

# 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**

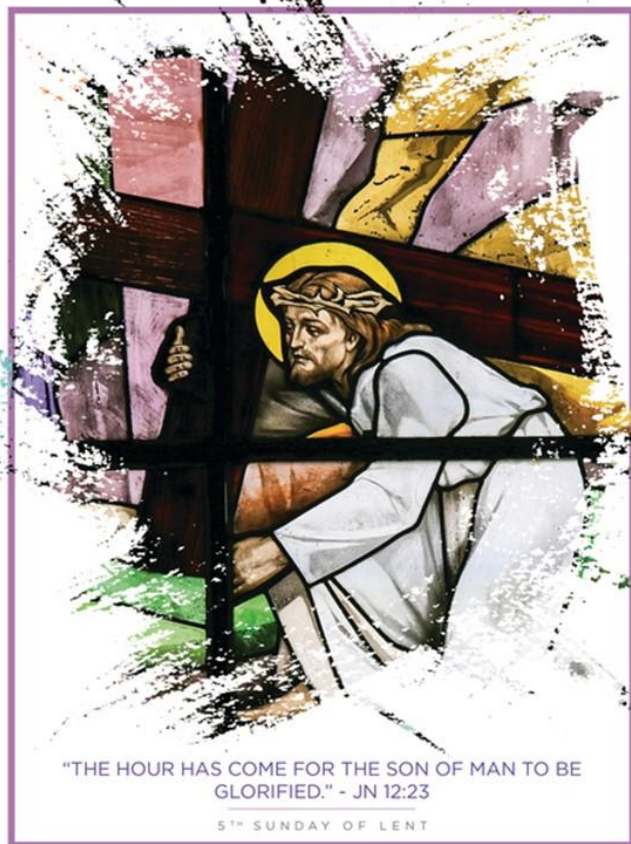
Sunday - 12:00 p.m. (noon)

## March 17, 2024 - 5th Sunday of Lent

### Draw Closer to God

During the Lenten season we observe certain practices of sacrifice and self-denial as an offering to God and as good spiritual training for this race we are engaged in called life. These things are good for us but they should not remain only in Lent. In fact, we should always be about working towards a complete surrender of ourselves to the will of God. Jesus taught that unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it cannot bear fruit. It will remain the same always and will not lead to any type of growth. We are the grains of wheat that need to die to ourselves in order to be born again. However, many of us are the same today as last Lent and the many Lents before that. We have not moved forward to a more mature faith that makes it possible for us to be transformed.

Surrender is not easy. But we need to see our observance of Lent as a way to move forward. No athlete lifts the same weight forever. No dieter finds satisfaction in losing the same 5 pounds year after year. We must work to always be moving toward holiness. We are called to pray today than yesterday. We are called to give more today than yesterday. We are called to love more today than yesterday. Standing still is not an option. Our God is calling us to grow in our discipleship for the benefit of our souls and the health of the Body of Christ. May this Lent be a time of moving forward and may we all draw ever closer to our God who calls us to leave it all behind and follow Him.



**Jeremiah 31:31-34**

**Hebrews 5:7-9**

**John 12:20-33**

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## Weekly Mass Schedule



<u>Sunday Liturgies</u>		
Saturday, Mar. 16	5:00 pm (St. B.)	† Gail Hann
Sunday, Mar. 17	8:30 am (St. B.)	Pro Popula
	10:30 am (St. M.)	Special Intention
	12:00 pm (Sts. P&P)	† Shirley Banish
<u>Weekday Liturgies</u>		
Monday, Mar. 18	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Tuesday, Mar. 19	9:30 am (Sts P&P)	L&D Members of Cayuga Christian Mothers
Wed., Mar. 20	10:00 am (Dak. Estates)	† Marjorie & Ambrose Ahmann
Thursday, Mar. 21	9:30 am (St. B.)	Special Intention
Friday, Mar. 22	7:30 pm (St. M.)	† Wayne Mattson
<u>Sunday Liturgies</u>		
Saturday, Mar. 23	5:00 pm (St. B.)	† Pat Duerr
Sunday, Mar. 24	8:30 am (St. B.)	Pro Popula
	10:30 am (St. M.)	† Dec. Members of St. Martin's Men's Society
	12:00 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:  
 Nick Podliska - Jim Biewer - Peggy Harles - John Popp  
 Shelby Northrop - Shirley Ahrens - Brad Meyer  
 Beth Stroehl - Rick Kane - Dan Frolek - Barb Perry  
 If you have any imminent prayer requests, please call or  
 text Cindy at 701-640-1401.

### **All Parishes**

**Join us in Prayer** - The Rosary and Divine Mercy  
 Chaplet will be said at 9:30 am on Monday, Tuesday,  
 Thursday and Friday. **No Wednesdays.**

**Eucharistic Adoration** - Adoration is open to all and is  
 Thursdays from 5am to midnight. Please come and spend  
 some time with Jesus! **We are in need of people to fill  
 slots for adoration and also to be substitutes. Please  
 contact Sharon at 612-790-1211 or 538-7010 if you are  
 able to help.**

**Men's Group** – All men are welcome to join our parish  
 men's group meeting on Tuesday at 6:30 am at St. Boniface.

**Women's Group** – All women who would like to grow  
 deeper in their faith, please join us for our Women's Group.  
 We will be meeting on Tuesday at 7pm.

**God's Gift Appeal** – We recently had our parish  
 commitment weekend for the 2024 God's Gift Appeal. If you  
 have not yet completed your card, please prayerfully make  
 your pledge and return it to the church office or send it to the  
 diocesan office. It is important for all of us to participate in  
 order to support our diocesan church.

**Cayuga Christian Mothers Meeting** will be held on  
 Tuesday, March 19 following the 9:30 am Mass.

**Stations of the Cross with Mass to follow**  
 - Friday, Mar. 22 at 7pm, Mass at 7:30 pm – St. Martin

**Penance Service** – Sunday, March 17 at 3pm in Wyndmere  
 and 7pm at St. Boniface.

### **Holy Week Mass Schedule**

Holy Thursday – Mar. 28 - 7:00 pm at St. Boniface  
 Good Friday – Mar. 29 - 3:00 pm at St. Boniface  
 Easter Vigil – Mar. 30 - 8:30 pm at St. Martin's  
 Easter Sunday – Mar. 31 - 8:30 am at St. Boniface  
 - 10:30 am at Sts. Peter & Paul

### **7 Steps for Making the Most of Eucharistic Adoration**

In 1674, Jesus appeared multiple times to Saint  
 Margaret Mary Alacoque. In those appearances, Christ  
 asked the saint to spend an hour of meditation and  
 adoration every Thursday night to accompany Him in  
 His suffering in Gethsemane.

“Here I suffered internally more than in the rest of my  
 Passion because I was totally alone, abandoned from  
 heaven and earth, burdened with the sins of humanity...  
 So that you may join me in the humble prayer that I  
 presented to my Father, in the midst of all that anguish,  
 you will get up between eleven and midnight, and you  
 will prostrate yourself in adoration for an hour with me,”  
 Jesus told the saint.

**1. Focus on Prayer - For the first eight minutes,** sit  
 back and begin praying. Breathe deeply to focus on the  
 moment of worship you will experience and thus calm  
 your heart and mind. Say a short prayer such as “Come,  
 Holy Spirit,” reading a Psalm, or reciting the Lord's  
 Prayer.

**2. Worship in Adoration - For the next 10 minutes,**  
 "simply adore God. If you're praying before the Blessed  
 Sacrament, gaze at Jesus and let Him gaze back at you.  
 Rest in wonder at who God is and how He invites you to  
 know Him."

**3. Sorrow for Sins - Between minutes 18-25,** “ask the  
 Holy Spirit to reveal where you have fallen short and  
 where you might need to ask for God's mercy. Resolve

to go to Confession as soon as you're able," Fredrickson suggests.

**4. Silent Contemplation - This is the core of the Holy Hour, so meditate on God in silence for 20 minutes.**

In this part of your prayer, you can sit quietly. Pray the rosary, the Stations of the Cross, the Divine Office, or contemplating on other scriptural meditations.

**5. Thank God for Your Blessings - For about five minutes,** "thank God for the gifts in your life. This might be something big, such as a new friendship or job, or it might be something small, like your coffee in the morning or the nice walk you took yesterday afternoon."

**6. Prayers of Petition - For the next five minutes,** turn everything over to God. "Turn to God with the cares and concerns of your heart, those close to you, and all the needs of people throughout the world. Entrust everything to God."

**7. Closing - During the last few minutes,** dedicate yourself to talking with God and making a resolution. "How is God calling you to act, think, change, pray? What can you take away from this time spent with Him? Then close your time in prayer with an 'Our Father' or any prayer that is on your heart."

**Eucharistic preacher: "Over 90% of Catholics don't understand the Mass" – Aletia**

Father Meyer is a prominent preacher in the National Eucharistic Revival that's taking place in part as a reaction to the 2019 Pew Research Study that found that 69% of Catholics do not believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. "But there's a bigger problem than that": Fr. Meyer addresses this staggering statistic at the beginning of his talk by explaining that, in his estimation, "**well over 90% of Catholics**" do not have a decent understanding of why they go to Mass in the first place.

In the end, Fr. Meyer quotes the Catechism, making it clear that the number one reason why Catholics must participate in the Mass is because it's "**the re-presentation of Calvary, the eternal sacrifice of the Lamb of God for the sins of the world.**"

And the response has been staggering. Not only did the message go viral, but the comments on the Servants of God YouTube page speak for themselves.

For example, @angelahagemeyer398 wrote: "This priest, in 35 minutes, just explained what it took me years to learn. THIS should be played in every RCIA, First Communion Class, Confirmation prep and parish. The lack of this information is truly why our people are stumbling. Praise be to God for this priest."

To hear his talk go to:

<https://aleteia.org/2024/03/04/eucharistic-preacher-over-90-of-catholics-dont-understand-the-mass/>

**Christ's way of assuring how much he loves us**

Nowhere in the Gospels does Jesus speak the words "I love you" until he is seated at the Last Supper. But never are we in doubt about the overwhelming love radiating from this man in attention to every need, in his preaching, his healing, his miracles, his mercy toward sinners, his tenderness to the poor, his compassion for the afflicted.

The Eucharist is Christ's way of assuring us how much he loves us. This love will not let us forget that "it was not you who chose me, it was I who chose you" (Jn 15:16). Jesus wants us to be with him — his guest at the Last Supper table. It is there that he calls us friends. Jesus' love is constant invitation. As we accept, we instinctively move to the lowest place, pained by our unworthiness. He sees and beckons, *Come up higher. Come here and sit beside me. Come with all the weariness that weighs you down, and lay your head on my breast.* "We rest against his breast and are lulled by the heartbeats of God" (Catherine de Hueck Doherty). Love that is merely lip service, a sentiment, can never satisfy the need we experience as a *hunger*. Christ gives his love to us as food, as the Bread of Life ... the Bread of Love. The Host that we consume consumes us. Through the Eucharist, the love of Jesus is *inside us*. His is a love that constantly nourishes us.

Christ's love in the Eucharist is his Body given, his Blood poured out for us. It is a *sacrificial* love. And sacrifice, wrote Cardinal Ratzinger, "consists in becoming totally receptive towards God and letting ourselves be completely taken over by him." We receive Jesus' sacrificial love in the Eucharist by participating personally in his sacrifice. The truest sacrifice is to recognize a Presence, affirming this Presence instead of ourselves with all our preoccupations.

And even if we are steeped in the guilt and shame of sin, the love of Jesus will not abandon us. He promises that the sacrificial offering of himself in the Eucharist is "for the forgiveness of sins."

The Eucharist reveals the truest, most ineradicable fact of our life: *We are* a relationship with God. We are part of a holy belonging. The intimacy we cannot live without is ours in Holy Communion. The repeated command of Jesus before his Passion — *Remain in me. Remain in me* — is possible because of the Holy Eucharist.

