

AS THE EARTH BRINGS FORTH ITS PLANTS,
AND A GARDEN MAKES ITS GROWTH SPRING UP,
SO WILL THE LORD GOD MAKE JUSTICE AND PRAISE
SPRING UP BEFORE ALL THE NATIONS.

ISAIAH 61:11

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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
WEEKDAY RECONCILIATION: Monday and Friday after 8:30 AM Mass

PASTOR: Rev. Roger Kutzner
DEACON: Mark Otten (815-469-7165)

PARISH SECRETARY: Kathy Short
Email: office@stbonifacemonee.org

MINISTRY OF CARE: Erwin Bogs
Email: st.boniface@comcast.net

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR: Nancy Bishop
Email: stbonifacemoneere@gmail.com

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Call office.

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

BAPTISM: 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 12:00PM (Noon). Call the office to schedule an appointment.

RELIGIOUS ED CLASSES: All classes meet on Sundays from 10:00-11:30

Church: 5304 W. Main St., Monee, IL 60449

P.O. Box 217, Monee, IL 60449

Phone: 708-534-9682

**Church Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
8:30am—2:00pm**

Website: stbonifacemonee.org

Facebook: St Boniface Church Monee

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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

DECEMBER 13, 2020



Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, December 12—5:30 PM
Kazimierz Iwaniuk † Req. by Chris Hays
Barbara Marusin † Req. by the Ladies Club

Sunday, December 13—9:00 AM
Judy Tyler † Req. by Kathy Boswell
Deceased Members of Pierce and Brooks Families Req. by Mary Pierce

Monday, December 14—8:30 AM
Dan Marcukaitis † Steve and Gina Driscoll

Wednesday, December 16—8:30 AM
Karen Haddon † Req. by Marianne Farrell

Friday, December 18—8:30 AM
Joy Leonardo † Req. by Chris Hays

Saturday, December 19—5:30 PM
Randall Blocker † Req. by Chris Hays
Barbara Marusin † Req. by Camille Dancer

Sunday, December 20—9:00 AM
Melanie Valencia † Req. by Leobardo and Ana Valencia Martinez
Anniversary of the Passing of C.S. Deckelmann † Req. by Patricia Fogerty



December 13
5:30 PM
 James Lehnerer
9:00 AM
 Paul Przybyla

December 24
5:30 PM
 Kathy Dornhecker
10:30 PM
 Paul Przybyla

December 20
5:30 PM
 David Schmidt
9:00 AM
 Phyllis Huske

December 25
9:00 AM
 Camille Dancer

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent
 Monday: St. John of the Cross
 Wednesday: *Las Posadas* begins



COLLECTION SUMMARY
Week of December 6, 2020

Sunday Offertory	\$	2685.00
Maintenance Fund	\$	585.00

As we are upon the end of 2020 you may have noticed our weekly collection getting lower. We sincerely thank everyone still mailing in their contributions. If you can continue to give, know that we are grateful.

Please remember—DO NOT MAIL CASH! You are welcome to mail a check or call the office to arrange a day and time to drop off your donations.

St. Boniface Church
 P.O. Box 217

RETIREMENT FUND FOR THE RELIGIOUS

In 1988, Catholic bishops of the United States launched the Retirement Fund for Religious (RFR) to address the significant lack of retirement funding for Catholic sisters, brothers, and priests in religious orders.

For most of their lives, elder religious worked for little to no pay. There were no 401(k) plans or pensions.

Religious communities are financially responsible for the support and care of all members. Income, earnings, and expenses are managed separately from the parish and diocesan structures of the Catholic Church.

This weekend's second collection is for the support of the Retirement Fund for Religious which helps religious communities care for senior members while continuing important ministries to the People of God.

Most people are bothered by those passages in Scripture which they can't understand; but . . . I have noticed that the passages in Scripture which trouble me most are those I do understand.

—Mark Twain



Third Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2020

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.

— 1 Thessalonians 5:16

From the Pastor



In just eleven days we will hear “joy to the world” acclamation inviting us to rejoice in the coming of the Son of God to our lives through His birth in Bethlehem, Judea. We will rejoice because our deepest desire to be known and loved completely, unconditionally, and everlastingly by God is being fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

It's good to be in loving relationship with Jesus, even though the evil one has tried so many times to take Him away from us. Our friendship with Christ is worth more than anything - more than our comfort, our freedom, and even our very lives. Here is one of the stories about cherishing that friendship told by one of the bishops from Latvia, a former communist republic of Soviet Union.

In Latvia, now free northern European country, people were forced to accept the Soviet communist regime after World War II. Part of the policy of communists there was the systemic elimination of all religion. They arrested Protestant pastors, as well as Catholic priests and bishops, intimidated them, bribed them, and did everything they could to cut off the flow of God's influence on people. They also made it a crime to possess the Bible, which was considered an anti-Communist (and therefore treasonous) book.

One priest who was arrested for possessing the Bible was named Viktors. When they arrested him, the Soviet agents threw the Holy Scriptures on the floor, right in front of the priest. Then they ordered the priest to step on it as a sign of scorn for the Christian faith. But the priest refused. Instead, he knelt down and kissed the sacred book. For doing this, he was condemned to 10 years of hard labor in Siberia.

Ten years later, when Viktors returned to his parish and celebrated the holy Mass, he read the Gospel. Then he held up the lectionary and said, "The Word of God!" The parishioners cried and thanked God in the silence of their hearts - they did not dare to applaud him, because that would be taken as another provocation.

That priest understood that the only lasting joy in life, the only thing worth living for, is friendship with Jesus Christ, which is nourished by God's inspired Word and Sacraments, and nothing was going to make him compromise that.

As we aim towards great celebration of Christ's Birth during this Advent may our friendship with Him give us always a profound peace and joy.

+ *Father Roger*

Stewardship Thought:



All of the people in today's readings — the prophet Isaiah, the Virgin Mary, St. Paul, St. John the Baptist — seemed to understand clearly and rejoice in what God was calling them to be and to do. Do I?

Dear God,
I think it is really cool the way you made such a big day for your son and had the whole world give gifts and all. But I think you should be fair and have days for the apostles too. Petermas, Paulmas, Andymas. Even Judasmas would be good. Everyone should get a 2nd chance.

Merry Christmas, Andy Age 11

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — As a garden makes its growth spring up, so will God make justice spring up before all the nations (Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11).

Psalm — My soul rejoices in my God (Luke 1:46-50, 53-54).

Second Reading — Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24).

Gospel — I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord (John 1:6-8, 19-28).

JOHN THE BAPTIST

At a school open house a woman could be overheard introducing her husband to some of the other parents. "Oh, Bill, I'd like you to meet Johnny's father. And over here, this is Marie's mom; you know, the little girl from our Ellen's soccer team."

With satisfied resignation Bill introduced himself not by name: "I'm Ellen's Dad."

It's good to know who you are. Be it someone's father or mother, son or daughter, husband or wife, it's important to embrace the full meaning of our various roles.

John the Baptist knows who he is. And who he is not. He is not the Christ. Nor Elijah. Nor like any other prophet God's people had ever seen.

John the Baptist knows his mission is divine. He's more than satisfied to be the one to announce the coming of God's reign. The Christ is near. Make straight your paths.

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In order to carry a positive action, we must develop here a positive vision.

— Dalai Lama

**O Come, All Ye Faithful**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem. Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

O come let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

O come let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

2021 Word & Song Book, Hymn #450



Vickie Moore Westbrook, Bob Gorz, Marie Woods, Carol Orolin, Karen Males, Carye Loach, Judii Lowe, Jamie Lynn Gorz, Joseph Males, Louise Kopaczewski, Sharon Blazeovich, Gayle Males, Celia Munoz, Kathy Bertram, Vicki Schmidt, John Kooyenga, Ken Zohlfeld, Jeanne Bodnar, Eason M., Bernie Van Etten, Jason Brandstetter, Helen Barrett, Dolly Richmond, the safety of all healthcare workers, all those battling the Coronavirus, those who died this last week and those that go unnamed.

Names will remain on the list for one month unless otherwise requested. *To have someone added to this list please call the parish office.*

Please pray for the souls of the following who passed away recently: Chuck and Imelda (Mel) Housh, Florence Gawrych, and Yolanda Avila.

FEAST OF FAITH**The Shape of the Mass**

In the renewal of the liturgy that followed the Second Vatican Council, the full, conscious, and active participation of the assembly was the primary consideration. By participation, the Council Fathers did not mean just joining in the singing and the spoken responses, but active engagement and prayerful understanding of the rites. They envisioned a transparent liturgy, a worship that spoke so directly to the hearts and minds of the faithful that it would require no explanation at all.

The liturgy itself is the best possible catechesis on the liturgy. What does the liturgy teach us? It shows us the ministry of Jesus continuing in the present. He gathers a community. He calls us to prayer and repentance and praise. He teaches us with the very word of God. He does not send us away empty, but sets before us a marvelous banquet, feeding us with his very body and blood. Then he sends us forth to do what he has done—to give ourselves for others, not just in words, but in deeds. The Mass is the pattern of our Christian lives.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Reasons to Rejoice

Saint Paul seems to be throwing out a handful of sayings that may sound overly optimistic, but are actually very practical. "Rejoice always"? If we pray constantly and thank God for all that happens to us, we have reason to rejoice. Even the things we don't like can be turned to good by God. God allows sin because it leads to forgiveness, an experience of God's love for us. And God allows even death, because God can bring us to eternal life.

How do we know if something really is from the Spirit? Saint Paul says, test everything. Retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Use the scriptures, the teachings of the Church, and your conscience to decide whether the Spirit is moving you, or if advice you hear is worthwhile. Trust God to make us holy if we only allow it. Then we will be ready for the coming of the Lord, whether through the sacraments, the celebration of Christmas, or God's final coming in glory. I'd say that's a reason to rejoice.

Tom Schmidt, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



Helpers Needed! We will be putting up our nativity and Christmas banners on Wednesday, December 16th after the 8:30am mass. If you are available we would love for you to join us in setting up this beautiful display!

GAUDETE SUNDAY

Historically the pink or rose candle is called the Gaudete candle, from the Latin word meaning "rejoice." The third Sunday of Advent is also known by some Christians as Gaudete Sunday. ... It is an important reminder in the Advent season of preparation, of the joy that is ours in knowing the power of love in our lives. On Gaudete Sunday rose-colored vestments may be worn instead of violet (or instead of deep blue, which is otherwise prescribed for every day in the season of Advent. Gaudete Sunday was also known as "Rose Sunday".

Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles that one has overcome while trying to succeed.

—Booker T. Washington



Christmas Eve Masses
5:30pm and 10:30pm

Christmas Day Mass
9:00am

Christmas masses will require reservations. **Walk-ins will not be admitted.** Reservations can be made starting Monday, November 30 through Wednesday, December 23 **or until allowed capacity is reached.** Reservations can be made by calling or texting 708 927-9253.

Should, for any reason these masses are cancelled—updates will be posted on our website, Facebook page, and on our answering machine.

Website: stbonifacemonee.org
Facebook: St Boniface Monee
Church phone number: 708-534-9682

The Ladies Club Raffle was a HUGE success—thanks to all our parishioners that purchased tickets! This year's raffle brought in \$1120.00. This is especially helpful to the Ladies Club since they were unable to hold their annual Christmas Bake Sale this year. The raffle winners are:

\$200 Mary Beth Crosser
\$100 Deb Ledford
\$50 Mary Pierce
\$50 Chris Lunetta
\$50 Barbara Michael
\$50 Patsy Bruggeman

Note: The Ladies Club will not meet again until after the holidays. Next meeting: TBA

Congratulations to the winners and the Ladies Club wishes everyone a Merry Christmas!