



Third Sunday of
LENT

March 24, 2019



St. Boniface
Catholic Church

MASSES: Saturday (Sunday Obligation) 5:30 PM, Sunday: 9:00 AM
WEEKDAY MASSES: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8:30 AM

REV. ROGER KUTZNER, PASTOR

PERMANENT DEACON: Mark Otten (815-469-7165)

PARISH SECRETARY: Kathy Short

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR: Deacon Mark and Anita Otten

MINISTRY OF CARE: Erwin Bogs

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturdays After 5:30 Mass

MARRIAGE: By appointment only. Normally made 6 months in advance.

BAPTISM: To have a child baptized at Saint Boniface Church, you must be registered, active, member of the parish and attend a Baptism class. Baptisms are held the 2nd Sunday of the month at 12:00PM (Noon). Call the office to schedule an appointment.

RELIGIOUS ED CLASSES: K thru 4th meet Saturdays from 9:00-10:30 AM

Grades 5, 6, 7, and 8th meet on Sundays from 10:00-11:30 AM

Church: 5304 W. Main St., Monee, IL 60449

Rectory: 25942 So. Middlepoint Avenue

P.O. Box 217, Monee, IL 60449 (534-9682)

Website: stbonifacemonee.org

Church Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
8:30am—2:00pm

Saint Boniface Catholic Church
Mission Statement

Saint Boniface is a welcoming, caring Church community united under one baptism. We encourage participation by all members in promoting and sharing Christian and social values.

“Sir, leave the fig tree for another year;
perhaps it will bear fruit.”

Luke 13:8-9

Mass Intentions For The Week



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Eucharistic Ministers

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Saturday, March 23
 5:30 PM—Melanie Valencia † Req. by Leobardo and Ana Valencia Martinez
 Craig Trueblood † Req. by Shaughnessy's

Sunday, March 24
 9:00 AM—Sheila Pollack † Req. by Barb Mitchell
 All Souls in Purgatory Req. by Parishioner

Monday, March 25
 8:30 AM—Shirley Nassau † Req. by Shaughnessy's

Wednesday, March 27
 8:30 AM—Peter Schloss † Req. by Polly Schloss

Friday, March 29
 3:00 PM—Mark Skertich † Req. by Pat Fogerty

Saturday, March 30
 5:30 PM—Sheila Clay † Req. by Bogs Family
 Marge Sportiello † Req. by Camille Dancer

Sunday, March 31
 9:00 AM—Everett Boswell † Req. by Leah Otten
 Harry Otten † Req. by Leah Otten

March 24	March 31
5:30 PM	5:30 PM
Mark Otten	Mark Otten
Camille Dancer	Rene Jurack
Anita Otten	John Porpora
Christine Semanovich	David Schmidt
9:00 AM	9:00 AM
Mark Otten	Mark Otten
Erwin Bogs	Joan Parker
Therese Bogs-Haser	Karen Przybyla
Tracy Sheehan	Paul Przybyla

Weekly Offering



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March 17, 2019
 Sunday.....\$ 1870.00
 Children's Envelopes..... 6.00

Many thanks to all of you for your generous donations to our Parish. May God bless all of you!

There will be a second collection next week for Catholic Relief Services. CRS works to alleviate poverty, hunger and suffering and assist those who suffer from the effects of war, famine and deprivation and work with the poor in over 75 countries throughout Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES
 Sunday: Third Sunday of Lent; First Scrutiny
 Monday: Annunciation of the Lord
 Friday: Abstinence




Altar Servers

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March 24	March 31
5:30 PM	5:30 PM
Makenzie Albano	Kelsey Correa
Alison Porpora	Joey Correa
9:00 AM	9:00 AM
Grace Raftery	Ava Daly
Lily Raftery	Brooke Hobbs
Clara Raftery	

Do you know that oftentimes a root has split a rock, when suffered to remain in it? Give no judgment to the seed of evil, seeing that it will break up your

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 The LORD secures justice and the rights of all the oppressed.
 — Psalm 103:6

From the Pastor

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One day a little boy named Julian fell down in a field of tall grass while chasing butterflies. Soon afterward, the boy's left eye started hurting. They took him to the doctor. The doctor couldn't find anything wrong, so he just gave Julian some ointment and sent him home. Eventually Julian's eye problem went away. About a year later, though, the boy started complaining of cloudy vision. His parents took him to an eye specialist, who was stunned

by what he discovered. Apparently when Julian had fallen a year earlier, a tiny grass seed had implanted itself in his cornea. Slowly the seed had grown and had sprouted two little leaves in Julian's eye. The seed had to be removed immediately in order to save the boy's vision. Sin, in its many forms of selfishness, has a way of implanting itself into our hearts and growing into something that can do permanent damage. It can blur our vision and cause us to take our eyes off Christ and his will. When we repent, we take ourselves to God just as Julian was taken to the eye specialist. Only when we repent can God, with his grace, surgically remove our sins and heal the damage they are causing to our minds and hearts, and in turn to those around us. When we talk about of our physical health it seems obvious to us that the longer we wait to check on it through doctor's visits, blood tests, etc., the more damage we do, and the harder it becomes to heal if we progressed in sickness. It's a good analogy to our dealings with spiritual health. Because the longer we wait to make our peace with God and with our neighbors - in other words, to repent - the harder it gets to do so because we are getting weaker in our resolve to change things for better. Again, Lent is an opportune time to make good decisions about changing some things for better in our lives, especially if we have already waited so long to make these changes. May the gentle whisper of our Lord's inviting Heart, give us courage to change.

+ *Father Roger*



Stewardship
A Way of Life

Third Sunday of Lent

In today's parable, we are reminded that God gives second chances. Though tempted to simply cut down the fig tree because it is using up good space upon the earth that could be used for producing fruit, the gardener convinces the owner of the orchard to give him more time to cultivate around it and fertilize it. If all his attempts fail, then it will be cut down. So let us invite the Lord into our hearts to prune, to cultivate and to feed us. Thus, will we be better enabled to bear the good fruits for the Kingdom of God - the fruits of compassion, justice, and reconciliation.

God's grace within me and God's strength behind me can overcome any hurdle ahead of me.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — "I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt and have come to rescue them" (Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15) *or* Exodus 17:3-7.

Psalm — The Lord is kind and merciful (Psalm 103) *or* Psalm 95.

Second Reading — Those who think they are standing secure should take care not to fall (1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12) *or* Romans 5:1-2, 5-8.

Gospel — I shall cultivate the ground around the fig tree and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future (Luke 13:

1-9) *or* John 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42].

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997. International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

A Child's Letter to God: Dear God, Could I get to see a real angel if you send one? She could stay in my room and do whatever she wants and I would do it to. I get allowance so she would not need money. I will pray to you. Debbie

A Collection of More Children's Letters to God

MID-LENT CHECK-IN

God says to Moses, "This is what you shall tell the Israelites: I AM sent me to you . . . The LORD, the God of your [ancestors], the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob" (Exodus 3:14, 15). As Jesus would later say, God is not a God of the dead, but of the living, and so we believe that the dead will one day rise. At this midpoint of Lent, we pause to consider how our repentance is leading us to the Resurrection, to our reunion with the great "I AM." Part of our repentance involves working to secure justice for all and helping our neighbor to live in God's ways. We encourage each other and nurture each other, like the compassionate gardener of today's Gospel, who tells the owner of the orchard that he will nurture the tree, fertilize it, and perhaps it will bear fruit.

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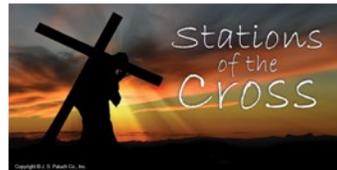
All are welcome to A Night of Reflection on Thursday, March 28th from 6:30pm-7:30pm. The evening will include an adoration service, song, prayer, and a brief talk by Deacon Mark titled "We Are Half-way There". Join us for an inspirational evening and allow yourselves quiet time with the Lord.

Monday, March 25th is the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, celebrating the coming of the Angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary to announce to her the special mission God had chosen for her in being the mother of His only son. Wouldn't it be something to be visited by a talking angel? Surely, some pondering would follow. Why? What? How? Like Mary. On your journey through Lent ask yourself - How will I stop being afraid? In God's message to me, to what will I say yes?

SPRINGTIME

Came the Spring with all its splendor
All its birds and all its blossoms
All its flowers, and leaves, and grasses.

—Longfellow, *Hiawatha*



"Stations of the Cross" will take place immediately following the 3:00PM mass every Friday during Lent. Join us for mass and travel "The Way of the Cross" with us. Confession will be available with Father Roger immediately following Mass.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is for any married couple who desires a fuller, richer life together. Couples are given the opportunity to examine their lives together and to strengthen their communication. The next session will be April 12-14 in Elk Grove Village. For more information call 630-577-0778 or wwme-chicagoland.org.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Hollywood has given us an image of Moses slipping off his shoes before a burning bush. God has just called Moses by name, and so that Moses doesn't miss the meaning of this breakthrough in human history, God requires that all barriers to the experience be eliminated. If you've ever tried to maneuver barefoot across hot sand, or pick your way along a rocky beach, you know how sensitive feet can be.

Within the Church, there are religious orders with a custom of going barefoot, not merely to show poverty, but to be an outward sign of a desire for connection with creation, a desire to go through life alert to what God is doing. In early days, when reconciliation was a once-in-a-lifetime possibility, penitents often went barefoot for a long period of time as a sign of their conversion. Even today, people follow an ancient practice of slipping off their shoes to walk in the procession to the cross on Good Friday. It is striking that the first use of our newly-scrubbed feet from Holy Thursday night is to walk resolutely in the footsteps of Christ to the cross.

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Remember Me: A Seder Meal
Carmelite Spiritual Center, Darien IL
 Tuesday, April 16 – 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM
 Thursday, April 18 – 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM

Fr. Bob Colaresi leads us through this Passover Meal, including a lamb dinner, weaving the Jewish roots of our own tradition in a remarkable drama of history, theology, culture and prayer. The celebration of Eucharist with the Seder Meal offers a profound experiences of what it must have been like at the Last Supper where Jesus shared the Passover Meal with his friends the night before he suffered and died. Please arrive no later than 5:45 PM. Register by April 12, online at carmelitespiritualcenter.org or by calling 630-969-4141 or 800-431-8720. Cost is \$45.00.

Cultivating the ground. Have you ever felt unproductive at work or at home? Just like a tree bearing no fruit? We can cut our losses and chop it to the ground. Or we can spend one more year to cultivate and fertilize, to seek goodness and right living. What year's extension is God giving me? How will I let God, the Gardener, tend to me this Lent? What needs to be pruned away so life returns?

Seeking support during times of bereavement or divorce is a sign of strength, not weakness. You need not be alone during burdensome and lonely times. Peer-led support groups for people experiencing loss are based on confidentiality, trust, and safety. To obtain a copy of the diocesan-wide support groups brochure, contact the Office of Family Ministry at 815-838-5334.

There can be a lot of confusion about hospice and palliative care. St. Joan of Arc Parish Center in Lisle is hosting a Catholic End of Life Supportive Care forum on Saturday, April 27th from 9:00-11:00am. This is an educational forum that provides an opportunity to learn about the differences in supportive care based upon the Roman Catholic traditions. Learn about the benefits of supportive care and obtain information from clinical team members from JourneyCare. Resources from the Roman Catholic traditions and materials on hospice and palliative care will be provided for each attendee. Breakfast will be provided. RSVP by April 23rd to Sandra Razka, RN Parish Nurse at 630-353-4533 or SRazka@sjalisle.org.



Life Advocacy Day is to stop the Extreme Abortion Bills recently introduced to the Illinois Legislature. More information is available on the bulletin boards or visit: www.ilcatholic.org. If you would like to participate, a motor coach bus will be leaving from Crest Hill and Carol Stream on Wednesday, April 3 for a one day journey to Springfield. Participants will lobby with legislators and then have lunch at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception School. The bus departs Springfield at 2pm. Cost is \$10. To register online, visit: dioceseofjoliet.org/life. Registration deadline is Thursday, March 28.

If you are interested in showing your support locally in stopping these bills, the New Lenox Commons (located on Veterans Pkwy) will be open Sunday March 24th and March 31st between the hours of noon and 2pm. Come do a few laps around the commons and show your support.

The Monee Chamber of Commerce will soon be awarding two \$1000.00 scholarships to students who will be graduating at the end of the 2019 school year (or have graduated at the end of the fall 2018 semester) and who reside in the Village of Monee or unincorporated Monee Township. Applications must be post marked no later than April 26, 2019. For information and eligibility requirements visit Moneechamber.org, call 708-421-1786, or contact the office.

The Chamber of Commerce is also accepting nominations for their annual Ralph Fehland Award. This award is presented to an individual who has made a significant volunteer contribution to the betterment of their community in the last year. Community members are encouraged to submit recommendations for this award. The deadline to submit is April 26, 2019. For more information visit the website Moneechamber.org or call 708-421-1786, or contact the office.