



Saint Boniface

CATHOLIC CHURCH

DECEMBER 5, 2021

SECOND 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 2: O LORD & O ROOT OF JESSE

“O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times didst give the Law, in cloud and majesty and awe.”

“O come, thou Rod of Jesse's stem, from every foe deliver them that trust thy mighty power to save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave” (O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL, verses 3 & 4).



As we continue our Advent journey toward our celebration of the coming of the Lord, we continue our journey through Advent's best known and loved hymn, O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL. It is composed of seven, prophetic verses drawn from the Church's O Antiphons, chanted each evening December 17 - 23 in anticipation of Christ's coming and revealing more and more who Christ is and why we want him to come. Last week we reflected on Christ as the Wisdom of God. Today we will reflect on Christ as Lord and Root of Jesse.

In the Old Testament, God is revealed as God of gods and Lord of lords, almighty and above all earthly powers and beings. So awesome is he that to come into his presence unbidden means instant death, and the Israelites are forbidden to even mention his sacred name, referring to him only by his title, 'Adonai' - Lord. We see this majestic vision of God dramatically play out on Mount Sinai when he gives the people the Law, the sacred covenant binding him and his people, through his servant Moses, the only one God permitted to come up the mountain and be in his presence, symbolized by cloud and flame (Exodus 19).

In the New Testament, God is still revealed as almighty and above all other beings, appearing in cloud and awe, as we see for example at Jesus' baptism (Matthew 3:16-17) and the Transfiguration on a "high mountain" (Matthew 17:1-8). The almighty God, however, has come to his people in a new, more intimate way, not only above us in mystery and awe, but among us in flesh and blood in Jesus of Nazareth. Just as Moses came down the mountain to give the people the Law, sealing their relationship with God, so the "beloved Son" of the Father comes

down from his glory as the new Moses, fulfilling the Law and creating a whole new relationship and a whole new way of being the People of God. We know his name and profess it in faith and pray for the day when he will come again in glory "that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:10-11).

Jesse's stem is a reference to the family tree of Jesse of Bethlehem, from whose sons God chose and anointed Israel's greatest king, David (1 Samuel 16:1-13). While David was far from perfect, what made him great was his fidelity to God, which God rewarded with victory over Israel's foes and a promise that his descendants would rule over God's People forever: "I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you...I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old...And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. It is he who shall build a house for my name. And I will make his royal throne firm forever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me" (2 Samuel 7:9-10, 12-14).

Unfortunately, David's heirs were not faithful as he was. They abandoned God and his covenant and led the people into idolatry and sin. So God allowed them to be conquered by foreign powers and the people driven into exile far away from the Promised Land. Even when a small remnant returned, they were crushed under the heel of foreign occupiers. That small remnant never gave up hope, though, that God would someday fulfill his promise to David, sending them a righteous king in David's line who would save them from their enemies and reign over God's People forever. Jesus is that long-awaited king, the "shoot that shall sprout from the stump of Jesse" and bring victory and eternal peace (Isaiah 11:1-9). His victory is not over fleeting political powers that rise and fall as surely as waves on the sea but over the ageless enemy that has enslaved all people since the dawn of time, the power of sin and death, and his kingdom is not of this world, rushing toward its doom, but over the world that is to come, which knows no end and in which all who serve him as Lord now will reign with him forever. Until that day, like the faithful remnant, we wait in hope, the very spirit of the Advent season.

Fr. Marc Stockton

~UPCOMING EVENTS~

Tuesday— December 7

7:00p.m. Choir Rehearsal (Church)

Wednesday— December 8

7:00p.m. Boy Scouts (Classroom)

Thursday— December 9

6:30p.m. Huntington’s Support Group (Zapolski Room)

Sunday— December 12

All Masses Retirement Fund For Religious (Church)

SCHEDULING~ If you are interested in renting the Coleman Center or the St. Boniface Parish Hall for a party or family function please call the parish office at 825-4439 for more information.

THANK YOU~ The Soder Family would like to thank the Sympathy Committee for the lunch following Robert’s funeral. The parish is truly blessed to have such a thoughtful ministry in place. May God Bless all who participated.

GREENE TOWNSHIP GIVING CIRCLE

GROUP~ Will be selling Country Meat snack sticks with a variety of flavors for \$1.00 each before and after each mass on November 11th & 12th. Proceeds to benefit local nonprofit organizations. For any questions please contact Rose Konsel at (814) 969-2227. Thank you!

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.

PLEASE PRAY~ Please pray for the soul of parishioner **Marilyn Smith**, who passed away recently. Our sympathy is extended to her family.

BAPTISMAL CLASS~ New parents are required to take a Baptismal preparation class prior to having their first child baptized. Parents who have already attended baptism class and kept documentation of that attendance do no need to take the classes more than once. Please call the parish office for class dates or check the weekly bulletin for upcoming classes. There is a class being held at St. Luke, on December 7th at 7:00p.m. in the Rectory Office. Please call the Parish Office at 814-825-6920 to register.

~KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS~

Rosary Weekend. We pray that God will fill our hearts with the desire to follow the guide lines to do what we can to help eliminate this terrible disease and that everyone will have a safe and healthy Christmas Season.

The Knights will be celebrating our Anniversary Mass on Saturday, Dec. 18, at 5:00 Mass. We ask all nights to be present and to wear their blue shirts. Thank you.

STAFF

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

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

DIRECTORY

Parish Office.....825-4439
Pre-School.....825-4439 ext. 222
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

SANCTUARY CANDLE LIT IN MEMORY~ The Sanctuary Candle is lit this week in memory of **Richard Fugagli** from **Bob & Nancy Warzyniak**.



~FAITH FORMATION NEWS~

A smile is the beginning of peace.

~Mother Teresa

A Prayer for Advent by Sadlier Religion: Week Two
Light two candles and sit for a moment in silence.

Christ our Hope,
Illuminate our hearts with your grace. Enlarge our vision so that we recognize our kinship with all the people of the world. Help us to give to others in ways that meet their deepest needs.
We await your coming with gratitude. Amen.

Upcoming News and Events

Thank you for your patience as we transition to home-based/virtual sessions and look for upcoming Family-Based activities during Advent!

Family Faith Tip of the Week: Remember, Advent 2021 is about Anticipation.

Our brains are naturally influenced by the overwhelming feelings of anticipation. Especially by anticipation of what we truly believe is going to happen in the future. For example, when a child receives a gift, they anticipate with excitement the next opportunity they get to receive a gift again. In fact, we love anticipating vacations, weekends, desserts, and many other things. Within the Advent season, we can ask ourselves: What do our souls anticipate? In [Revelation 22:7](#) we read, "And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book." Indeed, He is faithful and will be returning soon. The fact is that the preparation of our hearts is up to us. Then, we can continue to cultivate our faith, patience, preparation, and trust. Advent provides an opportunity to look forward with anticipation through a filter focused on hope, faith, joy, and peace. Unfortunately, the world is searching for these four themes through things that were not designed to satisfy our souls. Through Advent, there is a reassurance of His return. Written by: Dr. Danny Huert

Grades 9-10, Home-Based Sessions via Chosen Program Online

*Lessons 6 and 7 are to be completed during December.

Confirmation Class

12/5 9:30 - 10:30 Virtual Class: Work Towards Salvation & The Beatitudes

12/19 9:30 - 10:30 Virtual Class: Miracles & Seasons of the Liturgical Year

Love and Light, Jeanne Yaple

The Word of God this Week ~Loyola Press

Gospel Reading, Luke 3:1-6

John preaches repentance and baptizes in the region of the Jordan.

FAMILY CONNECTION~ During the season of Advent, we choose to add many activities to our family's schedule to prepare for our celebration of Christmas. John the Baptist reminds us that our repentance is another way in which we can prepare for the Lord's coming and our celebration of Christmas. Parish communities often offer a communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the Advent season. Your family might choose to participate in the communal celebration of the sacrament, or you might seek out this sacrament on an individual basis.

Read together today's Gospel, Luke 3:1-6. Talk about how John the Baptist called upon the people to prepare the way of the Lord through repentance. Together as a family, prepare a simple reconciliation service in preparation for Christmas. Gather in a prayerful space, perhaps around the family Advent wreath. Read again from today's Gospel, Luke 3:1-6. Invite each family member to pray silently, asking God to forgive his or her sins. Pray together the Act of Contrition. Then celebrate God's forgiveness by sharing the sign of peace with one another.



VETERANS DISPLAY PHOTOS~ any originals that were lent to us will be available for pickup at weekend masses in the Gathering Space. Thank you!

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Monday, December 6, Advent Weekday
No Mass Today

Tuesday, December 7, Saint Ambrose
8:00 a.m. For the Living and Deceased Members
of the Robert and Margaret Breindel
Family (Walt Breindel)

**Wednesday, December 8, Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary**
8:00 a.m. William & Ann Watson
(Deacon Tim & Mary Good)

7:00 p.m. Russell Kramer
(Kathleen Thompson)

Thursday, December 9, Advent Weekday
8:00 a.m. George Fincik
(Dick & Carol Kircher)

Friday, December 10, Advent Weekday
8:00 a.m. Marge Lorei
(Joe Lorei)

Saturday, December 11, Advent Weekday
8:00 a.m. Dottie Deutsch
(Dianne Brzozowski)

5:00 p.m. Joe Winkler
(Jim Kennerknecht)

Sunday, December 12, Third Sunday of Advent
7:30 a.m. Living and Deceased Members of
St. Boniface Parish

10:30 a.m. Daisy Dibble
(Family)

RECONCILIATION

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

~Week of November 21, Collection~

Adult.....\$5,148.00
Loose\$79.60
Online.....\$2,121.00
Catholic Service Appeal.....\$485.00
Human Development\$646.00

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

CHURCH CLEANING~

Heavenly dusters this week are: **Suzie
Lyle & Family and Marlene
Kerecman.** May God bless them in
their faithful work.



~LECTOR~

SATURDAY– December 11

5:00 p.m. J. Lorei

SUNDAY— December 12

7:30 a.m. C. Mester

10:30 a.m. K. Praetzel

~ALTAR SERVER~

SATURDAY— December 11

5:00 p.m. C. Driscoll

SUNDAY— December 12

7:30 a.m. Campbell Family

10:30 a.m. S. Praetzel

Prayer for Vocations

Lord God, creator of all things and source of all gifts and talents, your Son came to this world to fulfill his vocation as the Redeemer of all humanity.

Grant the sons and daughters of the parishes of the Diocese of Erie a profound awareness of their own vocations. Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, may they come to realize their distinct place in your divine plan.

Give them the grace to recognize and the courage to pursue vocations as devoted priests, deacons and consecrated women and men to assist the Diocese of Erie in fulfilling her mission.

With the intercession of Saint Patrick, our patron, who preached the Gospel in word and deed, we pray that they may find happiness and fulfillment in a life of service to others.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Imprimatur, July 29, 2013

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Perisco, JCL
Bishop of Erie

COVID-19: GET THE FACTS!

Total cases: PA 1,731,154; Erie 35,643

Total deaths: PA 33,308; Erie 541

New cases: PA 4888; Erie 129

Fully vaccinated: PA 6,612,734 (50% pop.); Erie 142,578 (54% pop.)

Erie County remains in the HIGH zone for community transmission. All people, even fully vaccinated, are strongly urged to wear a facemask when in church. All people are also encouraged to get vaccinated against COVID as soon as possible.

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