

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)

January 11, 2026 - The Baptism of the Lord

When Jesus Wades In

Usually, when God comes to us, we aren't ready. We think we are. Like John the Baptist, we stand in our waters of baptism, certain of our mission. We know how it's going to go. We know what's going to be asked of us. We're sure of it.

Christ wades into the waters. And he screws up all our plans.

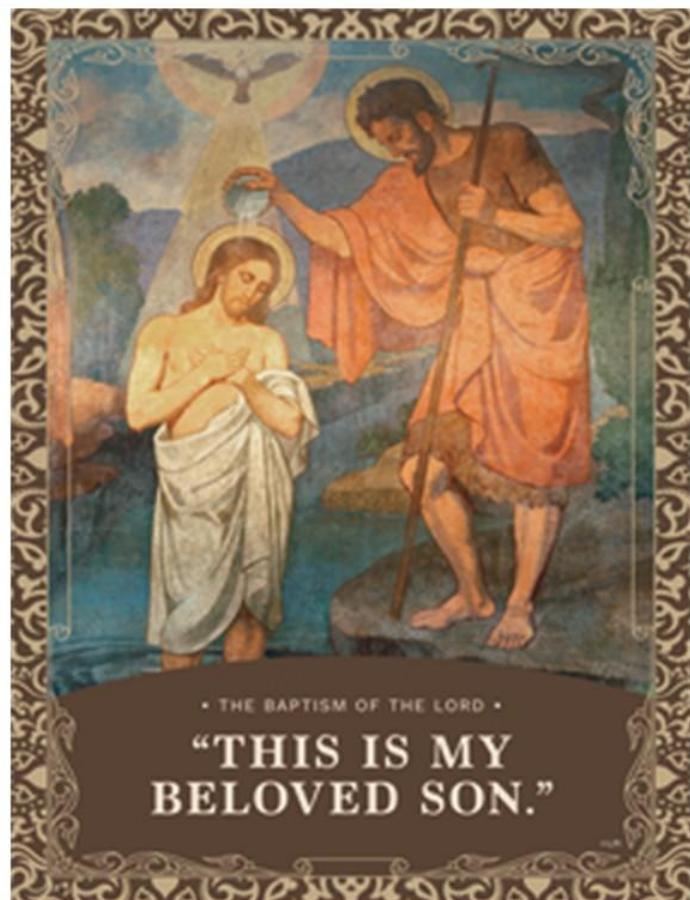
To be clear, I don't think John the Baptist lacks faith when he balks at the idea of baptizing Jesus. I think it is, in fact, a testament to his humility. But whatever motivated John's actions, he is — if even for a brief moment — hesitating to do the will of God. Just a few chapters after this in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus will acknowledge that John is the greatest person "born of women" — with the caveat that even he is not perfect enough for the Kingdom of Heaven.

Not yet.

Jesus didn't give John an explanation as the two stood in the River Jordan. He merely said, "Allow it for now." John could have resisted further, demanding to understand why. He could have grown suspicious at the simplicity of Jesus' answer, at the strangeness of this request. He could have clung desperately to his version of How Things Are Supposed To Be, and in doing so, fostered doubt in his heart. He could have even stormed off, confused and angry.

He did none of these things, because John is, as Jesus says, the greatest born of women.

When the Holy Spirit descends and the voice of God declares, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," he is referring, of course, to Jesus. But I think He would say the same of John the Baptist — and of all those who welcome Jesus into the waters, ready to do as he bids.



Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38

Matthew 3:13-17

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Weekly Mass Schedule



Sunday Liturgies

Saturday, Jan. 10	5:00 pm (St. B.)	† Gerald Baker
Sunday, Jan. 11	8:30 am (St. B.)	Pro Popula
	10:30 am (St. M.)	Special Intention
	12:00 pm (Sts P&P)	Weston Gregor

Weekday Liturgies

Monday, Jan. 12	NO MASS	
Tuesday, Jan. 13	10:00 am (Dak. Est.)	Special Intention
Wed., Jan. 14	10:00 am (St. B.)	L&D Members of Lyon Family
Thurs., Jan. 15	10:00 am (St. B.)	† Helen Novotny
Friday, Jan. 16	10:00 am (St. B.)	L&D Members of Wulfekuhle Family
Saturday, Jan. 17	5:00 pm (St. B.)	† Jim Woytassek
Sunday, Jan. 18	8:30 am (St. B.)	Anna Heley
	10:30 am (St. M.)	Pro Popula
	12:00 pm (Sts P&P)	Special Intention

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:
Baby Weston - Shirley (Art) Heley - Anne Heley
Joan Moerke - Shelby Northrop - Peggy Harles
Dan Frolek - Shirley Ahrens - Dan Schmit
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 need of a regular adorer to fill the 3-4 pm slot. We also need adorers to share the following slots: 2-3pm, 3-4pm, and 5-6pm. Please contact Sharon at 612-790-1211 or 538-7010 if you are able to help.

Men's Group will meet on Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30 am at St. Boniface. The program being used this year is "That Man is You". It is an interactive men's program focused on the development of male leadership in the modern world. It combines the best research from science with the teachings of the Catholic faith and the wisdom of the saints to develop the vision of authentic men capable of transforming themselves, their families and greater society.

For more info check out the flyer on the bulletin board at St. Boniface or call Joel Kaczynski.

Knights of Columbus Meeting - 7 pm, Tuesday, Jan. 13.

St. Martin Brotherly Help Society and Cemetery

Association will meet on Sunday, January 18 at 5 pm.

January Day of Reflection - You are invited to join us on Saturday, Jan. 17 for a Day of Reflection (in-person or online). This month's theme will be "St. Clare's Basilica." The event is from 10am to 3pm. Register online at <https://forms.office.com/r/qvVtezHnt9> or contact Sr. Mary Ruth with questions at srmaryruth@sfc retreats.org / 701-242-7195.

Baptism Transforms Your Soul the Way Christmas

Transformed the World – *Tom Hoopes*

The Christmas season is officially over this Sunday on the The Baptism of the Lord (Year A). In our house, that means the decorations come down (see this special prayer). The house goes from glistening with beauty and mystery to an ordinary-looking home again.

The good news is that Christmas, with its the grace and wonder, won't go away; it will just move deeper inside — down in the basement of the house, and into the hearts of the family. That's what baptism does.

First: The Baptism of the Lord promises a personal Christmas for each of us.

The Baptism of the Lord Is a nice contrast with the Christmas season. Christmas is about light shining in darkness, with the darkness unable to overcome it. The Baptism is about Jesus in overwhelming light, and us unable to avoid it.

Christmas is a nighttime reality. Jesus arrives in a silent night and angels direct shepherds to him. Magi follow a star to find him. Joseph rises from sleep to escape with Jesus for Egypt. But the Baptism happens in the harsh light day at a desert river.

Instead of seekers traveling to find the Baby Jesus, the adult Jesus joins the seekers where they are waiting. And instead of mere angels announcing who Jesus is, you get the Holy Spirit and the Father himself making the announcement.

And this is when you get to meet the man the Baby Jesus becomes: No longer someone we visit bearing gifts but someone who visits *us* with *his* gifts, first among them Baptism.

Christmas is about Jesus coming to the world, the Baptism of the Lord is about him coming to each of us.

Second: What happens to at this baptism allows what happens to us.

Like he did at the Jordan River with the dove and the voice from heaven, Jesus comes where we are, enters our life, and brings the whole Trinity with him.

Jesus did not need to be baptized — he did it for us. He wanted to demonstrate what we should do, and what we would become.

The priest prays in the collect today: "Pray, that we may be

inwardly transformed through him whom we recognize as *outwardly* like ourselves.” Or he prays to the Lord for “your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit.”

Baptism makes us “a new creature” from the inside out, an “adopted son of God,” a “partaker of the divine nature,” a “member of Christ and co-heir with him,” “a temple of the Holy Spirit” and “the body of Christ.”

That means that, when Jesus emerge from the waters to a great theophany, we can see ourselves by his side. In Christ, we have the Holy Spirit hovering by us and the Father’s voice says, “This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased.”

Third: This gives us a powerful new personal identity, one we desperately need.

John the Baptist tells Jesus, “I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?” And Jesus answers, “Allow it for now.”

Jesus came to save sinners, and this is the moment he shows how he will do it — the moment that “he who was without sin accepted to be numbered among sinners.” Many of us know how it feels to be defined by our sins — in the eyes of a loved one, in the eyes of strangers, or in our own eyes. It is one of the most helpless and hopeless feelings in the world.

The age-old question is: Are human beings good? If so, then why do we all do so much that is evil? Are human beings bad? If so, why do we do so much that is good? It’s actually a question we each have probably asked about ourselves. Am I good? I have done *some* good, haven’t I? Am I bad? I’ve done some terrible things, haven’t I? One Hollywood celebrity who said later of his sin, “I am deeply remorseful, and I’m trying to be remorseful without being ashamed of myself. Right? I’m human. And I made a mistake and I’m trying not to think of myself as” worthless.

What he is looking for is only available from Jesus Christ. The sacrament of baptism, and its renewal in the confessional, allow you to share that sin with Jesus Christ and restore your lost innocence.

The Baptism of the Lord reveals our true identity, which is the image and likeness of God in which we were created. It is deeper even than family identity, because it is about humanity’s very origin. We are baptized into Jesus Christ, through whom all things were made. We are partners with the Holy Spirit, who renews the face of the earth. We are adopted by the Father from whom all fatherhood originates.

Fifth: This is a mighty, dramatic event in our life — and a mundane everyday reality.

His Baptism in the Jordan was only the beginning for Jesus. His baptism is finished on Calvary. Jesus, heading resolutely to Jerusalem, will say “There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished!”

The completion of the Baptism of the Lord is his painful

death from our sins, amid cataclysmic confrontations of eternal significance. Sunday’s Psalm speaks of the voice he hears at his Baptism, the Father’s voice, as “mighty” and “majestic.” “The God of glory thunders,” it says, “and in his temple all say, ‘Glory!’”

Isaiah fills out the picture by revealing Jesus Chris’s significance. He will be “a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.”

But notice what that drama means in reality. In the Second Reading, from Acts, Peter speaks of Jesus’s baptism this way: “God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.” He tells Cornelius and his family that the real work of baptism is to “fear [God] and act uprightly.”

This is what the grand drama of the thundering voice of power leads to: “going about doing good.”

Sixth: So join Jesus and recommit to your baptism this Sunday, asking God’s help.

The Father says of Jesus Christ, “This is my son, in whom I am well pleased.” Think of that phrase. When you *please* someone, it doesn’t just mean they love you; it means they *like* you. But the Father says the same thing to each of us, at every moment, no matter what.

I love the way Dominican Father Herb McCabe put it: “Never be deluded into thinking that if you have contrition for your sins, if you are sorry for your sins, God will come and forgive you — that he will be touched by your appeal, change his mind about you and forgive you. Not a bit of it. God never changes his mind about you. He is simply in love with you. What he does again and again is change *your* mind about *him*. That is why you are sorry. That is what your forgiveness is.”

If Christmas didn’t convince you that God loves you, the Eucharist should. Becoming a helpless baby is amazing; becoming a helpless host is astonishing. God takes an enormous risk in the Eucharist, placing his real presence — body, blood, soul and divinity — into human hands and into human bodies, giving himself to the contrite, the confused, and the corrupt, all for the price of confession. In the Blessed Sacrament God whispers with the host what he said at the Jordan: “I see you, I know you, I love you, and I *like* you. Become who I made you to be. Forever.” Accept his love today.

