



# *Saint Boniface*

CATHOLIC CHURCH

**MARCH 14, 2021**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

## **OUR MISSION**

Christ Jesus, you call us together as a parish to sow and nurture the seeds of God's saving love in the hearts and minds of all our neighbors and beyond by living your gospel.

## **OUR VISION**

Christ Jesus, bless us as you blessed our patron, St. Boniface, so that, by carrying out the mission entrusted to us, our parish will yield a bountiful harvest of passionate disciples, united to you by the sacraments and sent by you to further your mission.



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## **OUR VALUES**

Christ Jesus, enable us to reap this bountiful harvest by staying rooted in the "good soil" of the basic principles in which we as a parish believe.

- We are a parish who prays, studies, and acts in accord with the Scriptures and the traditions of the Catholic Church and the Diocese of Erie.
- We are a parish who stands firmly on the foundation of our past;
- We are a parish who understands and responds to the changing needs of all families today;
- We are a parish who welcomes and enjoys fellowship with all people;
- We are a parish who lives within our means and exercises responsible stewardship of the resources entrusted to us;
- We are a parish who works together as God's family for the good of all, putting our common mission above all else.

This we pray, in your name. Amen.

St. Boniface, pray for us.

**9367 Wattsburg Road • Erie, PA 16509-6031**

Visit [www.stbonifaceparisherie.org](http://www.stbonifaceparisherie.org) for daily updates on St. Boniface events.

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH  
CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY (cont.)

“The Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, ‘Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?’ They were testing him. He said to them in reply, ‘What did Moses command you?’ They replied, ‘Moses permitted him to write a bill of divorce and dismiss her.’ But Jesus told them, ‘Because of the hardness of your hearts Moses wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation ‘God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate” (Mark 10:2-9).



In the above reading, Jesus reaffirms and sanctifies what we refer to as the essential qualities or characteristics of marriage: exclusivity and permanence. While marriage has been understood differently in different cultures and different times throughout history, every society has recognized that men and women are meant to enter into a special relationship that in the English language we call marriage. In time, and by the light of God’s revelation, we in the Judeo-Christian tradition have come to recognize that the special relationship we call marriage is meant to be between only one man and only one woman, which is what we mean by exclusivity. Each person gives him or herself completely over to the other to form one new life, one new “flesh”, one new family, together. That leaves nothing on the side for other romantic or sexual relationships, something most people today still recognize.

In time, by the light of God’s revelation, we have also come to understand the special relationship of marriage to be permanent. It is meant to endure for life, “until death do us part”, and only the death of one of the spouses can end it. Many societies, including the United States, have largely lost a sense of the permanence of marriage, with widespread divorce, but that is contrary to God’s plan, as Jesus again teaches and affirms. Marriage is not meant to be until one or both parties decide it’s over; that’s called dating or courtship, which has gone out of style in the age of the “hook-up” culture, the rush to sexual activity in relationships, and the widespread practice of cohabitation before and increasingly in place of marriage. The special relationship of marriage calls the couple to more, to a lifelong commitment to each other and to God that can only be dissolved by death.

I don’t say this to make anyone feel bad or guilty about their own relationships. In the Tribunal Office, I work with people every day who have gone through the pain of divorce, and I have no desire to pile more pain on top of that - and neither does Jesus, who teaches us about

marriage’s exclusivity and permanence. But the path to healing for divorced persons and to stronger and healthier marriages for others does not lead through the denial of the truth. I’ll talk more about the difficult situation of divorced persons in a future column, but please know my affirmation of Jesus’ teaching of the exclusivity and permanence of marriage in no way is meant as an affront to our fellow parishioners who are divorced or even divorced and remarried. Please stay tuned to learn of ways the Church wants to help you move forward with your lives if you are in that situation, and please don’t hesitate to call me for any help you may need.

Given the prevalence of divorce today, we may think the exclusivity and permanence of marriage are impossible to live out. I would contend, in the Year of St. Joseph, we can look to Joseph and his wife, Mary, as examples of both exclusivity and permanence. All the evidence we have points to the fact that Joseph and Mary were faithful to each other for life. We believe by faith that Mary was ever-virgin, and we believe by extension that Joseph himself also observed perpetual sexual abstinence as Mary’s spouse as they each committed themselves fully to their divine mission of raising the Son of God by supporting one another. One strand of Christian thought speculates that Joseph may have had a prior spouse, thus explaining how Jesus had brothers and sisters (Mark 6:3), but the gospels do not say this, and there are several reasons to question it. Regardless, we have no evidence that Joseph had multiple wives or lovers and much evidence to the contrary that he was fully committed throughout his life to Mary and Jesus, the strongest being at the very beginning when he intended to divorce Mary, who was pregnant before they lived together, but changed his mind because of the message of the angel, and the numerous times God called Joseph to change the whole course of his life for Mary and Jesus, all of which he did faithfully without complaint. Joseph is the epitome of a faithful husband and father, despite the unique situation of the Holy Family, and all families, traditional or otherwise, can learn much from Joseph’s total, lifelong commitment to his spouse and family.

*Fr. Marc Stockton*

**STAFF**

- Rev. Marc Stockton, JCL ..... *Pastor*
- Rev. Mister Timothy G. Good ..... *Permanent Deacon*
- Jeanne Yaple ..... *Faith Formation Director*
- Sandee Krivonak ..... *Business Manager*
- Melanie Kennerknecht ..... *Parish Secretary*
- Brooke Lander ..... *Pre-School Director*

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday-Friday ..... 9:00a.m.-1:30p.m.

**DIRECTORY**

- Parish Office ..... 825-4439
- Pre-School ..... 528-3810
- Center ..... 825-8101
- Hall Rental ..... 825-4439
- Parish Website ..... [www.stbonifaceparisherie.org](http://www.stbonifaceparisherie.org)
- Pastor ..... [pastor@stbonifaceparisherie.org](mailto:pastor@stbonifaceparisherie.org)
- General Office ..... [secretary@stbonifaceparisherie.org](mailto:secretary@stbonifaceparisherie.org)
- Business Office ..... [finance@stbonifaceparisherie.org](mailto:finance@stbonifaceparisherie.org)
- Religious Ed. .... [faithformation@stbonifaceparisherie.org](mailto:faithformation@stbonifaceparisherie.org)
- Pre-School ..... [preschool@stbonifaceparisherie.org](mailto:preschool@stbonifaceparisherie.org)

## ~PRESCHOOL NEWS~

**Proverbs 3:5-6** <sup>5</sup>Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

The teachers at St. Boniface are self-less, giving, and kind individuals. They share their knowledge and love they have for teaching with their students each day. Many of us have teachers to thank for who we've grown into today. This month I would like to feature one of our newest teachers, Miss Amy!

### **February's Teacher Feature:**

My name is Amy Mong aka Miss Amy. I started working at St. Boniface Preschool in September 2020. I am the lead teacher in the 4-year-old pre-K classroom. Prior to working at St. Boniface, I worked in a YMCA preschool program for 5 years as a teacher's aide. I also worked hard during that time to earn my CDA (child development associate). I love working with children because they brighten up every day! I love how their little minds work and excited they get when learning something new! I especially love working at St. Boniface Preschool because all the staff work together like a great family unit! I feel at home here!

My favorite scripture is:

*Hebrews 13: 6* "Let your faith be bigger than your fear." Because being afraid can get you nowhere in life. *We here at St. Boniface are Thankful for Miss Amy and her dedication to our school and our families.*

### **Preschool Enrollment News:**

Our Preschool is HAPPY to say that there has been a heightened interest in our programs and space is VERY limited, especially in our Pre-K (4 yr. old) program. Families who are currently enrolled in our programs had the opportunity to re-enroll their children for the summer program and the 2021/2022 school year. We thank these families who had faith in our mission and our preschool! Without these current families and the support from St. Boniface Parish, our program would not have survived this tumultuous year trying to keep afloat during a global pandemic. I THANK ALL that believed in this program. Without you we would never have been able to continue.

If you or someone you know is seeking a quality preschool program or looking for more information about the "specialness" that is St. Boniface Preschool, please visit "St. Boniface Preschool" on Facebook for the most up-to-date marketing information, teacher information and virtual tours of our school! We are currently accepting 2 yr. old and 3 yr. old children. \*\*Please note there is currently a wait list for our Pre-K (4 yr. old) program. \*\* Enrollment forms from non-enrolled families will be accepted beginning Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. Forms are available on the St. Boniface Parish website. Students will be accepted in the order of our ever-growing list and as completed paperwork is received. If you would like any additional info please contact, Brooke Lander.

### **Fundraiser:**

**Country Meat Beef Sticks** are for sale for \$1.00 per stick in a variety of flavors. Purchase yours at the church office or the preschool office. All proceeds directly benefit the preschool.

**Daffin's Candy Orders:** Orders will be delivered and available for pick up from Coleman Hall on Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup> 3:00-5:00 PM. If you need to make other arrangements or would like your order left at the church office please contact Brooke Lander, preschool director.

### **Important Dates:**

**Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>:** Daylight Savings Time Begins, spring clocks ahead 1 hour

**Monday, March, 15<sup>th</sup>:** Snow Make-up day: School IN session

**Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>:** Daffin's Easter Candy Delivered.

**Wednesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>:** Family Church Day at 9:15 AM in the church sanctuary and Preschool Easter Egg hunt will take place during school hours.

**Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup> to Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup>:** Easter Break/NO School

**Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>:** Preschool IN session/Covid-19 Make-up Day: 3 of 3 due to closure in November

Be Grateful in all things and God Bless,  
Brooke Lander, St. Boniface Preschool Director  
814-824-4439 ext. 222

[Preschool@stbonifaceparisherie.org](mailto:Preschool@stbonifaceparisherie.org)

**EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS~** Reminder to fill out your Easter Flower Memorial envelopes in memory of your loved ones. This is a great way for family members and friends to be remembered at Easter time. Turn in your envelopes to the parish office or in the collection basket at Saturday or Sunday Mass. You may now submit your Easter Flower Memorial envelopes in memory of loved ones online! This is a beautiful way for family members and friends to be remembered at Easter time. Please visit <https://www.osvhub.com/stbonifaceparisherie/forms/easter-> and make your memorial donation by March 29th. Thank You.

### **CALLING ALL THOSE WHO ARE ENGAGED IN SOCIAL SERVICES~**

We are looking for guidance from parishioners involved in local social services to determine which agencies are most effective in meeting the needs of their clients. Please call the parish office and leave your contact information, and Marty Kosiorek will be in touch.

**CONGRATULATIONS~** Mary Winkler was the winner of the \$100 Early Bird Drawing.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS~** Will be held every Thursday during Lent at 6p.m. in the Church. All are welcome to attend.

**SANCTUARY CANDLE LIT IN MEMORY~** The Sanctuary Candle is lit this week in memory of **Mario Joseph Pisano** from **Vic Pisano**.

## ~FAITH FORMATION NEWS~

*But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God. ~John 3:23*

Prayer to Saint Joseph

*March 19, 2021, the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our tribulation, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities. O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.

### ~Upcoming News and Events~

*Remember to check your emails and visit the Church for this Lenten season's family-based weekly activities, prayers, and reflections.*

**March In-Person Confessions** are scheduled this month for appropriate grade levels/families throughout the Lenten Season from 9-10:15: 3/14 Grades 3/4/5; 3/21 Grades 6/7/8; 3/28 Extra day, if needed\*

3/19 The Solemnity of St. Joseph: Remember to continue your Family's Novena, visit Our Church's St. Joseph statue, or even offer a Lily this week!

### **First Holy Communion Class**

3/14 \*Weekly Retreat Activities begin via email!

Week 1: Prayer

3/21 Sacrament Prep Session: Virtual Class, 9:30-10:15  
Retreat Week 2: The Mass

3/28 At-Home Retreat Activity, Retreat Week 3: The Gift of the Eucharist Lesson #6: My First Eucharist Book

**Light and Love,  
Jeanne Yaple**

### **The Word of God this Week ~Loyola Press:**

Gospel Reading, John 3:14-21 Jesus tells Nicodemus that the Son of Man will be raised up so that those who believe in him will have eternal life.

**FAMILY CONNECTION~** Parents whose children are afraid of the dark are struck by John's observation that darkness is preferred to light. Perhaps this is as it should be. God made us to live in the light of his love. But this original friendship with God was corrupted by sin. Our sin causes us to shy away from Christ, the light that has come into the world. During the season of Lent, we try to fight this tendency by remembering God's great mercy and the salvation that we have received through Jesus. We do not fear confessing our sins, knowing that God forgives us, and so, during Lent, we seek out opportunities to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

After your family gathers, sit for a time in darkness, then light a candle. Invite people to talk about what it felt like to be in the darkness and to compare that to their feelings when the candle was lit. What are we able to see by the limited glow of the candlelight that we couldn't see when we were sitting in darkness? Read today's Gospel, John 3:14-21. John's Gospel teaches us that Jesus was the light that came into the world. In this light, we know ourselves to be sinners, but we are not condemned. Instead, we have been saved because we have been forgiven through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Conclude in prayer together, thanking God for the great gift of forgiveness we have received through Jesus. Pray together the Act of Contrition.

A Special Congratulations to the students who received First Reconciliation Sunday, March 7, 2021! Let them always remember that Christ's light is always shining bright for them along life's journey!

### **We would like to thank:**

Our families and parents for all they do in guiding and preparing their children, and all who came to celebrate and pray with us.

Pastor, Father Marc Stockton

Faith Formation Director, Jeanne Yaple

Catechist, Steve O'Donnell

Melanie Kennerknecht, for the production of certificate

Dottie Wagner, taking care of our Church



The Solemnity of St. Joseph is Friday, March 19. Faith Formation invites you to stop by and pick up materials for your Family's St. Joseph Novena, visit Our Church's St. Joseph statue, or even offer a Lily this week to celebrate!

**CHURCH DECORATING~** Please help us decorate the Church for Easter at 6:00PM on Good Friday, April, 2. We need many hands to carry the white lighted swags from the downstairs storage room to hang by the pillars in the Church Body. The white swags are already steamed and ready to hang. What a great opportunity for the youth of the Parish to earn service hours! Thank you and God bless you!



## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

**Monday, March 15, Lenten Weekday**  
No Mass Today

**Tuesday, March 16, Lenten Weekday**  
8:00 a.m. **Fritz & Detta George**  
(Kathy & Kevin)

**Wednesday, March 17, Lenten Weekday/ St. Patrick**  
8:00 a.m. **Kristine Shewfelt**  
(Karen & Mark Omniewski)

**Thursday, March 18, Lenten Weekday / St. Cyril of Jerusalem**  
8:00 a.m. **Joseph Anthony Pisano**  
(Vic Pisano)

**Friday, March 19, Saint Joseph Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
8:00 a.m. **Brian Biletnikoff**  
(Family)

**Saturday, March 20, Lenten Weekday**  
8:00 a.m. **Margaret Lorei**  
(Sister Lillian and Family)

5:00 p.m. **Edward Mroz**  
(David & Pat Devine)

**Sunday, March 21, Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
7:30 a.m. **Living and Deceased Members of St. Boniface Parish**

10:30 a.m. **Dolores Jagodinski**  
(Ed & Judy Bitters)

### RECONCILIATION

Saturday.....4:15-4:45 p.m.  
(and anytime by appointment)

### ~Week of February 28, Collection~

Adult .....\$8,781.00  
Loose.....\$35.00  
Catholic Service Appeal .....\$10,686.00  
Rice Bowl.....\$140.00  
Solemnity of Mary .....\$10.00

*~Thank you to those who use their envelopes regularly and to all who have increased their offerings.~*

### ST. BONIFACE PARISH OUTREACH FOR THOSE IN NEED~

St. Boniface Parish is answering the question, "What can I do to help?" The parish office has obtained a list of social service agencies designed to assist those in financial need. Call the office if your family needs help or if you know of a family who needs help (825-4439).

**BAPTISMAL CLASS~** New parents are required to take a Baptismal preparation class prior to having their first child baptized. Parents who have already attended baptism class and kept documentation of that attendance do not need to take the classes more than once. Please call the parish office for class dates or check the weekly bulletin for upcoming classes. There is a class being held at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, on Monday, April 5th at 7:00p.m. in the school. Please call the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Office at 825-7313 to register.

### ~LECTOR~

**SATURDAY- March 20**  
5:00 p.m. D. Golombieski

**SUNDAY- March 21**  
7:30 a.m. G. Stanton  
10:30 a.m. J. Bitters

### ~ALTAR SERVER~

**SATURDAY- March 20**  
5:00 p.m. C. Driscoll

**SUNDAY- March 21**  
7:30 a.m. Need Volunteer  
10:30 a.m. E. Whitefors

**CHURCH CLEANING~** Heavenly dusters this week are: **Jean Conn, John Giewont, Vicki Zboyovski, Judy Bitters and Gerry Tomczak.** May God bless them in their faithful work.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS~** Your response was so great, we are sold out. THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH. WISHING YOU ALL GOOD LUCK.

Extending Prayers to our First Communion Class. May God bless them and their Families.

Our next meeting will be moved to April 8th, April 1 being Holy Thursday. Hope to see you there.

Sunday, April 4 is our regular Rosary Sunday, However this will be Easter Sunday, so we will be moving our Rosary Sunday to April 11. We will be including our First Communion Class in our praying of the rosary April 11. Please join us.

The Knight's will be collecting non perishable food items throughout Lent. There is a box at the bottom of the stairs before you go into the gathering space. Thank you for your donations.

**I AM A KNIGHT!** We are Catholic men building a bridge back to faith. There is much work to be done in this world. Good work. Necessary work. And that's what the Knights do. Every day. Assisting the sick and disabled. Protecting those who can't protect themselves. Weather they are next door or halfway around the world. This is the journey we are on. We do it to be better husbands, fathers, sons, neighbors and Catholics. We invest our time, our effort, and our resources into our values: Charity, Unity, Fraternity, Patriotism. We come from many places and backgrounds and stages of our lives but we are all of one faith. A fraternity of men striving to better ourselves and our world. It's one thing to say who you are, it's another to live it, to put your values into action. That's what we do at the Knights of Columbus. That's who we are!

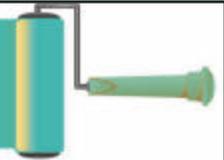
### ~BULLETIN DEADLINE FOR EASTER~

Easter is approaching fast and with it comes early deadlines for the bulletin. They are as follows:

For **Sunday, March 28, 2021**, articles are due  
**Monday, March 22, 2021.**

For **Sunday, April 4, 2021**, articles are due  
**Friday, March 26, 2021.**

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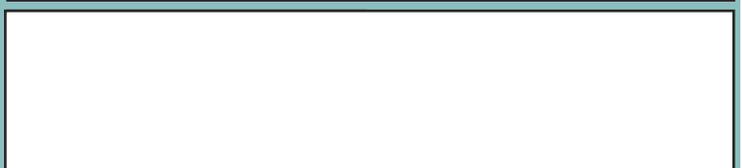
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