



The Good News

“As a Catholic faith community we strive to unite as a people of God whose life is centered in the Eucharist. We seek to live the Gospel message of Jesus Christ, called to be faithful stewards of God’s gifts, growing in faith and attending to the spiritual and social needs of all.”

ST. BONIFACE 125th ANNIVERSARY

*(Quoted from the Archdiocese
Dubuque 1837-2012 Jesus Alive
through 175 years edition.)*

St. Boniface Parish, Ionia has the dubious distinction of having been hit by three tornadoes. Catholics in the Ionia area originally attended parishes in Charles City, Nashua, New Hampton and North Washington until 1897.

Construction on a new church began before Rev Michael McCarthy celebrated the first Mass at St. Boniface on All Saints Day, 1899.

Parishioners and the people of the St. Boniface parish are resilience, and full of faith in handling what over the years it was given. St. Boniface church was hit by three tornados.

In 1920, a tornado swept through Ionia, demolishing the church. During construction of a replacement a second tornado in 1921, damaged the church, the rectory, and school. The rectory was remodeled, and the school repaired. Mass was held in the church basement until the superstructure was finished in 1936. In 1948, a tornado damaged the school building and caused the death of a student. The church interior was decorated for the first time in 1958, and the church kitchen modernized in 1962.

This is only a tidbit of the history of St. Boniface Parish. We would like to invite everyone to come celebrate **St. Boniface 125th Anniversary on Saturday, October 26, 2024, at St. Boniface Parish.** We will have Mass and meal to follow. Come see, share stories, and join in our family celebration of an amazing history of faith, love and commitment to the community of believers.



SERVE

PROJECT FLO: BUILDING HOPE AND RESTORING HOMES WITHIN CHICKASAW COUNTY

Project Flo stands as a beacon of hope and community service, embodying the spirit of its namesake, Florence “Flo” Thronson. This initiative carries forward Florence’s legacy of selfless giving and stewardship. With a mission to improve communities by restoring homes and building hope, Project Flo offers a unique opportunity for individuals to share their God-given gifts through meaningful service.

At its core, Project Flo is guided by the principles Florence Thronson lived by, recognizing that all good things come from God, understanding that each person is entrusted with unique gifts, and embracing the responsibility to be faithful stewards of these gifts. Operating as a one-week intensive program, Project Flo brings together volunteers who contribute their time, talent, and resources to assist families in need. The focus, however, is not on the recipient’s circumstances but on the participants’ opportunity to give back joyfully. This approach ensures that all contributions, regardless of their nature or scale, are equally valued and important.

The scope of Project Flo’s work primarily involves light construction and home improvement. Volunteers may find themselves engaged in various activities, including painting, window replacement, landscaping, general clean-up, and other general repairs. These projects not only improve living conditions for the beneficiaries but also foster a sense of community and shared purpose among the volunteers. Please visit www.projectflo.net to learn more or to nominate a family. Homeowners may choose “application” to apply for these services.

As a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Project Flo offers tax-deductible contribution opportunities. Through its efforts, Project Flo continues to honor Florence Thronson’s memory, demonstrating that when a community comes together to share their gifts, remarkable transformations can occur – both in the physical spaces and in the lives they touch.

SEEK

BY FATHER JIM (COURTESY OF CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY)

I think many have at least heard of the Eucharistic Revival and might be wondering what that is. Here’s a brief explanation. “The National Eucharistic Revival is a three-year initiative by the U.S. bishops that aims to inspire, educate, and unite the faithful in a more intimate relationship with Jesus in the Eucharist. In a society where the Lord is often forgotten and even a majority of Catholics do not believe in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, the revival is meant to rededicate the entire nation to the eucharistic Jesus. As the campaign organizers say on the revival’s website, those who have been “healed, converted, formed, and unified” by the Eucharist have a mission to teach others “for the life of the world.” This is what the National Eucharistic Revival envisions.”*

The second year of the revival, which has now begun, is dedicated to fostering eucharistic devotion at the parish level. Here in the Good Shepherd Cluster we have Eucharistic Adoration at Holy Family on Thursday’s from 4pm to midnight. It’s a time where everyone is welcome to come to the church and spend some time in prayer with the Blessed Sacrament. I would encourage everyone to come and experience Adoration and the calming presence of Christ.

Also, this fall we plan to begin a short, 4-5 minute learning series on explaining the Mass. This will happen after Communion. It will run for approximately 15 weeks, culminating in a teaching Mass in February. Together we will learn why we do what we do at Mass and realize the Biblical foundation of the Mass and our faith. Our baptism calls us to spread the Gospel message and be a Eucharistic people. May God’s blessings come down upon all of you!

Grow

BY JAYDEN

Children of Good Shepherd Cluster had immense fun this Summer at Totus Tuus. Totus Tuus is a Catechetical program which is led by 4-5 college students who help the kids grow in their Faith through songs, skits, class sessions, and the Sacraments. We learned about the Apostles' Creed and Glorious Ministries of the Rosary this year. The Totus Tuus Missionaries broke down the Apostles' Creed into our essential beliefs about Jesus and his mission, i.e., he is the only Son of God, the second person of the Trinity, incarnated for the redemption of humanity, and our anticipation for the final judgment and resurrection of humanity to glory with God.

I think most of the children would say their favorite parts of the whole week were the skits, songs, and the trip to the pool. Right away in the morning when the kids are coming in half asleep the missionaries spike everyone's attention with an interactive song and skit. Then it's right off to their power learning sessions all excited to learn about their faith. Mass offers us a nice break around midday to experience God's grace and the reality of what we're learning about. After their afternoon power learning sessions they review everything they've learned accompanied by a skit. On Friday after a long glorious week learning about Jesus and our faith we went to the pool where the students enjoyed watching Father Jim jump off the high dive.

The evening program for our teens and young adults takes a more light hearted approach to sharing the faith. Students enjoy playing games with the missionaries, after which they hear a witness talk of how one of the missionaries grew in their faith. Throughout the week there is a chance for adoration and confession, this year we were blessed to have Fr. Gregory Lambert, the newest priest of the Archdiocese of Dubuque, led us in adoration and heard confessions. At the end of the evening we join together in praying with the church for the church in the Liturgy of the Hours.



Upcoming Events

MORE INFORMATION CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

- **Cluster Confirmation Mass, Sunday, September 15, at 10 am at Holy Family Parish Church.**
- **St. Boniface 125 Anniversary, October 26, starting at 6 pm at St. Boniface**
- **All Saints Day Vigil Mass, October 31, at 6 pm at Immaculate Conception**
- **All Saints Day Mass, November 1, at 8:30 am at Holy Family Parish Church**
- **Thanksgiving Mass, November 28, 9 am @ St. Boniface**



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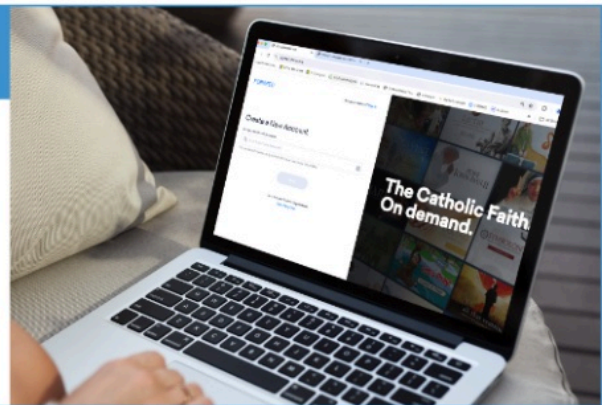
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Whether it is checking on what has been happening around our cluster, looking at upcoming events, or even checking when mass times are you can find it all on our social media, app and website!



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