

The Church of Saint Boniface

November 28, 2021

The First Sunday of Advent



"Be vigilant at all times and pray..."

(Luke 21:36)

THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

November 28, 2021 • The First Sunday of Advent

The Gospel is a frightening one, and the final line is outright terrifying: “Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man” (Luke 21:36). Matthew tells us what it is like to stand before the Son of Man. Have I given food to my hungry brothers and sisters, or provided for them in their need, or cared for them when they’re sick, or visited them in prison? Just to get to that point, we must survive **great suffering. Since we don’t know when it will happen, we must be prepared to face judgment at all times. We have been warned!**

How do we do this? Perhaps the secret to preparing for the Lord’s coming—at Christmas, at the Last Judgment, or fully into our hearts—is to act as if the Lord is already here. After all, he is. Do we see the Lord in our brother and sister in need? The more willingly we see the Lord in our neighbor, the more easily we love those whom we would otherwise overlook, dismiss, or outright reject. How easily do we focus our love solely on our own loved ones, or, worse, just ourselves? May we see Jesus in all those in need and act accordingly.

Questions of the Week:

Can I name a person or group of people whom I now realize I have overlooked?

How can I seek out Jesus in my neighbor?

Share Your Story

“But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.”

(Luke 21:28)

We celebrate Advent each year in preparation for the birth of Jesus, His first coming, as we await His second coming. What will you do differently this Advent season to grow in friendship and love with Jesus? How will you inspire others to do the same? Start by sharing your God story with others, especially those closest to you. Invite and accompany them on their faith journey this Advent.

Advent Speaker Series at Saint Boniface



First Weekend of Advent

(November 27 & 28) All Masses — Rev. Richard Lewandowski
(Food for the Poor}

Second Weekend of Advent

(December 4 & 5) 4:00 PM, 8:00 AM — Rev. Monsignor John Doran
(December 5) 10:30 AM — Rev. Anthony DiRusso

Third Weekend of Advent

(December 11) 4:00 PM — Rev. Monsignor James Mongelluzzo
(December 12) 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM — Rev. John Hamm

Fourth Weekend of Advent

(December 18) 4:00 PM — Deacon Peter Nguyen
(December 19) 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM — Deacon Court Shields

MASS INTENTIONS

Nov. 28	8:00 AM	Rev. Andre Garipey , by the Laford family
Dec. 4	4:00 PM	Louis & Angelina Arruda , by their family
Dec. 5	8:00 AM	Wesley Laford , by the Laford family
Dec. 11	4:00 PM	Angelina Arruda , 22nd Anniv., by her children
Dec. 12	8:00 AM	Irving & Jennie Paton , by their children
Dec. 18	4:00 PM	Bernard & Althea Robarge

If you wish to schedule a Mass intention for a loved one, please call, email or visit the parish office.

PRAY THE ROSARY every Saturday at 3:30 PM in the church, led by members of the Saint Boniface Knights of Columbus.

CONDOLENCES to the family of Josephine Bouvier, who passed away on Tuesday, November 23. "Josie" has been a faithful parishioner of Saint Boniface since 1950. May she rest in eternal peace.



Want to hear the secret of getting into the Christmas Spirit? O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL! We are excited to announce that we will bring back Christmas Caroling to folks who may have a difficult time coming out to church. Individuals and families are invited to meet after the 10:30 Mass on Sunday, December 12. We will leave Saint Boniface at noon. Please RSVP to Claire (cmkakosgarrity@aol.com) so that we have plenty of song sheets and jingle bells!

CHRISTMAS GIVING

Giving Trees: We have placed two giving trees at the back of the church. If you are able to donate a gift, please take a tag this weekend. Items may be wrapped if you wish, and should be placed under one of the trees no later than Sunday, December 19th. Thank you to our middle school and Confirmation students who helped with the trees.

Our Deacons & Seminarians: Can you provide a gift card this Christmas for a deacon or seminarian in the Worcester Diocese? If you can help, look for gift tags on the windows at the back of the church next weekend. We ask that cards be returned in the collection basket by Sunday, December 19th.

Saint Boniface has been selected by the local Hannaford store leadership as the benefiting non-profit in the Community Bag Program!

For the month of December 2021, Saint Boniface Social Action Committee will receive a \$1 donation from each purchase of the \$2.50 reusable Community Bag at the Hannaford store located at 333 Mass. Ave., Lunenburg Crossing, Lunenburg.



COLLECTION REPORT

November 21	
– Sunday Offering	\$ 1,770
– Maintenance/Fuel	20
– Campaign for Human Dev.	298
– Other	5
Total	\$2,093

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Give to our parish whether you're in the pews or not! Many parishioners have been making their weekly offerings online. It's secure, convenient and easy to make one-time or recurring donations at www.stboniface-lunenburg.org



Save the date: Sunday, Dec. 19
BREAKFAST IN BETHLEHEM

Children in grades 1-5 will present a Christmas pageant beginning at 9:30 AM and breakfast will be served by our Confirmation candidates. Please set aside time to join us for this VERY special holiday tradition here at Saint Boniface.

CHRISTMAS MEAT RAFFLE

Friday, Dec. 3, 7:00 PM (doors open 6:30 PM)

Knights of Columbus Council #99
165 Electric Ave., Fitchburg

Turkeys, hams, roasts and more! Try to win your Christmas dinner! Proceeds benefit KoC charities.

Saint Joseph's Parish

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday, Dec. 4, 9 AM – 4 PM
49 Woodland St., Fitchburg

Food, poutines, râpée, meat pies, crafts, theme baskets, cash raffle, and more!



Why is St. Peter wearing a sling in his statue at the Vatican?

A bronze statue of the first pope sits regally in his basilica in Rome. But why is his left arm in a sling?

On the right side of **St. Peter's Basilica**, just before the main altar, a small but majestic statue of



the first pontiff sits on an elevated throne. His eyes gaze into the distance; his bearing is upright and noble; a golden halo rests on his head; his right hand is raised in blessing. His feet have been worn smooth by the constant touches of countless pilgrims that have passed through the Basilica over the centuries.

In his left hand, he holds the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven—the keys that have been passed on in an unbroken line of succession since the day **Christ gave them to him. But Peter's left arm is encased in a sling, as though it were injured or needed support. What a strange detail!**

Strange in appearance, but profound in meaning. The sling is a reminder of human weakness. The weight of the keys of Peter is far too great to be borne by mortal strength; the pope must rely on the divine aid that Christ promised to His Vicar on earth. It is the Holy Spirit that guides the hand that holds the keys, not any human ability.

This theme is re-echoed in the Altar of the Chair, beyond the main altar in the back of the Basilica, where we see the Chair of Peter borne aloft by clouds. The four Church Fathers at the four corners only guide it; they do not bear its weight. Again, the Holy Spirit, portrayed in the alabaster window above the altar, is the **Church's true strength and support.**

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Saints of the Week

November 29.

SAINT CLEMENT

Saint Clement was the fourth pope of the Church, living toward the end of the first century. He is known for his letter to the church at Corinth, in which he tried to reestablish peace between the clergy and the faithful.

Saint Clement is a Patron Saint of Marble Workers, Mariners, and Tanners.



Stained glass detail, St. Peter's Church, Aberdeen, Scotland.

November 30.

SAINT ANDREW

Saint Andrew was Saint Peter's brother, and was called by Jesus along with Peter. We know very little about Andrew except that he too was a fisherman, and a disciple of Saint John the Baptist.

Saint Andrew is a Patron Saint of Fishermen, Greece, Russia, and Scotland.



Saint Andrew, by Jusepe de Ribera

December 1.

BLESSED CHARLES DE FOUCAULD

Orphaned at the age of six, Charles was raised by his devout grandfather. He rejected the Catholic faith as a teenager, but resumed its practice around age 30. He then became a Trappist monk. After leaving the monastery, Charles traveled extensively, living a peaceful and somewhat hidden life.



Monument to Charles de Foucauld, Strasberg, France

December 2.

BLESSED RAFAL CHYLINSKI

This Polish Conventual Franciscan served in the military, but felt the call to the vowed religious life. Rafal was known for his simple and candid sermons, for his generosity, as well as for his ministry in the confessional. People of all levels of society were drawn to the self-sacrificing way he lived out his religious profession and priestly ministry.



Blessed Rafal Chyliński

December 3.

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER

Saint Francis Xavier was won over to Christ by the gentle persuasion of Saint Ignatius of Loyola. He then joined the Jesuits and soon after set off for the East, where he labored the rest of his life. Xavier was on his way to China when he died in 1552.

Saint Francis Xavier is a Patron Saint of Japan, Jewelers, Missions, and Sailors.



The miracles of St. Francis Xavier, by Peter Paul Rubens

Saint Boniface Church

817 Massachusetts Avenue, Lunenburg, MA 01462

Parish Office: 978-582-4008 email: stbonifaceparish@verizon.net

Discover St. Boniface ~ Visit our website: www.StBoniface-lunenburg.org

Parish Office Hours

Monday / Wednesday / Thursday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM (closed 12:00 – 1:00 PM)

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Sunday: 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 PM

Holy Hour of Adoration: every Wednesday 5:30-6:30 PM

Weekday Masses: 6:30 PM Wednesday | 8:00 AM Thursday & Friday

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Confession) Saturday 3:00 - 3:30 p.m. or by appointment.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Adults are baptized at the Easter Vigil as part of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Infant and child Baptisms are by arrangement.

FIRST EUCHARIST Preparation begins in grade one and includes classes, retreats, and home instruction. Children receive First Eucharist in grade two.

CONFIRMATION Our Confirmation program begins in the 9th grade; students are confirmed in the spring of the 10th grade. For young adults who have been baptized but not yet confirmed, contact the parish office.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY It is the policy of the Diocese of Worcester that a couple should contact the parish at least one year prior to the anticipated date of their wedding to allow sufficient time to carry out the various steps of the marriage preparation process. It is important that arrangements be made with the church before plans are made with reception halls, caterers, etc.

ANNOINTING OF THE SICK Please call the parish office 978-582-4008 or email Fr. Omolo at stbonifaceparish@verizon.net or Louise Nadeau at dinalou1@comcast.net to arrange these visits.

PRAYER LINE MINISTRY If you or someone you know needs prayers or if you would like to be a part of this ministry of those who pray for the needs of neighbors, please contact Sue Cote 978-582-0404 sj33@msn.com.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #16480 *In Service to One. In Service to all.* Members meet in the Parish Hall on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 PM. Any Catholic men over 18 who are interested in joining the Knights should contact Grand Knight Peter Bak (978-403-5119) or Deputy Grand Knight Claude Poirier (978-660-3202), or email kofc16480@gmail.com.

PARISH STAFF:

	<i>phone</i>	<i>email</i>
Rev. Charles Omolo, Administrator	978-582-4008	stbonifaceparish@verizon.net
Jo-Anne Poirier, Administrative Assistant	978-582-4008	stbonifaceparish@verizon.net
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Claire Garrity Neas, Music Ministry	617-823-4237	cmkakosgarrity@aol.com
Louise Nadeau, Sacristan		
Ministry Schedule	978-582-4008	stbonifaceparish@verizon.net
Nina Charpentier, Director, Preschool	978-582-7110	

Newcomers to St. Boniface are invited and encouraged to formally register as members of the parish so that we may stay in touch with you with faith formation news, notices of special events, volunteer opportunities, and more.

Registration forms are available at the doors of the church, the parish office, or on our website.

Please note that you must be registered for at least six months before we can issue any verification of your status as a parishioner for godparent or sponsor letters.

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