

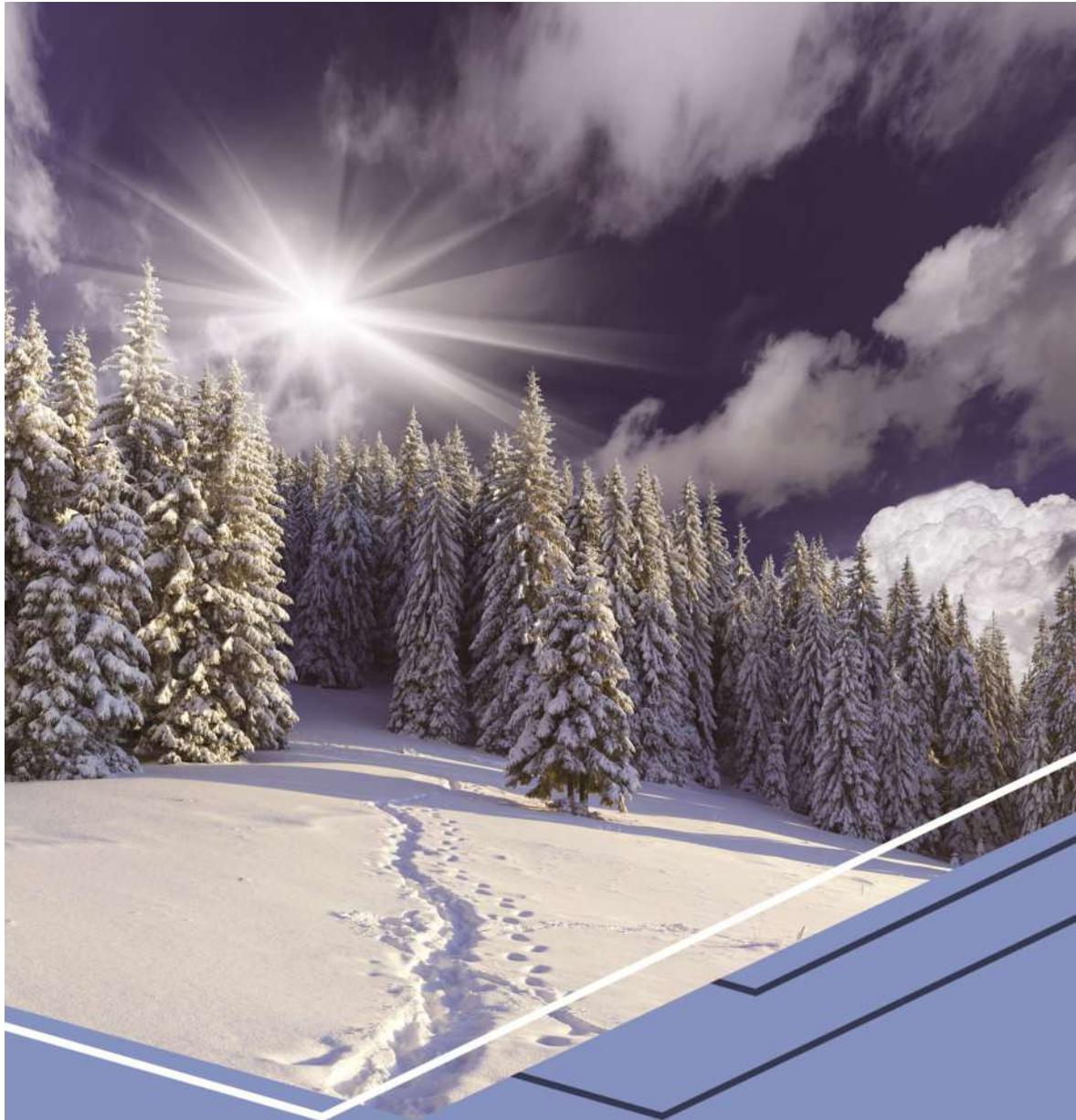


## THE CHURCH OF SAINT BONIFACE

817 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE  
LUNENBURG, MA 01462



DECEMBER 14, 2025



### 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“This is the one about whom it is written: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.” - Mt 11:10

# THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

## DECEMBER 14, 2025 / THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10/James 5:7-10/ Matthew 11:2-11*

John the Baptist is a far different man from the one who prepared the people for Jesus' coming and then baptized him in the River Jordan. There was no mistaking the Son of God then, what with the dove and the voice of God from on high. But now? John has been arrested and thrown in jail for daring to speak out against Herod. Left alone in his prison cell for days on end, he begins to doubt. Where is this Messiah whom he had proclaimed? Listen to the deeds that Jesus ticks off, all quoted from Isaiah about the day of salvation. Sure, the blind see and the lame walk, but what about "liberty to the captives, release to the prisoners" (Isaiah 61:1)? Had Jesus turned his back on his cousin? Have we often wondered the same thing? If Jesus is our brother, where is he in times of trouble? If we are adopted sons and daughters of God, why do we sometimes feel abandoned?

**Question of the Week:** If I am honest with myself, what part of Jesus' message offends me?

### Gospel Meditation

When I was 11, I was riding my bike on a Friday night in Scottsdale, Arizona. I saw giant spotlights swirling in the sky. Something amazing had to be happening. I pedaled after them with excitement. Sweaty and tired, I arrived, only to find a used car lot. Bright lights, flapping banners, inflatable balloon men swaying wildly in the wind. I stood there, heart sinking. All that spectacle, and all my effort ... for this?

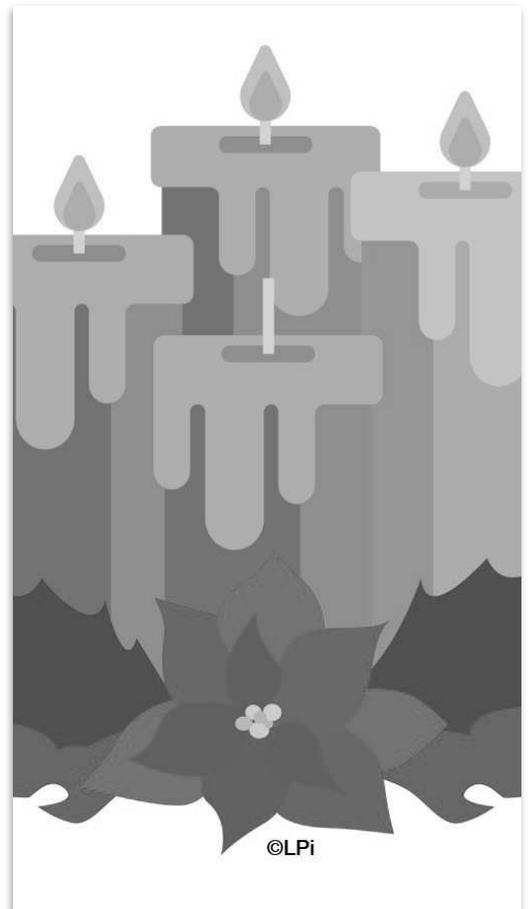
As life proceeds, we learn what it is like to pursue promising but fruitless searches. This week we hear Jesus ask the crowds regarding John the Baptist: "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind?" (Matthew 11:7). He's not just describing the crowd's mis-aimed pursuit. He's naming our tendency to chase after what's flashy but flimsy.

What are our swaying reeds? For me, it is endless video reels on my phone, worldly pleasures, entertainment in sports, and the good opinion of others. Inflated distractions that bend whichever way the wind blows. But they can't satisfy my soul. What are your flimsy reeds?

John the Baptist wasn't a swaying reed. He was rooted, grounded, unafraid to speak the solid truth. The people went to see him because, deep down, they were starving for something real.

This Advent, the Church asks us to reassess: What are we really looking for? Are we chasing the dazzling but hollow? Or are we seeking what is solid and lasting – that which points to Christ?

– *Father John Muir*  
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### Prayer for Advent—New Growth

Dear God,  
Bring new life! Your love creates and cultivates. Bring Your power into the places I think of as "deserts" and your grace to the prayers I fear may be "deserted." You can redeem and restore, bring a new song to my heart. Amen.

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## MASS INTENTIONS

DEC 14 10:00 AM MARIO PATACCHIOLA  
DEC 20 4:00 PM WAYNE DUFOUR  
DEC 20 4:00 PM ANGELINA ARRUDA  
DEC 27 4:00 PM DON FEATHERSTONE  
DEC 27 4:00 PM ANDRE PIERRE  
DEC 28 8:00 AM PETER JANCAITIS  
DEC 28 10:00 AM DICK GRIGAS  
DEC 28 10:00 AM MARION RUSSO  
JAN 10 4:00 PM THOMAS DAVIS  
JAN 11 8:00 AM THOMAS COTTER

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### **Prayer of the Rosary**

Every Saturday at 3:30 pm in the church, led by members of the Saint Boniface Knights of Columbus.

**Food Donations** for the months of November and December will go to Catholic Charities. Food pantries are having a difficult time due to the high cost of groceries and low donations. If everyone in our parish could help by bringing 2-3 items each month during the Holiday season it will help a lot of people to have food on their tables for the Holidays. Donations can be placed in the rear of the church. Thank you for your continued generosity.

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### **Grief Share Ministry**

The new Grief Share Ministry here at St. Boniface, now has an e-mail. Any interested participants should submit their contact information. The team will reach out with information about the upcoming classes in January. [stbonifacegriefgroup@gmail.com](mailto:stbonifacegriefgroup@gmail.com)

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### **Advent Lessons**

On Sunday, December 14th, at 3:00 p.m., St. Cecilia Church, 180 Mechanic St. Leominster, will host a special service of Advent Lessons and Carols. In this service, we listen to Scripture readings which recount The Fall, and the promise of a Messiah as we await His birth. Each reading is followed by a carol sung by the congregation or other songs sung by the 'Fugue' of the Montachusett Chorale that reflect the message of the readings. All are welcome.

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### **Ladies Guild**

St. Boniface Ladies Guild meets the third Thursday of the month at 6:30pm in the church hall. Our December meeting is Thursday, December 18th. Bring a gift for the Yankee Swap and a goodie to share.

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### **Snow Days**

If Lunenburg schools are closed or have a delay there will be no daily mass. Please be safe in the snow!

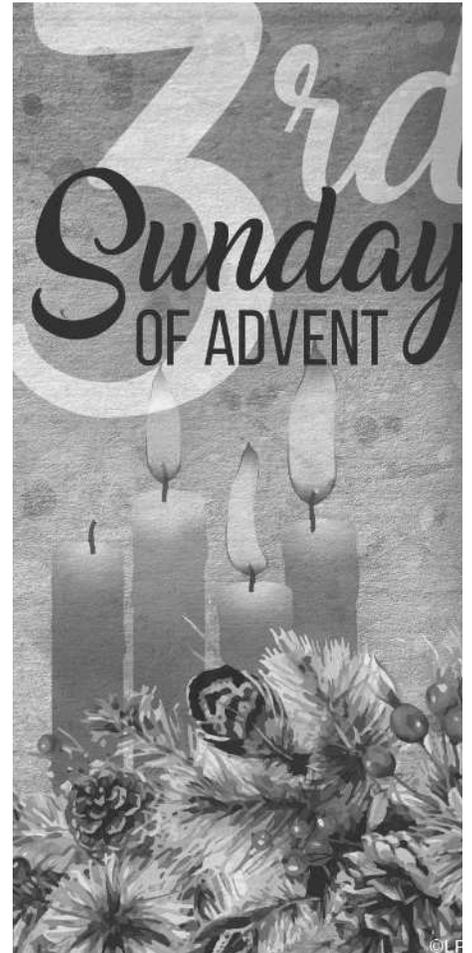
## STEWARDSHIP

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# 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 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

## The Celebration of the Eucharist

Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am | Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm  
Memorial Day through Labor Day — Sunday: 9:00 am | Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm  
Holy Hour of Adoration: last Wednesday of the month 5:30-6:30 pm  
Weekday Masses: 6:30 pm Wednesday | 8:00 am Thursday & Friday

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** (Confession) Saturday 5:00-5:30 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 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:

	<i>phone</i>	<i>email</i>
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Ministry Schedule	978-582-4008	<a href="mailto:stbonifaceparish@verizon.net">stbonifaceparish@verizon.net</a>
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.*

## The Season that Gives Back

*I don't have anything left to give.*

*You can't pour from an empty cup.*

*All I do is give. Who is giving to me?*

Raise your hand if these thoughts have ever run through your head. I'm sure they occur to all of us from time to time. We can become so easily depleted by the fast pace of life and whatever vocation God has called us to, whether that's parenthood, a demanding professional career or the caretaking of friends and family (or as so often happens, a hybrid of all three). Many of us also undergo certain seasons — seasons of the year, but also seasons of life — that seem to sap us of energy and leave us totally empty.

In these times, it seems impossible to continue in the spirituality of Everyday Stewardship. Graciousness, mindfulness, prayerfulness, gratitude, accountability — maintaining some semblance of these characteristics in our daily life feels not only overly optimistic, but totally impossible.

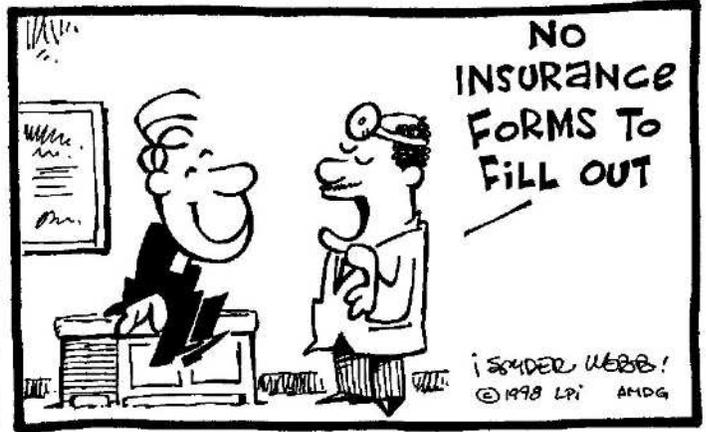
The Church gives us certain liturgical seasons that are meant to fill us up, almost like spiritual pit stops. Advent is one such season, and the Scriptural passages we reflect on at Mass during these four weeks are filled with images of nature defied. We see the dry steppe blooming. We see the weak made firm. We see the frightened made strong. We see the lame walk. We see the Virgin give birth.

If you think you don't have anything left to give this Advent, think again. This is the season of miracles when what we thought was depleted brings new life.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT





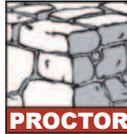
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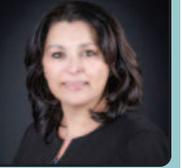
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