



"His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'let us celebrate with a feast because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again.'" - Lk 15:21-22a, 23b-24a

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

### 4th Sunday of Lent

Repentance. Envy. Joy. Hope. Have you felt these human emotions? Today's Gospel offers a rich story, one we can all find our place in. As we reflect on our own spiritual lives this Lenten season, it can be helpful to imagine ourselves in the story of the Prodigal Son.

"I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers." The younger son has sinned greatly, betraying his father's trust and squandering his money in sin. Yet the parable turns on his deep repentance and humble return to his father. Is there any area of your life you have been wandering from God or you've squandered good gifts? This Lent, return to the sacrament of Confession? God, a merciful Father, waits for you there.

"While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him." The father in the parable sees his son's selfishness, perhaps even suspects what he might do, but gives him the inheritance anyway. After his son's departure, the father waits with hope for his son's eventual return. This Lent is a time to let go of bitterness and to live in hope. Prepare your heart to be merciful!

Not all in the parable invite the mercy of God into their hearts. The self-righteous older brother dishonors his father with his pettiness. "My son, you are here with me always, everything I have is yours." Do you covet what others have? Do you feel as if you've been taken advantage of or that your work goes unseen? This Lent is a time to grow in gratitude. Take a close look at the blessings in your life that you might be missing.

We are all called to repentance. Open your heart to God's personal invitation to growth?

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4th Sunday of Lent  
March 31, 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 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 .....stalphonsus@windstream.net  
St. Alphonsus Web Site..https://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, April 1	NO MASS		Weekday	Is 65:17-21/Jn 4:43-54
Tue, April 2	7:00 AM	Bertha Wiseman †	St. Francis of Paloa	Ez 47:1-9, 12/Jn 5:1-16
<b>Wed, April 3</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	Gary Ruth, Jr. †	Weekday	Is 49:8-15/Jn 5:17-30
Thu, April 4	12:00 PM	Tom Fraise †	St. Isidore	Ex 32:7-14/Jn 5:31-47
Fri, April 5	12:00 PM	Gary Sammons†	St. Vincent Ferrer	Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Sat, April 6	5:30 PM	For Parishioners		
Sun, April 7	8:00 AM	Veronica Kline †	5th Sunday of Lent	Is 43:16-21/Phil 3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11
	11:00 AM	Rickie Brooks †		

**Communal Penance Service**  
**St. Alphonsus Church**  
**Monday, April 1, 7:00 pm**

**MINISTERS FOR APRIL 6 & 7**

**LECTORS**

- 5:30 PM Mary Ann Messer
- 8:00 AM Greg Moeller
- 11:00 AM Robb Gardner

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

- 5:30 PM Team D Jerry Keeley
- 8:00 AM Team E Ken Feldmann
- 11:00 AM Team F Judy Warning

**SERVER**

- 5:30 PM Jacob Fry/Gracie Beschorner
- 8:00 AM Jordan Watznauer/Julia Kinzer
- 11:00 AM Thanh/Hoi Phung

**USHERS**

- 5:30 PM Todd/Audra Gerleman
- 8:00 AM RJ/Chris Dodson
- 11:00 AM Bob Walderbach/Bernard Pollmeier

**GREETERS**

- 5:30 PM Dick/Joanne Looker
- 8:00 AM Dennis/Judy Bergman
- 11:00 AM Janet/Jared Smith

**Check the Easter Minister sign-up sheet and help out where you can. Thank you!**

**Inspiration for the Week**

God does not coerce us into anything. Rather, He gives us the freedom and the means to live like adults, taking responsibility for our choices and the direction our lives take. As our loving Father, He desires that our home be made with Him but understands when we choose to pursue our own passions and desires, which lead us away from Him. We have to learn our own lessons if conversion is to be tangible and real. We cannot return to God simply because we are told to or because we are expected to. We have to come to God freely, and when we do, God is there with loving, open arms ready to welcome us back home. We can celebrate because we were dead and have found life again!

**Offertory for March 23 & 24**

Envelopes.....	3920.00
Offertory.....	<u>313.90</u>
Total.....	4233.90

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**

Sunday, Mar 31	Mon, Apr 1	Tues, Apr 2	Wed, Apr 3	Thurs, Apr 4	Fri, Apr 5	Sat, Apr 6
Rosary, 7:30 am <b>Mass, 8:00 &amp; 11:00 am</b> RE Class K-8th, 9:30 am  Confirmation Ceremony, 2:30 Reception in Manning to follow Homebound Ministers-Team 2	NO MASS  <b>Communal Penance 7:00 pm</b>	Men Scrip, 6:00 am Women Scrip, 6:00 am <b>Mass, 7:00 am</b> RCIA, 1:00 pm Quilters, 6:00 pm KC meeting, 7:00 pm	Women Scrip, 9:30 am  <b>Mass, 6:00 pm</b>  RE Class K-8th and Confirmation I & II, 6:45 pm	<b>Mass, Noon</b>  <b>Adoration of Blessed Sacrament until 9:00 pm</b>	Adoration 9 am-Noon Mass at Sunnysbrook, 10:00 am <b>Mass, Noon</b> Widow/widowers luncheon, 12:30 pm Stations by Vocational Ministry Team, 5:30 pm KC Fish Fry, 6:00 pm	Confessions—4:30-5:00 pm <b>Mass 5:30 pm</b>  <b>A&amp;R meeting in Library, 4:00 pm</b>
Sunday, Apr 7 Rosary, 7:30 am <b>Mass, 8:00 &amp; 11:00 am</b> KC Breakfast, 9:00 am RE K-8th, 9:30 am  Homebound Ministers-Team 3	NO MASS	Tues, Apr 9 Men Scrip, 6:00 am Women Scrip, 6:00 am <b>Mass, 7:00 am</b> Ladies for Charity, 1:30 Quilters, 6:00 pm Social Action, 6:30 pm Bulletin goes in today.	Wed, Apr 10 Women Scrip, 9:30 am  <b>Mass, 6:00 pm</b>  RE Class K-8th and Confirmation I & II, 6:45 pm	Thurs, Apr 11  <b>Mass, Noon</b>	Fri, Apr 12 Adoration 9 am-Noon Mass at Park Place, 10:00 am <b>Mass, Noon</b> Stations by Ladies for Charity, 5:30 pm KC Fish Fry, 6:00 pm	Sat, Apr 13 Confessions—4:30-5:00 pm <b>Mass 5:30 pm</b>

**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.

**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.



The Eucharist is the summit of God's saving action: the Lord, Jesus, by becoming bread broken for us pours upon us all of His Mercy and His Love, so as to renew our hearts, our lives, and our way of relating with Him and the brethren. Pope Francis



*A Celebration of Mercy*

*A night of Praise, Worship and Witness in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament*

Music by Chuck & Alicia Brock

Preaching by Fr. Marty Goetz

Friday, April 5th 7:00-8:30 pm

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502 W. Mt. Pleasant St.

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**All are Welcome to attend!**

*Communal Penance Service*

*Saturday, April 6th, 10:00 am at St. John's Church—700 Division St., Burlington, IA*

**Spend One Hour with the Lord!**



Adoration on Thursday, April 4 beginning after the Noon Mass and closing at 9:00 PM. The sign up sheet is in the Gathering Space. Please join the adoration and spend one hour or more with the Lord. If you have signed up, please keep your time. If you want to sign up, please do so. If you cannot keep the time slot you signed up for, please call the Parish Office. God Bless!

**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.

**Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments**

So you never have been that serious about a stewardship way of life? It's not that you have been greedy or unloving toward others. You give of yourself when you determine there is a real need. However, you haven't intentionally worked toward surrendering all you are, all you have, and all you do to your God. It's hard because when you compare yourself to others, you seem pretty good. You aren't some prodigal child who needs to return to God because you have lived a life full of sin and selfishness.

Yet, there lies the problem. We can easily feel we aren't so bad, so why change anything? We can lull ourselves into a belief that we will probably get to heaven, therefore why do more? Assurance of salvation is another topic, but basically we can look at our life as a series of transactions with God.

However, we shouldn't determine our actions based upon what we get. The actions of a loved one are due to the love for one's beloved. Jesus gave his life out of love for us. He has shown us what complete surrender looks like. He does not need our surrender but wants it because that is what those in love do. This Lent, perhaps our prayer should not be to simply be better stewards, but to love Him more. Then our motivation will not be based upon what we should do but on what we are moved to do out of love.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



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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