

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)

October 5, 2025 - 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Father Who Knows What You Want

It's easy to give your kid what he's asking for. It's hard to give him what he wants. If a kid asks to eat an ice cream cone, there's nothing wrong with giving him one. But if he's grumpily demanding an ice cream cone at 7:45 in the morning, what he wants — whether he realizes it or not — is some protein and whole grains and a little encouragement to get him going on his day.

So you give him eggs and toast, and you watch him struggle to accept it. Sometimes he does and sometimes he doesn't, but either way, you'll be here. You'll forgive him for whatever names he calls you and you'll put the healthy breakfast in the fridge, waiting for him when he's ready to eat it.

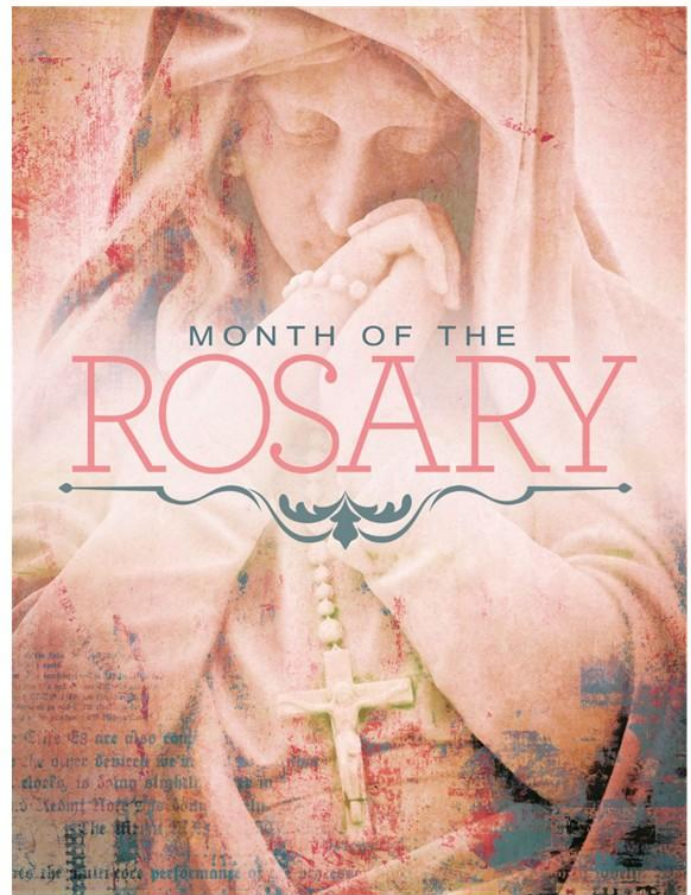
"Increase my faith." I've said it to God plenty of times, imagining a prayer life that is effortless and a sacramental life that is uncomplicated, an acceptance of truth that is unshakeable. Easy faith — that's what I'm asking for, and lots of it, please.

But easy faith isn't faith at all, and faith that you aren't strong enough to hold will break your arms. And what God will never do is say, "Sure, kiddo, here you go," and pass off a false gift as the real thing, just to make us both feel good. He won't hand me something I'm not strong enough to hold.

That would be a classic lazy-father move. That would be an ice-cream-cone-at-7:45 a.m. move.

Instead, He watches carefully while I navigate the bumpy terrain of the spiritual life, ready to whisper directions in my ear. He holds his breath while the challenges of this world create deep grooves in my soul — and then He irrigates those grooves with the life-giving waters of grace, transforming them into valleys of consolation and respite. Sometimes I call Him names. Sometimes I refuse what He's offering. It's not what I asked for, after all.

But it's what I want. Luckily, He knows that better than me.



Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4

2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14

Luke 17:5-10

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Weekly Mass Schedule



Sunday Liturgies		
Saturday, Oct. 4	5:00 pm (St. B.)	† Marlys Heley
Sunday, Oct. 5	8:30 am (St. B.)	Pro Popula
	10:30 am (St. M.)	† Bishop Justin Driscoll
NO MASS at Sts. Peter & Paul		
Weekday Liturgies		
Monday, Oct. 6	NO MASS	
Tuesday, Oct. 7	NO MASS	
Wed., Oct. 8	10:00 am (Dakota Est.)	† Norma Honl
Thurs., Oct. 9	10:00 am (St. B.)	† Sandra Curran
Friday, Oct. 10	8:30 am (St. B.)	† MaryAnn Jelinek
Sunday Liturgies		
Saturday, Oct. 11	5:00 pm (St. B.)	† Kay Smykowski
Sunday, Oct. 12	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 - 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. 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.

Morning Prayer Resumes at St. Boniface on Tuesdays only, at 8:30 am.

Women's Group will begin on Tuesday, Oct. 7 at 7pm.

St. Arnold's Chili & Pie Supper – Wednesday, Oct. 8 from 5-7pm at St. Arnold's in Milnor.

St. Philip's Fall Dinner – Sunday, Oct. 12 from 11am – 1pm at the Hankinson Community Center.

95th Birthday Celebration honoring Lois Breker will be held on Saturday, October 18. Open House from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Coteau Des Prairie Lodge, Havana, ND.

St. Boniface Bazaar Split the Pot Winner was Cindy Jelinek, winning \$633.

You Will Reject Everything Jesus Says in This Gospel

— At First – *Tom Hoopes*

The life of faith is the greatest, most exhilarating life in the world. Sometimes. Other times it is the most tedious, thankless life in the world.

It's supposed to be that way. The Church explains why in Sunday's readings, the Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C.

First, a warning: You may not believe anything Jesus has to say, at first.

First, he says, "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."

Um — I don't know about you, but I can't do that, and I have never known anyone who can. Does that mean we don't have even a smidgeon of faith?

Second, he says, "Who among you would say to your servant who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here immediately and take your place at table'?"

Again, I think most people I know would be happy to give someone a dinner break after hard work in the field. And I am not sure who I know who would give what Jesus says is the expected response to such a servant:

"Prepare something for me to eat. Put on your apron and wait on me while I eat and drink. You may eat and drink when I am finished."

Second: But think again and what Jesus says makes a lot of sense. Take the mustard seed first.

I love St. Thérèse of Lisieux's take on the mustard seed. She wrote, "for a soul whose faith equals but a tiny grain of mustard seed, God works miracles, in order that this faith which is so weak may be fortified; yet for his intimate friends, for his Mother, he did not work miracles until he had put their faith to test."

In other words, according to her, Jesus is not saying, "any amount of faith can do miracles." He is saying, "God is willing to do miracles in order to convince those who are just finding their faith."

That's not the usual way that passage is interpreted, but she's a Doctor of the Church, and it does make sense. If we think back on the early days of our faith, we can remember those kinds of miracles: Obstacles disappeared for us, heaven and earth moved to help us, and we were showered with spiritual favors.

But then, if you think about it, maybe our mature faith does wonders too.

Jesus said faith can uproot mulberry trees and plant them in the sea. My life has had many deep-rooted problems in relationships that seemed unfixable, addictions I thought would grip my life forever, and character defects I was certain would lead to failure. Slowly and steadily, faith has straightened out those relationships, unloosened those addictions, and overwhelmed my defects with grace.

Third: As to the treatment of servants, Jesus truly describes our lives again.

We think we wouldn't tell our tired servants to wait on us, but we probably did exactly that the last time we went to a restaurant and expected quick, cheerful service from a waitress without caring what kind of day she was having.

Or maybe we were the servant he is describing the last time we came home from the office and had to take kids to soccer, run to the bank, fix the faucet, sort out the bills, make dinner, switch the laundry, and answer an overdue work email somehow in the middle of it all.

We don't expect an award for any of it, because we know that our job and our family are worth it. Jesus is simply asking, "Now, how about me? Am I worth it, too?"

Our actions say to our families, "We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do." Can we say that to Our Lord, also?

Fourth: St. Paul tells Timothy how this works.

"Stir into flame the gift of God," he says in the Second Reading. Other translations say "fan into flame the gift of God."

The idea is the same: Stir the dying embers of your faith to get a flicker of flame started. Feed the flicker with enough oxygen to grow it bit by bit into a blaze.

"It is in our power to kindle or extinguish this grace," St. John Chrysostom said about this passage, "As fire requires fuel, so grace requires our diligence, that it may be ever fervent ... By sloth and carelessness it is quenched, and by watchfulness and diligence it is kept alive."

St. Paul describes how to be diligent: "God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control. Do not be ashamed of your testimony in the Lord ... but bear your share of hardship for the Gospel with the strength that comes from God."

In your pursuit of the faith, don't be afraid, don't be indifferent, and don't give up. After you have done your duty to God, do more for God. After you have prayed, serve. After you have served, study. After you have studied, pray more.

Fifth: This Sunday we get a great example of what mustard seed faith looks like.

Don't forget that the whole mustard seed analogy comes in answer to a request of the disciples at the beginning of the Gospel: "Lord, increase my faith."

St. Augustine once pointed out what a mustard seed is most known for. "Nothing is stronger to the taste," he said. "What does that signify but the very great fervor of inner strength of faith in the Church?"

A mustard-seed faith stubbornly believes in Jesus's promise, even in the face of long odds. It's the kind of faith Habakkuk has in the First Reading.

His faith has been stretched to the breaking point by the disaster he sees around him. Fed up with the pain, he says, "How long, O LORD? I cry for help but you do not listen! I cry out to you, 'Violence!' but you do not intervene. Why do you let me see ruin; why must I look at misery?"

That is the kind of prayer God likes: a brutally honest prayer that calls God's bluff. We should pray the same way: "Okay. You're king of the universe and the Lord of my life. I believe it. So why is your universe so messed up and why has my life gone so wrong?"

God's answer will be the same one he gave Habakkuk.

"Write down the vision clearly upon the tablets, so that one can read it readily. For the vision still has its time, presses on to fulfillment, and will not disappoint. If it delays, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late. ... The just one, because of his faith, shall live."

The message: Keep believing, and you will be glad you did. One day, the tree that has sunk its roots into your life will be drowned in a sea of his mercy. Keep doing your duty like an unworthy servant, and God will raise you to the heights.

Sixth: Because our God is the God of glory and the God of the grind.

When life is hard, remember the days when your faith moved mountains. And when life is glorious, rededicate yourself to a hard slog of real action.

Jesus shows us both in the celebration of the Eucharist this Sunday. There, a single round host is elevated above the altar like a mustard seed, and this small thing is declared to be the center of the universe as the priest prays: "All glory and honor is yours, for ever and ever."

After that, the Lord treats his servants the way we least expect to be treated. At communion, he says, "Come here immediately and take your place at table," and we walk toward the altar, where he personally serves us something to eat — his very body, blood, soul and divinity.

He comes to give us a faith that changes everything.

