

The Church of Saint Boniface

December 5, 2021

The Second Sunday of Advent



...A voice of one crying out in the desert:

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."

(Luke 3:4)

THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

December 5, 2021 • The Second Sunday of Advent

Quite likely you have a long checklist of things that you need to do before Christmas, which is now only three weeks away. But is **"repentance for the forgiveness of sins"** on that list? It ought to be, for this is exactly what John the Baptist called for in preparation for the Lord's coming. **Gathered here today to receive Jesus** in the Eucharist, let us repent of the wrongs we have done or failed to do and seek forgiveness for our sins so as to properly prepare a place for our Lord to be born into our lives.

Each reading this week ultimately directs our focus onto the future. Baruch looks forward to the time when Jerusalem is restored in glory. In Luke, John the Baptist calls everyone to **prepare for Jesus' coming, when salvation will come to all people.** Paul looks ahead to **"the day of Christ Jesus,"** the time of the Second Coming (Philippians 1:6). As Christians, we are called to anticipate the completion of the good work that has begun in us.

How are valleys filled in, mountains made low, paths made straight, and rough ways smoothed? Repentance. It is sin that throws up obstacles on our paths to salvation. Like a falling out between friends prevents that friendship from growing, our past sins prevent our love of God and love of neighbor from developing. Repentance allows us to put aside the past and focus on the future.

Gifts

***"And this is my prayer:
that your love may increase ever
more and more in knowledge
and every kind of perception, to
discern what is of value..."***

(Philippians 1:9-10)

During the Christmas shopping season it is easy to get caught up in the frenzy of buying gifts. But, is **that "gift" truly an expression of your love for the other person?** Or, are you just fulfilling your **"obligation" to give them something?** To grow in friendship with someone, you need to spend time with them, learn what is of value to them. Maybe this year, buy less **"stuff" and spend more time with those you love.**

Advent & Christmas at Saint Boniface

Advent Guest Celebrants & Homilists

Second Weekend of Advent
(Dec. 4 & 5) 4:00 PM, 8:00 AM —
Rev. Monsignor John Doran
(Dec. 5) 10:30 AM —
Rev. Anthony DiRusso

Third Weekend of Advent
(Dec. 11) 4:00 PM —
Rev. Monsignor James Mongelluzzo
(Dec. 12) 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM —
Rev. John Hamm

Fourth Weekend of Advent
(Dec. 18) 4:00 PM —
Deacon Peter Nguyen
(Dec. 19) 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM —
Deacon Court Shields



Christmas Mass Schedule

December 24
4:00 PM, 7:00 PM

December 25
9:00 AM

December 26
8:00 AM, 10:30 AM

December 31
7:00 PM

January 1
4:00 PM

January 2
8:00 AM, 10:30 AM

MASS INTENTIONS

Dec. 4	4:00 PM	Louis & Angelina Arruda , by their family
Dec. 5	8:00 AM	Wesley Laford , by the Laford family
Dec. 8	6:30 PM	Daniel Gilligan & Clifford Fuller , by Marilyn Brown
Dec. 11	4:00 PM	Angelina Arruda , 22 nd Anniversary, by her children
Dec. 12	8:00 AM	Irving & Jennie Paton , by their children
Dec. 18	4:00 PM	Bernard & Althea Robarge
Dec. 19	8:00 AM	Bernard Paton , by his sister, Joan
	10:30 AM	Souls in Purgatory , by Joan Conroy

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.



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? Look for gift tags on the windows at the back of the church. We ask that cards be returned in the collection basket by Sunday, December 19th.

Saint Boniface has been selected by the local Hannaford store as the benefiting non-profit in their Community Bag Program! For the month of December, Saint Boniface Social Action Committee will receive a \$1 donation from each purchase of the \$2.50 reusable Community Bag at the Hannaford store at 333 Mass. Ave., Lunenburg.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter — To support married couples during this time of social distancing, Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring virtual marriage experiences. Couples will explore their individual personality styles, improve listening and communication skills, understand God's plan for their marriage, and learn how to keep their relationship a priority. Visit them at www.mema.org.

COLLECTION REPORT

November 28	
– Sunday Offering	\$ 1,733
– Maintenance/Fuel	45
– Christmas Flowers	249
Total	\$2,027

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.



"VOICES OF SAINT BONIFACE"

A new video, featuring Father Tim Brewer, has been added to our series! Check it out on our website, www.stboniface-lunenburg.org



Why do Catholics confess their sins to a priest?

"Why can't I just confess my sins to God?"

The first and best answer to this question is: **because Jesus said so!** In St. John's Gospel, Jesus appeared to His Apostles after His Resurrection and said to them:

"Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." —John 20:21-23

Christ clearly states in this passage that He wishes to act through the Apostles in order to forgive men their sins. Since the Church is founded on Peter and the Apostles, the powers given to them are communicated to their successors.

Why might Jesus have chosen to effect the forgiveness of sins in this way?

One reason is so we never have to worry about whether our sins are forgiven. God has given us a simple formula—Confession—for getting back **into His graces when we have failed. It's not based on subjective feeling, but a sacred rite. Within Confession, our contrition doesn't even have to be perfect, although perfect contrition is the ideal. "Perfect contrition" is being sorry for a sin because it offended God. "Imperfect contrition" is sorrow for sin due to a natural fear of punishment.**

Imperfect contrition is all that is necessary within the Sacrament of Confession. God does the rest. Wow, what a gift. A way to confess and do penance **without the worry of "Have I done it right?"**

Other reasons include the sacramental graces we receive in Confession and the advice of the priest, both of which assist us in avoiding sin and growing in virtue.

Jesus is Wisdom Itself. He is the Word of God. He knows us far better than we know ourselves, and knows just what we need.

Brought to you by The Catholic Company: catholiccompany.com

Saints of the Week

December 6.

SAINT NICHOLAS

The absence of "hard historical facts" is not necessarily an obstacle to the popularity of saints, as the devotion to Saint Nicholas shows. Both the Eastern and Western Churches honor him, and it is claimed that after the Blessed Virgin, he is the saint most pictured by Christian artists.

Saint Nicholas is a Patron Saint of Bakers, Brides and Grooms, Children, Greece, Pawnbrokers, and Travelers.



Stained glass detail, St. Nicholas Cathedral, Newcastle

December 7.

SAINT AMBROSE

It is said that Ambrose's was instrumental in the conversion of Saint Augustine, and also baptized him. Known for his lively preaching and writing, Saint Ambrose must have been a force to be reckoned with. Maybe those qualities were what attracted Saint Augustine. But Saint Ambrose stands on his own merits— independent of his protégé.

Saint Ambrose is a Patron Saint of Bee keepers, Beggars, Learning, and Milan.



Statue of Saint Ambrose, by Luigi Scorzini, Milan

December 8.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Under the title of the Immaculate Conception, the Blessed Virgin is the patron of the United States. Thus this is a major feast—in fact a Holy Day of Obligation—for the Church in the United States of America.

Mary as the Immaculate Conception is the Patron Saint of the United States and Brazil.



The Immaculate Conception, by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo

December 9.

SAINT JUAN DIEGO

Thousands of people gathered in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe July 31, 2002, for the canonization of Juan Diego, to whom the Blessed Mother appeared in the 16th century. Pope John Paul II celebrated the ceremony at which the poor Indian peasant **became the Church's first saint indigenous to the Americas.**



Mosaic, National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington DC

December 10.

BLESSED ADOLPH KOLPING

Concerned about the faith of single young men caught up in the industrial revolution in Germany, Blessed Adolph Kolping bucked social pressure by ministering to them. Today, the Kolping Society upholds the dignity of workers throughout the world.



Blessed Adolph Kolping

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
Lucy Marcil, Religious Education Coordinator	978-502-7993	lmarcil419@gmail.com
Terry Stramowski, Religious Education Assistant		veritas0461@yahoo.com
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.

The
Chapdelaine
Family

EXCAVATING



**SEPTIC SYSTEMS/SITE WORK
WATER & SEWER LINES
TITLE 5 INSPECTIONS
DAN PROCTOR OWNER
978-582-4764**

William R. PROCTOR



Serving St. Boniface Families
with Three Convenient
Locations

Anderson
Family Funeral Homes
Townsend ~ Ayer ~ Fitchburg

Directors: Brian T. Anderson & Michael D. Masciarelli
www.andersonfuneral.com • 800.562.2692

(978) 342-9716

THOMAS FUEL
HOME HEATING OILS

Since 1932



Dan Thomas
681 Mass Ave.
Lunenburg, MA 01462

Timothy W. Murphy
Attorney At Law

81 Merriam Avenue
Leominster, MA 01453

Tel: (978) 537-5500
Fax: (978) 534-9778

E-Mail: Tmurphyesq@aol.com



CONRAD'S

**DRIVE-IN SEAFOOD
& FISH MARKET**

Seafood at its best since 1946.

835 Mass Ave. Rte 2A, Lunenburg, MA
978-582-6115



Robert C. Alario

Certified Public Accountants, PC

75 N. Main St., Leominster, MA 01453
292 Park Ave., Worcester, MA 01609

(L) 978-534-1999 (W) 508-755-7575
Fax: (L) 978-534-0499 (W) 508-755-7599

www.robertalario.com
bob@robertalario.com



**380 ELECTRIC AVE. (RT 13)
LUNEBURG**

WWW.WHALOMWASH.COM
978-829-0399
DAN AND JEAN PROCTOR, OWNERS

A Note of Thanks
to our sponsors!
Please support
them with your
patronage.

For ad information
call the parish
office

978-582-4008

YWCA-Battered Women's Resources

*Helping area women, to survive, emerge from,
or heal from abusive relationships*

*Counseling *Emergency Shelter
*24-hr hotline (978-537-8601)

For more information call 978-537-2306, Ext. 19

ST. BONIFACE
PRE-SCHOOL & CHILDCARE
817 Massachusetts Ave. Lunenburg, MA 01462
978-582-7110

Children Ages: 2.9 through 7 years | Open 7:30 am– 5:30 pm