

# Saint Boniface

Catholic Church  
Celebrating 160 Years 1858-2018

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time - - February 7, 2021 - - Cycle B

**“To share the gifts that God has entrusted to us by being Christ to one another, mindful of his unconditional love.”**

Welcome Back to St. Boniface Church Mass  
Saturday 4:00, Sundays 10 am, Noon in French

Please arrive early for check-in time before Mass

Volunteer Ushers & Cleaners needed for Mass

[Voluteersignup.org/497XW](https://voluteersignup.org/497XW)

We will be livestreaming Sunday 10:00 Mass through:

[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/SaintBonifaceCatholicChurch/) page.facebook.com  
SaintBonifaceCatholicChurch

<https://www.facebook.com/SaintBonifaceCatholicChurch/>

## Parish Staff

Parochial Administrator .....frbijum@usfamily.net  
Fr. Biju Mathew

Parish Office Administrative Assistant  
Marge Ridley.....612.379.2761

Director of Music  
Bruce Krolkowski.....612.379.8827

Church Hall .....612.379.2699

Pope John Paul II Catholic School ...612.789.8851

Sacrament of Reconciliation  
Saturdays at 3:30pm in the Chapel (left side of altar)

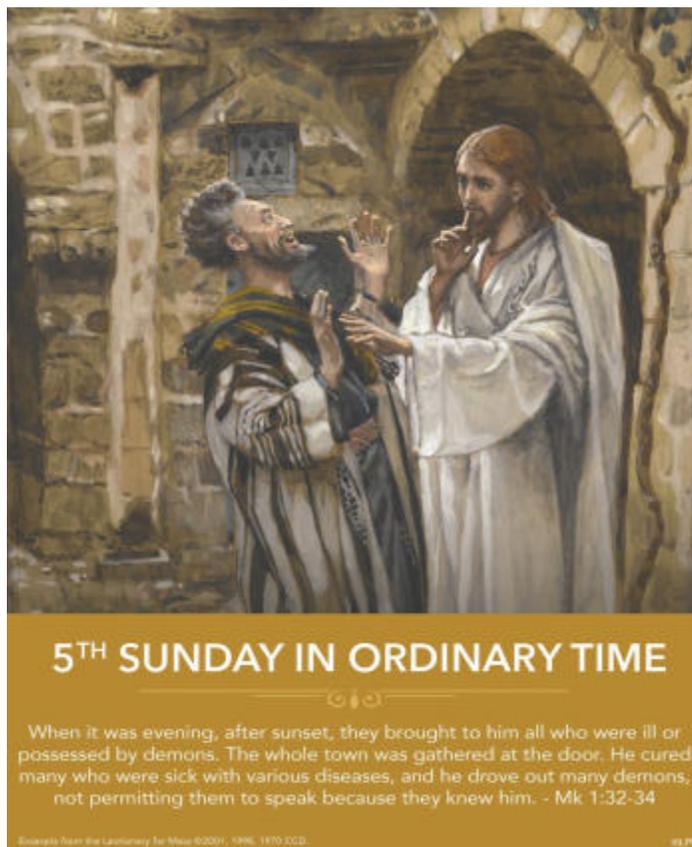
Sacraments of Baptism, Matrimony, and Anointing  
of the Sick:

Please call parish office for information.

## Partners in Prayer

Phone prayer intentions any time to 612.986.3445  
E-mail prayer requests to: [boniface1858@usfamily.net](mailto:boniface1858@usfamily.net)  
St. Boniface, pray for us.

Help us keep the faith for which you gave your life.



## 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him. - Mk 1:32-34

Illustration from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1996, 1970 ICCB

## Saint Boniface Catholic Church

629 - 2nd Street Northeast  
Minneapolis, MN 55413-1905  
Phone: 612-379-2761

[Voluteersignup.org/497XW](https://voluteersignup.org/497XW)

Email: [boniface1858@usfamily.net](mailto:boniface1858@usfamily.net)  
Website: [www.stbonifacempls.org](http://www.stbonifacempls.org)  
Facebook: [SaintBonifaceCatholicChurch](https://www.facebook.com/SaintBonifaceCatholicChurch)  
Francophone website: <https://sites.google.com/site/aumoneriefrancophone/home>



**READINGS for the Week of January 31, 2021**

Sunday: Jb 7:1-4, 6-7 | 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23 | Mk 1:29-39  
 Monday: Gn 1:1-19 | Mk 6:53-56  
 Tuesday: Gn 1:20—2:4a | Mk 7:1-13  
 Wednesday: Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17 | Mk 7:14-23  
 Thursday: Gn 2:18-25 | Mk 7:24-30  
 Friday: Gn 3:1-8 | Mk 7:31-37  
 Saturday: Gn 3:9-24 | Mk 8:1-10  
 Sunday: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46 | 1 Cor 10:31-11:1 | Mk 1:40-45

**PRIVATE CONFESSION**

is always available on Saturdays at 3:30pm in our Chapel  
 (located left side of Altar).

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Saturday, February 6, 2021

4:00pm Frank Water †, John and Jean Seward

Sunday, February 7, 2021

10:00am Esther Ehlers†

St. Boniface Council of Catholic Women

12:00pm (French) All Parishioners

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

9:00am Bob Wrubel (HNS)

Liz and †Bucky Garski (HNS)

Thursday, February 11, 2021

9:00am David Mruz†, Alysha Thielen, Mark Eiler

Saturday, February 13, 2021

4:00pm Bob Wrubel (HNS),

The Stan Patrick Family, Steven† Patrick

Anna Margaret Leitschuh-Hansen†

Sunday, February 14, 2021

10:00am Ray and Mary Rush ††

Members of St. Boniface Council

**Gospel Meditation — 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

If I only knew then what I know now, how different life would be. This sentiment, expressed in myriad ways, is found on every human being's lips at one point or another. Life may have brought us to a vulnerable place where we see some of the poor choices we made and the effects they are having. Perhaps we fell into some destructive and dysfunctional relationships or behaviors and are finding how they held us captive. Our zeal and passion for life may have drifted away and we are waking up to the reasons apathy has taken hold. Life can be hard. In fact, some would describe their lives as a drudgery. They walk through each day with an anxious unsettledness, wondering when their restlessness will cease. There is a temptation to believe that what I see is all I will get. Mortality and hopelessness await the dawn. If I could only have known what would come in the future, I could have made better choices and avoided all of this misery!

Really? While we can certainly give into weakness, sin, impulsiveness, and idiosyncrasies that cause us to stumble over ourselves, life is really a journey. If we don't make the mistake of wallowing in the mire of self-pity and realize the new life God is calling us to, then there are thrills, adventures, surprises, and soul-searching graces we can surely miss. We are not tethered to our past nor are we bound to the ills life can bring upon us. We are never hopeless or helpless. The problem is that our myopic vision only allows us to see the misery and misfortune that is before us, not the potential that can come from choosing healthier and more life-giving options. Jesus came that we might have fullness of life. We need to learn how to reach for Jesus' hand and let him help us to our feet.

We need to allow God into our pain and heal our past. We have to wrestle with our histories, agonize and search and cry out for the Divine healing we need to restore our faith, hope, and love. Job could not see how his story would end or trust the guidance of the God who called him. We live in that same blindness and suffer from the same lack of confidence. Once we allow ourselves to be touched by God's healing power, we begin to see that all of the pieces of our lives are necessary parts of a greater whole. Along the way of our lives, God uses our omissions and failures to create new things and possibilities. When doors close, others open and we can be amazed by the joyful and unexpected surprises we receive. Once we know the power of God's creative, healing, life-giving, forgiving, and dynamic presence, it is no wonder we want to put ourselves at the service of others and show them what life can be.

**LENT Begins Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021**  
**Mass with distribution of ashes: 9:00am and 6:00pm.**

**A CALL TO ACTION**

A Volunteer to help with  
 Maintaining the Church of St. Boniface

St. Boniface Church requires a Building Supervisor with experience in construction or supervision of commercial, public or church facility.

The mission is to identify needs of the parish physical plant, monitor the condition of the building, and manage repairs or maintenance. Responsibility includes: identify needed repairs and manage projects as approved by the finance Council, direct Staff and/or volunteers and get quotes from professional vendors as necessary.

If you have skills or experience, or know of someone who does, and are willing to work on projects or be the Building Supervisor please contact the Parish Office.

**Our Gifts to the Lord \***

**January 31, 2021—\$ 2,489.50**

**Thank You for sharing your treasures!**

\* includes on-line giving

## CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL FOUNDATION 20 Ministries - "Together in Hope"

Thanks to past donations to the Catholic Services Appeal Foundation (CSAF), children, young adults, families, the elderly and individuals have experienced God's peace and dignity. As we journey into a new year, Together in Hope, we partner with fellow Catholics to share Christ's love with neighbors in need through ministries that serve the poor, support life and strengthen the Faith.

In 2020, despite many challenges,

the Designated Ministries of the CSAF:

Supported the ill and dying through hospital chaplains, including the local Covid anointing corps.

Doubled the amount of people fed through the Society of St. Vincent de Paul-Twin Cities, feeding an average of 12,000 people each week.

Provided Catholic school students with a sense of normalcy via in-person learning and over a million dollars in scholarships.

Your support for the CSAF provides joy, hope and healing to neighbors in need. From seminarians to the destitute in Venezuela, young mothers to deaf Catholics and the imprisoned, hundreds of thousands are impacted by your gift.

Please commit to making a difference as you are best able. Help create a better future for all by giving to the 20 Designated Ministries of the Catholic Services Appeal. Visit [www.GiveCSAF.org](http://www.GiveCSAF.org) today to share with those in need. Thank you for your prayerful consideration to support the most vulnerable among us.

With gratitude and prayers for God's blessings,  
Chad Trochilil, CSAF President

Jennifer Beaudry, CSAF Executive Director

P.S. Please take a moment to learn more about our independent foundation and the 20 Designated Ministries it funds, in the enclosed brochure and online at [www.CSAFSPM.org](http://www.CSAFSPM.org).

### ASH WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 17, 2021

This is a Day of Fast and Abstinence

Rev. Tilmann Pesch: *"As on the Cross the death of Jesus overcame sin... so the Christian, in union with Jesus, mortifies himself to perfect his reconciliation with God."*

On Ash Wednesday, we are reminded that our journey on Earth will end. As a cross made of ashes is traced on our foreheads, we are charitably admonished: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." If we prepare, by living rightly, for this awe filled, eternity-defining moment of death, we can hope to confidently face it like St. Paul: *"...the time of my dissolution is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."*

### Fast and Abstinence During Lent

Abstinence—Catholics 14 years of age and older must abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent. Fasting—Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 inclusive are required to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On these days one full meal is allowed. Food may be taken at two other times during the day, in order to maintain strength according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted.

## Did You Know? From Our Venezuelan Mission "Blind and Blessed"

Laying down a strong rhythmic intro on his guitar, Javier called the congregation to stand and join him in the opening song. It was his third Mass of the day...nothing unusual for Javier. Need someone to lead music for a Mass or some other event? Call Javier. If he isn't busy teaching groups of kids in our barrios to play the cuatro, on his shift as DJ at a local radio station or at his job as professor of culture at a center downtown, Javier is ready and willing. Only thing...you need to pick him up or arrange for someone to walk with him. You see, Javier was born blind.

Hector Javier Manzana Diaz entered the world, the second of four kids in his family, on a typically warm Venezuelan January day in 1979. "Was being blind much of an impediment for you growing up?" I ask him. "No," he replied, "I never knew anything different. It was my normal." And normal it was with no special treatment in his family. "I did everything my brother and sisters did." He particularly liked playing hide and seek. "I couldn't see them, so I figured they couldn't see me!"

Javier attended a special school for blind children where he learned to read and write in braille along with other basic studies. It was his always positive enthusiastic nature and love of music from early on, however, that gave more definition to the Javier he would become. "My mom was musical," he told me, crediting her as his inspiration. By the time he was twelve, Javier had mastered the cuatro, the Venezuelan ukulele, with its complex rhythms and was accompanying music groups at competitions. It was his Confirmation shortly after his 19th birthday in 1998, however, that catapulted Javier into a life of service to God and the church. He took his sacramental commitment seriously and began playing at Mass every weekend. "That when I learned to play the guitar," Javier told me, and play the guitar he did, not only at church but also accompanying the priests with monthly mini-rallies at each of the local public schools.

There was a blind fellow at St. Pius X in White Bear Lake where I served in the early 1980s who had lost his sight from an explosion during the Korean War. "Father" he told me one day, "in a way I can see people better than you can." "How is that?" I asked. "Before I was blinded, I paid a lot of attention to people's appearance. That doesn't distract me anymore. Now when people speak with me I see them as they are in their heart."

That is true of Javier as well. It doesn't matter to him what a person looks like. Lacking sight, he has greater insight into people's true character. Given the challenges he faces, there's another gift Javier has developed as a compensation for his blindness...he has the best memory of anyone I know. His instant recall of lyrics and chords for hundreds of songs is remarkable. So is his memory for dates and events. I am amazed at his voice recognition and how he seems to remember the name of everyone he's ever met. "I thank God for everything in my life," he said in summary, "for all the good things and the difficult ones as well."

### Points to ponder . . .

Close your eyes and imagine what it would be like to be blind. How well do you think you would adjust? What are the skills and challenges you would have to face?

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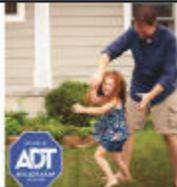
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