

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 - 7:00 p.m.

September 17, 2023 - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Hateful Things We Hug Tight

At the end of "Lord of the Rings: Return of the King," Gollum fights with Frodo for possession of the One Ring. He wins the fight, but in doing so topples over the edge of the mountain ledge, falling into the cavernous fires of Mount Doom. As he falls, we see him smile, and clutch the ring to his chest. He is happy. He has won what he spent his life pursuing.

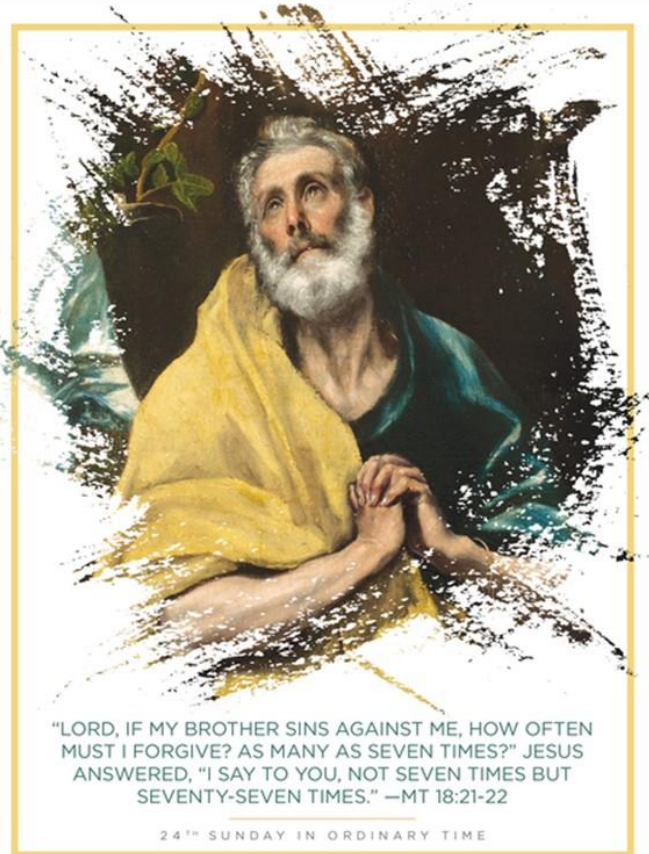
It is only in the last millisecond before his face slips below the lava that we see his eyes widen in terror as he realizes the truth: the thing he clutches to his heart is the thing that killed him. In choosing the ring, he chooses death.

Sin, and the fallen nature of this world, makes us addicted to something that kills us. Like any addiction, it is a vicious cycle. The less we forgive, the more hard-hearted we become ... and the less we seek forgiveness ourselves.

What breaks the cycle? Reconciliation with God — or, Confession, as we call it. In fact, it does more than break the cycle. It turns it backward. Not only does it detoxify our souls of sin, it weakens our addiction to sin's effects — anger, vengeance, unforgiveness. The confession of evil works is the first beginning of good works, said St. Augustine.

Ultimately, I view our whole human life as a struggle on the ledge of a mountaintop. It is certain that we will choose sin — we always do. We will tumble over the side, toward ruin. But let us be Frodo, and not Gollum. Let us cling to the rock of the sacraments and accept the hand that would drag us away from the flames.

"Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight." — Sirach 27:30



Sirach 27:30-28:7

Romans 14:7-9

Matthew 18:21-35

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Weekly Mass Schedule



<u>Sunday Liturgies</u>		
Saturday, Sept. 16	5:00 pm (St. B.)	† Bill Wisnewski
Sunday, Sept. 17	8:30 am (St. B.)	Pro Popula
	10:30 am (St. M.)	† Janice Bauch Ernst
	7:00 pm (Sts. P&P)	Special Intention
<u>Weekday Liturgies</u>		
Monday, Sept. 18	NO MASS	
Tuesday, Sept. 19	9:30 am (Sts. P&P)	L&D Members of Cayuga Christian Mothers
Wed., Sept. 20	10:00 am (St. B.)	† MaryAnn Jelinek
Thursday, Sept. 21	10:00 am (St. B.)	† Larry Novotny
Friday, Sept. 22	8:30 am (St. B.)	† Mary & Alois Polansky
<u>Sunday Liturgies</u>		
Saturday, Sept. 23	5:00 pm (St. B.)	† Peter & Eva Slabik
Sunday, Sept. 24	8:30 am (St. B.)	† Joe & Tracy Kuzel
	10:30 am (St. M.)	Pro Popula
	7:00 pm (Sts. P&P)	Special Intention

Reconciliation Schedule

St. Boniface: Saturday & Sunday – Before/after Mass
Wednesday & 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:
 - David Heley - Peggy Harles - Shelby Northrop
 - Shirley Ahrens - Brad Meyer - Beth Stroehl
 - John Popp - Rick Kane - Dan Frolek
 - If you have any imminent prayer requests, please call or text
 Cindy at 701-640-1401.

All Parishes

Eucharistic Adoration – We have multiple time slots open for adoration. Jesus would love for you come and spend time with Him during one of these times or whatever time works best for you. Adoration is open to all and is Thursdays from 5am to midnight. Please contact Sharon to become a regular or substitute at 612-790-1211 or 538-7010.

Fall Bazaar Raffle Tickets – Please pick up your quilt raffle tickets in the gathering space at St. Boniface after the weekend Masses. We ask that each family sell two books of tickets to help with the success of the raffle.

St. Boniface Fall Bazaar will be held on Sunday, Sept. 24 from 11am – 1pm. We need everyone’s help to ensure

success. Ladies, please be kind to your circle leaders when they call and be generous with your time, talents and pies!

Mass Time Change – Mass at Sts. Peter & Paul in Cayuga will be at **5pm for the month of October** and will change to 12pm (noon) from November through March.

Overcoming the Precursor to Sin - *Catholic Exchange*

When many think of original sin in the Garden of Eden, most think of eating of the apple as the first sin. However, before Adam and Eve ate that apple, they both “coveted” the forbidden fruit and desired to be like God. Their hearts were deceived, and they sinned against God, separating themselves and all of humanity from God and one another.

Have you ever considered why the 9th and 10th Commandments on coveting are in the list of Commandments? After all, they are listed last and, because they only pertain to thoughts, not actions, do they really merit the level of sin? And are we required to mention them in Confession? The fact is, God did include His warning about coveting in His list of ten, not just once, but twice. Therefore, it behooves us to understand what coveting is, how it operates and leads us to other sins.

Most don’t regard the desires that lead us to sin, as sin, such as greed and envy, but coveting is at the root of sin which then results in division, anger, and chaos. Most typically confess the action of eating the apple as the sin. But it is important to acknowledge that sin is both in the coveting and the action. If we can catch ourselves early in the coveting stage and immediately divert our attention, we won’t proceed to the action and other sins are avoided. Doing so requires honesty, awareness, commitment, humility, and God’s grace. In short, coveting is a disordered, self-centered desire for something that we don’t have, or a fear of losing something we do have. Coveting is an obsession that leads one to do something that violates the two “Greatest Commandments.” Namely, loving God with all our heart, soul and mind, and loving our neighbor as we love ourselves. Many addictions come from coveting. Not just the criminal addictions, but the ones that seem benign, such as being addicted to your phone, social media, binge watching, prestige, and authority.

With coveting, the object of obsession gradually becomes so powerful that it displaces God and His goodness. It becomes one of the “strange gods” warned about in the 1st Commandment, with ourselves being the supreme “strange god.” With the One True God displaced by “strange gods,” using God’s name in vain becomes “just an expression,” and worshiping Him on the Lord’s Day becomes an “obstacle” to pursuing our “strange gods.”

With our focus being on the “strange gods” we are enticed us to lie and steal to get ahead, pursue sexual pleasure to satisfy oneself, and even to kill spiritually, emotionally or even physically.

With the continued success of the movie *Sound of Freedom*, which highlights the horrible nature of human trafficking, we have to shake our heads in disgust thinking – “how can someone become so blind that they commit such horrible acts of sin on innocent children?” The destruction they inflict began with covetous thoughts of money, power, and pleasure. This desire grew so much that they become willing to act on

their desires and pursue their “strange gods” at the expense of the innocence, souls, and very lives of their victims.

The traffickers and their customers didn’t just wake up one day and decide to be traffickers or sexually abuse innocent children. Rather, with one covetous thought at a time their obsession grew. Starting with something like a simple thought that seemed insignificant at the moment. A television series show that “showed” a little more than it should, enticing them to explore “harmless” pornography. Or, starting with a momentary feeling of jealousy over someone’s prestige, money, and power. With thoughts of greed, deception, and cheating, they became blind, weak, and deceived. Step by step, deeper into covetousness, is the path to the lying, stealing, and adultery that lead them to the horrific sin of human trafficking.

How do you and I protect ourselves and fight against coveting and its destruction?

First, we need to recognize and acknowledge what we tend to covet, and then make a firm commitment to purge our heart through prayer, virtue, and God’s grace. We need to replace our covetous selfish desires by immediately redirecting them to love of God and love of neighbor.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church provides wonderful insights on the 9th and 10th Commandments to better understand how to redirect our thoughts. Also, this Ten Commandments page provides relevant and practical ways to recognize and circumvent covetousness.

Pope Francis gave a beautiful explanation of the slavery of coveting wealth and the desires to be rich. He challenges us to reflect on the nature of the wealth and riches we are storing up. Is it mercy, love, grace, and forgiveness, instead of material possessions and greed dominating our thoughts and emotions? Money itself isn’t evil, but the love of the money, the coveting of it, the desire to regard it over love of God and at the detriment of others, is the root of all evil.

If you’ve never pondered or confessed the sin of covetousness, now is a good time to make a good examination of conscience with a focus on coveting. Doing so will open your eyes and heart to how these two Commandments offer the keys to resolve both the personal and cultural chaos and confusion, paving the way to free you from the precursor of sins that harm ourselves and others and result in regret and division.

St. Padre Pio

St. Padre Pio was born Francesco Forgione, on May 25, 1887, in Pietrelcina, Italy. His parents were peasant farmers. He had an older brother and three younger sisters, as well as two other siblings who died in infancy. As a child, he was very religious and by the age of five he reportedly made the decision to dedicate his life to God.

Fortunately, his parents were also very religious and they supported his Catholic development. His family attended daily Mass. Francisco served as an altar boy at his local parish. Francisco was known for taking on penances and his mother once scolded him for sleeping on a stone floor.

From his tender age, Francisco had a peculiar ability. He could see guardian angels, spoke with Jesus and the Virgin Mary. This was not something taught to him, but occurred so

naturally that he assumed other people could see them too. Francisco was sickly as a child. He suffered an attack of gastroenteritis at age six and when he was ten, he had typhoid fever.

In 1897, after three years of schooling, Francisco expressed to his parents that he wanted to become a friar. His parents traveled to a nearby community of monks and asked if Francesco could join them. He was evaluated, despite his young age, and was told that he needed more education before he could join. To prepare Francesco, his parents decided to hire a private tutor. To pay the cost of the tutor, Francesco's father traveled to America to find work, and sent the money home.

At the age of 15, Francisco was finally ready, and he entered the novitiate of the Capuchin friars at Morcone. He took the name of "Pio" in honor of Pope Pius I, whose relic he often saw at his local chapel. At the age of 17, Brother Pio became extremely ill and could only digest milk and cheese. He was sent to the mountain for better air, and when this did not work, he was sent home to his family. Amid all this, he continued to study for the priesthood.

On one occasion during prayer, a fellow monk astonishingly reported he saw Pio levitate during an episode of ecstasy. Brother Pio became a priest in 1910 but was permitted to remain at home because of his poor health.

In 1915, with World War I afflicting the world, Padre Pio was summoned for military service. However, he was so sickly that he was often sent home, only to then be recalled for service. In March 1916, he was finally dismissed because of his poor health.

On September 20, Padre Pio was hearing confessions when he felt pain in his hands and feet. He noticed the stigmata, the wounds of Christ, appearing on his hands and feet. The experience was painful. Bleeding occurred. The wounds smelled of roses, and although they continued to weep, they never became infected. Doctors who later examined the stigmata were amazed at their perfectly round shape. Padre Pio became popular with the people he encountered and soon began to attribute supernatural occurrences to him. For example, he was said to levitate, and able to perform miracles.

Padre Pio himself was uncomfortable with his newfound popularity and the attention he received because of his stigmata. A Church investigation into his stigmata concluded that his condition was not faked. Pope Pius XI encouraged people to visit him. In 1947, Fr. Karol Wojtyla visited Padre Pio who prophetically told him he would rise to the highest post in the Church." Fr. Karol Wojtyla became Pope John Paul II in 1978.

Padre Pio became internationally famous. He was known for his piety, charity and the quality of his preaching. He famously advised, "Pray, hope and don't worry."

He had other illnesses, as well, including cancer which was miraculously healed after just two treatments.

Padre Pio died on September 23, 1968. His funeral was attended by over 100,000 people. Pope John Paul II recognized Padre Pio as a saint on June 16, 2002. His feast day is September 23. He is the patron of civil defense volunteers, adolescents, and the village of Pietrelcina.