

ST. BONIFACE CHURCH AND SCHOOL

AX+SWORD

Spring 2015
st-boniface.org

Rebuild My Church

How a simple
command from the
Lord is transforming
our community

AX+SWORD
CONTENT



GRANDPARENTS' DAY

Catholic Schools' Week celebrates the faith and family of our students, faculty and staff.



PRESCHOOL RENOVATION

Big plans underway in the preschool room for this summer. All we can say is Noah would be proud.

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Review some old ideas for a better Lenten experience this year with your family during the Year of the Family
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Tucked away in the choir loft is a learning center focused on faith and child development.
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Eum et perrorum a cum liquibus experspit, cus quis et eost oditasin nobis sundametur.
- 12 **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**
Spend some time with Jesus during Lent and prepare your hearts for the joy of the Eucharist!

The title is inspired by the life and teaching of Saint Boniface, missionary priest and evangelizer. The Ax reminds us of how Boniface cut down the pagan oak tree revealing an evergreen tree. It symbolizes cutting down falsehood and revealing truth. The sword recalls sacred scripture which speaks of the Word of God is like a two-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12) and that Boniface challenged those who pursued violence to lay down their swords in peace. Reports from an eye-witness saw that the saint, at the moment of death, held up a gospel as spiritual protection using his own sword.

REBUILD MY CHURCH

Jesus spoke those words to Saint Francis and he started to rebuild with bricks and mortar.

But he didn't stop there. Eventually Francis realized Jesus was not talking about the physical church structure, but about the church as the Body of Christ, as an institution, and as a community of believers. We are the church that is asked to be rebuilt over and over again. Are we ready to discover what God wants from us next?

We are wrapping up year three of the renovation of Saint Boniface Church. I am amazed at the dedication and overwhelming giving of this community.



Everyone in so many varied ways has contributed to the building up of this church, both physically and spiritually. Over the next year or so we will finish our renovations. In the meantime, we will also be working on the rebuilding of our spiritual church, our relationships with one another, the local community, and the Diocese of Erie.

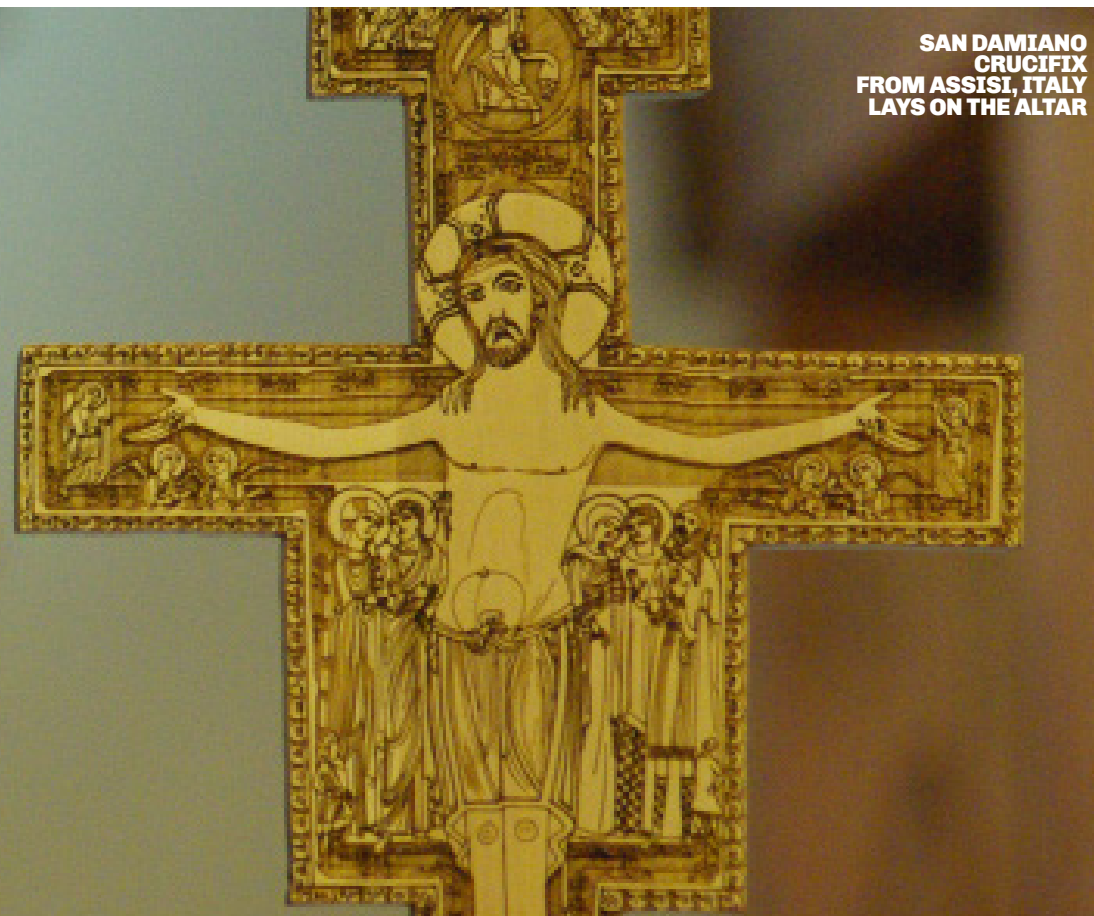
REBUILD

We will be using this theme of "rebuild" following in the line of Saint Francis and Pope Francis, as we work together to strengthen our hope in the Lord and provide a welcoming community of faith for families in our area and all those seeking a place of rest and peace.

Rev. Ross R. Miceli

REV. ROSS R. MICELI
Parochial Administrator

LENT IN THE YEAR OF THE FAMILY



SAN DAMIANO
CRUCIFIX
FROM ASSISI, ITALY
LAYS ON THE ALTAR

WHEN DOES LENT BEGIN?

Lent will officially begin on Ash Wednesday, February 18th. We will have two Prayer Services with Ashes (7:15am and 5:15pm) and mass at 9am (all in the church). Lent will officially end with the Mass of the Lord's Supper (Holy Thursday).



As Lent approaches, it is appropriate to examine the use of rituals in our families. Rituals are "repeated behaviors that bond family members together, which reflect and celebrate family beliefs and values and become ingrained in the fabric and life of the family." They may also be referred to as traditions, customs, rites or celebrations.

There are plenty of instances in the normal routine of family life for rituals to occur. Some include mealtime, bedtime, holidays, prayer or recreational activities. It can be fun for family members to be creative in looking for new ways to celebrate their beliefs and values. One example would be to celebrate Baptismal days.

Remember these traditions show us who we are and what matters to us. How appropriate then, to observe the day that each member was welcomed into God's family.

From a faith perspective, these practices could be liturgical or based on lessons from a classroom textbook. Both are available at our fingertips! Loyola Press, the publisher of the textbook series used in our parish, has an amazing website full of simple and easy ideas for busy households to implement. Visit www.loyolapress.com for some exceptional resources. Anyone can utilize this website, not just parents of school-aged students!

Parents can follow along with their children's lessons, explore activities and stories about the Saints, as well as receive Daily Inspiration on Loyola's website. Simple suggestions for "Fun for the Whole Family" are also available. Activities, rituals, strategies for talking to kids about the faith and daily encouragement are highlighted. Under that tab, families can sign up for a monthly newsletter full of ideas for nurturing the faith of the entire family.

Just as ritual is the important to the life of the family, individuals must make a commitment to nurture

themselves spiritually as well. Lent is a great time to take advantage of new practices that will help all become more aware of God's presence in their lives. One of the Church's

“
traditions
show us who
we are and
what matters

goals is to empower, encourage and support busy adults in their own spirituality as well as in their role within the family. A great way to accomplish this is

to read and meditate on Scripture.

Devotionals have become very popular because they offer a blend of Scripture with a short meditation or prayer. Loyola Press offers a devotional called "Living Lent Daily" with prayers, articles and inspiration for the journey. Remember, the goal of any Lenten discipline is to renew our discipleship in Christ. Of any of the three – prayer, fasting or almsgiving, prayer tends to be the most challenging. In the busy world where we live, finding quiet moments for reflective prayer can seem to be almost impossible. Getting up just a few minutes earlier before everyone else when the noise begins may prove to be helpful.

In order to improve their spiritual life, these three simple suggestions are offered to adults. Author Tom McGrath encourages parents to think of one bad habit to let go of this Lent. Take it

one day at a time and remember that Jesus came to set prisoners free. Another Lenten strategy is to strengthen a good habit. Parents should give themselves credit when it is due; the Lord gives each of us gifts in service of others. Focus on the positive and use it to benefit all those in the household. Finally, the simple act of asking God for leadership is an excellent Lenten practice. First thing in the morning, seek His assistance for any situation and watch as hope takes over. Lent is a perfect time to make small changes that can have a big impact.

LESLIE GAHR, faith formation director, st. boniface parish



HOMEMADE PASTA

Brady helped serve dinners and clean up empty plates at our annual homemade pasta dinner.



CELEBRATE US

Veterans came in to talk about their service in the military. Students made cards to be delivered to service men and women.



CELEBRATE CSW IN PJS

Teachers rotated classrooms to read to the students. Students brought pillows and blankets to snuggle in for story time.



STUDENT SOCIAL

On Thursday, students were treated to a special social in the cafeteria. Everyone had a great time dressing up for the day.



JEANS DRIVE

Students and Teachers collected 86 jeans for the Guardian Angel Center

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU

Catholic Schools' Week is always an exciting time of the year. Students are able to reflect on what it means to go to a Catholic School and also what it means to be part of a larger community ministry. Students gathered on stage to say 'thank you' to everyone who made the week special: family, friends, teachers, and anyone else who has helped support our parish and school.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK



@st-boniface
january 25 - 31



TEXT
LESLIE GAHR
PHOTO
CHLOE VAN EERDEN

LET THE CHILDREN COME

"LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME, AND DO NOT HINDER THEM; FOR TO SUCH BELONGS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN."

Through the sacrifices and hard work of a very special family, St. Boniface is fortunate to introduce a new program for parishioners aged three through 6 years. It is called The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, an approach to the religious formation of children rooted in Maria Montessori's educational principles. Montessori was not only an educator, but a Catholic of deep faith who sought to bring children into the presence of the Lord and therefore into a lifelong relationship with Him.

Two years ago, Diane Gillen agreed to go through the process of becoming a certified catechist in this method. After finishing the intensive course, she went right to work gathering and

putting together materials to make this option available to parents at St. Boniface Church and School. She enlisted the help of her father-in-law, Howard Gillen, who has generously spent many hours crafting the handmade materials that the youngsters will use in this special classroom.

The children gather in an "atrium," a room prepared for them with simple yet beautiful materials. In the early Church, catechumens who were preparing for baptism and life in the Christian community gathered in the atrium. So for our children, the atrium is the place where they will prepare for involvement with the larger worshipping community.

Our atrium is located in the bell tower of the Church, upstairs behind the choir loft. Everything in this room is specifically designed for little hands; for example, there is an altar with all the articles of the Mass at a size small enough to be held by the children. There are puzzles, maps, figures and articles from various Rites performed in our Church at the child's fingertips. The goal is to allow participants to experience their faith in a completely hands-on approach. The youngsters develop a deep reverence for Scripture and the mysteries of Jesus Christ.

ABOVE
Jesus Blessing a Child, a mural from St. Boniface Church

WHAT?
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
WHO?
Children, 3-6 years
INTERESTED?
Contact the parish office

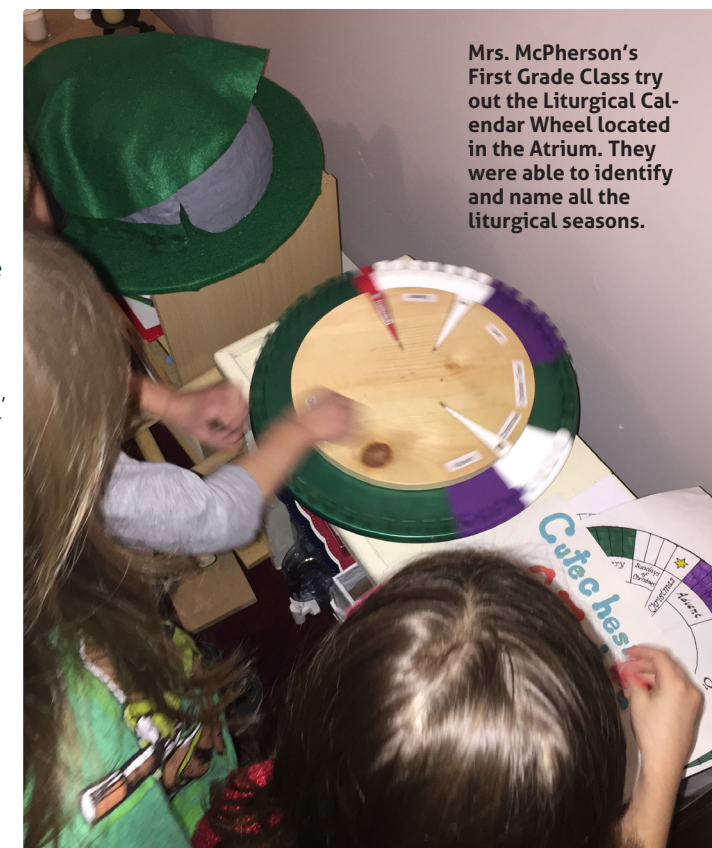
Although there are adults present in the atrium, they are not catechists, but "co-wonderers" with the child. The idea is to allow the children to come to Jesus by themselves. The Holy Spirit is the only teacher in the room. Children are developmentally open to God at this age. They learn to appreciate the quiet in the atrium, for in that silence, they encounter the Good Shepherd who loves them very much.

LESLIE GAHR, faith formation director, st. boniface

BUZZ WORD // THE ATRIUM

Children gather in a room specially prepared for them, called an atrium, which contains simple yet beautiful materials that they use to draw near to God. Our Atrium is located in the space directly behind the choir loft. In the early church, the atrium was the place where the catechumens were prepared. For the child, the atrium is a place of preparation for involvement in the larger worshipping community.

In an atrium the child can ponder a biblical passage or a prayer by taking the material for that text and working with it – placing wood figures of sheep in a sheepfold of the Good Shepherd or setting sculpted apostles around a Last Supper table. Older children who read often copy parables from the Bible, place in order the prayers from the Rite of Baptism, or label a long time line showing the history of the kingdom of God.



Mrs. McPherson's First Grade Class try out the Liturgical Calendar Wheel located in the Atrium. They were able to identify and name all the liturgical seasons.

The atrium is a place of prayer in which work and study spontaneously become meditation, contemplation and prayer.

(Characteristics of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, #3)

A community event, held in the St. Boniface cafeteria, scheduled for Saturday, March 14th from 6:30 pm to 9:30. Doors open at 5:45 pm. Your price of admission (1 for \$5, 3 for \$10, or 7 for \$20) buys you a chance at the grand prize (\$2000 for first place, \$300 for second, \$150 for third, \$100 for fourth, and \$50 for fifth), and your food and drink for the evening. Throughout the night there will be many other chances to win cash. A fun evening for all, age 21 and older, during the cold winter months. If you can't make the cash bash, don't worry you can still purchase a ticket for the grand prize drawing. Winner need not be present to win.

CASH BASH – MARCH 14

St. Boniface's fish dinners have often been called the best fish dinners in Elk County! We are kicking off for the 2015 Lenten season on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18th and continue every Friday including Good Friday, April 3rd. Patrons can eat in or take out a delicious fried or baked fish dinner, complete with your choice of baked potato or french fries, macaroni salad or cole slaw, roll and dessert. Patrons who choose to eat in are waited on by parishioners, parents and students and have their choice of several homemade desserts and pies. Meals are served from 4pm to 7pm and cost is \$10.50. Take outs available. Call 814-885-8611 to place your order.

FISH DINNERS – ASH WEDNESDAY + FRIDAYS

This year St. Boniface families are selling raffle tickets! We are working with Penny Wise Travel Agency to offer the grand prize winner \$5,000 worth of travel expenses to a location of their choice. The winner gets to pick all the details including location, number of travelers, and the dates they'd like to go. Second place winner will receive \$500 cash. We will have a booth set up to sell tickets at our major fundraisers like Cash Bash and Fish Fries. The drawing will be held at our last Fish Fry of the school year on Good Friday, April 3, 2015. The tickets are being sold for \$10 each. If you interested in purchasing a ticket or would like to sell tickets for our school, please contact the school office at 885-8093.

DREAM VACATION RAFFLE – APRIL 7TH

ALSO AVAILABLE
 MJs Gas Station in Kersey
 First Chance in Kersey
 Anchor's Away in St. Marys
 Elk Co. Foods in Ridgway
 Benzette Store in Benzette

JOIN US FOR ONE OR MORE OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY EVENTS. EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO COME AND SEE WHAT'S GOING ON AT SAINT BONIFACE CHURCH AND SCHOOL. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT US ANYTIME. NINI TAMBURLIN, CHURCH SECRETARY (814.885.8941) AND JENNIFER BREM, SCHOOL SECRETARY (814.885.8093)

TWO WORDS THAT SUMMARIZE OUR PARISH FAMILY COMMUNITY+PRAYER

2015 CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL PRAYER

GOOD AND GRACIOUS GOD, we thank you for all we are and all we have. Everything is a gift from your infinite generosity. We marvel at how bountiful is your kindness. We rest in appreciation of your enduring mercy. As we explore our responsibility to be good stewards, fill us with the compassion

of Jesus, your Son. Give us eyes to see the needs of those around us, in the faces of our neighbors near and far. Give us hearts that are moved by the pleas of those who cry out - on behalf of the children, the refugees, the sick and the suffering. Give us hands that are eager to share what has been entrusted to us. Give

us feet to venture wherever the Spirit leads for the mission to bring your Good News to all. As we resolve to be mindful of the needs of others, we pray that You instill in us your generosity, your kindness and your mercy. Keep us focused in our mission of good stewardship. In Jesus' name we pray. **AMEN.**



VATICAN, OCT. 4, 2014
 THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

POPE FRANCIS: "As a way of overcoming indifference and our pretensions to self-sufficiency, I would invite everyone to live this Lent as an opportunity for engaging in what Benedict XVI called a formation of the heart. A merciful heart does not mean a weak heart. Anyone who wishes to be merciful must have a strong and steadfast heart, closed to the tempter but open to God. A heart which lets itself be pierced by the Spirit so as to bring love along the roads that lead to our brothers and sisters. And, ultimately, a poor heart, one which realises its own poverty and gives itself freely for others."

"During this Lent, then, brothers and sisters, let us all ask the Lord: 'Fac cor nostrum secundum cor tuum - 'Make our hearts like yours' (Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus). In this way we will receive a heart which is firm and merciful, attentive and generous, a heart which is not closed, indifferent or prey to the globalization of indifference."

"It is my prayerful hope that this Lent will prove spiritually fruitful for each believer and every ecclesial community. I ask all of you to pray for me. May the Lord bless you and Our Lady keep you".

POPE FRANCIS, lenten message





"Lent is a favorable time for letting Christ serve us so that we in turn may become more like him. This happens whenever we hear the word of God and receive the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. There we become what we receive: the Body of Christ." – Pope Francis, Lenten Message

BLESSED BE GOD

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains adoration in these words: Adoration is the first attitude of man acknowledging that he is a creature before his Creator. It exalts the greatness of the Lord who made us and the almighty power of the Savior who sets us free from evil. Adoration is homage of the spirit to the "King of Glory," respectful silence in the presence of the "ever greater" God. Adoration of the thrice-holy and sovereign God of love blends with humility and gives assurance to our supplications. —Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2628

REFLECTED IN THE MONSTRANCE

...and reflected in the moment. When you wake up and eventu-

ABOVE

A view of the monstrance from behind. Think of this angle as what Jesus sees from the altar. Join us some Thursday during Lent from 9:45am - 4pm.

ally look in the mirror, what do you see? Hopefully you see yourself and a glimpse of Jesus - our Lord and God living in you! We all have days when we might think this absurd, but the truth is there: Jesus is alive and He lives in you. Taking some time to

reflect on this great mystery, whether in church, in the car, at school or work, or even at home, is an awesome way to grow our relationship with Jesus. If we have faith and allow ourselves to enter more deeply into this loving relationship, we will see Jesus more in our actions.

- Blessed be God.
- Blessed be His Holy Name.
- Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.
- Blessed be the Name of Jesus.
- Blessed be His Most Sacred Heart.
- Blessed be His Most Precious Blood.
- Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.
- Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.
- Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most Holy.
- Blessed be her Holy and Immaculate Conception.
- Blessed be her Glorious Assumption.
- Blessed be the Name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.
- Blessed be St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse.
- Blessed be God in His Angels and in His Saints.

THE DIVINE PRAISES

HOLY HOURS ARE THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DEVOTIONAL TRADITION OF SPENDING AN HOUR IN EUCHARISTIC ADORATION IN THE PRESENCE OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.



LEFT

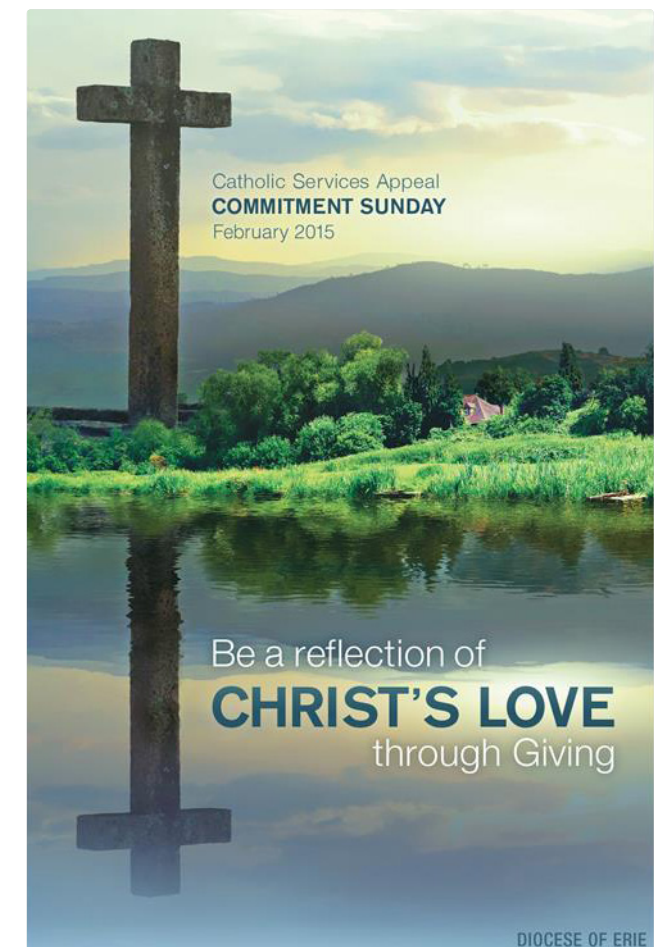
Our beautiful monstrance has been at Saint Boniface for years. It is very intricate and features the four evangelists, angels, and even the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

BELOW

We can reflect Christ's Love through giving of our time, talent, and treasure. Can you spend some extra time in prayer and adoration this Lent?

Eucharistic Adoration is shown in the fact that the Church has a ritual that regulates it: the Rite of Eucharistic Exposition and Benediction. This is an extension of the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament which occurs in every Mass: "Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb." Right behind our tabernacle, you will see the Lamb of God from the old altar. This element of the old church reminds us of our ancestors in the faith and of their commitment to Jesus in the Eucharist. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament flows from the sacrifice of the Mass and serves to deepen our hunger for Communion with Christ and the rest of the Church. We pray for the needs of our community, our nation, and our world. The Divine Praises summarize our adoration of God. The Rite concludes with the ordained minister blessing the faithful with the Blessed Sacrament.

Saint Francis reminds us: "I beg you to show the greatest possible reverence for the Eucharist through whom all things have been brought to peace and reconciled with Almighty God."



DIOCESE OF ERIE

TEXT
FR. ROSS MICELI
USCCB, CATECHISM
PHOTOS
FR. ROSS MICELI
DIOCESE OF ERIE

ST. BONIFACE PRESCHOOL

3 YEARS OLD. 2 DAYS A WEEK
Thursdays and Fridays 8:30 - 11 OR 12 - 2:30
Must be 3 by August 15th

4 YEARS OLD. 3 DAYS A WEEK
Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays 8:15 - 11 OR 12 - 2:45
Must be 4 by August 15th

5 DAYS A WEEK. 4 YEARS OLD
Mondays - Fridays 8:15 - 11 OR 12 - 2:45
Must be 4 by August 15th

Curriculum based on state standards
Program is run by licensed teachers
Scholarships are available for most families,
a family of four can make up to \$135k a year and still be eligible.
Children of all faiths welcome
For questions and tours call the office

359 Main Street, Kersey, PA 15846 - (814) 885-8093 - www.st-boniface.org

LEARNING BY DESIGN

We believe the most engaging preschool experiences rarely come home in a backpack.

As Fred Rodgers would say, "Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood." It is with this idea in mind that St. Boniface School is working to renovate their preschool classroom. Preschoolers learn a lot in their time at St. Boniface School, but they do so in developmentally appropriate ways. If you walked into our preschool right now you would see a classroom smartboard, ac-

cess to iPads and laptops, music, computer, and library classes, **LEARNING CENTERS** Looking ahead teachers and administrators are acquiring new educational toys and centers for students to explore, imagine in, and learn from. Some of the changes coming are in furniture, a sand and water table, and dramatic play center. A fresh and welcoming classroom will greet our students as they join us for the 2015-2016 school year. Biblically themes areas, including Noah's Ark will also be featured throughout the classroom.

BUILDING BLOCKS
From shapes and colors to imagination and innovation. Students build on their experiences in preschool.



Registration for the 2015-2016 school year has begun! We offer a developmentally appropriate school day length, with morning or afternoon sessions available. Parents are given the options of a 2 day, 3 day, or a 5 day program. Stop by the school, call 885-8093, or email monica.schloder@st-boniface.org if you would like to register your child, receive a tour, or have questions answered. Hurry in, there are several scholarships available that have the potential to greatly reduce your tuition, but some deadlines are at the end of March.

TOO COOL FOR DRUGS

QUOTE ME ON THIS
We are twice armed if we fight with faith.
-Plato

Students learn valuable life skills to increase self-esteem

Mr. John Hrusth, father of third grade student Madison Hrusth, has recently started teaching *Too Good For Drugs* at St. Boniface school. Students in grades k-5 receive

weekly instruction on goal setting, making good decisions, and so much more in order to help them gain confidence. These skills will help to develop strong self esteem

and help the students avoid using drugs in the future. Each week the students participate in activities that allow for the development of these very important skills.

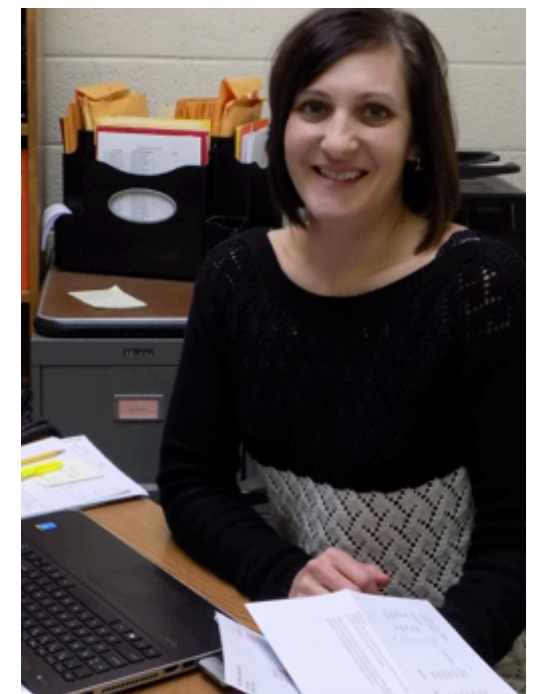


WHEREIN THE WORLD?

FIRST GRADERS at st. Boniface school enjoyed learning about the continents in social studies class. students

used play-doh on plastic continent outline to build their maps. After their maps were built, students constructed a

boat and went sailing around the continents on the oceans. What a fun way to learn about our earth!



MEET THE PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Monica Schloder accepts new position as principal at Saint Boniface

OUR tag line 'St. Boniface School: a partnership among family, school, community, and church' really says it all. The families, students, and staff of our school are what make it such a great place to grow, learn, and be each and every day. The sense of community and fellowship is apparent the moment you step through our doors. From countless volunteers, to hard-working students, from dedicated staff to devoted families we are a faith-filled group

motivated by high academic standards and strong spiritual values. As principal of the school my aim is to stay true to our valued and time-honored traditions while moving forward with initiative and new ideas that are present in the ever-evolving world of education. Educating the whole child—mind, body, and spirit—in ways that meet individual needs remains a top priority for us all. I am truly blessed to be a part of the leadership here at St. Boniface School!

AX+SWORD
SAINT BONIFACE CHURCH

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EARLY
THAT
MORNING
THEY
CAME
TO THE
TOMB

WAYS TO GIVE

Stewardship is a way of life: "As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." Use your gifts to serve this Lent and Easter.

MEMORIAL
DONATIONS

Remembering your loved ones, celebrating an anniversary or birthday or just a special way to say 'thank you' - contact us to make a donation in honor or memorial of someone today.