

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 12, 2023 - 3rd Sunday of Lent

The Messiah Before You

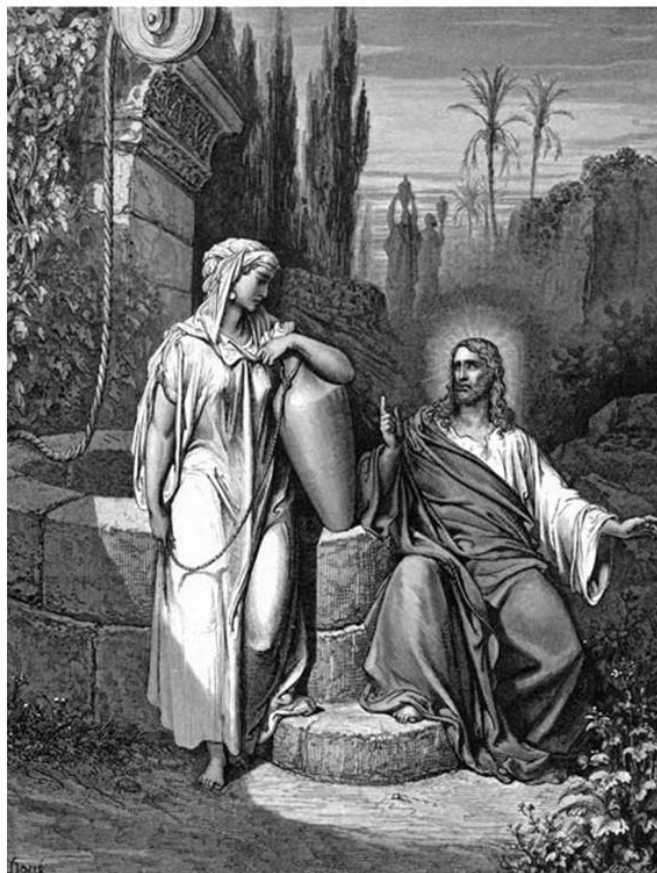
If you would have asked me on the morning of my confirmation what the chances were of the Holy Spirit getting into my heart, I would have told you they were about the same as getting water from a stone.

My faith was fragile at this time in my life, primarily because I viewed it as exactly that — my faith. Something within my possession and subject to my own power. And I hadn't done the things I thought I needed to do in order to be the kind of Christian who knows the truth and lives it. I was waiting to be made stronger. I was waiting to be made more faithful. I was waiting for a transformation.

Little did I know, I was like the woman at the well, standing around talking about the coming of the Messiah, unaware that he was standing right in front of me. She wasn't ready; she was still living in her sin. She was caught so unawares that she left her water jar at the well, rushing out to tell what she had seen.

When I was anointed with the oil it no longer mattered that I wasn't strong enough to break open the stone that I was convinced encased my heart — God's grace gushed forth through the cracks. While I certainly didn't become a perfect Christian — and never will, in this life — I did learn that when God tells you to strike, it's probably best not to second-guess Him.

"We boast in the glory of God... and hope does not disappoint." Romans 5:2-5



Exodus 17:3-7
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
John 4:5-42

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Weekly Mass Schedule



<u>Sunday Liturgies</u>		
Saturday, Mar. 11	5:00 pm (St. B.)	† Deceased Members of Tony & Frances Oster Family
Sunday, Mar. 12	8:30 am (St. B.)	L&D Members of the Lyon Family
	10:30 am (St. M.)	Pro Popula
<u>Weekday Liturgies</u>		
Monday, Mar. 13	NO MASS	
Tuesday, Mar. 14	10:00 am (St. B.)	† Frances Zajac
Wednesday, Mar. 15	10:00 am (St. B.)	† Raymond Jelinek
Thursday, Mar. 16	10:00 am (St. B.)	† Les Kiefer
Friday, Mar. 17	7:30 pm (St. B.)	† George Novotny
<u>Sunday Liturgies</u>		
Saturday, Mar. 18	5:00 pm (St. B.)	† Donna Spellerberg
Sunday, Mar. 19	8:30 am (St. B.)	Katelyn Heley
	10:30 am (St. M.)	Pro Popula

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.

Eucharistic Adoration – 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 with Mass to follow.

Friday – March 17 – 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

KC Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 14 at 8pm.

KC Fish Fry – Friday, March 24 from 5-7pm at the KC Hall.

Egg bake Breakfast will be served at St. Boniface following the 8:30 am Mass on Sunday, March 19.

St. Boniface Altar Society will be having an important meeting to talk about finances on Monday, March 20 at 7pm. All members, please try to attend! The following are the Diocesan financial guidelines as of 2022:

- Other parish organizations, at the end of their fiscal year, are to donate to the parish all monies on hand in excess of \$2,500 to be used for parish purposes only, giving consideration to the wishes of the members of the parish organization.

Refresh Your Lent: Brief Take-Aways From a Long Gospel - *Benedictine College*

Now that we have been at it for 18 days, on the Third Sunday of Lent, Year A, Jesus comes to us to double check that our Lent is on the right track.

Jesus helps the Samaritan Woman at the Well discover what Lent is for by taking her step by step through what he has to offer. Since the Gospel is long, here is a brief run-down of the major applications of her story to our Lent.

First, Lent is supposed to help us see how ultimately useless the material world we relied on actually is. “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again,” Jesus tells the Samaritan woman at the well at noon as the Gospel begins.

Starting with water, he takes the Samaritan woman step by step, to see her own nature and needs, instructing the woman at the well about the order of goods in the world: We need material goods now; we will need spiritual good forever.

Lent should make us realize this also. Our Lenten fast should make us realize that food was not as necessary as we once thought —snacking, alcohol, the meal we gave up, or even the chocolate we skipped isn’t necessary. Nothing in the world will satisfy you. Everything will fade and lose its effectiveness.

This is what Moses and the Israelites had to learn in the desert, in the First Reading and the Psalm, when they longed for water more than they longed for God. And

this is what we have to learn in the desert of our Lenten fast.

Second, Lent should make you fall in love with God. Look briefly at the three movements in the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman.

- First, Jesus comes tired to the well and asks the woman for a drink, surprising her with his attention.
- Second, he engages her in a conversation about the deeper meaning of what he has to offer her, “true worship” of the Father.
- Third, she confesses her sinful life and reveals that she longs for a Messiah, a savior. He tells her “I am he, the one speaking with you.”

This is what God does for each of us in Lent.

First, Christ in his Church asks each of us to fast with him in the desert as Lent begins. I don’t know about you, but I can remember even as a child feeling a little honored by that. Jesus wants me to do this with him and for him? Jesus cares if I don’t do it? It’s clear that Jesus doesn’t just love humanity in the abstract, he loves each of us and wants to be in a relationship with us.

Second, Jesus, through the Church’s Lenten prayer, initiates a conversation with us. At first, it is a conversation about how he fits into our plans — but then it becomes a conversation about how we fit into his plans.

Third, we confess our sins and accept a new way of life. He helps us see that this isn’t a matter of him changing what he offers to fit our needs; it’s a matter of us recognizing our total unworthiness and changing our hearts to accept the truth he offers.

Last, Jesus wants Lent to make us into his ambassadors. Everyone who is truly touched by God becomes his missionary.

The woman does this by running to her village to tell people to come and meet Jesus. The townspeople later discover that “this is truly the savior of the world.” In the long version of the Gospel, the apostles get schooled by Christ in how he does the planting; they only need to harvest for him, inviting in the souls he has already prepared.

We are meant to follow Paul’s example in the Second Reading, announcing the “hope that does not disappoint” because “God proves his life for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” He does that each Lent, step by step, as he engages each of us in conversation, like the woman at the well.

How Lent is our own “Exodus” in the Desert - Aleteia

The season of Lent has many similarities to the events recorded in the book of Exodus. The People of Israel were freed from their slavery to the Egyptians but were

then subjected to numerous temptations and trials for 40 years in the desert.

They were repeatedly tempted to look back towards Egypt, desiring the comforts they had, despite their oppression.

Pope Benedict XVI recalled these events during an Angelus message in 2006, pointing to how they were able to overcome the temptations they experienced.

During that long journey, the Jews experienced the full force and persistence of the tempter, who urged them to lose trust in the Lord and to turn back; but at the same time, thanks to Moses’ mediation, they learned to listen to God’s voice calling them to become his holy People.

All of us will experience similar temptations during Lent, looking back over our shoulder at the life we once led.

However, the key is to trust in God and embrace the life of freedom that he offers to us, as Benedict XVI explains.

In meditating on this biblical passage, we understand that to live life to the full in freedom we must overcome the test that this freedom entails, that is, temptation. Only if he is freed from the slavery of falsehood and sin can the human person, through the obedience of faith that opens him to the truth, find the full meaning of his life and attain peace, love and joy.

Whatever temptations we may experience in Lent and beyond, may we keep our eyes on Christ and continue forward to the Promised Land of Eternal Life that awaits us at the end of our lives.

