

# 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)

## November 17, 2024 - 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

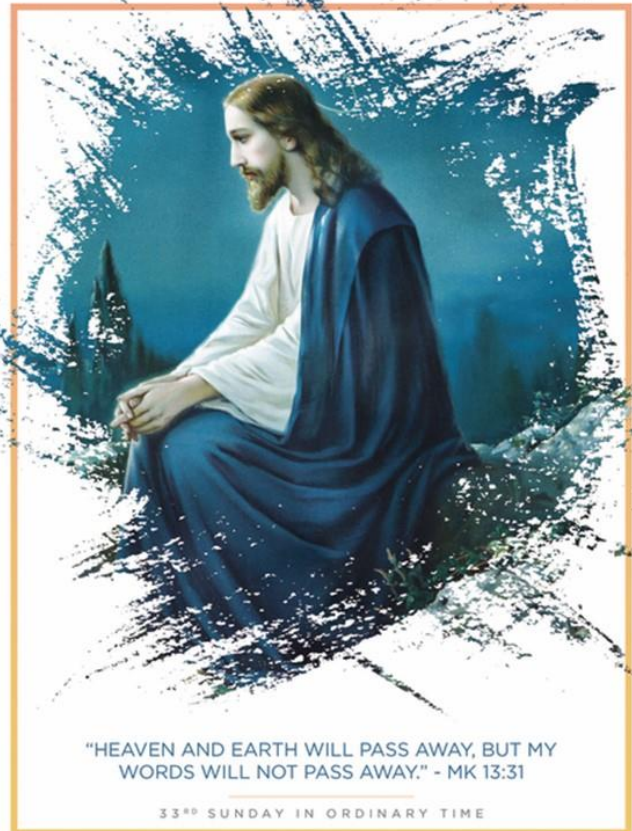
### Why do Catholics pray to Mary and the saints?

One of the statements of faith we make when we pray the Nicene Creed and the Apostles Creed is that we believe in "the communion of saints." The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that this communion (another word for community) includes all the faithful on earth, the souls in Purgatory, and the blessed women, men, and children who are in heaven. This teaching is grounded in our belief that, through Baptism, we are united with Christ and to one another with bonds that are stronger even than death.

And so from the time of the early Church, Christians have turned to other believers for prayers and assistance, including those who have gone before us, confident that God hears the prayers of all of His children. While we ask the saints (and one another) for prayers and support, we remember that the saints join us in prayer. But it is God who blesses and sanctifies us.

When we think of Mary and the saints in heaven, we have to remember that we can turn to them for intercession and assistance because they were faulted, limited human beings, just like us. This means that they are able to understand our struggles, doubts, fears, joys, and hopes. But as we learn their stories, we can also begin to recognize that they stand out in the history of the Church because they persevered in their commitment to follow Christ. Whether they were ordained, vowed religious, martyrs, husbands, wives, or even children, they show us that holiness is possible. We can not only follow their example but also benefit from their prayerful support.

Our devotion to the saints and gratitude for their witness, prayers, and protection should also be an inspiration for us, especially when we become aware of the needs of others or when others ask us to pray for them. We are called to share the blessings we receive. This is also part of our own journey of growing in holiness.



**Daniel 12:1-3**  
**Hebrews 10:11-14, 18**  
**Mark 13:24-32**

**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

## Weekly Mass Schedule



<u>Sunday Liturgies</u>		
Saturday, Nov. 16	<b>5:00 pm</b> (St. B.)	† Henry Biewer
Sunday, Nov. 17	<b>8:30 am</b> (St. B.)	Pro Popula
	<b>10:30 am</b> (St. M.)	Special Intention
	<b>12:00 pm</b> (Sts. P&P)	† Les Kiefer
<u>Weekday Liturgies</u>		
Monday, Nov. 18	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Tuesday, Nov. 19	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Wed., Nov. 20	<b>10:00 am</b> (Dak. Estates)	† Bishop Justin Driscoll
Thursday, Nov. 21	<b>10:00 am</b> (St. B.)	† Mary & Alois Polansky
Friday, Nov. 22	<b>10:00 am</b> (St. B.)	† George Novotny
<u>Sunday Liturgies</u>		
Saturday, Nov. 23	<b>5:00 pm</b> (St. B.)	† John Gaukler
Sunday, Nov. 24	<b>8:30 am</b> (St. B.)	Pro Popula
	<b>10:30 am</b> (St. M.)	† Jerry Riba
	<b>12:00 pm</b> (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:

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** – We are in immediate need for someone to share the 9-10 am, 3-4 pm and 6-7 pm adoration slot. Please contact Sharon at 612-790-1211 or 538-7010 if you are able to help.

Adoration is open to all and is Thursdays from 5am to midnight.

**CCD/CYO** – There will be class this week.

**Cavuga Christian Mothers** will meet on Tuesday, Nov. 19 at 9:30 am.

**Job Opening** – St. Francis Convent in Hankinson is looking for a CNA to help care for their elderly Sisters.

It includes 2-4 evening shifts weekly with additional hours as needed. Contact Sr. Jean Louise at 701-242-7195 or [ndfranciscan@yahoo.com](mailto:ndfranciscan@yahoo.com) if interested.

**Senior Citizens November Birthday Celebration** will be held on Thursday Nov. 21 at the Senior Center. Card games start at 1pm and lunch is at 3pm. Everyone is welcome.

**Night of Prayer for Life** – All are invited to participate on Sunday, Dec. 8 at St. Charles Church in Oakes, beginning at 8pm and concluding at midnight. You may participate in one or more hours as we pray to convert America's heart to cherish life. A sign-up sheet is in the gathering space at St. Boniface. Sign-up deadline is Nov. 24.

**Capital Campaign** – Thanks to all the families who have made their commitments to the campaign. If you have not yet sent in your pledge, please prayerfully consider what you will give to God from the heart.

**Advent Retreat** - Men and women of all ages are invited to join us December 6-8 for an Advent retreat. We will be delving into the inspiring stories of "Our Forebears in Hope" found in scripture. The weekend includes presentations, discussion, sacraments, and times for prayer and reflection. For more information, contact Sr. Christina at [srchristinamarie@scretreats.org](mailto:srchristinamarie@scretreats.org) or 701-242-7195. Online participation is an option.

### **Takeaways From the Readings for the End of the Year ... and the End of Time**

There are 33 years in Jesus' life and 33 weeks in Ordinary Time in the Church. Soon we will celebrate the Feast of Christ the King, and then the cycle starts over with the hope of Advent.

But first comes the Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B, the dramatic end of the liturgical year. The Gospel for the day is dire, insisting that the end really is coming, and we should be ready for it. Here are takeaways from the readings from previous This Sunday columns.

**First: Jesus is revealing the end game of Christianity.**

In the Gospel Jesus speaks about a tribulation, after which "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken." But then "the Son of Man" will come "in the clouds with great power and glory." The angels will be sent out to gather his "elect."

Jesus speaks these words in Holy Week in the Gospel of Mark. Thus, they come at the crisis point in Christ's life, on the eve of his death. He enters Jerusalem in Mark, Chapter 11, and immediately three strange things happen. First, he cleanses the Temple, overturning tables

and chasing away the merchants, then he curses a fig tree for not having fruit.

What follows in Mark's Gospel is Jesus spelling out how those lessons about the Temple and the fig tree will play out in real time. After pressing his case against the Jewish leaders, he uses the symbolic language of Daniel, who was popular in his day, to say that earthly powers will fall and only his power will remain.

And how will his power remain? The Church is the new Temple, and its sacraments are the new Tree of Life that produces fruits in us. The Second Reading explains it: Christ "offered one sacrifice for sins, and took his seat forever at the right hand of God; now he waits until his enemies are made his footstool."

**Second: The lessons Jesus gives here have been distilled in the Catechism's teaching about the Last Judgment.**

Though "Christ the Lord already reigns through the Church," the Catechism says, "all the things of this world are not yet subjected to him." There will be a final assault by the powers of evil, after which will come "the triumph of Christ's kingdom," the Church.

We won't automatically land a place on Jesus's team, however, simply by being members of his Church, St. Ambrose warns.

The darkening of the sun will come because many Catholics will love "this life" more than the next, Ambrose says. "Also the stars, that is, men surrounded by the praise of their fellow Christians, shall fall, as the bitterness of persecution mounts up," he adds, "for so the good are proved and the weak made known."

Sunday's First Reading, from the Book of Daniel, fills in more details. "Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake; some shall live forever; others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace."

Those of us who put ourselves and our own self-aggrandizement at the center of our lives will be banished in our hideousness, while the faithful will "shine brightly" and "shall be like the stars forever."

**But third: We can also take great consolation in this reading.**

In much of the world (and, truth be told, much of the Church) a belief in a benign, automatic afterlife persists. We imagine our loved ones are "in a better place," "looking down on us" and "always with us" while they enjoy whatever they liked most on earth.

The Disney/Pixar movie *Coco* spells out how this works in the popular imagination by imagining a place where the dead party until they are forgotten on earth, and then they disappear. Give this a moment's thought and it is horrifying: It tells us that every soul but a precious few are doomed, because the truth is, we forget most of our own relatives most of the time. Even the best loved family members and most famous celebrities fade into

obscurity and are forgotten. Each of us will be quickly forgotten on earth.

This Sunday's Gospel is far more hopeful. It tells us that no one is forgotten by the one who created us, died for us, and went to prepare a heavenly mansion for us that is more satisfying than the greatest mansions on earth.

**Fourth: It's important to note that this Sunday's Gospel reading is popular among Bible debunkers.**

But at the same time, skeptics see this as a pipe dream, and vocal detractors such as Bart Ehrman propound the theory that this Gospel reading shows that Jesus was mistaken. His words "This generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place," show that Jesus expected this apocalyptic event to happen right away. Later, the theory goes, other Gospel writers had to rewrite the story.

But what Jesus says always has layers of meaning. When he says the fig tree should be fruitful, for instance, he means that the Jewish people should be fruitful, and also that the coming Church should be fruitful, and also that each of us alive in the 21st century should be fruitful. These meanings are not at odds with each other, but in harmony with each other.

Here, his warning about this event has several meanings as well. It is a warning that the Temple faces destruction — which it saw in the year 70 A.D. when the unthinkable happened and the "heavens" housed in the Temple were torn down by attacking Romans. That means his words about "this generation" were literally true for those who heard him the first time — but also true for us, who will not pass into non-existence but will witness these events.

**Fifth: These readings give us a clear To Do List for this time of year.**

Outside our windows, the days are growing darker, the landscape is growing bleaker and winter is looming.

When cold is coming, we stay close to the fire; when darkness is coming, we stay by the light. With judgement coming, we should stay close Christ.

We know how: First, you can't be close to someone you don't talk to. Pray the Rosary every day, go to Adoration each week, and each morning follow the ABCS of prayer.

Second, meet Jesus in his sacraments: Go to confession regularly, especially in Advent, and then receive him in the Blessed Sacrament, savoring his Real Presence in your life.

Third, lead others to Jesus: It's a daily duty to evangelize. Don't believe that people don't want to hear about Jesus; they do. You can even (carefully) evangelize your family members.

After all, Jesus is all that will remain when everything else dies away. And make no mistake: Everything else will die away.