



Saint Boniface

CATHOLIC CHURCH

DECEMBER 12, 2021
THIRD 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 3: O KEY OF DAVID & O DAYSPRING

“O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.”

“O come, thou Dayspring from on high and cheer us by thy drawing nigh; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight” (O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL verses 5-6).



The Key of David is mentioned explicitly twice in Scripture: Isaiah 22:22, and Revelation 3:7. Like the “key to the city” a dignitary might receive from a mayor today, the Key of David symbolizes access to David's city, Jerusalem. In Isaiah, it is a symbol of royal authority that God takes away from Shebna, the faithless master of the palace, and gives to his successor, Eliakim, God's faithful servant. God entrusts to him the authority to grant or deny entry into Jerusalem in the face of besieging enemies: “When he opens, no one shall shut; and when he shuts, no one shall open.” This Old Testament image is recalled in Revelation's message to the church in Philadelphia (modern Alasehir, in Turkey, not modern Philadelphia, in Pennsylvania), a community who remained faithful to God in the face of false teachings and persecution. Because of their fidelity, “The holy one, the true, who holds the key of David, who opens and no one shall close, who closes and no one shall open” will open the door for them to the new city of David, the heavenly Jerusalem. This holy one is Jesus, the Son of David, who is “the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6). We pray for him to come and open the door to his kingdom for us as we strive to live faithfully in the face of difficulties today.

Dayspring is a medieval expression for “daybreak” or “dawn” and refers to the first light of day breaking through the dark of night. Traditionally, day and night have been seen as symbols of life and death: day being the time when living things awake from slumber and come to life, and night being the time when they go to sleep and cease their activity. Because of this, God, the source of life, has often been seen as the daylight that drives away the darkness of sin and death, as we read in the prophet Isaiah. In chapters 59 & 60, he bemoans the sinfulness of the people but prophesies God's coming as savior for those who repent, a savior who will drive away the darkness and bring about a new day: “Rise up in splendor! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the Lord shines, and over you appears his glory” (Isaiah 60:1-2). In the New Testament, Jesus is seen as the divine savior promised by the prophets whose light drives away the darkness, as we see in Zechariah's song at the birth of

his son, the prophet John the Baptist: “And you, child, shall be called prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God by which the daybreak from on high will visit us to shine on those who sit in darkness and death's shadow and to guide our feet into the path of peace” (Luke 1:76-79). In the darkness of winter we celebrate the Advent season and slowly light the candles of our Advent wreath. May its growing light increase our longing for the dayspring, Jesus Christ, to come and drive away the darkness of our sins, leading us to the pathway of peace.

Fr. Marc Stockton

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.

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.

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

COVID-19: GET THE FACTS!

Total cases: PA 1,763,796; Erie 36,966

Total deaths: PA 33,902 (+594); Erie 560 (+19)

New Cases: PA 5410 (+522); Erie 173 (+44)

Fully vaccinated: PA 6,664,274 (51% pop.); Erie 143,500 (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.

December 12, 2021

~PRE SCHOOL NEWS~

Matthew 1:21

She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

PRESCHOOL NEWS:

It's December and Christmas is upon us! We are in the time of Advent- the time to prepare for the coming of our savior, Jesus Christ. During the most recent preschool visit to the church sanctuary, Father Marc reminded preschool students that Advent is a time to "get ready" or "prepare." It is also a time of "patience" while we wait for Christmas day to come. Students are full of excitement in anticipation for the BIG day!! Because of this excitement "patience" in a 2-, 3- and 4-year-old child can be something that truly requires practice and guidance. Students are preparing by learning new songs, decorating, crafting and counting down the days until we reach Christmas. Teachers are finding FUN and CREATIVE ways to continue working on academics while still fulfilling the student's excitement during the Christmas season.

Religion lessons this month focus on the Birth of Jesus and the song we are singing is Away in a Manger. The story of Jesus and his birth can be a bit abstract in young minds. Children being are taught the history of how Mary and Joseph ended up in Bethlehem, sleeping in a barn that night. They are learning that they did not arrive by car, but on a donkey. They are learning that Jesus was not born in a hospital, like they were, but rather a barn amongst God's creatures. Jesus, the Newborn King, was not provided a crib or a bed, but rather a feed box filled with hay on his first night on here on Earth. They will learn that wise men were led to Jesus by a star and that the Angels sang the most beautiful song to the Earth letting the world know that our Savior has arrived. All of this is what makes Christmas so special. No gift we receive at Christmas could be more precious than the gift of Jesus. His life, even from its humble beginning, is something we can all learn from to remind us of the GOOD! We can be just like Him even if we weren't born in a barn or have ever ridden on a donkey. Students are taught that Jesus is with us EVERY DAY watching, listening, guiding, and more importantly LOVING us. The events that happened leading up to and throughout Jesus' life are all lessons as to how we can be GOOD. His example teaches how we can share the same LOVE that God shared when he gave the world Jesus. It is part of the St. Boniface Preschool's mission to share this love with the world through the students who participate in our programs.

In this time of Advent, remember to find your patience as you are preparing for the coming of Christmas. No matter what your age, remember to allow yourself, and those around you, to feel that childlike excitement and love. Share these GOOD feelings with others because that is what Jesus would do.

Merry Christmas from St. Boniface Preschool!



Mask Mandate still in effect:

Mask wearing is MANDATED for licensed childcare centers across the state of Pennsylvania. Staff, students, and any others who enter a childcare center (vaccinated or unvaccinated) are *REQUIRED* to wear a mask when proper social distancing is not available. This mandate is set forth by the Pennsylvania Dept. of Health and the Office of Child Development and Youth (OCDEL). If you need to come to the preschool for any reason, please be prepared with a mask.

We appreciate families and parishioners who understand and abide by the rules set forth by the state of PA concerning the safety of children enrolled in childcare programs.

Important Dates:

ALL MONTH! Purchase a Country Meat Beef Stick for \$1 each or by the bag 24 sticks for \$24 at the school and church office

Monday, December 13-17: Christmas Spirit Week! Preschoolers will participate in daily Christmas themed days such as Candy Cane Day, Christmas Sock Day, Grinch Day, Dress "Fancy" Day, and PJ Day.

Wednesday, December 22, 10:45 AM: Preschool Christmas Program & cookies in Coleman Hall
**Guest limited to parents/guardians due to capacity limits and Covid-19 restrictions.

Wednesday, December 22: Preschool Early dismissal @ 12:00 PM. No After School Care. Preschool closed 12:00 PM

Thursday, December 23-Sunday, January 1: No School/Preschool closed

Monday, January 2: School Resumes

Hours of Operation:

Before Care: 7:00-8:15 AM

Preschool Programs: 8:15 AM-3:15 PM (11:45 AM half day)

After Care: 3:30-5:30 PM

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

~FAITH FORMATION NEWS~

These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.
~John 15-11

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

Christ our Joy,
Brighten our homes with your presence. Clarify our vision so that we might see you in the people we cherish.
Make every holiday activity an opportunity to spread your light and love.
We await your coming with delight.
Amen.

Upcoming News and Events

Thank you for your patience as we moved to home-based/virtual sessions and look for Family-Based activities as we get closer to Christmas.

Family Faith Tip of the Week: Prepare for the Joys of Christ Let's prepare our homes – Our homes should reflect our readiness for Christ's birth. Clean your home together, simplify, share. Children can help to prepare a box for the poor and the lonely. You can donate extra clothing and household items, bake cookies together and share them or save them for the joyous time of Christmas. Begin working on Christmas cards and gifts early in Advent so that you can 'rest your heart' during the final days of Advent.
Written by: Maruška Healy

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

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

Confirmation Class

12/19 9:15 - 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 3:10-18 John the Baptist teaches the path of repentance and announces Christ.

FAMILY CONNECTION~ The theme of the season of Advent is sometimes described as a period of waiting for the birth of Jesus. However, today's Gospel reading suggests something different. John the Baptist did not tell the crowds to wait for the Messiah. He told them to prepare for the Messiah through acts of repentance. If Advent is a time of waiting, it is not the sitting in the doctor's office kind of waiting. It is a busy time of preparation, more like the waiting we might do when preparing for dinner guests. Our challenge is to not make this season a frenzied time, but rather a time of joyful anticipation and making ready for God who comes to dwell among us and changes our lives with the gift of salvation.

As you gather as a family, talk about the preparations your family is making during the season of Advent. Reflect together on these activities, not only on what you are doing but why you are choosing to do these things. Read together today's Gospel, Luke 3:10-18. Consider how Advent is a time for making ourselves ready to receive Jesus in our lives. Could your family make some changes in your Advent activities so that each person is well prepared to celebrate the gift of salvation at Christmas? Conclude in prayer together that your family will be able to live the spirit of Advent. Sing together an Advent song, such as "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" or pray together today's second reading, Philippians 4:4-7, as you light the third candle on your Advent wreath.



MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Monday, December 13, Saint Lucy
No Mass Today

Tuesday, December 14, Saint John of the Cross
8:00 a.m. **Helen Breindel**
(Walt Breindel)

Wednesday, December 15, Advent Weekday
8:00 a.m. **Fritz & Detta George**
(Kathy & Kevin)

Thursday, December 16, Advent Weekday
8:00 a.m. **Jeff Biletnikoff**
(Family)

Friday, December 17, Advent Weekday
8:00 a.m. **Joe Winkler**
(Ed & Carol Pfeiffer)

Saturday, December 18, Advent Weekday
8:00 a.m. **Gerald Ulrich**
(Bill & Mary Drabina)

5:00 p.m. **Jerome Mroz** (David & Pat Devine and
Chris & Rick Bayle)

Sunday, December 19, Fourth Sunday of Advent
7:30 a.m. **Sophia & Albert Good**
(Deacon Tim & Mary Good)

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

RECONCILIATION

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

~Week of November 28, Collection~

Adult	\$6,766.00
Loose.....	\$45.16
Online.....	\$1,235.00
Catholic Service Appeal	\$525.00
Human Development	\$65.00
Religious Retirement	\$100.00
Christmas	\$5.00
Holy Day	\$15.00

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

CHURCH CLEANING~ Heavenly dusters this week are: **Therese Dunn, Cheryl Ferrie, Martha Kaveney and Tom & Barb Galkowski.** May God bless them in their faithful work.

~UPCOMING EVENTS~

Sunday— December 12

All Masses Retirement Fund For Religious (Church)

Tuesday— December 14

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

Wednesday— December 15

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

~LECTOR~

SATURDAY— December 18

5:00 p.m. D. Lunger

SUNDAY— December 19

7:30 a.m. L. Hogan

10:30 a.m. C. Russell

~ALTAR SERVER~

SATURDAY— December 18

5:00 p.m. Need Volunteer

SUNDAY— December 19

7:30 a.m. L. Pinzok, E. Pinzok

10:30 a.m. E. Russell

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 not 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 here at St. Boniface, on January 4th at 7:00p.m. in the Allgeier Room. Please call the Parish Office at 814-825-4439 to register.

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 this weekend. 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.

~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 knights to be present and to wear their blue shirts. Thank you.

The Knights will be having our Christmas Party for members and spouses or guest on Dec. 17 at 5:00pm at Ricardo's Restaurant. Hope to see you there.

SANCTUARY CANDLE LIT IN MEMORY~ The Sanctuary Candle is lit this week in memory of **Dottie Deutsch** from **Tom & Ann Cermak.**



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