March 16th the Confirmation I and II students attended a retreat at Manning Hall. Coordinator, Ted Mountz and retreat leader, Jasmin Tone, lead the students in faith-filled sessions.

Keep the Confirmation II students in your prayers. They will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, March 31 at 2:30 PM here at St. Alphonsus Church.

Pictured standing: Ted Mountz, Jackie Tansey, Clare Schnicker, Joseph Holtkamp\*, Reed Kempker\*, Thomas Schnicker\*, Samuel Carrasco\*, Kaylee Shelman\*, Molly McLaughlin\*, Chase Williamson\*, Sawyer Carrasco\*, Tyler Gardner, Andrew Holtkamp, and Jasmin Tone.

Seated: Desiree Leonardo\*, Sophia Loperato\*, Katie McCormick\*, Grace Kelley\*, Jacob Fry\*, Marie Sitar, Abby West, Ava Lowery, Avery Sutter\*, Monroe Swain and Thanh Phung. \* Students will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

## 3rd Sunday of Lent

“There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it [he] found none.” We live in a results-driven society. It can be easy to put pressure on ourselves to succeed. If we’re not keeping up with the perceived “good life” of those around us, we feel anxious and disappointed. Some of the Gospel stories about fruitfulness can seem to play out in this fashion. “For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down.” The message seems to be clear. Abide in God and bear fruit! Stand apart from God and be barren. But what happens when we’re trying, but the growth we wanted doesn’t seem to be coming our way? What if it feels like life just isn’t bearing fruit?

This Sunday, Jesus gives us a sign of hope. “[The gardener] said to him in reply, ‘Sir, leave it for this year also. It may bear fruit in the future.’” How quick we can be to judge! Perhaps you started out Lent with high hopes and big ideas for getting closer to God. Maybe things haven’t gone exactly like you thought. It can be easy to lose patience with our failures or slow growth. We shouldn’t be too quick to assume that God has given up on us. He hasn’t.

The same ideas apply to those around us. Perhaps we’re the planter of the fig tree. We expect a certain amount of growth from someone in our life, and they just aren’t measuring up. Let today’s Gospel be a gentle nudge for mercy. As Lent continues to unfold, be patient with yourself and those around you. Wait for God to provide the growth.

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## 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 Cdr....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 Email .....stalphonus@windstream.net  
St. Alphonsus Web Site..<https://stalphonus.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, Mar 25	NO MASS		The Annunciation of the Lord	Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
Tue, Mar 26	7:00 AM	Ron Thompson †	Weekday	Dn 3:25, 34-43/Mt 18:21-35
<b>Wed, Mar 27</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	Olivia Grace †	Weekday	Dt 4:1, 5-9/Mt 5:17-19
Thu, Mar 28	12:00 PM	Martin F. Connolly †	Weekday	Jer 7:23-28/Lk 11:14-23
Fri, Mar 29	12:00 PM	Jack Hawks †	Weekday	Hos 14:2-10/Mk 12:28-34
Sat, Mar 30	5:30 PM	Joseph Gehringer †		
Sun, Mar 31	8:00 AM	Judy Menke †	4th Sunday of Lent	Jos 5:9a, 10-12/2 Cor 5:17-21/
	11:00 AM	For Parishioners		Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

**MINISTERS FOR MAR 30 & 31**

**LECTORS**

- 5:30 PM Bitrus Gwamna
- 8:00 AM Vanessa Patten
- 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 Lily/Tucker Syfert
- 8:00 AM Chris Dyar/ Owen Baker
- 11:00 AM Jackie/Katherine Tansey

**USHERS**

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

**GREETERS**

- 5:30 PM Mike/Ginny Lee
- 8:00 AM Jeff/Jill Baker
- 11:00 AM Gary/Kathy Crawford

**Vocational Ministry Team News**

Please welcome Father Joseph Sia, Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Davenport, on Friday, March 29 during the Knights of Columbus Fish Fry. Father Sia will be sharing his vocation story.

**Please return your parish questionnaire.**

**Inspiration for the Week**

If salvation history teaches us anything, it's that God is very patient. Time and time again, people have wandered away from Him and He has sent prophet after prophet to lead them back. To show us just how much He does love us, He sent us His Son who revealed this unconditional love in all that he said and did. This Lenten season is an opportunity to repent and turn back. The mystery of God's presence is revealed in and through the ordinary events of life as the birth of Christ reminds us. God told Moses through the burning bush, "I am who am". And so he reminds us today. Let us turn away no more and turn back to truth.

**Offertory for March 16 & 17**

Envelopes.....	2747.55
Offertory.....	366.11
Direct Deposit .....	<u>3057.00</u>
Total.....	6170.66

Thank you! Your donations make our ministries possible!

**Altar and Rosary Meeting**

All women of the parish are invited to attend the A&R meeting on Saturday, April 6th at 4:00 PM in the Parish Library.

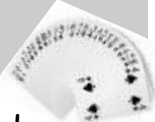
**ACTIVITY SCHEDULE**

<b>Sunday, Mar 24</b> Rosary, 7:30 am Mass, 8:00 & 11:00 am Family Life donuts, 9:00 am RE Class K-8th, 9:30 am Bowling Party, 1:00-4:00 pm Homebound Ministers-Team 4	<b>Mon, Mar 25</b>  NO MASS	<b>Tues, Mar 26</b> 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	<b>Wed, Mar 27</b> Women Scrip, 9:30 am Mass, 6:00 pm  RE Class K-8th and Confirmation I & II, 6:45 pm	<b>Thurs, Mar 28</b>  Mass, Noon	<b>Fri, Mar 29</b> Adoration, 9 am-Noon Mass, Noon Stations by Staff, 5:30 pm KC Fish Fry, 6:00 pm	<b>Sat, Mar 30</b> Confessions—4:30-5:00 pm Mass 5:30 pm
<b>Sunday, Mar 31</b> Rosary, 7:30 am Mass, 8:00 & 11:00 am RE Class K-8th, 9:30 am Sacrament of Confirmation, 2:30 Reception in Manning following Homebound Ministers-Team 2	<b>Mon, Apr 1</b>  NO MASS  <b>Communal Penance Service 7:00 pm</b>	<b>Tues, Apr 2</b> Men Scrip, 6:00 am Women Scrip, 6:00 am Mass, 7:00 am RCIA, 1:00 pm Quilters, 6:00 pm KC meeting, 7:00 pm	<b>Wed, Apr 3</b> Women Scrip, 9:30 am Mass, 6:00 pm  RE Class K-8th and Confirmation I & II, 6:45 pm	<b>Thurs, Apr 4</b>  Mass, Noon  <b>Adoration following Mass until 9:00 pm</b>	<b>Fri, Apr 5</b> Adoration, 9 am-Noon Mass at Sunny Brook, 10:00 am Mass, Noon Widow's Luncheon, 12:30 pm Stations by Vocation ministry team, 5:30 pm KC Fish Fry, 6:00 pm	<b>Sat, Apr 6</b> Confessions—4:30-5:00 pm Mass 5:30 pm A&R meeting in Library, 4:00 Anointing of the Sick at all Masses this weekend

# Family Fun Day



**Sunday, March 24**  
Bowling Alley in Mt. Pleasant  
1:00 to 3:30 PM  
Bring the family!



Bowling Prizes Cards

Pizza Root beer floats Popcorn

## Fun for All!!

### 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](mailto:connollyp@diodav.org) by April 15th, 2019.

### Knights of Columbus Scholarships

The Knights of Columbus Scholarships have been mailed out to graduating seniors. If you did not receive one, please contact Stephen Slobodnik at 319-931-9761.

### 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.



### Thank You!

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, and gestures of kindness shown to me during my recent surgery. Thanks also to the Prayer Shawl committee for the beautiful prayer shawl. I am very appreciative of the St. Alphonsus parish community.  
Mary Smith

### Thank You!!

Dear St. Alphonsus Family,  
Thank you to those of you that made communion calls, sent cards, food, memorial money and support on the loss of our mother, Bert. Fr. Paul's service was wonderful and the Funeral Committee and the A&R circles put on a great luncheon. We thank and appreciate all of you for your kind and caring generosity. God Bless you all!

Marlene & Bob Donnolly  
and the Family of Bertha Wiseman

### Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

Perhaps this Lent you are working hard to stick with your devotions, avoid hamburgers on Fridays, and fight your temptations for soda since you gave it up for Jesus. You are planting seeds in your spiritual life in hopes of growing them into something beautiful and meaningful. However, you have been trying this approach now for many years, and it is hard to say that much has grown during all that time. You could deduce that what you are doing is not as worthwhile as you once believed. There is no fruit because these things don't matter. Or you could take a real hard look at your life, see where you are planting those seeds, and finally notice what the problem has been all along. WEEDS!

Too often, we plant seeds over and over again in soil that is not rich in nutrients and is filled with weeds. The weeds choke the life out of any growth that comes to the seeds planted. We think that adding good things to our life will change it, and removal of sin will not be necessary. It is like eating two large hamburgers and a large fries and believing you won't gain weight because you drank a Diet Coke.

As good stewards who are called to discern how we respond to the call of Jesus Christ, we must be about ripping those weeds out of our lives so the good seeds we plant can grow. For each of us, the weeds are different: money, ego, sex, greed, etc. If we don't take a good honest look at our lives and make some tough choices, no amount of devotion or good works will make us better disciples. We will simply wait for the next Lent to do the same things all over again.



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.



In Memory or Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

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