

**Saint Boniface Catholic Church
Mission Statement**

Saint Boniface is a welcoming, caring Church community united under one baptism. We encourage participation by all members in promoting and sharing Christian and social values.



Saturday, December 9
5:30 PM—James Ridings (D) Req. by Mary Ridings
Mario Broccardo (D) Req. by Family

Sunday, December 10
9:00 AM—Theresa Latka (D) Req. by Family
Kathleen Bozic (D) Req. by L. Cosman

Monday, December 11
8:30 AM—Virginia Boggs (D) Req. by
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Kenny

Wednesday, December 13
8:30 AM—Susan Tomczak (D) Req. by S. Tomczak

Friday, December 15
8:30 AM—Karen Haddon (D) Req. by M. Farrell

Saturday, December 16
5:30 PM—Deceased Members of Sakaski Family
Req. by Family
Verna Mae Hutton (D) Req. by Marusins

Sunday, December 17
9:00 AM—Deceased Members of Modi-Francis Fam.
Req. by Polly and Paul Schloss
Francesca Campione (D) Req. by
M. Campione

December 17
5:30 PM—M. Otten, C. Dancer, P./K. Przybyla
9:00 AM—E. Bogs, T. Bogs-Haser, C. Marden,
K. Scrementi



December 17
5:30 PM—D. Schmidt
9:00 AM—K. Short



December 17
5:30 PM—M. Albano, **Volunteer Needed**
9:00 AM—A./S. Jaculbe



December 3, 2017

Sunday.....	\$	2768.00
Children's Envelopes.....		2.00
Maintenance.....		905.00
Christmas Flowers.....		405.00

Many thanks to all of you for your generous donations to our Parish. May God bless all of you!

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent;
International Human Rights Day
- Monday: St. Damasus I
- Tuesday: Our Lady of Guadalupe;
Hanukkah begins at sunset
- Wednesday: St. Lucy
- Thursday: St. John of the Cross
- Saturday: *Las Posadas* begins

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patronal Feast day of the Americas – Tuesday, December 12, 2017

May we seek with ever more lively faith the progress of peoples in the ways of justice and peace.



**Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2017**
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.
— Mark 1:3

NEWS OF COMFORT

In a time of preparation, much of it having to do with material things, it is good to hear the words of Isaiah, "Comfort, give comfort to my people, / says your God" (Isaiah 40:1). In a time of such stress and rush, when our usual burdens are augmented by piles of Christmas preparations, we can choose to slow down, take some time to heal, and appreciate the enormous gift we are about to receive. Christ, the Son of God, has become one of us, and knows our human limitations. Yet God, even now, is freeing us from the burdens that our inattentiveness to our God and to our deepest inner longings have heaped upon us. The Lord comes, not as a king with mighty armies, but as a shepherd leading the flocks with care and tenderness. Isaiah prophesies good news: our oppression is over, our sins forgiven. The savior we have awaited is coming, not the first time, but in the end times, as our salvation.

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TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Many people think that Saint Francis originated the Christmas crèche, but its origins go far back. The Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome has housed what is said to be relics of the cradle of Jesus since the seventh century. In time, every year during the Christmas season the reliquary (container for relics) was surrounded by an increasingly grand three-dimensional scene of the place of Jesus' birth. Rocks and trees, houses, streams, figurines of villagers going about their daily tasks were all included. It was a very dramatic presentation. If you've ever seen an elaborate model train installation, you get the idea. The proper term for this depiction is *presepio*, from the Latin word for "surround" or "hedge."

Over the centuries, the custom spread first to churches, and then to aristocratic homes. In Italy, whole chapels are often set aside for the *presepio*, and it is not unusual to have hundreds of figures. It can sometimes be a challenge to locate the Holy Family amid the crowd, almost like a *Where's Waldo?* children's book. The oldest surviving *presepio* is in St. Mary Major and dates from the thirteenth century, although many pieces have been broken or lost. Saint Francis of Assisi took a decidedly creative step in 1233 in the village of Greccio, when he directed his followers to fill a manger with hay and tether an ox and ass nearby. He then invited the villagers to attend Mass outdoors near the crib, the worshipers themselves becoming a living *presepio*. By the seventeenth century, the tradition was well-established, particularly in Naples, and had a firm hold in Portugal, Spain, and in the Provence region of France. Today, it is not unusual to find *presepios* with five hundred figures, a vivid reminder of Emmanuel, God-with-us!

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

The second collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious.



The Giving Tree is up. If you are able to help out a child or family in need, please take a tag from the tree. Instructions are located on the bottom of the tag. If the tree has no tags that means they have all been taken care of. Thank you to all the parishioners who are able to help those families in need this year!

Oplatki packages are now available in the office. Packages are \$1.00 each. These sell out fast so be sure get yours as soon as possible!

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS DAY SCHEDULE

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Confessions:
6:00pm—8:00pm.

Sunday, December 24, 2017

Christmas Eve Masses:
9:00am, 6:30pm and 10:30pm

Monday, December 25, 2017

Christmas Day Mass:
(Holy Day of Obligation)
Mass will be at 9:00am

Monday, January 1, 2017

New Years Day Mass:
Mass will be at 10:30am

Free 2018 calendars are now available. If you have not taken one yet—please do! They are located at the back of the church.

Knights of Columbus Raffle Winners:

\$150.00 Bridget Yaeger, \$100.00 Robert Haboch, \$50.00 Renae Meleone, \$50.00 Larry Pilotto, \$25.00 Don Sheming, \$25.00 Lois McAllister



Join in the festivities! The Women's Club is having their potluck dinner and Christmas party on Monday, December 18, 2017 at 6:30 PM in the Family Center. Come celebrate the season! Bring a dish and your appetite for fun!

Blessed in Christ. Just like Mary, each of us is chosen in Christ, is adopted as daughter or son for a life filled with grace. Let us strive to be sinless in the works we do.