



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saint Boniface

CATHOLIC CHURCH

NOVEMBER 29, 2020
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

OUR MISSION

Christ Jesus, you call us together as a parish to sow and nurture the seeds of God's saving love in the hearts and minds of all our neighbors and beyond by living your gospel.

OUR VISION

Christ Jesus, bless us as you blessed our patron, St. Boniface, so that, by carrying out the mission entrusted to us, our parish will yield a bountiful harvest of passionate disciples, united to you by the sacraments and sent by you to further your mission.



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OUR VALUES

Christ Jesus, enable us to reap this bountiful harvest by staying rooted in the "good soil" of the basic principles in which we as a parish believe.

- We are a parish who prays, studies, and acts in accord with the Scriptures and the traditions of the Catholic Church and the Diocese of Erie.
- We are a parish who stands firmly on the foundation of our past;
- We are a parish who understands and responds to the changing needs of all families today;
- We are a parish who welcomes and enjoys fellowship with all people;
- We are a parish who lives within our means and exercises responsible stewardship of the resources entrusted to us;
- We are a parish who works together as God's family for the good of all, putting our common mission above all else.

This we pray, in your name. Amen.

St. Boniface, pray for us.

9367 Wattsburg Road • Erie, PA 16509-6031

Visit www.stbonifaceparisherie.org for daily updates on St. Boniface events.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK
THE 'O ANTIPHONS'
PART 1: O WISDOM

"O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who ord'rest all things mightily; to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go" (O COME, O COME EMMANUEL).

Probably the best known hymn of Advent, O COME, O COME EMMANUEL, sums up in seven cryptic, haunting verses the meaning of the season by expressing our deep longing as God's people for the coming of his Son and, with him, our salvation. These seven verses, however, weren't just made up for the song. The hymn is a collection of seven antiphons, or opening verses, for the Marian hymn, the MAGNIFICAT, which is sung every evening by the Church and which has special antiphons for the evenings of December 17-23, leading up to our celebration of Christmas. These special verses are called the 'O Antiphons' due to the fact that each one begins by addressing Christ by a different prophetic title drawn from the Old Testament, each beginning with 'O'.

By reflecting on these verses, we come to a fuller understanding of who Christ is and deepen our desire for his coming, in our celebration of his first coming at Christmas, in the many ways he comes to us in our daily lives, and in his future coming when God's plan in Christ will be complete. Toward that end, I will reflect on each of the seven verses in this column throughout the Advent season, beginning today with the second verse, which is actually the first of the O Antiphons, 'O Wisdom'.

In the Old Testament, Wisdom is presented as an expression of the mind of God, the embodiment of his knowledge and understanding revealed in the perfect order of creation and the perfect justice of his law. Those who seek and embrace divine Wisdom bring their minds into conformity with God's and benefit richly from Wisdom's blessings, while those who reject Wisdom stray into folly and suffer the curses that follow (Proverbs 2). This Wisdom is personified as being present with God and active in his plan for creation: "The Lord begot me, the firstborn of his ways, the forerunner of his prodigies of long ago; from of old I was poured forth, at the first, before the earth...When he established the heavens I was there,



when he marked out the vault over the face of the deep...Then I was beside him as his craftsman, and I was his delight day by day" (Proverbs 8:22-23, 27, 30).

In the New Testament, Jesus is presented as the embodiment of divine Wisdom, with perfect knowledge of the Father and his will which he comes to share with those who listen (Matthew 11:25-27). He teaches with God's own authority and reveals the inner mysteries of God's law; those who hear his words and act on them are richly blessed while those who fail to listen and act on his words are doomed (Matthew 7:24-29). Most clearly, John identifies Jesus with divine Wisdom as the expression, or Word, of God's creative will: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:1-5).

Divine Wisdom, with whom and through whom God creates all things and holds them in being, took flesh 2000 years ago in Jesus to reveal to us the fullness of God's truth and will. Only by embracing and living by that Wisdom can we walk in the light and attain the fullness of life at the end of creation, when God's plan, revealed in Jesus, will be complete. We pray therefore during Advent for Jesus to come and lead us to that day in the light and life of God's Wisdom.

Fr. Marc Stockton

STAFF

Rev. Marc Stockton, JCL.....	<i>Pastor</i>
Rev. Mister Timothy G. Good.....	<i>Permanent Deacon</i>
Jeanne Yaple.....	<i>Faith Formation Director</i>
Sandee Krivonak.....	<i>Business Manager</i>
Melanie Kennerknecht	<i>Parish Secretary</i>
Brooke Lander	<i>Pre-School Director</i>

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 9:00a.m.-1:30p.m.

DIRECTORY

Parish Office.....	825-4439
Pre-School	528-3810
Center.....	825-8101
Hall Rental.....	825-4439
Parish Website	www.stbonifaceparisherie.org
Pastor.....	pastor@stbonifaceparisherie.org
General Office.....	secretary@stbonifaceparisherie.org
Business Office	finance@stbonifaceparisherie.org
Religious Ed.	faithformation@stbonifaceparisherie.org
Pre-School	preschool@stbonifaceparisherie.org

November 29, 2020

Preschool News

Thessalonians 5:18: Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

This scripture is a reminder that despite the trying times we are in; we should still thank God for the gifts he provides us. As we all know, Covid-19 is affecting our world in a major, sometimes devastating way. It is affecting our work, our schools, even our social lives. Covid-19 has affected St. Boniface Preschool too. We have changed the way we operate. Students and staff have their temperatures checked when they enter our facility, then we hand sanitize or wash hands immediately. Classrooms and school equipment are cleaned/disinfected/sanitized more frequently than ever before.

Despite all our efforts, sickness can still wiggle its way into our doors. We had to close our doors for a few days this month to ensure the safety of all of our students and staff. This was a difficult decision that had to be made to protect all that are a part of St. Boniface. During our time of closure, each classroom and Coleman Hall were deep cleaned. We used cleaners, foggers, and a special UV light to ensure that our preschool was a safe and healthy space to be in. Although this circumstance was difficult to navigate through, I am thankful for what we learned along the way. I am thankful for all the families and our community for being so understanding and appreciative of the decision we made. That understanding and patience allowed us time to prepare. It also provided assurance that our staff and students were healthy before the doors of St. Boniface Preschool opened again. But mostly, I am thankful for Jesus guiding us through this difficult time. At this time the staff and students are healthy and our facility is open and operating. I am thankful for that as well! No matter what your circumstance may be, find your reasons to be thankful for what God has provided you. I promise it will help make your days brighter!

Important Dates:

November, 25th -November 30th: Thanksgiving Break/
No School

December 1st: School Resumes

December 22nd: Last day of school/Early dismissal @
12:00 PM

December 23rd -January 1st: Christmas Break/No
school

January 4th: School Resumes

Be Grateful in all things and God Bless,
Brooke Lander
St. Boniface Preschool Director
preschool@stbonifaceparisherie.org

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS~

Reminder to fill out your Christmas Flower Memorial envelopes (located in the gathering space) in memory of your loved ones. This is a great way for family members and friends to be remembered at Christmas time. Turn in your envelopes to the parish office or in the collection basket at Saturday or Sunday Mass.

ADORATION~ Please join us the last Thursday of each month at 6:00p.m. in the Church for Adoration. All are welcome to attend. If you have any questions contact the parish office.

PRAY FOR A RESOLUTION FOR THE CORONA VIRUS~ A small number of parishioners are saying the Rosary each Friday at noon asking Mary for guidance in understanding our part in this difficult time. Please join us. We meet outside in the shade if weather permits.

THE LIONESS CLUB~ will be selling snack sticks in the gathering space December 5th & 6th. Various flavors, \$1.00 each. Benefits local charities. Makes for a great stocking stuffer.

SANCTUARY CANDLE LIT IN

MEMORY~ The Sanctuary Candle is lit this week in memory of **Ed Zajac** from **Ed & Pam Zajac**.



~HELP NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES~

If you are able to serve in one of the following roles at the dates and mass times indicated, please call Melanie in the Parish Office at 825-4439.

December 24th at 5:00p.m.....Lector, Altar Servers
December 24th at 8:00p.m.....Lector, Altar Servers
December 24th at Midnight.....Lector, Altar Servers
December 25th at 10:00a.m.....Lector, Altar Servers
December 31st at 7:00p.m.....Lector, Altar Servers
January 1st at 10:00a.m.....Lector, Altar Servers

~ BULLETIN DEADLINES FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS~

Christmas and New Years are fast approaching and with them comes early deadlines for the bulletin. They are as follows:

For Sunday, December 13, 2020,
articles are due December 7, 2020

For Sunday, December 20, 2020,
articles are due December 11, 2020

For Sunday, December 27, 2020,
articles are due December 17, 2020

For Sunday, January 3, 2021,
articles are due December 23, 2020

~FAITH FORMATION NEWS~

"The season of Advent restores... a hope which does not disappoint for it is founded on God's Word. A hope which does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints!... Let us think about and feel this beauty."

~Pope Francis

A Prayer for Advent by Loyola Press: Week One

Light one candle and sit for a moment in silence.
Christ our Light,
Shine in our lives with hope and promise.
Give us right vision so that we remain attentive to this holy season.
Remind us to look for you in small acts of kindness and love.
We await your coming with wonder.
Amen.

Upcoming News and Events~

Please visit the Church this week to light a candle, pray, and pick-up your family's Advent activities this week.

12/06 Grades 6/7/8 virtual class at 9:30; Study the Saints

Confirmation Class

12/6 Home Video Lesson

12/13 Home Video Lesson

12/ 20Virtual Class Meeting, 9:30

*There's always time to join our Faith Formation Family, so please email faithformation@stbonifaceparisherie.org for more information, thank you!

Love and Light,
Jeanne Yaple

THE WORD OF GOD THIS WEEK

~LOYOLA PRESS

Gospel Reading: Mark 37-13:33

Jesus warns his disciples to be watchful so that they will be ready when the Son of Man comes.

FAMILY CONNECTION~ In family life, we try to prepare ourselves for many future things: our next vacation, our children's education, our retirement. We are careful not to allow ourselves to be caught by surprise so that we can handle any challenges our family may face. Today's Gospel reminds us that we are called to be just as attentive and alert to the coming of the Son of Man so that it will not catch us unprepared. This means attending to our family's spiritual life as carefully as we attend to other important family matters.

As you gather as a family, talk about a time when you received surprise visitors at your house, perhaps a neighbor who stopped by or a relative who arrived unannounced. Was your household prepared to receive this unannounced guest? What might your family have done differently if you knew ahead of time that this visitor was going to arrive? Jesus told his disciples that no one knows when the Son of Man will return, except the Father. Read with your family what Jesus told his disciples in today's Gospel, Mark 13:33-37.

During Advent, we not only prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we also check to see if we are doing all the things that will keep us ready to receive Jesus when he comes again. Talk about how your family can recommit to daily prayer, reading Scripture, and staying faithful to God's commandments. Pray together that through this Advent season your family will be more prepared to receive Jesus when he comes again. Read as a concluding prayer Paul's words to the Corinthians found in today's second reading, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, or pray the Lord's Prayer.



MASS INTENTIONS~ We have many weekday masses still available for 2021. It is a good way to remember a loved one with a mass in their honor. If you would like to schedule a mass please call the parish office at 825-4439. The requested donation is \$10.00 per mass.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Monday, November 30, Saint Andrew
No Mass Today

Tuesday, December 1, Advent Weekday
8:00 a.m. Laura Manross
(St. Boniface Prayer Shawl Ministry)

Wednesday, December 2, Advent Weekday
8:00 a.m. In Honor of the 1940s & 1950s St. Boniface
Community (Anonymous)

Thursday, December 3, Saint Francis Xavier
8:00 a.m. Carl (Jim) Carlson
(Valeria Carlson & Family)

Friday, December 4, Advent Weekday
8:00 a.m. Marge Lorei
(Joe Lorei)

Saturday, December 5, Advent Weekday
8:00 a.m. Ed & Irene Gorski
(Valeria Carlson & Family)

5:00 p.m. Living and Deceased Members of
St. Boniface Parish

Sunday, December 6, Second Sunday of Advent
7:30 a.m. William Watson
(Tim & Mary Good)
10:30 a.m. Mary Pluta
(Jack & Pat Mowery)

RECONCILIATION

Saturday.....4:15–4:45 p.m.
(and anytime by appointment)

~Sunday, November 15, Collection~

Adult.....	\$7,375.00
Loose	\$42.00
Online	\$995.00
Catholic Service Appeal.....	\$460.00
All Saints.....	\$25.00
Human Development	\$50.00

Thank you to those who use their envelopes regularly and
to all who have increased their offerings.~

St. Boniface Soup-er Sunday Spectacular

Sunday, February 7, 2021

To place your order or purchase raffle tickets go to:
Website - www.stbonifacesoupersunday.com
Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/stbonifacesoupersunday/>

Pre-order forms and raffle tickets will be available at the
church office weekdays from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
AND
in the Gathering Space beginning January 9, 2021

Deadline to place your order is January 24, 2021.

Homemade Soup choices:
\$5 per quart
Smoked Turkey
Vegetable
Chili

Slider choices:
\$1.5 for 16 sliders
Ham & Cheese
Italian Combo

Sandwich choices:
\$5 per sandwich
Ham & Cheese
Turkey & Cheese

Raffle Items:

Gas Card **Grocery Card**

3 - \$100 Gas Cards 3 - \$100 Grocery Cards
Secret Spectacular Prize

RAFFLE TICKETS \$5 EACH

Ticket returns may be dropped off at the church office
weekdays from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, in the collection basket
or use the outside drop box to the right of the entry doors.

MYSTERY PRIZE GIVEAWAY

~LECTOR~

SATURDAY— December 5

5:00 p.m. D. Golombieski

SUNDAY— December 6

7:30 a.m. G. Krahe
10:30 a.m. K. Praetzel

~ALTAR SERVER~

SATURDAY— December 5

5:00 p.m. C. Driscoll

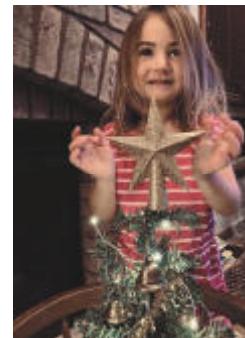
SUNDAY— December 6

7:30 a.m. L. Pinzok
10:30 a.m. S. Praetzel

CHURCH CLEANING~ Heavenly dusters this week are: **Jean Conn, John Giewont, Vicki Zboyovski, Jan Gehrlein**. May God bless them in their faithful work.

HEAVENLY DUSTERS~ Team #2 of the Heavenly Dusters needs another member to clean the church. Please prayerfully consider offering up 2-2 1/2 hrs. every 5 weeks. Your reward will be in heaven. Call Jean Conn 825-0095.

Remember to visit the Church this week to light a candle, pray, and pick-up your family's Advent activities this week.



~KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS~

We are sponsoring a Holiday Raffle. We will be selling ONLY 200 tickets at \$5.00 each. Prizes are as follows: 1(\$200), 1(\$100), 1(\$50), and 5(\$25). Please buy your tickets from any Knight or after all the Masses by December 13th, the drawing will be at the 10:30a.m. Mass. Thank you for your support. KOC

Next Knights Meeting will be December 3rd at 6:30pm in the Zapolski Room. Hope to see you there.

December 6th is Rosary Sunday. We will be praying for all of our Veterans, especially Anniversary of Pearl Harbor December 7th and the end of WW2.

We will be Celebrating our Council's Anniversary at the 7:30am Mass on December 13th. We will be asking our members to be in a blue shirt or black suit.

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