

*Natividad*  
DEL SEÑOR

*Nativity*  
OF THE LORD

**St. Boniface  
Catholic Church**

5304 W. Main St.

Monee, IL 60449

Phone: (708) 534-9682

[www.stbonifacemonee.org](http://www.stbonifacemonee.org)

# Mass Intentions

## Saturday, December 24 Christmas Eve

6:00 PM Parishioners of St. Boniface

10:30 PM Parishioners of St. Boniface

## Sunday, December 25 Christmas Day

9:00 AM Parishioners of St. Boniface

## Monday, December 26

8:30 AM Peace in Ukraine

## Wednesday, December 28

8:30 AM † Sharon Blazeovich, Req. by the Knights of Columbus

## Friday, December 30

8:30 AM Health Intentions of Lisa Imperio-Mancari  
Req. by Phyllis Imperio

## Saturday, December 31

5:30 PM † Leslie Farrell, Req. by Marianne Farrell

## Sunday, January 1

9:00 AM Health Intentions of James Schulp,  
Req. by Haser-Bogs Family

# Liturgical Ministers

## Saturday, December 24

### Lectors

6:00 PM Kathy Dornhecker

10:30 PM Paul Przybyla

### Eucharistic Ministers

6:00 PM Dcn Mark Otten, Camille Dancer, David Schmidt

10:30 PM Dcn Mark Otten, Rene Jurack, Anita Otten

### Altar Servers

6:00 PM Brooke Hobbs, Richard O Sterling

10:30 PM Lily and Clara Raftery

## Sunday, December 25

### Lector

9:00 AM Phyllis Huske

### Eucharistic Ministers

9:00 AM Dcn Mark Otten

### Altar Servers

9:00 AM Athena and Sherwin Jaculbe

## Sunday, January 1

### Lectors

5:30 PM David Schmidt

9:00 AM Erwin Bogs

### Eucharistic Ministers

5:30 PM Dcn Mark Otten, John Blazeovich, Rene Jurack, Debra Ledford

9:00 AM Dcn Mark Otten, Donald Domke, Colleen Domke, Phyllis Huske

### Altar Servers

5:30 PM Sally A Bryant, Marie McCurdy

9:00 AM Therese Bogs-Haser, Wayne Haser

# Prayer of the Week

Generous God, we rejoice today in your gift of your only Son, who leads us from darkness to light, from sin to redemption, from death to eternal life. Hear these our prayers and grant them in your mercy through the One whose birth we celebrate today, Emmanuel, God with us.

# Please Pray For

Pedro Anaya  
Carye Dancer  
Beatrice Dudek  
Michael Cremin  
Shirley Farnsworth  
Alfredo Ferria  
Christopher Frakes  
Jeanette Fogerty Klein  
Lisa Imperio Mancari  
Louise Kopaczewski  
Christian Latche  
Joane Males  
Karen Males  
Olga Orengo  
Patrick Quintan  
Vicki Schmidt  
James Schulp  
Marlene Tengolics  
RW  
VS

**And for those that go unnamed.**

*Names will be removed after one month of posting. If you would like a name you no longer see re-posted for another month, or would like to add a new name, please contact the office.*

## From Our Pastor

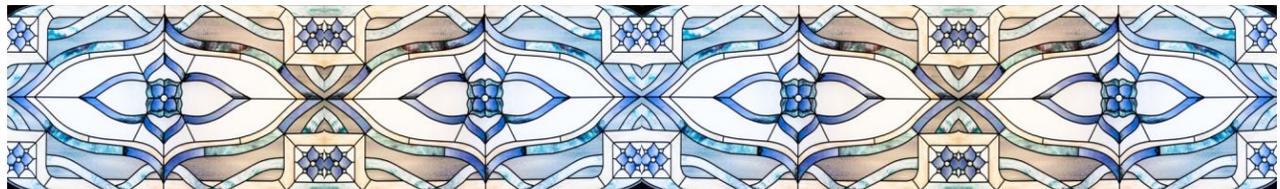


With each Nativity scene I see I am reminded of the miraculous event that occurred many years ago. The miracle of Christmas is that God chose to come and be with us in Jesus Christ. While we may over-romanticize the stable where Jesus was born, we can know that this birthing place speaks volumes about God's infinite courtesy towards all people. Jesus was born in an earthy, raw, smelly stable, not in a temple or royal palace. Being born in such a place is God's way of showing that Christ comes to us in all sorts of human conditions — earthy, smelly, broken and accomplished. No matter what we've done or haven't done, God comes to be with us in Jesus Christ where we are in life, and out of His great love for all humanity. With Jesus we can see the miracles that happen today as well. May we all have the eyes to see them not only during this season but all year long.

As we gather in churches throughout the world, I would hope we can humble ourselves enough to truly worship the Christ Child in the manger scene and acknowledge Him for who He truly is, and not what the world — or at times even we in our human frailty and sin — want Him to be.

I pray that I and all of us who say we are Christian Catholics can kneel in humble prayer before the Christ Child and say: "You allow me to know how to be human, that Your coming in a human body allows me to experience Your divine person, that You are truly the Son of God who enters into the history of man and allows us to participate in the timeless reality of God the Father, You and the Holy Spirit. Your divine love coming into the world as a baby is irresistible and allows us the opportunity to initially experience God incarnate with awe and joy. May I love You always, at every moment, with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength."

***Have a Merry and Blessed Christmas.***



## Today's Readings

**First Reading** — *Isaiah 52:7-10* Like the Israelites of old, today's Christian stewards also proclaim, "God is King!" Jesus Christ brings us His Good News.

**Psalm** — Psalm 98:1-6 Christian stewards use their talents to praise and thank God in prayer, song, and instrument for His great gifts to us.

**Second Reading** — Hebrews 1:1-6 Our heavenly Father proclaims Jesus, His Son, and tells the angels to worship Him. Can we do less?

**Gospel** — John 1:1-18 The Word becomes flesh; God became man. God gives us the greatest gift of all — His Son, Jesus, Who will open for us the path to eternal salvation.

## Saints and Special Observances

26 Mon. Feast of St. Stephen Christmas Day  
(Federal observation) Hanukkah ends Kwanzaa begins Boxing Day (Canada)

27 Tue. Feast of St. John

28 Wed. Feast of the Holy Innocents

29 Thu. Fifth Day within the Octave of Christmas Optional Memorial of St. Thomas Becket

30 Fri. Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

31 Sat. Seventh Day within the Octave of Christmas Optional Memorial of St. Sylvester I New Year's Eve

***Dust on your Bible leads to dirt in your life.***

## Reflection

“In the beginning,” John began, as did the author of Genesis centuries before (1:1). The first humans were God’s creation, made in God’s own image, as is every human born into the world since. But not until Jesus was born, when the Word became flesh, when God’s own Son took on our human nature, did we truly become brothers and sisters of Jesus and children of God. Then, when Jesus, fully divine and fully human, suffered and died and was raised, a measure of God’s own immortality was bestowed upon us. As the fourth-century bishop Saint Athanasius said, God was made human so that we may become divine. From the beginning, the seeds of our divinity have been present. Through the Word made flesh, they have been sown.

***How can the seeds of divinity sown in me bloom for all to realize? Do I recognize the seeds of divinity in me? In others?***

## Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

With great longing, we have been preparing our hearts and our homes for this day on which we celebrate the birth of our Messiah and Savior. We recall that glorious night when the Blessed Mother bore Jesus into an expectant world, realizing that Jesus is also born in our hearts and in our world here and now, made present through one another and in the Eucharist we celebrate. May this “good news of great joy that will be for all the people” continue to be incarnated in our lives and our world.

***God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage***



**Las Posadas** (“The Inns”) commemorates the journey that, due to a census, Joseph and Mary made from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of a safe refuge where Mary could give birth to the baby Jesus. When they were unable to find lodging in Bethlehem, Joseph and Mary were forced to seek shelter in a stable, where the Christ Child was born. Every year between December 16<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> a religious festival is celebrated in Mexico and some parts of the United States.



A young mother, her eyes shining with fatigue, who is arranging her hair; a father who finds himself alone with his pretty wife and baby, straightening the stable to make himself useful in some way; shepherds who bring cheese and perhaps also some curdled milk; sheep who look at their shepherds while bleating; a donkey who is eyeing his manger changed into a cradle; an adorable swaddled baby whom one calls Savior, Christ and Lord: This is the manifestation of the goodness and the tenderness of God. This is the most fantastic birth in the history of humanity, the one which changed the face of the world! This is how far God humbled and compromised himself with us! This is Emmanuel!—From *God’s Word Is Our Joy*, Vol. 1 by Lucien Deiss, CSSp, copyright © 1998, World Library Publications. p. 73

**St. Boniface wishes all our parishioners  
a very Merry Christmas  
and joyous New Year.**





## Stewardship Thought

“For unto us is born this day a Savior!” In response to so great a love, only the gift of my whole self will do. You have given us Yourself, dear Lord; in love and thanksgiving, I commit myself afresh to You (Our Sunday Visitor, *ibid.*, page 7).

### Collection Summary • Week of December 18, 2022

Sunday Offertory.....	\$2630.00
Christmas Flowers.....	\$ 579.00

We sincerely thank everyone for your generous donations to our parish. You are welcome to mail your contribution envelopes, place them in the offering baskets in the church, or call the office to arrange a day and time to drop off your donations.

**Next week we have a second collection for our Parish Maintenance Fund.**

## Hanukkah - Kwanzaa - Boxing Day

**Hanukkah** ends nightfall on December 26, 2022, beginning on the Hebrew calendar date of 25.

**Kwanzaa** is an annual celebration of African-American culture from December 26 to January 1, culminating in a communal feast called Karamu, usually on the sixth day. It was created by activist Maulana Karenga, based on African harvest festival traditions from various parts of West and Southeast Africa.

**Boxing Day (Canada)** is a holiday celebrated after Christmas Day, occurring on the second day of Christmastide (26 December). Though it originated as a holiday to give gifts to the poor, today Boxing Day is primarily known as a shopping holiday. It originated in Great Britain and is celebrated in a number of countries that previously formed part of the British Empire. The attached bank holiday or public holiday may take place on 28 December if necessary to ensure it falls on a weekday. Boxing Day is also concurrent with the Catholic holiday Saint Stephen's Day.

## New Years Day Schedule

**Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022 New Years Eve:**  
Mass at 5:30 pm

**Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023 New Years Day:**  
Mass at 9:00 am

**The office will also be closed, Monday, December 26 and January 2.**

## New Ministry Schedule

The current Ministry schedule for Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and Altar Servers will end January 29, 2023 and we will need any changes to when you serve, vacation dates, etc. for the next schedule which will begin February 4, 2023 and run until May 28, 2023. If you would like to be a Lector or Eucharistic Minister, or Altar Server, send us your name and phone number, and the Mass time you would prefer and this info can be dropped in the collection basket, or call the office during hours. Training will be provided. Deadline for any changes (new people, delete your service, etc.) must be in the office no later than January 8, 2023.

**Feast of the Holy Innocents**, also called Childermas or Innocents' Day, Christian feast in remembrance of the massacre of young children in Bethlehem by King Herod the Great in his attempt to kill the infant Jesus (Matthew 2:16–18). The feast is observed by Western churches on December 28 and in the Eastern churches on December 29. The slain children were regarded by the early church as the first martyrs, but it is uncertain when the day was first kept as a saint's day. It may have been celebrated with Epiphany, but by the 5th century it was kept as a separate festival. In Rome it was a day of fasting and mourning.



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