

St. Boniface

Catholic Church

stboniface.net

230 1st St. NW - Lidgerwood, ND 58053

Also Serving St. Martin of Tours, Geneseo and Sts. Peter & Paul, Cayuga

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saint Boniface
Saturday - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday - 8:30 a.m.

Saint Martin of Tours - Geneseo
Sunday - 10:30 a.m.

Saints Peter & Paul - Cayuga
Sunday - 12:00 p.m. (noon)

February 9, 2025 - 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

THE CATCH

Mini Reflection: What does it mean to lower your net? It means to listen to God, even when you don't understand Him. It means to keep trying the hard thing that you know is the right thing. It means to keep loving the person who is making life hard on you.

The Catch

I love today's Gospel passage, and not just because I love a good fish fry.

I love it because I am Peter. Over and over again, I am Peter, standing here exhausted because I relied on my own abilities, and it got me nowhere. I'm ready to call it quits. I'm ready to say it's too hard. And here comes Jesus, asking me to lower my net. To keep trying.

And I try to talk sense into him. "It's not going to work, God," I insist. "I've been trying." "You've been trying." Jesus agrees. "But you haven't asked for my help yet." What does it mean to lower your net? It sounds so simple and so easy, but it takes a great deal of humility and trust. I think I'm the expert on my own life, the captain of my own ship. Peter probably thought so, too — he was the fisherman, after all. Why would a fisherman listen to a carpenter on matters of fishing?

Lowering your net means giving God control and letting yourself be changed by what He chooses to show you. It means to listen to God's instructions, even when you don't understand them, even when you find them frustrating. It means to keep trying the hard thing that you know is the right thing, even when it hasn't born much fruit. It means to keep loving the person who is making life hard on you, even when all you want to do is give into feelings of bitterness and distrust.

If we would only lower our nets, the catch would astound us.



5th Sunday

IN ORDINARY TIME

Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." - Lk 5:5

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

GLPI

Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

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Weekly Mass Schedule



Sunday Liturgies		
Saturday, Feb. 8	5:00 pm (St. B.)	† John Gaukler
Sunday, Feb. 9	8:30 am (St. B.)	† Henry Biewer
	10:30 am (St. M.)	Pro Popula
	12:00 pm (Sts. P&P)	Special Intention
Weekday Liturgies		
Monday, Feb. 10	NO MASS	
Tuesday, Feb. 11	NO MASS	
Wed., Feb. 12	NO MASS	
Thursday, Feb. 13	NO MASS	
Friday, Feb. 14	NO MASS	
Sunday Liturgies		
Saturday, Feb. 15	5:00 pm (St. B.)	† Jerome Brown
Sunday, Feb. 16	8:30 am (St. B.)	Pro Popula
	10:30 am (St. M.)	Special Intention
	12:00 pm (Sts. P&P)	† Les Kiefer

Reconciliation Schedule

St. Boniface: Saturday & Sunday – Before/after Mass
Thursday – after Mass
St. Martin: Sunday – Before and after Mass
Sts. Peter & Paul – Before and after Mass

Prayer Requests

Please keep the following people in your prayers:
 Dan Schmit - Tony Schouviller - Joan Moerke
 Shelby Northrop - Peggy Harles - Nick Podliska
 Rick Kane - Dan Frolek - Brad Meyer - Shirley Ahrens
 Barb Perry
 If you have any imminent prayer requests, please call or text Cindy at 701-640-1401.

All Parishes

Eucharistic Adoration – Please come and spend time with Jesus on Thursdays in adoration, anytime from 5am – midnight. We are still in need for someone to share the 9-10 am, 3-4 pm and 6-7 pm adoration slot. Please contact Sharon at 612-790-1211 or 538-7010 if you are able to help.

CCD/CYO - There will be class this week.

St. Boniface Parishioners – please pick up your 2024 contributions statements, 2025 envelopes, altar society books and calendars in the gathering space.

Fr. Anderl will be on retreat this week.

KC Meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 7pm.

When Almighty God Shows Up Unexpected

Jesus shows up in Peter’s life at an unexpected time in the readings this Sunday, the Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C.

As it turns out, this is the same approach Jesus took with the Old Testament prophets, St. Paul, and, crucially, with every single one of us. Here are five takeaways from previous This Sunday columns at this site and The Extraordinary Story.

First, Peter shows what “fear of God” looks like. It’s not the fear that God will be unfair; it’s the fear that God will be fair.

At the climax of today’s Gospel, Simon Peter “falls at the knees of Jesus” and says “Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man.”

He is not afraid Jesus will lash out at him or punish him. He is afraid that he can’t coexist with the overwhelming glory of Jesus Christ, as revealed in a miraculous catch of fish.

He has good reason to think that. He was Jewish, after all, and knew how God had revealed himself to the Jewish people. It’s there in our First Reading: Isaiah is granted a vision of God as he is, and he is the mighty, thunderous, ground-shaking Ultimate Reality that is entirely Other.

Isaiah’s response is understandable: “Woe is me, I am doomed! For I am a man of unclean lips, living among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

We can learn from that. If we pray to God only as friendly and tame, we might be onto something true — his personal friendship with us — but we might miss something key: He is unapproachably majestic, continually surrounded by a cloud of witnesses. When we sing today’s Psalm refrain, we can be very literal about it: “In the sight of the angels, I will sing your praises, Lord.”

But the fact is, we would feel like we were on shaky ground if we could see God at the front of our Church sitting on his heavenly throne like Isaiah did. That’s what St. Peter realizes in today’s Gospel.

Second: Because, like us, Simon Peter steadfastly tries to avoid Jesus, until he can’t.

Peter in today’s Gospel is like many of us. He is busy at work, doing what he is good at. Not only does he not want to change the world — he doesn’t even want to change himself. The God who created him from all eternity wanted him to be the leader of the Apostles, taking on arguably the single most important job ever. But when the Lord himself approached him, Simon Peter steadfastly ignored, preferring to clean his nets.

So Jesus did to Peter what he does so often to us: He makes himself impossible to ignore. He literally stepped into Peter's boat and started preaching to the crowds from right next to him. We don't know what Jesus' lesson for the day was, but we can be sure that it was powerful — and that it was meant for Peter, who immediately after it is done calls Jesus "Master." "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch," says Jesus.

Peter answers the way we do: "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing." Crucially, though, he adds, "but at your command I will lower the nets."

What follows is a catch of such gigantic proportions that the nets tear with it (there goes all that work Peter did while ignoring Jesus) and Peter's crew — which includes future super-Apostles James and John — has to get help from others.

Third: This is exactly what happens so often in a Christian's life.

How many times have we experienced this?

1. Jesus will intrude into our life when we're trying to mind our own business. At work we will come across an opportunity to mention him or face a moral question that involves him, and simultaneously see that we should let Christ in, and be tempted to leave him out.
2. If we truly let him in, he will often help our current circumstances first. Jesus didn't give Peter the gift of being a better preacher, as he would at Pentecost. Here, he made him a better fisherman — such that Peter recognized that his fishing success all along had been due to God's providence.
3. When we have a real encounters with Christ we become repentant, like Peter. False faith makes us prideful, disdainful and unapologetic; seeing God for who he is make us humble, obedient, and mortified by our misconduct.
4. After helping you where you are, Jesus rewards faith by developing talents you didn't know you had.

Ultimately Jesus's words to each of us when we recognize how great he truly is are the same words he says to Peter in today's Gospel: "Do not be afraid." Do not be afraid to follow. Do not decide ahead of time that the standard is too high.

Do not be afraid of this very frightening God because, "from now on you will be catching men" — from now on your talents will do what you never imagined you could do.

Fourth: Paul's attitude toward Christ in the second reading mirrors Peter's.

St. Paul, like Peter, says: *I know I'm a sinner, but by God's grace, that isn't the story of my life because I am now in his company.*

Paul declares himself "the least of the apostles, not fit to be called an apostle" who is changed, like so many, by the risen Lord who appears to many — including "500 brothers, still living" — but then "Last of all, as to one born abnormally, he appeared to me."

Actually, he isn't the last. He appears to us this Sunday, long after he appeared to Paul.

Fifth: This Sunday at Mass is our chance to apply these lessons.

As the Catechism describes it: "In her liturgy, the Church joins with the angels to adore the thrice-holy God." So at Mass this Sunday, we are just like Isaiah, staring at God, surrounded by angels.

We are also just like Peter, going about our daily lives in familiar surroundings, and finding Jesus suddenly by our side. We respond like he does, too: We say, "I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned."

We see the priest take bread in Christ's place and break it, saying, "This is my body which will be given up for you." We confess that this is the Lamb of God and say: "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word ..."

We see re-enacted mystically in the liturgy Christ dying for our sins, the act that turned Simon into Peter and Saul into Paul. We look up the church's crucifix and see an image of what our sin did to Jesus Christ, and what Jesus Christ did for our sin. Then we come forward so that, like Isaiah, we may have God, the all-consuming fire, placed on our lips like a burning ember.

The Lord looks out at the broken world and asks, as Isaiah saw him do, "Whom shall I send?"

In the communion line, when we say "Amen," he hears, "Here I am. Send me!"

Then we take the body of Christ, wounded by our sin, into our mouth and he incorporates us into the body of Christ, the Lord, ready to make us fishers of men.

