



St. Boniface Parish Family Newsletter

Winter 2018/19



Dear Brothers and Sisters –

Choose life! These two simple words say so much. They speak of hope and love. They speak of respect for God's creation. As Catholics, we believe in the right to and dignity of life in all its forms and at every age.

The beautiful season of Christmas, just concluded, is a special celebration of life. Mary chose life and gave birth to Jesus our Savior. St. Joseph showed respect for life by embracing the responsibility of foster fatherhood. And Jesus took on the form of human life so that He could give us all the hope of eternal life.



Respect for life is at the core of all that our Health & Wellness Ministry does for our parish and for the larger community. Please read about their service in this newsletter. I thank them for their dedication.

Happy 2019!

Peace and love,
Fr. Joe



Happenings



In preparation for Christmas, a beautiful parish penance service was held in December, with hymns, prayers, and Scripture readings. Fr. Joe and Bishop Binzer then heard individual confessions.



This year's St. Boniface School Fine Arts Musical Production was "Christmas Around the World" and featured students in grades 2, 3, and 4. It was a great performance!



We celebrated Christmas with joy. Glory to the newborn King!

Happenings



Work on the parking lot expansion continued, and despite various setbacks, the new parking spaces will be available soon!



The St. Boniface Fall Festival was a success, thanks to the dedicated work of many volunteers, people who donated, business sponsors, and those who spent money for a great cause.

Inspiration

Do I have to go to Mass every Sunday? God hears my prayers wherever I am.

True, you can pray anywhere and everywhere, but Mass is such a fabulous treasure—a priceless gift—that if only everyone knew about it or gave it thought, our church building wouldn't be big enough to hold everyone.

For Catholics, there is no religious service more important than Mass. It is an opportunity to encounter God and get to know Him personally. God—think about it—God is present at Mass in the Word and in the Eucharist. We are with Christ in the gathering of people and in the priest who is acting in the person of Christ.

At Mass we receive a thousand times more than the effort it takes to get in the car and drive to church on a Sunday morning. We receive God's love and the love and prayers of others; we are challenged to hear what God is saying directly to us; we receive forgiveness; we experience beauty and goodness; and we are given the precious Body and Blood of Jesus to nourish our souls for another week. These are like diamonds and precious gems being offered to us in love. All we have to do is accept.



Inspiration

We had just prayed the Gloria when I caught my breath—where are my car keys? Whew, I remember now. I put them in my purse because my coat pocket has a hole in it. I've got to remember to sew that hole as soon as I get home after Mass. Oh, but I can't--Rosanne is coming over for brunch. I wonder if she'll like the new casserole recipe I've made? Maybe not, but this will be so much healthier than what she usually has. Eating right is so important...

Yikes! I missed the First Reading!



It is easy to become distracted at Mass—it happens to all of us at times. Here are some strategies to try to stay in the present moment:

1. **Read** the Sunday readings and Gospel a few days before the weekend; spend a little time thinking about them. They will seem like interesting and familiar friends when you hear them proclaimed at Mass.
2. **As Mass starts, ask** the Holy Spirit to help you stay focused and be an active participant.
3. **Sit** toward the front of church so that you can see and hear better and stay engaged.
4. **Think** of some of your favorite responses of the Mass, i.e., “It is right and just” or “... but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.” Wait with anticipation for these to be said, and pray them with feeling.
5. **Listen** to the homily with the intention of being able to summarize the main points, and think about how you will live out its message in the upcoming week. Pretend a reporter is going to ask you about it on your way out of church.
6. **Silently read** along as the priest prays the Eucharistic Prayer so that you can focus on the words and savor their beauty and meaning.
7. **Sing** the hymns. The lyrics complement the message of the liturgy. Even if your talent isn't singing, try to quietly hum along.



Choose Life!

He gazes up at me with large, dark eyes. Thoughts of him fill my days and are woven into my dreams. He is my son, and yet I have never met him.

My husband and I are adopting a baby boy from Guatemala, and we couldn't be more thrilled. Yet, we didn't always feel this way. For years we prayed for God to send us a child who would look like us, carry our genes, inherit the traits of our combined ancestors. We didn't want to raise "somebody else's child." We grieved for the loss of a child of our flesh. Eventually, God led us to a point where all that no longer mattered—we just wanted a child to love, and adoption gave us hope.

Paperwork and patience are two things adoptive couples learn to live with, but the rewards are well worth it. We are now caught up in a wonderful flurry of preparations—setting up the nursery, planning for Baptism, addressing announcements. Every day I say a prayer for the young woman who put her baby boy up for adoption and for the foster mother who now cares for our son. Every evening before my husband leaves work he says "Nighty-night" to the screen-saver photo of our baby on his computer. Someday (soon!) the phone will ring and we'll hear [the adoption agency] say, "Pack up for Guatemala!" Our hearts are already there.

Excerpt from a 2003 pro-life article, used with permission. This baby boy is now 16 years old, a parishioner of Our Lady of Good Counsel, an A student, and a key member of his school's varsity cross-country team.



Living our Faith

During his ministry on earth, Jesus went about doing good and healing the sick.

Nurture Life!

Our St. Boniface Health & Wellness Ministry seeks to imitate Jesus in its concern for parishioners' health. The ministry consists of nursing professionals who promote physical health, disease prevention, and well being of mind and spirit. Their work is a tangible expression of our Catholic faith. They respect and value everyone, and have special concern for the elderly.

Here are a few examples of their ministry.

- ❖ Provide blood pressure screenings after Mass on a regular basis.
- ❖ Host periodic Health & Wellness meet-and-greets after Mass to share health information.
- ❖ Arrange for speakers on timely subjects and offer programs like Walking with Jesus.
- ❖ Provide health information on the bulletin board located in the vestibule of church. Each month features a new topic.
- ❖ Periodically provide health information in the Sunday bulletin.
- ❖ Suggest referrals to care resources.
- ❖ Lend extra medical equipment to parishioners such as walkers and canes.
- ❖ Are trained to use an AED heart defibrillator which they obtained and maintain for our church.
- ❖ Visit the sick in the hospital, nursing homes, and at home upon request, and bring them Holy Communion.
- ❖ Visit and call parishioners who may be lonely or discouraged.
- ❖ Pray for those who are struggling with physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual illness.
- ❖ Notify Fr. Joe of those who may want or need the Sacrament of the Sick.

If you would like to speak with someone from the Health & Wellness Ministry, please contact the parish office to be connected.

*O LORD, my God, I cried out to you for help
and you healed me. Psalm 30:3*



Mary Jeanne Feldkamp has been a St. Boniface parishioner for about 17 years. She is our Parish Nurse and leads the Health & Wellness Ministry. She also serves our parish as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

Do you feel that God has called you to this ministry of caring for the health and wellness of our parish family?

Yes, I feel that God called me to this ministry, but the “call” came via Fr. Joe. It was 2005 and Fr. Joe knew that I was recently retired from nursing. He came to me one day and asked if I would consider being our parish nurse. At the time, I didn’t know what the role would entail. But after prayer and some research, I agreed. I have been grateful ever since for the invitation to serve our parish.

How is being a parish nurse different from regular nursing?

What I like is being able to bring the spiritual dimension to health care and being able to advocate for the whole person.

What keeps you motivated?

I am motivated by the people we serve. I feel a great sense of community, and that means so much. And I really enjoy working with the other members of the Health & Wellness Ministry: Jane Ehrenschwender, Lorri Finke, Karen Gillespie, Tami Hochwalt, Michelle Terschak, and Jo Ann Wieghaus. One of us could not do this alone; we work as a team. I feel very blessed.

Thank you, Mary Jeanne, for your service, and thanks to all of our amazing volunteers! Keep up the good work serving our Lord and our parish family.

Autumn Mystery Photo ~ Solution



The answer to the autumn newsletter mystery photo: The back of the presider's chair located on the right-hand side of the sanctuary.

"IHS" is a contraction derived from the Greek word $\text{IH}\Sigma\text{OY}\Sigma$ and is a monogram of the name of Jesus. The intertwining 3-leaved stems represent the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Parishioner Mel Sonenschein correctly identified the mystery photo and is the winner of the autumn drawing. Congratulations! Mel serves the Lord and our parish in many ways, including being a frequent server, a collection counter, and managing the ministers' schedule.



Mystery Photo ~ Winter 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 mid-April. The full photo along with the name of the winning contestant will be revealed in the next issue of the newsletter.

Happy sleuthing!

To conserve resources, this colorful newsletter is designed to be viewed on screen rather than in print. If you know of a fellow parishioner who does not have a computer, please show it to them on your laptop or smart phone.

We welcome your comments and suggestions:
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