

St. Boniface Parish Family Newsletter

Summer 2019



Dear Brothers and Sisters —

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of the parish newsletter. A lot has happened during the last quarter, and together we will be adjusting to some changes in the near future, such as the new Sunday Mass schedule.

Changes guided by openness and prayer lead to personal and parish growth. As we explore growth with the San Carlos Community, let us personally encourage each other to grow in faith, inspiration, and joy.

Peace and love,

Fr. Joe

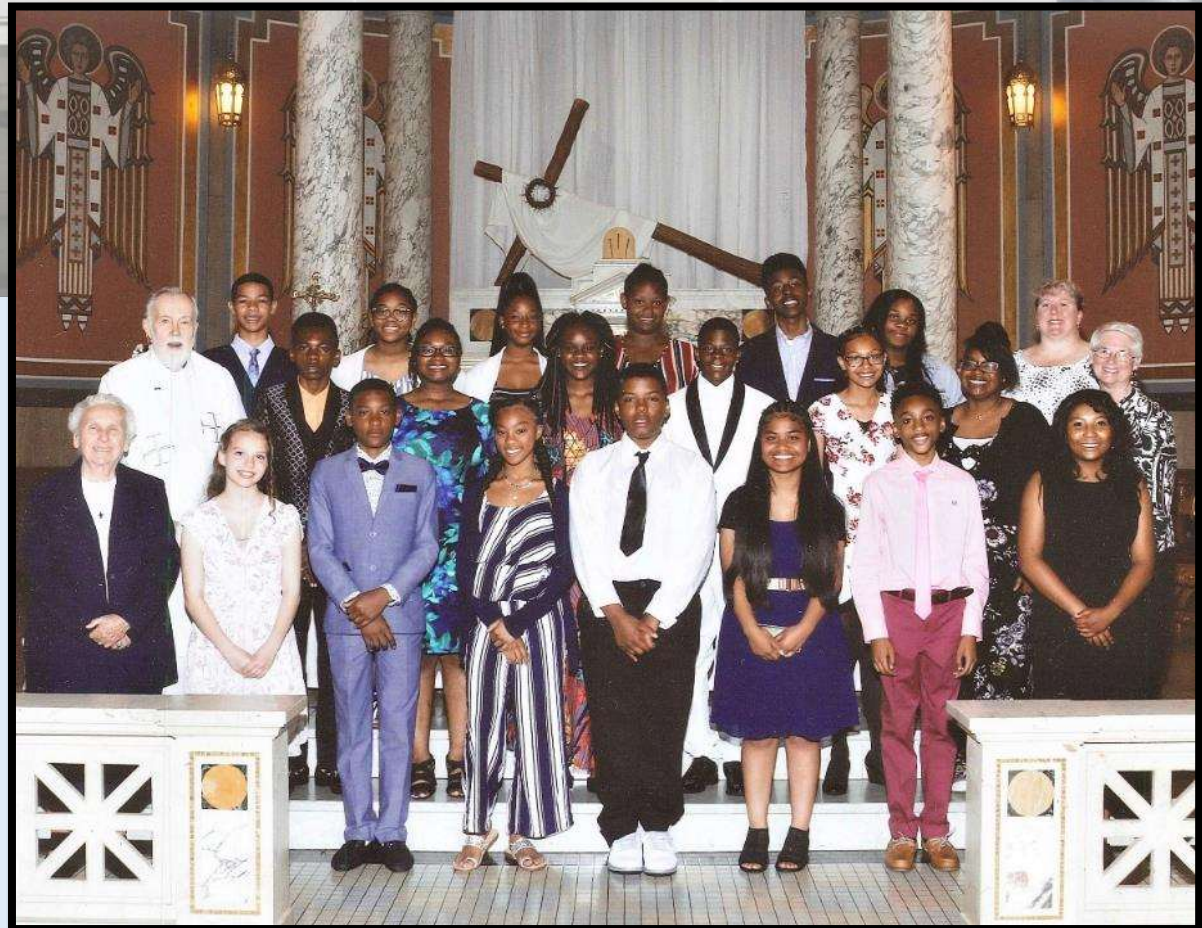


Madeline Faith Nintrup and Abigail Rayne Randolph
made their First Holy Communion on May 10

Happenings

ST. BONIFACE SCHOOL

**St. Boniface students
Nia Buchannon and MiKaylah Jewell
crowned Mary with flowers
at May Crowning.**



Congratulations to St. Boniface Class of 2019!

Happenings



Ordained May 30, 1964

Fr. Joe celebrated his 55th anniversary of priestly ordination. *Congratulations, Father, and thank you!*



As part of an evangelization project with area Christian churches, parishioners went door-to-door in Northside to hand out a film about the life of Jesus. Thanks to everyone who volunteered!



Angie Homoelle, Coordinator of the Caregiver Assistance Network-Catholic Charities, provided valuable information at the Health & Wellness Ministry's July Meet-and-Greet. If you have additional questions about caregiving or caregiver support, please feel free to call Angie at 513-672-3834 or visit www.ccswoh.org/caregivers.

Happenings



On June 15, the San Carlos Hispanic Community held their first Spanish-language Mass here at St. Boniface. Our Lady of Guadalupe, patron saint of the Americas, was specially honored.

Inspiration

Prayer is living from the mystery of faith “in a vital and personal relationship with the living and true God.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2558) But what about when you hit a dry spot? Your mind *wants* to pray, but sometimes your heart feels as parched as old lava rock. How do you get over an arid patch?

1. Don't give up. Spending time talking with and listening to God maintains our relationship with Him, even if we don't get warm feelings from it. Sometimes we aren't in the mood to talk with our spouse either, but we do so because it is vital to our marriage. The same is true of our relationship with God.
2. Before you start to pray, ask the Holy Spirit to lead you and give you strength and perseverance.
3. If your heart is empty of inspiration and your mind is a blank, use the words of others to pray in vocal prayer. Say the Our Father and Hail Mary. Read the beautiful words of the bible such as some of the psalms of praise (e.g., 95, 98, 150).
4. Pray with others at Mass and Holy Hour. The faith of our parish family will help inspire you.
5. Examine your conscience. Be honest with yourself and dig deep to try to identify if something brought on the dry spell. Maybe some hurt or hidden anger at God is undermining your faith.



Prayer and faith can move mountains.

My husband changed; he wasn't the man I had married. We divorced after 30 years, and he married someone else.

I had to rebuild my life. But to me, I was still married in God's eyes. I still loved my husband despite the inevitable feelings of pain and betrayal. My faith helped see me through. And all those years I kept praying that my husband would seek the Lord's love and forgiveness.

My husband was sick for a long time, but he didn't tell anyone. Then he was also diagnosed with coronary artery disease and lung cancer. He was gravely ill. I prayed all the harder, and I asked my fellow St. Boniface parishioners to urgently pray for him at Mass and through the prayer chain. He wasn't baptized, and time was running out as his health rapidly declined.

One day when I visited him in the hospital, I asked if he would agree to be baptized. Several days later, I asked again, *and he said yes*. I picked up Fr. Joe and drove him to the hospital. There, Father heard my husband's confession, he baptized him, gave him Holy Communion, confirmed him, and gave him the anointing of the sick. He wept aloud as Father finished, and said, "I feel so different." Father told him that's how he was supposed to feel. I knew God had set him free and filled him with the Holy Spirit!

My husband lived for 19 days after that blessed day. Our children and I took him home and cared for him. I brought Holy Communion to him almost every day. He would just smile. He passed away on March 21, 2019, with all of us around him, telling him to be with Jesus. He was at peace.

As long as a person has breath, there is hope. So ***never, never*** give up praying for someone's soul and believing in God's goodness and mercy.

Amen, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it shall be done for him. Therefore I tell you, all that you ask for in prayer, believe that you will receive it and it shall be yours. (Mark 11:23-24)

(Many thanks to parishioner LaVerne Washam for sharing her testimony in order to encourage us in prayer.)

Living our Faith

Along with backyard picnics and afternoons at the pool, another summer tradition is cleaning out the garage. And when you think about it, garage cleaning is a good analogy for sprucing up your spiritual life!

Isn't it amazing how inanimate objects can spontaneously multiply in a year's time? Haul all those empty Amazon cartons, bicycles, flower pots, sports equipment, and yard tools into the driveway. Then hose down the garage floor and scrub it with a broom. Make sure to clear the dark corners of cobwebs and old leaves. We can use this same cleaning process to grow spiritually. Each night, sort through and examine all the activities and interactions of the day. Could you have been kinder or more loving? Are there "dark corners" of sin that need to be cleansed through the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

... there will be more room for God.

Ok, step back and look at your hard work. Don't you love how clean and spacious the garage is? Now there is room for what is really important, like the car! Similarly, if we create space in our lives and hearts, there will be more room for God.

Don't even think about mindlessly piling all that stuff in the driveway back into the clean garage! The next step is to sort through and make decisions about what to keep. Likewise, in our spiritual lives, we need to identify what is good and true that helps us grow. We don't want to automatically fall back into the same old habitual sins.

Now, examine each item before putting it back in the garage. Probably many things are in good shape but are just extras.

How about donating these items and thus help out a neighbor? Sometimes it can feel scary to give away possessions. But letting go of our security blanket of stuff is good practice for trusting more in God.



Living our Faith

There are so many tasks—big and small, visible and behind the scenes—that all add up to a smoothly running parish. St. Boniface is blessed to have many volunteers who give of their time and talent, and we are very grateful.



Judy Horn and her husband Ken have been members of the parish for many years. You may know Judy as the voice leading the Rosary in church after daily Mass. Come pray with her. Everyone is welcome!

Judy also helps the parish by being part of one of our collection counting teams. There are four teams of two or more parishioners who rotate coming on Monday mornings to count the weekend collection. This system is a good accounting procedure and maintains financial transparency.

And every week, Judy helps the parish staff empty the votive light offering boxes and count those donations. This is a time-consuming task but a very necessary one.

Thanks, Judy, for your service, and thanks to all of our amazing volunteers! Keep up the good work serving our Lord and our parish family.

Spring Mystery Photo ~ Solution

The answer to the spring newsletter mystery photo: The St. Boniface statue above the church's main entrance.



*St. Boniface, great martyr of faith,
pray for us.*

Parishioner Jerry Oberjohann correctly identified the mystery photo and is the winner of the spring drawing. Congratulations! He has been a member of St. Boniface almost his whole life. He went to school here, and he and his wife Marian were married here in 1981. Jerry and Marian are both retired, and they have started up their own travel agency, MOJO Travel Partners, LLC.



Mystery Photo ~ Summer Edition

Stroll through the parish grounds, look around Church, or take a tour in your memory if you are homebound. Do you recognize what this photo is and where it is located?

Send your answers to
stbonifaceneewsletter@gmail.com
or mail to Mystery Photo, 1750
Chase Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio
45223. Please include your
name.



A drawing from correct answers will be held in October. The full photo along with the name of the winning contestant will be revealed in the next issue of the newsletter.

Have fun sleuthing!

To conserve resources, this colorful newsletter is designed to be viewed on screen rather than in print. Please share with fellow parishioners who may not have a computer.

We welcome your comments and suggestions: stbonifaceneewsletter@gmail.com