

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)

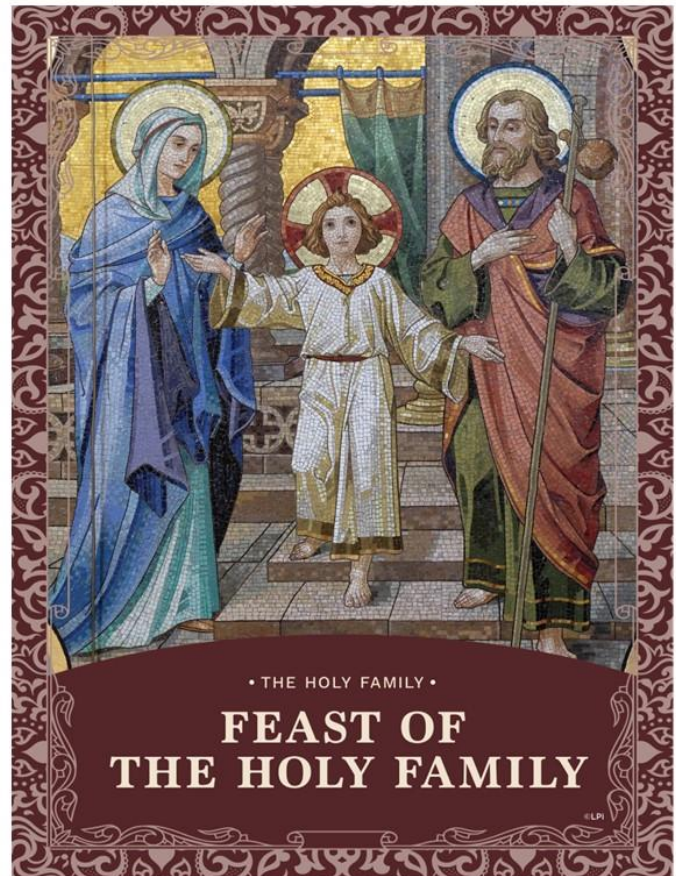
December 29, 2024 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Do you practice good stewardship with your family?

Stewardship is about more than offerings to a church or charity. It is about continually giving of ourselves in a way that gives glory to God. Sharing our gifts with those in our immediate family honors God and is evidence of your gratitude for these people in your life.

How can we effectively accomplish this? One way is to reflect on how the 6 characteristics of an Everyday Steward are present in our family relationships. Are we mindful when we are with our family members? Do we focus on them and their needs rather than our phone or TV? Do we hold up our family in prayer? Their concerns should be our concerns. Do we find ways to show how grateful we are for having them in our lives?

When we find ourselves lacking in gratitude, we should reflect on what life would be like without them. Do we help one another without being asked because we have a gracious heart? It is easy to take for granted those we see all the time. Hospitality is not just for the stranger or guest. Are we committed to a life of stewardship that not only serves as a good example, but also helps our relatives thrive? Using our gifts without wisdom might mean we have little to give to those we love. Finally, do we hold each other accountable for our decisions and shortcomings? We are on the journey of life together, and no one exists in the Body of Christ alone. Stewardship is about the entirety of our lives. Our faith life is not reserved to Mass on a Sunday. It all begins and ends with those we love.



1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

Luke 2:41-52

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Weekly Mass Schedule



<u>Sunday Liturgies</u>		
Saturday, Dec. 28	5:00 pm (St. B.)	† Norman Gust
Sunday, Dec. 29	8:30 am (St. B.)	Pro Popula
	10:30 am (St. M.)	Special Intention
	12:00 pm (Sts. P&P)	† John M. Harris
<u>Weekday Liturgies</u>		
Monday, Dec. 30	NO MASS	
Tuesday, Dec. 31	4:00 pm (St. M.)	Pro Popula
	7:00 pm (St. B.)	† Marcella Gettel
Wed., Jan. 1	9:00 am (St. B.)	† Leo & Leona Ehli
Thursday, Jan. 2	10:00 am (St. B.)	† Margaret Maczkowicz
Friday, Jan. 3	10:00 am (St. B.)	† Jim Biewer
<u>Sunday Liturgies</u>		
Saturday, Jan. 4	5:00 pm (St. B.)	† Ben Illies
Sunday, Jan. 5	8:30 am (St. B.)	Pro Popula
	10:30 am (St. M.)	Special Intention
	12:00 pm (Sts. P&P)	† Doug Spieker

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.

CCD/CYO - Classes will resume on Wednesday, Jan. 8.

Holy Day of Obligation – The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God – Mass Schedule

- Tuesday, Dec. 31 - 4pm at St. Martin's
- 7pm at St. Boniface
- Wednesday, Jan. 1 - 9am at St. Boniface

Medjugorje Message - Message to Jakov on December 25, 2024 (With Ecclesiastical approval)

“Today, on this day of grace, in a special way I am calling you not to live a life striving for earthly goals and not to seek peace and joy in earthly things, because in this way darkness takes over your life and you do not see the meaning of your life.

Little children, open the doors of your hearts to Jesus, permit Him to take over your entire life so that you may begin to live in God's love and mercy.

My children, only with Jesus in your hearts will you come to know the true goal of your life and long for eternal salvation. I am blessing you with my motherly blessing.”

Pope: ‘Silence All Arms’

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis in his traditional Christmas message on Wednesday urged “all people of all nations” to find courage during this Holy Year “to silence the sounds of arms and overcome divisions” plaguing the world, from the Middle East to Ukraine, Africa to Asia. The pontiff's “Urbi et Orbi” — “To the City and the World” — address serves as a summary of the woes facing the world this year. “I invite every individual, and all people of all nations ... to become pilgrims of hope,” the pope said from the loggia of St. Peter's Basilica to throngs of people below.

Jubilee 2025 Begins

Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St. Peter Basilica, Rome, on Christmas Eve, and launched the Jubilee of the Year 2025. Faithful Catholics may receive the Jubilee Year indulgence by visiting one of the Jubilee Sites in the Diocese of Fargo. These pilgrimage sites include:

- St. Mary's Cathedral / Our Lady of Guadalupe Adoration Chapel, Fargo
- Maryvale Retreat Center, Valley City
- St. Therese the Little Flower Church, Rugby
- The Basilica of St. James, Jamestown
- Carmel of Mary, Wahpeton
- St. Michael's Church, Grand Forks

Four ‘Astounding Answers’ on Home Life for the Feast of the Holy Family – Tom Hoopes

Advice from God is badly needed, because we've been listening to his enemy. In a famous radio monologue, the great Paul Harvey explains what he would do if he were the devil. “If I were the Prince of Darkness, I'd want to engulf the whole world in darkness,” he says. “I'd begin with a campaign of whispers. With the wisdom of a serpent, I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve: ‘Do as you please.’” He goes on to presciently describe just how the devil takes aim at churches, politics, education, and the media. But he says a significant aim of the devil is the family. “If I were the devil, I'd soon have families at war with themselves,” he said. “I would convince the young that marriage is old-fashioned.” He ends, “In other words, if I were the devil, I would just keep right on doing what he's doing.”

If that's the state of the world — and it is — then our lives are an even more extreme version of what Mary and

Joseph face in Sunday's Gospel. They take a family trip for the Passover, and "as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents didn't know it." One minute, they had Jesus in their lives, the One who gave their family its meaning, and then, the next minute, they didn't. They lost him. So often we lose him, too, in one way or another. We might assume he will always be with us automatically and stop making that effort that is so necessary to keep him close.

When we discover he is missing, we might do what they did. They "journeyed for a day" thinking he was somewhere nearby, just out of sight as they "looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances."

We do that, also. We underestimate what it will take to bring meaning back into our lives and start out looking for it in a merely human way, looking to those around us and the best human advice we can find. But as important as our family and communities are, they are not sufficient to deliver what we need. We have to take a step outside our family for that. That's what they did. They finally "returned to Jerusalem to look for him." They went to the place where we are guaranteed to find Jesus: His Father's house. For them that was the Temple; for us, the Church.

If we go to the Church to look for Jesus, we will find him in the Church's teachings, in Scripture, and in the sacraments, above all in the Blessed Sacrament, present in the tabernacle where he still sits, asking questions and giving "astounding answers." We get four of those "astounding answers" in the readings today.

First: The readings describe how children should treat parents. As St. Paul says in the Second Reading, "Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord." We know it is pleasing to the Lord, because he told us in his Fourth Commandment: "Honor your father and mother." The greatest example of this is in the Gospel. Jesus is the Second Person of the Trinity, God-made-man, and yet, at the end of the reading, "He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them."

Jesus doesn't obey his parents because they are greater than him; they are in fact infinitely below him. He obeys them because it is the right thing to do to bring order and harmony to the family relationship. This applies to us throughout our parents' lives as the First Reading makes clear, saying: "My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives. Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him." Parents deserve honor and respect from children when they are young and kindness and care when they are old and frail. If this advice was ever obvious, it certainly isn't today.

Parental authority is probably more tenuous than ever, and aged parents are more alone than ever.

Second: The readings describe how to treat spouses.

When the Second Reading says, "Wives be subordinate to your husbands as is proper in the Lord" it is not really as shocking as it often sounds to our ears.

When he talks to husbands he tells them what to do and what to avoid: "love your wives and avoid any bitterness toward them" means "sacrifice for your wife and don't dwell on their worst qualities." His advice to wives could be similarly stated

as "Wives, respect your husbands and avoid dominating or manipulating them."

The basic message is that wives shouldn't be controlling and husbands shouldn't be distant or resentful — good advice that most married couples need to hear.

You see a bit of an example of this in the Gospel, when Mary presents a united front with Joseph as she confronts Jesus, asking him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." Jesus's answer to her explains the most important relationship of all.

Third: The Gospel demonstrates how to treat God.

Mary does indeed confront Jesus, and thereby shows the proper, direct approach to prayer, in which we speak to God without hiding our true feelings or putting on a false front, but are very clear about what is wrong.

Jesus answers the way God often answers such prayers: With pointed questions that make us revise our own self-conception. "Why were you looking for me?" Jesus asks.

"Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

He will often give you a whole new perspective. In this case, among many other things, the questions he asks say that, as important as the family is, it isn't the time we spend with each other that makes us whole. It is the time we spend with God.

If the advice "The family that prays together, stays together," sounds trite, it shouldn't. It is advice that St. John Paul II and Mother Teresa both often gave. Mary and Joseph are a family that prays, and that is what brings them back together. They are a family that takes pilgrimages together, and a family whose members each have an individual relationship with God: Joseph obeys, Mary "ponders" God's truth in his heart, and Jesus longs to be "in my Father's House."

And that brings us to the fourth and final piece of advice for families in these readings, one I often forget: families evangelize. In his Apostolic Exhortation *Familiaris Consortio*, St. John Paul II defines the Christian family as a domestic Church, "a believing and evangelizing community," going so far as to say, "future evangelization depends largely on the domestic Church."

This is more true than ever in the 21st century. As major Catholic institutions have less and less credibility in the world's eyes, it is left to families to be the place where the world encounters the virtues of the Kingdom of Christ. St. Paul describes these in the Second Reading, when he says, "Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another. And over all these put on love."

He wants us to be living examples of the Kingdom of Christ and to get there, he says, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly."

It's no longer possible to leave evangelization and passing on Christian virtues to the culture or to Church organizations. If the world doesn't see them in us, it won't see them at all.

So look for Jesus in the Church, in the tabernacle and in the Mass, and then take him out to others. Once we have Jesus in our lives again, we can return to our family enriched, and in the way we live, show the world the good news: With God, a life centered on love is possible and real peace is near