

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)

November 30, 2025 - 1st Sunday of Advent

Watershed Moments

In every life there are watershed moments.

I think of our time on this earth as resembling, in the beginning, a fine, firm sheet of metal, suspended with perfect balance in time and space. If a drop of water falls upon the sheet, it remains precisely where it lands.

But life goes on. We see things, we feel things, and in the seeing and the feeling, the flat, smooth metal sheet is nicked. The impacts created by those experiences are like BB pellets riddling armor; before long, the surface is pockmarked. A falling drop of water will drain or pool either in one way or the other, its action determined by the closest indentation. A watershed has been created, a summit or valley that disrupts the smooth flatness of life. In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks about the end of the world. I'm no Biblical scholar, but I suspect the topic at hand is the Apocalypse (capital A). The big one. The explosion that upends the sheet itself and sends every drop of water crashing down. But I think, in a smaller way, it's also about all the indentations on the plane: those little apocalypses (lowercase a), the things that felt like the end of the world (or the beginning of a new one).

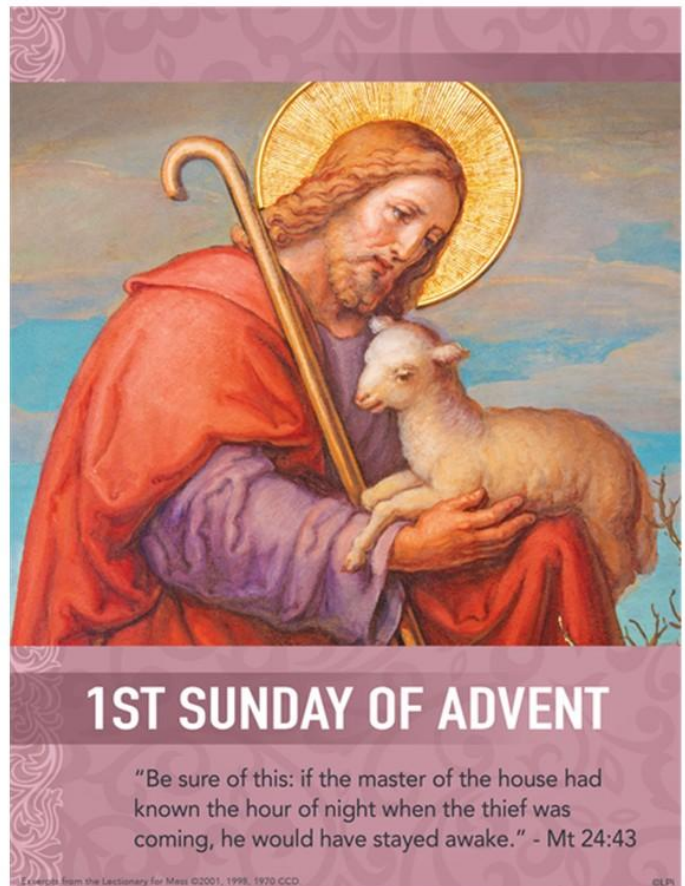
The loss of a job. The breakup of a relationship. The suffering of a loved one.

Of course the world is ending. It has been ending forever. And the Son of Man is coming — but don't forget, he was already here, too. And his Spirit, even now, is renewing the face of the earth.

"But how?" we ask. "And when? And where?"

Without the chinks in the armor — without the watershed moments — there is tremendous smoothness, certainly. But there is also no movement.

So look to the watershed moments, these little (and big) apocalypses. In these moments that change us, for better or worse, God is there, working, waiting.



1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake." - Mt 24:43

Isaiah 2:1-5
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:37-44

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Weekly Mass Schedule



Sunday Liturgies		
Saturday, Nov. 29	5:00 pm (St. B.)	Ken Heley Family
Sunday, Nov. 30	8:30 am (St. B.)	Pro Popula
	10:30 am (St. M.)	Special Intention
	12:00 pm (Sts P&P)	† Jim Woytassek
Weekday Liturgies		
Monday, Dec. 1	NO MASS	
Tuesday, Dec. 2	NO MASS	
Wed., Dec. 3	10:00 am (Dak Est.)	Shirley (Art) Heley
Thurs., Dec. 4	10:00 am (St. B.)	† Rick Kane
Friday, Dec. 5	8:30 am (St. B.)	† George Novotny
Sunday Liturgies		
Saturday, Dec. 6	5:00 pm (St. B.)	† Norma Honl
Sunday, Dec. 7	8:30 am (St. B.)	Pro Popula
	10:30 am (St. M.)	Special Intention
	12:00 pm (Sts P&P)	† Dec. Members of St. Martin's Men's Society

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.

Women's Group will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 2 at 7pm.

Advent Mission: Christian Marriage: Biblical Foundations and How to Live it – will be presented by Brad and Lisa Gray on Dec. 1-3 at 7pm at St. Aloysius Church in Lisbon.

Fr. Hession Advent Mission: The Family is a Church & The Church is a Family – will be held at Assumption Church in Morris, MN on Dec. 7-10. For more information

see the church bulletin board.

St. Mary's Altar Society will celebrate their annual Christmas party following the 10am Mass at St. Martin's on Thursday, Dec. 4. All are welcome.

St. Boniface Altar Society has been "flocked". We will meet following the 8:30 am Mass on Sunday, Dec. 7 to discuss and approve our year end charitable giving. Please join us.

Penance Services

Sunday, Dec. 7 - 3pm, St. Francis Convent, Hankinson
- 7pm, St. Anthony's, Mooreton
Sunday, Dec. 14 - 3pm, St. John's, Wyndmere
- 7pm, St. Boniface, Lidgerwood

Family Holy Hour will be on Sunday, Dec. 7 at 4pm, on the Vigil of the Immaculate Conception. We will pray for the Sanctity of all Life from conception till natural death!

Holy Day of Obligation – The Immaculate Conception, Monday, Dec. 8. Mass times – 4pm at St. Martin's and 7pm at St. Boniface.

St. Arnold's, Milnor, Christmas Pantry – Wednesday, Dec. 10 from 4:30pm – 6:30pm. Enjoy fried bread tacos, fried cinnamon sugar bread, cookies, cider and more.

In a Dark Hour: Scott Hahn Reflects on the First Sunday in Advent – *Scott Hahn*

Jesus exaggerates in today's Gospel when He claims not to know the day or the hour when He will come again. Christ occasionally makes such overstatements to drive home a point we might otherwise miss (see Matthew 5:34; 23:9; Luke 14:26).

His point here is that the exact "hour" is not important. What is crucial is that we not postpone our repentance, that we be ready for Him—spiritually and morally—when He comes. For He will surely come, He tells us—like a thief in the night, like the flood in the time of Noah.

In today's Epistle, Paul too compares the present age to a time of advancing darkness and night.

Though we sit in the darkness, overshadowed by death, we have seen arise the great light of our Lord who has come into our midst (see Matthew 4:16; John 1:9; 8:12). He is the true light, the life of the world. And His light continues to shine in His Church, the new Jerusalem promised by Isaiah in today's First Reading.

In the Church, all nations stream to the God of Jacob, to worship and seek wisdom in the House of David. From the Church goes forth His word of instruction, the light of the Lord—that all might walk in His paths toward that eternal day when night will be no more (see Revelation 22:5).

By our Baptism we have been made children of the light and day (see Ephesians 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:5–7). It is time we start living like it: throwing off the fruitless

works of darkness, rejecting the desires of the flesh, and walking by the light of His grace.

The hour is late as we begin a new Advent. Let us begin again in this Eucharist.

As we sing in today's Psalm, "let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord." Let us give thanks to His name, keeping watch for His coming, knowing that our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

Overcoming Distractions in a Distracted Age

Catholic Exchange

It would be an understatement to say that we live in a distracted age. Our culture is designed to keep us endlessly distracted and entertained. If we spent time in deeper reflection, we would start to see the diabolical dimension of a world filled with seemingly endless distractions to fill our time.

From our computers to our smartphones to the world outside of our door, each day forces are at work—the world, the flesh, and the devil—that seek to lure us away from God. These distractions keep us from entering His presence in prayer. The Lord wants to heal and make us whole by drawing us into His presence.

The Key to Overcoming Distraction

Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection in his classic work, *The Practice of the Presence of God*, discovered the key to overcoming distraction and a divided heart and mind. He learned to live in the presence of God in every moment of every day. While he practiced mental prayer and had dedicated periods of silent prayer throughout the day, he learned how to dwell in God's presence even while he labored. He reminds us that we are called to intimate union with the Most Holy Trinity, which we should seek to foster at all times. He states: *The holiest, most ordinary, and most necessary practice of the spiritual life is that of the presence of God. It is to take delight in and become accustomed to his divine company, speaking humbly and conversing lovingly with him all the time, at every moment, without rule or measure, especially in times of temptation, suffering, aridity, weariness, even infidelity and sin.*

Brother Lawrence is very clear that the most important aspect of our spiritual life is to live constantly in the presence of God. Living in the presence of God gives direction, meaning, and the strength we need to overcome sin and obstacles to our lives. When we intentionally seek to live in this manner, we stop allowing the winds of distraction and entertainment to trap us in a whirlwind that keeps us from drawing closer to God.

This call is not a complicated one to enact. We simply need to commit with God's help to conversing with Him throughout our day. Brother Lawrence explains:

We must continually apply ourselves so that all our

actions, without exception, become a kind of brief conversation with God, not in a contrived manner but coming from the purity and simplicity of our hearts.

This manner of living is very similar to St. Therese's Little Way. All actions should be given to God in love. Having brief conversations with God throughout the day as we go about our tasks fosters a deeper love and devotion to Him. Our relationship with the Lord withers and fades when we fail to think of Him or talk to Him throughout the day. These simple conversations enkindle the fires of love for God within us.

Living Intentionally in the Presence of God

Doing so in an age as distracted and noisy as the one we live in requires tremendous discipline. We have to choose to raise our hearts and minds to God constantly rather than doom scrolling for hours on end. Living deliberately in the presence of God also requires that we slow down and focus on both Him and the tasks we have been given. We cannot remain fully in His presence when we are racing throughout the day. Brother Lawrence teaches: *We must perform all our actions carefully and deliberately, not impulsively or hurriedly, for such would characterize a distracted mind. We must work gently and livingly with God, asking him to accept our work, and by this continual attention to God we will crush the head of the devil and force weapons from his hands.*

To truly live in this manner, we must disengage and refuse to live the constant rat race and frenetic pace of our culture. This is easier said than done. We have countless responsibilities and distractions fragmenting us each day. It requires great effort and dependence upon God. We have to surrender our weakness and powerlessness in the face of so many competing forces to the Lord in order to be ready to walk this path fully. If there is one spiritual lesson our current age needs, it is to put aside distractions to dwell moment-by-moment in the presence of God. As Brother Lawrence says, this will be a means by which God crushes the devil who is trying to keep us constantly distracted. If we truly understood the spiritual battle at work, we would begin to see that the enemy and our own egos leave us glued to screens from which we do not want to look away. We are trapped in addiction. How can we not see the spiritual implications of looking down all the time? The key to becoming whole, to feeling less divided, fragmented, and overwhelmed, and to seeing Christ, is to choose to live intentionally. We must ask the Lord to teach us how to live in His presence, seeing Him gazing at us in every single moment of our day. He is holding all of Creation in existence out of love. We can start in this moment by raising our heart and mind to Him and then step-by-step begin conversing with Him throughout the day with the simplicity of a child.