

The Church of Saint Boniface  
December 19, 2021  
The Fourth Sunday of Advent



When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting the infant  
leaped in her womb.

(Luke 1:41)

## THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

### December 19, 2021 • The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Our anticipation of the Lord's birth is mirrored in the words from scripture that we hear today. Micah, who lived eight centuries before Jesus was born, proclaims that a long-awaited ruler from the line of David will come from the little town of Bethlehem. The author of Hebrews asserts that Jesus was born into the world to be himself an offering according to the Father's will. Luke tells the story of Mary visiting her older cousin Elizabeth, who, filled with the Holy Spirit, becomes the first to call her blessed. Filled with the Holy Spirit, let us focus our anticipation on God's blessings.

In the world that Mary and Elizabeth were born into, their people were subjected to foreign rule—yet again. Meanwhile, humanity was still held captive by sin. God's presence on earth was limited to rare encounters on mountaintops. It is difficult to overstate how deeply the people longed for a messiah. Not just Mary, but all of us are blessed by God, who sent us the Messiah, the Christ, the Son of God, to be with us, to redeem us, and to stay with us forever.

#### Question of the Week:

*Whom can I visit this Christmas season, bearing Christ and bringing joy, whom I hadn't planned to see?*

#### Anticipation

*"For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy."*

(Luke 1:44)

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## Advent & Christmas at Saint Boniface

### Advent Guest Celebrants & Homilists

#### 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. 18	4:00 PM	<b>Bernard &amp; Althea Robarge</b>
Dec. 19	8:00 AM	<b>Bernard Paton</b> , by his sister, Joan
	10:30 AM	<b>Souls in Purgatory</b> , by Joan Conroy
Dec. 22	6:30 PM	<b>Daniel Gilligan &amp; Clifford Fuller</b> , by Marilyn Brown
Dec. 24	4:00 PM	<b>Lina Poirier</b> , by her family
Dec. 25	9:00 AM	<b>Josephine Bouvier</b> , by her family
Dec. 26	8:00 AM	<b>Larry Paton</b> , by his sister, Joan
Jan. 1	4:00 PM	<b>Virginia Fernandes</b> , by her family

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.

### THANK YOU, CHRISTMAS CAROLERS!

Special thanks to all who braved the cold to bring some warmth to the hearts of the folks we caroled for on Sunday, December 12. We had a big group of fantastic singers and jinglers, and a great time was had by all, both young and old!

### NEW VIDEO

The *Voices of Saint Boniface* feature life and faith stories of the people who have touched our lives. A new video, featuring Father Tim Brewer, has been added to our series! Check it out on our website, [www.stboniface-lunenburg.org](http://www.stboniface-lunenburg.org).



Last week, members of the Saint Boniface Knights of Columbus presented a donation to Clear Path for Veterans New England in Devens. Clear Path is a 501C3 with one mission — to build a safe, supportive and respectful place for Veterans to seek the help and resources they need in order to successfully integrate into their communities.

## COLLECTION REPORT

<b>December 12</b>	
– Sunday Offering	\$ 3,686
– Maintenance/Fuel	160
– Retirement Fund for Religious	701
– Other	85
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,632</b>

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Give to our parish whether you're in the pews or not! Many parishioners make their weekly offerings online. It's secure, convenient and easy to make one-time or recurring donations at [www.stboniface-lunenburg.org](http://www.stboniface-lunenburg.org)

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EWTN is the largest Catholic media network in the world, offering a wide variety of programs available free of cost on TV, radio and mobile devices (video and audio on demand)! Here are just two of our many Christmas Season specials that you and your family may enjoy:

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT FROM KNOCK** — experience the sights and sounds of Christmas from the Marian Shrine in Knock, Ireland. This beautiful concert of Christmas carols, sung by candlelight, will lift your spirits and bring joy to the wonderful season (90 minutes)

**FEASTS WITH THE FRIAR CHRISTMAS SPECIAL** (especially for children) — Father John teaches his friends about preparing their hearts for Christ's coming. (15 minutes)

Visit [ewtn.com](http://ewtn.com) for more information and programming schedules.

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### Who created the first nativity scene?

Every year, one of your favorite Advent traditions is probably setting up your Nativity set.

Perhaps you put it on the mantelpiece, or in the center of the dining room table. Many of us have a large one that we place outdoors so that passers-by can enjoy it; we might also have a tiny one that we place by our bedside to remind ourselves of the reason for the Christmas season. We keep the Baby Jesus hidden away, ready to place Him in the manger on Christmas morning.

Devout citizens place Nativity scenes in public places, at state capitols, in parks, to bring the light of Christmas to their fellow-men. They fight to keep Christ in the public square even as others try to remove Him. This year, after all the struggle, 40 states have a Nativity scene in or at their capitol building.

*But who invented the Nativity scene?*

It was a deacon in Italy in the 13th century, who had a special love for the Child Jesus. He hatched a plan to inspire this same love in the townspeople.

In a cave near the town, he set up a manger and brought a real ox and donkey to play their part. He invited the people to Midnight Mass at the cave, and they came, the forest ringing with song and bright with candlelight. After chanting the Gospel, the deacon preached a sermon about the Babe of Bethlehem, Whose Name he could not utter for sheer love.

He kept the manger empty, since the Child had not arrived yet. But one man—a holy citizen and former soldier who was a friend of the deacon—said that he saw, in the manger, a beautiful, radiant Child. He witnessed the deacon gathering this Child devoutly in his arms.

Of course, the deacon was none other than St. Francis of Assisi, and this is the story of the first Nativity scene, as related by St. Bonaventure in his biography of the saint. When we put our Nativity sets out this Christmas, we are continuing a tradition that started nearly 800 years ago, in 1223.

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## Saints of the Week

**December 20.**

### SAINT DOMINIC of SILOS

The connection between Saint Dominic of Silos and Saint Dominic, founder of the Dominican Order, is a curious but interesting one. Separated by 100 years, the two men were linked by a prophecy given by Dominic of Silos to the mother of the other Dominic.



*Saint Dominic of Silos, by Bartolomé Bermejo, Spain*

**December 21.**

### SAINT PETER CANISIUS

An important Catholic reformer in Germany, Saint Peter Canisius earned a master's degree at age 19, and then joined the Jesuits. He was a great writer and patron of the sick and imprisoned. Peter Canisius was an active member of the Council of Trent and implemented its decisions. He also taught at the university level and helped found many colleges and seminaries.

*Saint Peter Canisius is a Patron Saint of Germany.*



*Saint Peter Canisius, stained glass window, Church of the Assumption, Germany*

**December 22.**

### BLESSED JACOPONE da TODI

Jacopone da Todi's life changed radically when his wife died in an accident at a local tournament. Turning from his self-indulgent life, he eventually became a Franciscan friar, but life was not easy even then. Jacopone is most known for writing the beautiful hymn, "Stabat Mater," in the later years of his life.

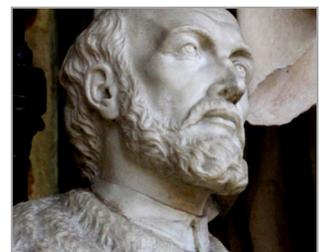


*Jacopone da Todi, by Paolo Uccello*

**December 23.**

### SAINT JOHN OF KANTY

Saint John of Kanty was a beloved priest in Kraków, Poland, where he taught Scripture. A simple, humble man, John was often taken advantage of, but maintained his generous attitude to those in need. He died on Christmas Eve in 1473.



*Tomb of Saint John Cantius, Krakow, Poland*

**December 24.**

### CHRISTMAS at GRECCIO

Being a man who wanted to experience things with all of his senses, Saint Francis decided one Christmas to depict the birth of Jesus with live animals and real people. This "first crèche" was created in Greccio in 1223. Our tradition of having a Christmas crèche in our homes and churches continues the practice begun all those years ago.



*The Christmas celebration in the forest of Greccio, by Giotto di Bondone, Church of Saint Francis, Assisi*

# Saint Boniface Church

817 Massachusetts Avenue, Lunenburg, MA 01462

Parish Office: 978-582-4008 email: [stbonifaceparish@verizon.net](mailto:stbonifaceparish@verizon.net)

Discover St. Boniface ~ Visit our website: [www.StBoniface-lunenburg.org](http://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 9<sup>th</sup> grade; students are confirmed in the spring of the 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:stbonifaceparish@verizon.net) or Louise Nadeau at [dinalou1@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:kofc16480@gmail.com).

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### PARISH STAFF:

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Nina Charpentier, Director, Preschool	978-582-7110	

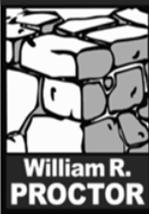
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Newcomers to St. Boniface are invited and encouraged to formally register as members of the parish so that we may stay in touch with you with faith formation news, notices of special events, volunteer opportunities, and more. Registration forms are available at the doors of the church, the parish office, or on our website.

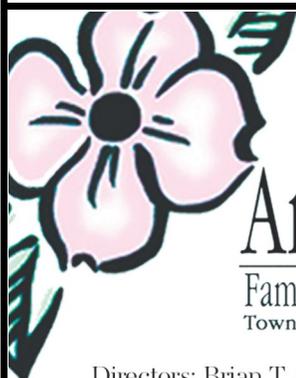
*Please note that you must be registered for at least six months before we can issue any verification of your status as a parishioner for godparent or sponsor letters.*

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