



# The Church of Saint Boniface

817 Massachusetts Avenue  
Lunenburg, MA 01462



November 27, 2022



## 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT



"So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." - Mt 24:44

## THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

### November 2, 2022 • First Sunday of Advent

*Isaiah 2:1–5 / Romans 13:11–14 / Matthew 24:37–44*

Pondering the Second Coming, no matter how unlikely it seems at any given time, serves to focus our minds on what is truly important. What if you knew you had only a year to live? Or a month? Or a day? If Judgment Day was on the horizon, how would you spend what little time you had remaining? Just asking that question is likely to change your path.

**How can I walk in the Lord's paths in my own community and with my own family?**

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#### **Connect! Sunday Reflection**

“Let us then throw off the works of darkness,” Saint Paul exhorts us today. It is time to prepare for the coming of the light. We don't want to be caught unaware when the Lord comes. Though we naturally look forward to Christmas Day, today's readings remind us that Jesus will also come to judge us at the end of time. Unlike Christmas Day, which always falls on December 25, the end of the world will come at a time we cannot know. Therefore, let us live in the light of Christ, “the armor of light” as Paul calls it, ever prepared for his coming.

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#### **ADVENT**

The Advent wreath originated with the Lutherans of eastern Germany a few hundred years ago. The custom of lighting the wreath during the four weeks preceding Christmas took place only in the homes of believers. Gradually, especially in Roman Catholic parishes, this custom made its way into the church. Chapter 47 of the Book of Blessings tells us that the wreath “should be of a sufficient size to be visible to the congregation. It may be suspended from the ceiling or placed on a stand. If it is placed in the presbyterium (sanctuary), it should not interfere with the celebration of the liturgy, nor should it obscure the altar, lectern, or chair.” The wreath is blessed only on the First Sunday of Advent, and is simply lighted on the remaining Sundays.

#### **A Prayer**

Father God, we thank You and praise You today for the miracle of Your Son's birth. Thank You for bringing great JOY to the whole world! Thank You for giving us the assurance that because You came to us in the form of a human, we who believe in Jesus can know with absolute certainty that we'll spend eternity with You. We thank You, Lord, for the many reasons we have been given a merry Christmas. And we rejoice for each blessing. New life. New love. A home. A job. New opportunities. Second chances. And more. We know, Lord, that You bring the sun and the moon and set the stars in motion. You tell the ocean where to stop and the snow when to start. And we thank You for the mighty gift of Your creation.

#### **Some Simple Things to Pray For During Advent:**

Pray for attentiveness to what truly matters, without being distracted by trivial things.

Pray for opportunities to learn something new regularly.

Pray for the grace to be able to rest, become aware of God's presence, and enjoy it.

Pray for strong relationships with other people in the bond of a loving community.

Pray for peace in all situations, no matter what the circumstances.



*On this first Sunday of Advent, as we prepare our hearts to celebrate Jesus' arrival as a gift to all humanity; let's stir up in our hearts and homes a sense of anticipation. Over this Advent, we pray that hope would rise up in our spirits in a tangible and life-giving way.*

## MASS INTENTIONS

Nov 27	8:00 am	Denise Seyfried, by her sister
	10:30 am	Christine Scott, by her family
Dec 3	4:00 pm	Bernard Robarge, 11th Anniversary, by his daughters
Dec 10	4:00 pm	Angelina Arruda, 23rd Anniversary, by her grandchildren
Dec 17	4:00 pm	Louis & Angelina Arruda, by their children
Dec 31	4:00 pm	John McQuaid, 10th Anniversary, by his family
Jan 22	8:00 pm	Thomas Cotter, 2nd Anniversary, by his family
Feb 4	4:00 pm	Louis Arruda, 18th Anniversary, by his grandchildren
Feb 5	8:00 am	Wesley Laford, by the Laford Family

*An individual may ask a priest to offer a Mass for several reasons: for example, in thanksgiving, for the intentions of another person (such as on a birthday), or, as is most common, for the repose of the soul of someone who has died. 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 p.m. in the church, led by members of the Saint Boniface Knights of Columbus.

**Calling all singers...** Wednesday, November 30 at 7 pm the Seasonal Choir will gather to rehearse carols and more to add some beauty to our Christmas Eve Liturgy. Singers age 14 - 107 are invited and welcomed to join. No choir experience necessary but singing in the shower and with the radio count.

**Christmas is coming soon!** The Ladies of St. Boniface are looking for some kindhearted, generous parishioners willing to purchase a Christmas gift for a resident of the Village Rest Home in Leominster or Penny Lane Rest Home in Fitchburg. Sign up will take place after masses the weekends of November 19 and November 26.  
Questions contact [maryabourque@comcast.net](mailto:maryabourque@comcast.net) or [carachambault@comcast.net](mailto:carachambault@comcast.net)

**Breakfast in Bethlehem** Please join Saint Boniface's CCD Grades 1 - 5 for it's Annual Breakfast in Bethlehem celebrating the Joy of the Season on Sunday, December 18th at 9:00 am in the Parish Hall followed by hospitality.

**Food Donations** for the months of November and December will be going to Catholic Charities of Leominster. Donations can be left in the back of the church. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

**Congratulations** to Salvatore Joseph Gerald Phelan, son of Joseph Phelan and Megan Marcil, who was baptized at St. Boniface Parish on Saturday, November 19th. Welcome to the Parish Family!

**Knights of Columbus** Tootsie Roll Drive will take place after masses the weekend of December 4-5th. All funds raised go to a State Charity Fund benefiting people with mental disabilities.

**Visting Priests** Our traditional visiting Priest series will continue this Advent. Please welcome Fr. Ponsiano this week.

## STEWARDSHIP

Sunday	Due to the
Fuel/Maintenance	holiday
Holy Days	this has
Flowers	not yet
Mission	been
Other	reported.
<b>TOTAL</b>	

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUOUS GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT!

Give to your parish whether you're in the pews or not! Many parishioners make their weekly offerings online. It's easy, secure, and convenient to make one-time or recurring donations. Scan the code below with your phone or visit [www.stboniface-lunenburg.org](http://www.stboniface-lunenburg.org) and click on "Online Giving Options" in the upper left.



# 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 – 4:00 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  
Summer schedule: Sunday: 9:00 am | Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm

**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](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 the parish office at 978-582-4008, email [stbonifaceparish@verizon.net](mailto:stbonifaceparish@verizon.net) or contact Louise Nadeau at [dinalou1@comcast.net](mailto:dinalou1@comcast.net).

**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, Thomas Bodkin at [tbodkin@bodkinmason.com](mailto:tbodkin@bodkinmason.com) or (508-363-3422), 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	<a href="mailto:ninastboniface@gmail.com">ninastboniface@gmail.com</a>

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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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**An Advent tradition for young and old**  
For many families, preparing the manger for Jesus is an essential part of Advent.

December is here. We are four days into Advent. We are a mere twenty-four days from Christmas.

The Christmas busy-ness has already begun—decorating the house, preparing for guests, putting up lights, buying gifts, writing cards...

It's far too easy to get far too busy far too quickly at this time of year. You may be feeling stressed already.

So how about an Advent tradition that brings you and your family back to the true purpose of this season—not so much preparing a house for guests (though that's important, too), but preparing our hearts for Christ Himself, the most important Guest of all? In order to keep the focus on Christ, many families have an annual tradition of "preparing the manger" for Him. This is not a one-time activity, but a simple daily routine throughout Advent that helps keep Christ at the center of everyone's day. It is an especially suitable tradition for children, but everyone can participate.

Here's how it works. You start with an empty manger, and for every good deed you do throughout the day, you add a piece of straw. If you are rich in good deeds during Advent, the manger will be full of soft straw when the Divine Guest arrives. The more good deeds you do, the softer the manger will be.

On Christmas Day, place a figure of the Baby Jesus in the manger, made soft and comfortable by all those good works.

You can use real straw, paper strips, yarn, or another material for the straw. For the manger, you can use a basket or box, or build one yourself. You can get creative with this wonderful tradition and add your own elements—some families take straw out if one of them does something bad, which works as a teaching tool!

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**November 28.**  
**Saint James of the Marche**

Saint James was born in the Marche of Ancona. Before joining the Friars Minor, he earned doctorates in canon and civil law at the University of Perugia. He lived a very austere life, and was an extremely popular preacher, who spread devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus.



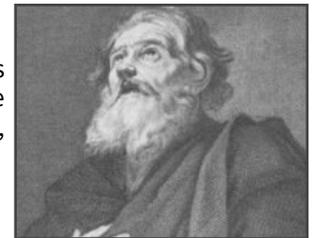
**November 29.**  
**Saint Clement**

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.



**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.



Strengthen your faith.

**December 1.**  
**Saint 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..



**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..



**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.





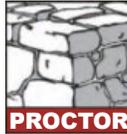
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