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 - 11:45 a.m. (Even Numbered Months)

March 26, 2023 - 5th Sunday of Lent

Offerings

Offer it up. My grandmother used this phrase with her children, and my mother, in turn, used it with me. It's a kind of verbal heirloom, a gift of wisdom from a generation that knew suffering all too well.

We know it to be true that God will work through our suffering if we invite him to. We know it and we have seen it — we have only to look at Lazarus and his sisters Martha and Mary.

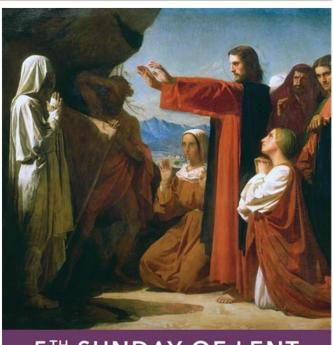
But, often, I invite God into my suffering only to tell Him where I want Him to stand. I make an offering of suffering but expect God to do something very specific with it. *Teach me this, please. Give me this specific* grace. Show me this specific answer.

The happy ending in today's Gospel is not the alleviation of the sorrow Martha and Mary feel because it isn't alleviated, Lazarus is still human, and death still awaits him. Someday, his sisters will have to mourn at his tomb. That loss and pain will not be avoided.

The happy ending is that he is resurrected *now*, and in doing so, brings so many to belief. The happy ending is that Martha and Mary do not abandon discipleship because things didn't work out exactly the way that they wanted. They run out to meet Christ, eyes dim with tears. They fling themselves into his company and onto his providence.

They made an offering of their suffering, and their happy ending is that their offering was accepted.

"You are not in the flesh, on the contrary, you are in the spirit." — Romans 8:9



5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

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Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live."

- Jn 11:25

5.11

Ezekiel 37:12-14 | Romans 8:8-11 John 11:1-45

Pastor | Fr. Peter Anderl

Cell Phone: (701) 640-6050 Rectory Phone: (701) 538-4608

Email:

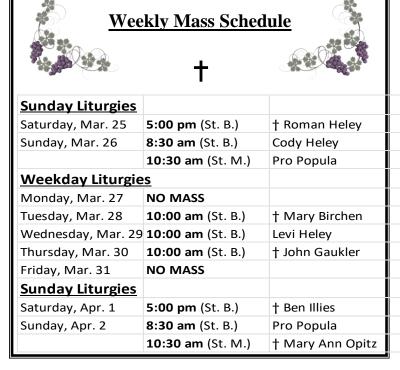
peter.anderl@fargodiocese.org

Secretary | Cindy Jelinek

Office Hours: Wed. 1:00 - 6:00 pm Office Phone: (701) 538-4604 Cell Phone: (701) 640-1401 Email: stboniface@rrt.net

DRE | Melodi Novotny

Office Phone: (701) 538-4604 Cell Phone: (701) 640-9314 Email: stbonifacedre@rrt.net



Reconciliation Schedule

St. Boniface: Saturday & Sunday – prior to Mass

Wednesday – 9:45 am

St. Martin: Sunday – Before and after Mass

Prayer Requests

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

- Peggy Harles Shelby Northrop Shirley Ahrens
- Brad Meyer Beth Stroehl John Popp
- Dejah Anderson Rick Kane Dan Frolek
- 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 the following times: Monday through Friday at 9:30 am. The Rosary for the Unborn will be said on Tuesdays.

<u>Eucharistic Adoration</u> – Adoration is open to all, please come and spend time with Jesus in Adoration anytime on Thursdays from 5am to midnight. Please contact Sharon to become a regular or substitute at 612-790-1211 or 538-7010.

Mass Schedule Change

Beginning on Sunday, April 16, Sts. Peter & Paul will be having Mass at 7pm every Sunday. They will now have Mass full-time!

Stations of the Cross Only - No Mass

Friday – March 31 – **7pm** at St. Boniface

Holy Week Mass Schedule

Holy Thursday - Apr. 6 - 7:00 pm at St. Boniface Good Friday - Apr. 7 - 3:00 pm at St. Boniface Easter Vigil - Apr. 8 - 8:30 pm at St. Martin's Easter Sunday - Apr. 9 - 8:30 am at St. Boniface - 10:30 am at Sts. Peter & Paul

<u>Penance Services</u> - Sunday, Mar. 26, 7pm, St. Boniface Sunday, April 2, 3pm at St. John's in Wyndmere

<u>Park Board Breakfast</u> – Sunday Mar. 26 from 9am – 1pm at the Lidgerwood Museum. Free will donation.

<u>Lidgerwood Community Club Brunch</u> – Sunday, April 2 from 9am – 1pm at the KC Hall.

<u>Senior Center is Celebrating Monthly Birthdays</u> on Thursday, March 30 with cards at 1pm and party at 3pm. All are welcome.

Blood Drive – Tuesday, Apr. 11 from 8:15am - 2:15 pm at the KC Hall. To book a time to donate, call Dave Breker at 538-4343 or Mike Skroch at 538-7396.

<u>Aesthetics of a Catholic Church: Why a Beautiful Place of Worship Is Important to Our Faith</u>

Catholic Exchange

The aesthetic beauty of catholic churches has long been an integral part of the Catholic faith, enhancing the Christian spirituality of those who worship within their walls. These majestic structures are not only architectural marvels but also living testimonies of the deep connection between beauty, faith, and the human spirit. This article will explore why the beauty of catholic churches is important for living out our Catholic faith; drawing upon the teachings of the Church, the words of Pope Francis, and the work of theologians.

The Catholic Church has always placed great importance on the role of beauty in religious experience. Pope Francis, in his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, emphasizes that "The Church evangelizes and is herself evangelized through the beauty of the liturgy, which is both a celebration of the task of evangelization and the source of her renewed self-giving." The Catechism of the Catholic Church likewise states, "Created in the image of God, man also expresses the truth of his relationship with God the Creator by the beauty of his artistic works." Thus, a beautiful catholic church serves as a powerful conduit for spiritual growth and an essential component of Catholic worship.

Catholic churches are often seen as physical representations of the divine. The beauty found within these sacred spaces is believed to help lift the minds and hearts of the faithful towards God. The 20th-century theologian Hans Urs von Balthasar wrote, "Beauty is the word that shall be our first. Beauty is the last thing which the thinking intellect dares to approach since only it dances as an uncontained splendor around the double constellation

of the true and the good and their inseparable relation to one another." By experiencing the beauty of a catholic church, the faithful are invited to contemplate the transcendent beauty of God, fostering a deeper connection with the divine.

This aesthetic also plays a crucial role in the liturgical celebration. The Second Vatican Council's document *Sacrosanctum Concilium* explains: "The art of our times, from every race and country, shall also be given free scope in the Church, provided that it brings to the task the reverence and honor due to the sacred buildings and rites and expresses true artistry." Catholic churches, with their intricate art, sculptures, and stained-glass windows, serve as a backdrop for the liturgy, enriching the spiritual experience and prayer of the participants. These artistic elements help to create an atmosphere of sacredness and reverence, enabling the faithful to encounter Christ more fully.

Catholic churches also stand as symbols of the Church's commitment to proclaim the Gospel throughout history. They are living testimonies to the faith of generations past, as well as present-day communities. Art historian Elizabeth Lev states, "Catholic churches are the material manifestation of the Christian desire to touch heaven, to unite the material world with the spiritual."

The aesthetic timelessness of these structures is a testament to the creative genius of those who built them and a reflection of the divine inspiration that guided their hands. By preserving and maintaining these sacred spaces, the Church continues to pass on the rich heritage of the Catholic faith to future generations. These sacred spaces, with their breathtaking architecture and art, are living testimonies of the faith and commitment of generations of believers who sought to glorify God through their creative expression – they are a testament to our journey towards a heavenly home rather than a worldly one.

As Pope Francis has said, "In this sense, the artistic patrimony of the Church, as well as the new ways of expressing beauty, are an invitation to humanity to discover the joy of the Gospel and the hope that it bears for the world". The aesthetic beauty of a catholic church serves as a beacon of light, guiding us on our spiritual journey by means of their sublime magnificence and inviting us to experience the transforming power of God's love.

Pope Urges Renewed Consecration of Ukraine and Russia to Mary Vatican News

Speaking during his weekly General Audience in St Peter's Square on Wednesday, Pope Francis urged believers to renew the consecration of humanity - especially Russia and Ukraine - to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The Holy Father's appeal came almost a year after he first prayed the Act of Consecration, at the annual "24 Hours for the Lord" Lenten penitential service in the Vatican on the 25th March 2022.

"An Act of Complete Trust"

Pope Francis' initial consecration of Russia and Ukraine to Mary's Immaculate Heart was a response, he said, to the war between the two countries.

"This is no magic formula," he explained at the time, "but a spiritual act. It is an act of complete trust on the part of children who, amid the tribulation of this cruel and senseless war that threatens our world, turn to their Mother, reposing all their fears and pain in her heart and abandoning themselves to her."

A Renewed Appeal

This Wednesday, the Pope said that "My thoughts go to the 25th March of last year, when, in union with all the bishops of the world, I consecrated the Church and humanity, especially Russia and Ukraine, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary."

"Let us not tire of consecrating the cause of peace to the Queen of Peace," he continued. "I would like to invite every believer and community, especially prayer groups, to renew the Act of Consecration to Our Lady every 25th March, so that she, who is Mother, might preserve us all in unity and peace."

The Pope ended his appeal by remembering "tormented Ukraine", as he has at almost every General Audience since the outbreak of war, and urged his listeners never to forget the country, which, he said, "is suffering very greatly."

The 6 Characteristics of an Everyday Stewardship for Lent – Committed

I remember Jim Valvano, Jimmy V to many, saying the iconic words, "Don't give up; you can never give up." The former coach of the NC State men's basketball team was dying of cancer, yet he refused to throw in the towel and give in to his disease. His words exemplified the best of the human spirit we all share. Sometimes, living out those words seem much more difficult than saying them. These words are also important for our faith life. The life Jesus calls us to is not easy. When working toward a life of greater generosity and surrender of all to God, we are prone to fall flat on our face many times. We are not called to this life only when we are strong. It is how we respond when times are the most difficult that truly defines us as disciples and stewards. The world may think we are down for the count, but rising again gives testimony that in Christ we are stronger.

Commitment takes a willingness to do the things needed to get stronger and build our spiritual muscles. We cannot expect to find success in the spiritual life unless we continue to work on our resolve and grow in our knowledge of the faith. A marathon runner would never be able to make it to the finish line unless they have trained and prepared in advance. We must work hard to stay the course and prepare for the race at hand. No matter what this life may have in store for us, we are called to not give up. God will never give up on us.