

Merry Christmas

Saint Boniface CATHOLIC CHURCH

DECEMBER 19, 2021

FOURTH 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.

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

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

THE 'O ANTIPHONS'

PART 4: O KING OF NATIONS & O EMMANUEL

"O come, Desire of Nations, bind in one the hearts of all humankind. Bid all our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our Prince of Peace";

"O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear" (O COME, O COME EMMANUEL, verses 7 & 1).

The seventh verse of O COME, O COME EMMANUEL as it is translated today changes the traditional title used in the O Antiphons, O King of Nations, to O Desire of Nations, opting to use a later part of the antiphon over the introduction. Regardless, the point is the same, that Jesus is the Lord of all peoples whose coming is prophesied in the Old Testament. Isaiah prophesies the birth of a royal son of David's line who would bring eternal peace to the world: "For a child is born for us, a son is given to us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-forever, Prince of Peace. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, upon David's throne and over his kingdom" (Is. 9:5-6). This peace is brought about by his just rule over all people, as we read in Psalm 72: "O God, give your judgment to the king, to the king's son your justice; that he may govern your people with justice and the oppressed with right judgment...May he rule from sea to sea and from the river to the earth's bounds...May the kings of Tarshish and the islands bring tribute, and the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts. May all kings bow before him, all nations serve him" (Ps. 72:2, 8-11).

In the New Testament, the coming of the Prince of Peace and his universal reign are fulfilled by the birth of Christ, symbolized by the visit of the magi, royal figures from distant lands who "prostrated themselves and did him homage" (Matthew 2:11) with rich gifts: gold, symbolizing his kingship; frankincense, symbolizing his divinity; and myrrh, symbolizing his saving death which makes all one, as we read in the letter to the Ephesians: "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have become near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, he who made both [Jew and Gentile] one and broke down the dividing wall of enmity through his flesh, abolishing the law with its commandments and legal claims, that he might create in himself one new person in place of the two, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile both with God, in one body, through the cross, putting that enmity to death by it" (Eph. 2:13-16). During the season of Advent, we pray that the King of Nations come and make the unity and peace symbolized in the magi a reality in our broken world.



We conclude our reflection on O COME, O COME EMMANUEL with the titular first verse, though it is actually the last of the O Antiphons, chanted by the Church just before Christmas, summing up all the other titles that have come before it. The gospel of Matthew (1:22-23) sees in the miraculous birth of Jesus, a name meaning 'God saves', the fulfillment of a cryptic prophecy by Isaiah: "The virgin shall be with child and give birth to a son, and they shall call him Emmanuel" (Is. 7:14), a name meaning 'God is with us'. Isaiah proclaims this prophecy to the unfaithful king Ahaz at a time when Jerusalem is under siege and the royal house of David is in danger of being snuffed out. God offers the virgin birth of a son who will bear his own divine name as a sign that he is with his people, even in their darkest hour, and that he will fulfill his promise to David that a king from his line would sit on his throne forever, yet Ahaz refuses to listen and places his trust in worldly powers rather than God. Because of the unfaithfulness of kings like Ahaz, who led the people away from God into sin, God allowed the people to be conquered by foreign powers and sent captive into exile.

But he did not forget his promise, nor abandon his people forever. The prophecy of the virgin birth of Emmanuel would be fulfilled in the most amazing way imaginable. In the fullness of time, God would not only give birth to a sign of his saving presence through a virgin: God himself would come to his people in his own divine Son, conceived in the flesh by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary and born in Bethlehem, the city of David. God has thus fulfilled all the prophecies of the Old Testament, with David and his heir becoming the sign of whom Jesus is the long-hoped for and far-exceeding reality: the incarnation of God's wisdom and might; our savior who throws open to us the gates of the heavenly Jerusalem once barred by our sin; the dawn from on high who breaks upon us, shining on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death and guiding all people unto the way of peace (Luke 1:78-79). As we enter into this final week of Advent, may we reflect deeply on each of these titles of Jesus. May our reflection strengthen our faith that, in him, God is with us. And may our faith increase our longing for the fulfillment of God's promises in Jesus, not only in history, but in our own lives.

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.

SANCTUARY CANDLE LIT IN MEMORY~ The Sanctuary Candle is lit this week in memory of **Alex DeRosa** from **Joyce DeRosa**.



A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS MORNING~

Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

by Robert Louis Stevenson

SEVENTH ANNUAL 138 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE~

"Say Yes! to the 7th Annual 138 Women's Conference. The conference will be held from 8:30-12:30 on March 12, 2022. You may attend live at St. Jude Parish in Erie, PA, virtually at satellite parishes via zoom or in your own home via zoom. The cost is \$20. This years conference will feature national speakers Lisa Hendey, best selling author and founder of CatholicMom.com and Patricia Breen who writes online for Blessed is She, Fem Catholic, Grotto Network and CatholicMatch. Visit our website at www.138women.com for more information and to register."

~UPCOMING EVENTS~

Sunday—December 19

11:30a.m. Baptism (Church)

Tuesday— December 21

6:00p.m. Cub Scouts (Center)

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

Wednesday— December 22

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

Friday— December 24

9a.m.-1:30p.m. Parish Office Closed

~ BULLETIN DEADLINES FOR NEW YEARS~

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

For Sunday, January 2, 2022, articles are due December 22, 2021

PARISH OFFICE~ The parish office will close at the end of the day on December 23rd and open again on Monday, January 3th.

HEAVENLY DUSTERS~ Your new schedule is ready. Please pick one up. They are on the counter in the gathering space.

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 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.

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.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE~ Mary was excited about her first pregnancy and rushed to tell her cousin. Sadly children are often seen as a liability, "another mouth to feed" or an "obstacle to my career." It is said "Christmas is for children." It is more accurate to say "Christmas is for adults to appreciate the gift of children!"

PLEASE PRAY~ Please pray for the soul of parishioners **Dennis Husted, Vera Smith, E. Jean Johnston and Walter Farak** who passed away recently. Our sympathy is extended to their families.

STAFF

Rev. Marc Stockton, JCL.....*Pastor*
Rev. Mister Timothy G. Good.....*Permanent Deacon*
Jeanne Yaple.....*Faith Formation Director*
Santee 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

~FAITH FORMATION NEWS~

Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

~Romans 8:39

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

Christ our Peace,
Glow brightly in each moment.
Enlighten our vision so that we see beyond the trappings of the holidays.
Relieve us, if just for a moment,
of our worries and stress.
We await your coming with serenity.
Amen.

Upcoming News and Events

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

Family Faith Tip of the Week: Making Resolutions and Keeping Them

For the duration of Advent, let us try to steer the actions of our children (and those of the whole family) toward things like listening, patience, hospitality, and poverty. This will not require some grand speech on your part, but a concrete suggestion: to never interrupt others while they speak, to serve others first during mealtime, to anticipate others' needs (make sure that they do not have to ask for bread, salt, water, etc), to forego dessert, a video game, the extra five minutes in bed in the morning, a toy, you don't really need, etc, to seek out a classmate who stays alone in their corner and offer to play with them, to abstain from all forms of teasing and passing judgment, and to cheerfully get out of bed. These resolutions could be personal or made by the whole family. Lastly, always remember: Advent should not be reduced to these four weeks. Our whole life is a big Advent, a time spent awaiting the coming of our Lord. *Written by Christine Ponsard*

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 Yapple

The Word of God this Week ~Loyola Press

Gospel Reading, Luke 1:39-45

Mary visits Elizabeth, who sings praise to Mary and her child.

FAMILY CONNECTION~ In the encounter between Mary and Elizabeth described in today's Gospel, we learn that other people can help us recognize God's presence and action in our lives. Mary traveled to see Elizabeth because Elizabeth's pregnancy was a sign that everything the angel told Mary would truly happen. Elizabeth recognized Mary as the mother of her Lord because her unborn child, John the Baptist, leaped at the sound of Mary's greeting. Elizabeth and Mary rejoiced together at the wonderful things God was doing in their lives. We too are blessed when we have people who help us recognize God's action in our lives. We pray that our family can be this for one another.

As you gather as a family, work together on a word search or hidden-picture puzzle. Help one another until everyone has found each of the words or pictures in the puzzle. Talk about this experience, noticing how some people found words or pictures more easily than others and how easy it was to see the word or picture once someone else pointed it out. Observe that sometimes we need the help of others to recognize God's presence and action in our lives. Read together today's Gospel, Luke 1:39-45. Ask: What did Elizabeth recognize about Mary? (that she was to be the mother of Jesus, the Lord) How did Elizabeth know this? (Her baby, John the Baptist, leaped with joy at Mary's greeting) Pray together that as we share our faith together as a family, we may help one another recognize God's presence and action in our lives. Pray together the Hail Mary.



MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Monday, December 20, Advent Weekday
No Mass Today

Tuesday, December 21, Advent Weekday
8:00 a.m. **Norbert Kania**
(Mike & Cheryl Ferrie)

Wednesday, December 22, Advent Weekday
8:00 a.m. **Marjorie Jackson**
(Jeannie McGinley)

Thursday, December 23, Advent Weekday
8:00 a.m. **Fritz & Detta George**
(Kathy & Kevin)

Friday, December 24, Advent Weekday (Christmas Eve)
5:00 p.m. **Joe Winkler**
(Mary & Family)

8:00p.m. **For the Living and Deceased Members of the Robert and Margaret Breindel Family**
(Walt Breindel)

Saturday, December 25, The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day)

12:00 a.m. **Rick Regal**
(Fred & Joanne Regal)

10:00 a.m. **Bill & Ann Watson**
(Patrick & Carol Gallagher)

5:00 p.m. **No Mass Today**

Sunday, December 26, Holy Family
7:30 a.m. **Peter & Betty Biebel and Garrett Conn**
(Gene & Jean Conn)

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

RECONCILIATION

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

~LECTOR~

FRIDAY- December 24 (Christmas Eve)

5:00 p.m. Need Volunteer
8:00 p.m. C. Mester
12:00 a.m. Need Volunteer

SATURDAY- December 25 (Christmas Day)

10:00 a.m. Need Volunteer

SUNDAY- December 26

7:30 a.m. G. Krahe
10:30 a.m. C. Wilson

~ALTAR SERVER~

FRIDAY- December 24 (Christmas Eve)

5:00 p.m. Need Volunteer
8:00 p.m. E. Russell
12:00 a.m. Need Volunteer

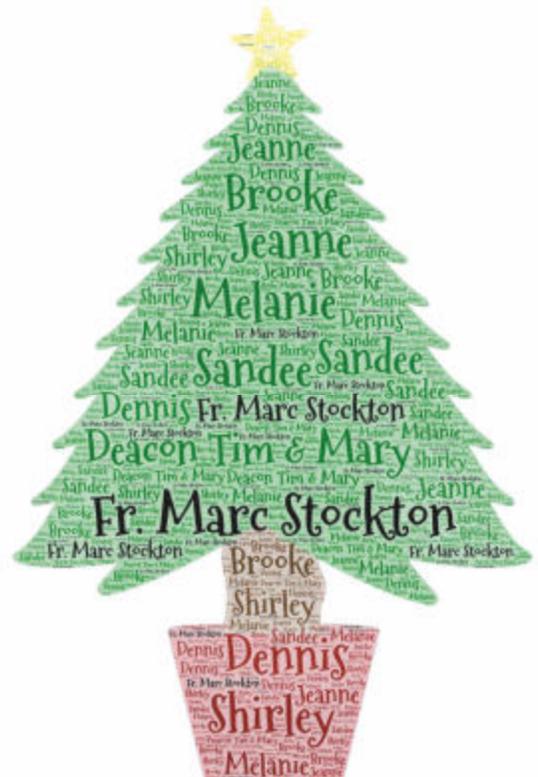
SATURDAY- December 25 (Christmas Day)

10:00 a.m. Need Volunteer

SUNDAY- December 26

7:30 a.m. C. Driscoll
10:30 a.m. E. Whiteford

*MERRY CHRISTMAS
From The Parish Staff*



~Week of December 5, Collection~

Adult.....	\$9,714.00
Online.....	\$1,655.00
Catholic Service Appeal.....	\$265.00
Christmas.....	\$35.00
Religious Retirement.....	\$205.00
Human Development	\$40.00
Holy Days.....	\$166.00

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

CHURCH CLEANING~

Heavenly dusters this week are: **Jean Conn, John Giewont, Vicki Zboyovski, Judy Bitters, Gerry Tomczak, Rose Pencille and Janet Cross.** May God bless them in their faithful work.



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