



Fourth Sunday of *Advent*

December 23, 2018



St. Boniface Catholic Church

MASSES: Saturday (Sunday Obligation) 5:30 PM, Sunday: 9:00 AM
WEEKDAY MASSES: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8:30 AM

REV. ROGER KUTZNER, PASTOR
PERMANENT DEACON: Mark Otten (815-469-7165)
PARISH SECRETARY: Kathy Short
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR: Deacon Mark and Anita Otten
MINISTRY OF CARE: Erwin Bogs

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturdays After 5:30 Mass

MARRIAGE: By appointment only. Normally made 6 months in advance.

BAPTISM: To have a child baptized at Saint Boniface Church, you must be a registered, active, member of the parish and attend a Baptism class. Baptisms are held the 2nd Sunday of the month at 12:00 PM (Noon). Call the office to schedule an appointment.

RELIGIOUS ED CLASSES: K thru 4th meet Saturdays from 9:00-10:30 AM
Grades 5, 6, 7, and 8th meet on Sundays from 10:00-11:30 AM

Church: 5304 W. Main St., Monee, IL 60449
Rectory: 25942 So. Middlepoint Avenue
P.O. Box 217, Monee, IL 60449 (534-9682)
Website: stbonifacemonee.org
Church Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
8:30am—2:00pm

Saint Boniface Catholic Church Mission Statement

Saint Boniface is a welcoming, caring Church community united under one baptism. We encourage participation by all members in promoting and sharing Christian and social values.

Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit,
cried out in a loud voice and said,
“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.”

Luke 1:41-42

Mass Intentions For The Week



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Eucharistic Ministers



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Saturday, December 22

5:30 PM—Melanie Valencia † Req. by Leobardo and Ana Valencia Martinez
Mario Broccardo † Req. by E. Broccardo

Sunday, December 23

9:00 AM—Larry Knight † Req. by O'Malley Family
Deceased Members of the Schloss Family

Monday, December 24

6:30 PM—Parish Intentions
10:30 PM—Parish Intentions

Tuesday, December 25

9:00 AM—Parish Intentions

Wednesday, December 26

8:30 AM—No Mass Office Closed

Friday, December 28

8:30 AM—Health Intentions: Virginia Perozzi Req. by Therese Bogs Haser

Saturday, December 29

5:30 PM—Deceased Members of the Pallach Family
Req. by Carol Pucik
Frank Imperio † Req. by Phyllis Imperio

Sunday, December 30

9:00 AM—Deceased Members of Modi-Francis Fam.
Req. by Polly Schloss
Elaine Malito † Req. by Janecek Family

December 23

5:30 PM
Mark Otten
Debra Ledford
Anita Otten
David Schmidt

9:00 AM
Cindy Marden
Karen Scrementi
Tracy Sheehan
Kathy Short

December 24 & 25

6:30 PM
Mark Otten
Beth Daly
Colleen Domke
Donald Domke

10:30 PM
Mark Otten
Erwin Bogs
Therese Bogs-Haser
Anita Otten

9:00 AM Christmas Day

Mark Otten
Barbara Mitchell
Joan Parker
Marcy Phalen

December 30

5:30 PM
Mark Otten
John Blazeovich
Camille Dancer
John Porpora

9:00 AM
Mark Otten
Erwin Bogs
Therese Bogs-Haser
Joan Parker

January 1

10:30 AM
Mark Otten
Beth Daly
Marcy Phalen
Karen Scrementi

Weekly Offering



December 16, 2018

This collection will be posted in next weeks' bulletin.

Many thanks to all of you for your generous donations to our Parish. May God bless all of you!

Altar Servers



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December 23

5:30 PM
Joey Correa
Kelsey Correa
9:00 AM
Athena Jaculbe
Sebastian Jaculbe

December 24

6:30 PM
Makenzie Albano
Ava Daly
10:30 PM
Abigail Hansen
Richard Hansen
Clare Hansen

December 25 Christmas Day

9:00 AM
Adam Swanson
Kasey Swanson

December 30

5:30 PM
Ashlin Porpora
Alison Porpora
9:00 AM
Brooke Hobbs
Grace Lovejoy

January 1

10:30 AM
Makenzie Albano
Ava Daly

Lectors



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December 23

5:30 PM
Rene Jurack
9:00 AM
Barbara Mitchell

December 24 & 25

6:30 PM
Kathy Dornhecker
10:30 PM
Camille Dancer

9:00 AM Christmas Day

Paul Przybyla

December 30

5:30 PM
James Lehnerer
9:00 AM
Phyllis Huske

January 1

10:30 AM
Barbara Mitchell



Fourth Sunday of Advent December 23, 2018

Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

— Luke 1:42

From the Pastor

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Sometimes the hope of Christmas is, "Next year all our troubles will be miles away." That's what the song says anyway, but many will not have a Merry Christmas just because of that. They know it is not true. Many start with and cannot get past the empty chair—where their husband used to sit, where their daughter used to climb, where grandma used to stand to reach up high. Sure, the stores have been visited, and the goodies consumed, but joy will not be unmixed this season because someone isn't there. Death has come and cast its shadow upon Christmas. Lurking in this shadow is the great beast, despair—slithering through the house as the family arrives, waiting for an opportunity to steal your joy. Satan loves to use good memories to bring pain. The fond remembrance of how it used to be can become a sea of sadness because it will never be just like that again. Jesus comes and starts again to dwell in the middle of our troubles, trying to bring us not only hope but eventually joy. He can help us carry all our burdens. After his birth, the murderous Herod called for all children around Bethlehem under the age of two to be killed because he could not find out exactly where Jesus was staying. Jeremiah prophesied, "A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more," (Matt 2:18). This is the world that God entered, a world of horrifying fatality. A world that was broken and lost, estranged from God and spiraling downward into the murky depths of hell. Into this blackness, the true light broke when God became a man. "Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die, born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth." Jesus came to bring new birth, bind up the broken-hearted and release the captives. He came because sin reigned in death. Both spiritually and physically, death had reign, and then Jesus came to beat down the old king. He was born so that "as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord," (Rom 5:21). When Jesus came that man no more would die, he brought tidings of great joy. Grace has arrived! Because death no longer rules, true joy cannot be swallowed by storm clouds of despair. This does not mean that there will be no tears this Christmas—that reality is still to come. "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away," (Rev 21:4). The former things of this glorious future are still our earthly reality today. So we long for the end, the second advent of our Lord. Jesus came and provided rescue from sin and life eternal. Because death no longer rules, songs of a trouble free next year are not our hope. They don't even make sense. Trouble is here, and it is coming again to you and your family, but a humble man from Nazareth has lifted the burden of death from your shoulders, and is coming quickly to wipe all tears away. Our hope at Christmas is the One who experienced death to conquer it – forever.

+ *Father Roger*

STEWARDSHIP

God promised to send a Savior to the world, and Jesus came among us. In return, we are called to serve Christ and proclaim Him to all. This is easily overlooked as we get caught up in our own pride, or focus on worldly matters. As we look to the Nativity of the Lord, let us shake off distractions and strive to serve Jesus and share Him with others.

A Child's Letter to God: Dear God, If you give me a genie lamp like Alladin I will give you anything you want except my money or my chess set. Raphael

A Collection of Children's Letters to God

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — From Bethlehem-Ephrathah shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel (Micah 5:1-4a).

Psalm — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).

Second Reading — We have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Christ once for all (Hebrews 10:5-10).

Gospel — Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken by the Lord would be fulfilled (Luke 1:39-45).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent
 Monday: Vigil of Christmas
 Tuesday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
 Wednesday: St. Stephen; First Day of Kwanzaa
 Thursday: St. John
 Friday: The Holy Innocents
 Saturday: Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; St. Thomas Becket

MEMORIES AND DREAMS

Throughout our lives, we retain the language and habits of our native region and family of origin. Should we return to our home after a long absence, we quickly revert to its familiar speech and practices. Our deep memory is reflected in old stories and words and speech patterns. This familiarity runs like an underground river and accompanies us wherever we go. Not only do we remember, we are incorporated into and made part of a greater memory. In remembering and recollecting, we are in turn gathered up and re-collected. Today we remember Mary, a small figure travelling the country roads to visit Elizabeth. All the great pronouncements and dreams of the prophets point to this time when the Lord's words to Mary would be gathered and fulfilled. The memories of her people are alive in her, and memories of her nourish our own living faith.

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One never notices what has been done; one can only see what remains to be done.

—Marie Curie

The 2019 Mass Intention book is here. If you would like to have a mass said in honor of a loved one, please contact the office. Weekend dates go quickly so if you would like a specific date please stop in soon!

The Knights of Columbus "Coats Drive"



has been a such a huge success—the Knights of Columbus have decided to continue accepting gently used coats for PADS until January 20th! If you

haven't had a chance to clean out your closets there is still time! Please consider dropping off a coat you no longer use to help keep someone else warm this winter.

O COME, LONG FORETOLD

O come, Desired of nations,
Whom priest and prophet long foretold
Will break the captive fetters,
Redeem the long-lost fold.

Dear Savior, haste; come, come to earth,
Dispel the night and show your face,
And bid us hail the dawn of grace.

—Simon J. Pellegrin (1663-1745), Tr. by Mary of St. Philip (1825-1904)

Forget to get your Oplatki packet? There may still be a few available. If interested, see Kathy after Sunday 9:00am Mass. Cost is \$1.00 per packet.

God came in human flesh. Mass today tells the story: no one is too small, too insignificant to bear the presence of God. The pre-born John [the one to be the Baptist] acts first in the story of visitation by jumping for joy in the womb. At what? The assurance that God comes and will be God-with-us. How will I let God come to me today? At what can I jump for joy? How will I enjoy the freedom of God's good grace by doing this mercy work?

Thank you to everyone who helped fill the needs of our giving tree families this year. Your love and generosity will help give these families in need peace, joy, and we pray a very Merry Christmas!

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

In ancient pagan Rome, these days in mid-December were a time for general slacking off at work and far too much rejoicing. The period of leisure after the harvest and a whole cluster of pagan festivals were a force for the church to reckon with. The Saturnalia, breaking out on December 17, was a time of high living and loose morals. Christians were advised by their bishops to drop out of the mayhem and do some serious fasting. A famous church council at Saragossa in Spain made a season of fasting mandatory from December 17 to December 23, exactly coinciding with the Saturnalia. The bishops at that time were perhaps less concerned with preparing for Christmas than with resisting the kind of loose living going on. Modern times have restored a bit of the Saturnalia spirit to our culture, so that a general period of partying with a vague connection to religion is now upon us. How does a Christian keep balance? The practice of charity by remembering the poor in our gift-giving, of hospitality in finding a place at our holiday tables for the poor and lonely, and of daily prayer in the home and at church are great helps. Although Advent is not a penitential season like Lent, it is a time for making room in our lives for what matters most.

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Merry Christmas



Christmas and New Year's Mass Schedule:

Monday, December 24th

Christmas Eve Masses – 6:30pm and
10:30pm

(No 8:30am Mass this day)

Tuesday, December 25th

Christmas Mass – 9:00am

Monday, December 31st

8:30am Mass only

Tuesday, January 1st

New Years Day Mass – 10:30am

(No 8:30am Mass this day)

CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

Feed the hungry

Give drink to the thirsty

Shelter the homeless Clothe the naked

Visit the sick

Visit the prisoners

Bury the dead

Give alms to the poor

Care of our Common Home

SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

Counseling the doubtful

Instructing the ignorant

Admonishing the sinner

Comforting the sorrowful

Forgiving injuries

Bearing wrongs patiently

Praying for the living and the dead

Caring for our Common Home

Welcome to St. Boniface Catholic Church

*Warm greetings to our parishioners and
all new/visiting faces!*

Please fill out the form below if:

You are new to our parish and inter-
ested in registering.

If you are attending St. Boniface but
never filled out a registration
form. (If you are unsure – please
call the office for verification).

If you need to make changes/
updates to existing information.

Please place form in the collection
basket or mail to the parish office (P.O.
Box 217, Monee, IL 60449).

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Code _____

Phone (____) _____

Email _____

- () New Parishioner, contact me
- () Update Address or Phone Number
- () Moving – Remove from register
- () Send Envelopes
- () Need Religious Education info
- () Interested in becoming Catholic
- () Would like priest to contact me