

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)

February 15, 2026 - 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Don't Live a Lie

One day, my son was explaining to his mother that he felt she had lied to him. It was nothing very important, but he wanted to take this opportunity to share how important telling the truth is to him. He explained that he simply tells it like it is in all aspects of his life. But an hour later, we caught him in a lie! Again, it was not about a matter of life and death, but it was a lie. When confronted with his own previous words on how important the telling the truth was to him, he just smiled. Yes, the guilty often have no words of defense.

Jesus said it best in Matthew 5: "Let your 'yes' mean 'yes' and your 'no' mean 'no.'" He was warning his disciples about false oaths and then instructing them on the fullness of the Hebrew laws. We may try to do what we say and say what we mean, but it can be all too easy to fall short. We call ourselves disciples yet provide evidence to the contrary by our actions (or lack of them).

Even if we feel that we have lied to no one, we may have lied to ourselves. We portray ourselves as generous, thankful, and loving people, yet fail to answer God's call in a situation because we perceive the cost to be too great. Jesus did not simply mean for his message to be about two words. He also meant that when you say you are a disciple, make sure you are a disciple as well.



6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Again you have heard that it was said to your ancestors, Do not take a false oath, but make good to the Lord all that you vow." - Mt 5:33

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Sirach 15:15-20
1 Corinthians 2:6-10
Matthew 5:17-37

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

Lenten Penance Services

Sunday, Mar. 1 - 3pm at Hankinson Convent use east door

- 7pm at St. Anthony's, Mooreton

Sunday, Mar. 15 - 3pm at St. John's, Wyndmere

- 7pm at St. Boniface, Lidgerwood

Jesus Tells Angry Americans What We Need to Change, Right Now – Tom Hoopes

Sunday's Gospel shows how harsh Jesus can be and how gentle the Old Testament and St. Paul can be — but for a good reason. He gives the secret to Christian morality, and it is exactly what is in shortest supply in our day, so it must be very difficult to achieve: love. Here are five takeaways for the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A.

First: Jesus has described the great new people we can be; now he describes the not-great people we are.

On the past two Sundays we have heard that we Christ-believers are Blessed and a blessing — peacemakers who are “the light of the world.” If we felt flattered when he said that, this week he says we shouldn't be.

Jesus insists that he has not come to abolish the Law, but fulfill it. He says, “I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.”

That sounds daunting. The Pharisees were very righteous. They worked hard at never breaking even the smallest rules. How can we do better than they did? The examples Jesus gives are telling:

- He cites the commandment “You shall not kill,” then adds, “But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment.”
- He cites the commandment against adultery, then adds, “But I say to you, everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”
- He cites the commandment, “Do not take a false oath,” then adds, “But I say to you, do not swear at all. ... Let your ‘Yes’ mean ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No’ mean ‘No.’ Anything more is from the evil one.”

In each case he cites a commandment having to do with an exterior action and follows it with a new command about an interior attitude. His formula is: “You have heard it said: *Don't let your behavior hurt others.* I say to you, *Don't let your heart devalue others.*”

Jesus is teaching us not just to be careful about what we do; he's telling us to be careful about *who we are*. That is the only way we can surpass the righteousness of the Pharisees: Not by following his rules in ourselves, but by seeing his image in others.

That takes love.

Second: Given what Jesus sets as a standard, American Christians have a huge problem on our hands.

When Jesus says, “whoever says, ‘You fool,’ will be

Weekly Mass Schedule



<u>Sunday Liturgies</u>		
Saturday, Feb. 14	5:00 pm (St. B.)	† John & Josephine Gettel
Sunday, Feb. 15	8:30 am (St. B.)	Cohl & Calista Ringler Family
	10:30 am (St. M.)	Pro Popula
	12:00 pm (Sts P&P)	Special Intention
<u>Weekday Liturgies</u>		
Monday, Feb. 16	NO MASS	
Tuesday, Feb. 17	10:00 am (Dak. Est.)	† Elaine Oster
Wed., Feb. 18	7:00 pm (St. B.)	† Georgine Novotny
Thurs., Feb. 19	10:00 am (St. B.)	† John Gaukler
Friday, Feb. 20	7:30 pm (St. B.)	† George Novotny
<u>Sunday Liturgies</u>		
Saturday, Feb. 21	5:00 pm (St. B.)	John & Shirley Ahrens
Sunday, Feb. 22	8:30 am (St. B.)	† Howard & Joyce Heley
	10:30 am (St. M.)	Pro Popula
	12:00 pm (Sts P&P)	Special Intention

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:

Avery Trittin - Baby Weston - Shirley (Art) Heley

Anne Heley - Joan Moerke - Peggy Harles

Dan Frolek - Shirley Ahrens - Dan Schmit

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. We need of a regular adorer to fill the 3-4 pm slot. We also need adorers to share the following slots: 2-3pm, 3-4pm, and 5-6pm. Please contact Sharon at 612-790-1211 or 538-7010 if you are able to help.

Fish Fry - Friday, Feb. 20 from 5-7pm at the KC Hall.

Stations of the Cross with Mass to follow

Friday, Feb. 20 – St. Boniface

Friday, Feb. 27 – St. Martin's

Friday, Mar. 6 – St. Boniface

Friday, Mar. 13 – St. Martin's

Friday, Mar. 20 - Sts. Peter & Paul

Friday, Mar. 27 – St. Boniface

liable to fiery Gehenna,” he is saying a lot of us are going to be liable, because a lot of us are saying “You fool.” Researchers recently found clear majorities of Americans in (72% of Republicans and 63% of Democrats) saw their opponents as immoral, a sharp rise from 47% and 35% six years earlier.

The New York Times reported that, just before Covid, researchers even asked: “Do you ever think: ‘we’d be better off as a country if large numbers of the opposing party in the public today just died?’” And found that 20% of Democrats (12.6 million voters) and 16% of Republicans (7.9 million voters) said Yes. Of course, this kind of hatred has now erupted in actual violence in high-profile cases.

What is the answer? Love, real love, *applied* love. We need to stop calling our political opponents “fools” — or bigots or anti-Americans, or whatever language we use for “*raqa*” today. Certainly we should stop categorizing and denouncing other human beings on international public internet forums; but we also have to stop denouncing them in our own hearts.

If you look at his expectations for how we treat the opposite sex, it gets worse. “I say to you, everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart,” Jesus says, as if he were speaking directly to America’s culture of hypersexualized entertainment — and advertisement. Not only should we avoid treating each other as sex objects in our actions, we shouldn’t even think of them that way. The Beatitudes tell us that the “pure of heart” see more than the other people in their lives — they see God. Those addicted to sexual entertainment see *less* than the other people in their lives; they see body parts.

Last, Jesus wants real honesty, saying, “Let your ‘Yes’ mean ‘Yes’ and your ‘No’ mean ‘No.’”

The eternal Son of the Father absolutely has our America in mind again when he says this. The news we watch is often “angertainment” which carefully selects news for our particular ideological bubble — not to deliver the truth, but to deliver the dopamine hit of being right. At the same time, the information we read, or listen to, or watch, is often in marketing-speak that contains an ounce of truth and piles of “truthful hyperbole.” And our own presentation of our lives on social media is often carefully curated to make a sliver of the truth about us seem like the whole truth about us.

That won’t do. God wants us to respect others enough not to hate them or lust after them, and he wants us to respect ourselves enough to be 100% honest about who we really are.

Fourth: Jesus Christ’s standard for the Christian is real love; a love you can’t fake. And he is serious about it.

These readings put a lie to the myth that Jesus was sunny and bright while the Old Testament (along with St. Paul) was doomy and dark.

In the first reading, the Old Testament uses a positive approach to promoting the Ten Commandments: “If you choose, you can keep the commandments; they will save you. If you trust in God, you too shall live.”

In the Gospel, Jesus goes negative: “Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the Kingdom of heaven.”

The Old Testament Psalm offers kind, hope-filled words: “Open my eyes, that I may consider the wonders of your law. Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord!” But Jesus explains just how serious your personal renovation should be: “If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body thrown into Gehenna.”

St. Paul tells of what we can expect if we truly follow Jesus: “What eye has not seen and ear has not heard and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him, this God has revealed to us through the Spirit.”

Jesus tells us what to expect if we *don’t* follow: “You will not enter the Kingdom of heaven.”

Jesus isn’t being mean; he’s warning us of real peril. Of course, Jesus also spends time convincing people of the beauty of his way. But without the stern warnings, we might miss the urgency of his words. And we really need to understand how urgent they are. God “has set before you fire and water. To whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand,” says the First Reading. “Before man are life and death, good and evil; whichever he chooses shall be given him.”

God is radically pro-freedom. He does not force us to do anything. That is because without freedom there is no love, and God is love. But God is also all good, and he cannot tolerate evil — and what St. John said is true: “Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar.”

Fifth: How can Jesus expect so much? Receive the answer at Mass.

The two pillars of the Jewish faith were the Temple and the Law: These were signs of his Old Testament covenant. In his new covenant, he replaces the Temple with his own body and invites us to become members of him. Then, he places his law within us, through the Holy Spirit, “For the Spirit scrutinizes everything, even the depths of God,” as St. Paul puts it today.

We can watch how this happens at this Sunday’s Mass and every Mass. The Father offers his Son to us through the power of the Holy Spirit, at the consecration. Jesus comes to each altar, in his real presence, but looking like bread.

Jesus in the host has no arms, no legs, and no voice — until we receive him in communion. Then he can have our legs, our arms, and our voice — and we can have his. Pray for the grace to act in the world as he commands.