

**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 23**  
5:30 PM—Mario Broccardo (D) Req. by E. Broccardo  
Francesca Campione (D) Req. by M. Campione

**Sunday, December 24**  
9:00 AM—Carl and Irene Hauth (D) Req. by Daughter  
6:30 PM—Parishioners Intentions  
10:30 PM—Parishioners Intentions

**Monday, December 25**  
9:00 AM—Parishioners Intentions

**Wednesday, December 27**  
8:30 AM—Bruno R. Latoza (D) Req. by Ann Marie Nagel and Elizabeth Manning

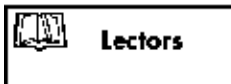
**Friday, December 29**  
8:30 AM—Sarah Bruce (D) Req. by Diane Reyes

**Saturday, December 30**  
5:30 PM—Francesca Campione (D) Req. by M. Campione

**Sunday, December 31**  
9:00 AM—Les Farrell (D) Req. by Marianne Farrell  
John and Dorothy Radosevich (D) Req. by Polly and Paul Schloss



**December 31**  
5:30 PM—M. Otten, R. Jurack, K./P. Przybyla  
9:00 AM—C./D. Domke, C. Marden, J. Parker



**December 31**  
5:30 PM—C. Dancer  
9:00 AM—K. Dornhecker



**December 31**  
5:30 PM—A./G. Esquivel  
9:00 AM—A./K. Swanson



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**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

- Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent
- Monday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
- Tuesday: St. Stephen; Kwanzaa begins
- Wednesday: St. John
- Thursday: The Holy Innocents
- Friday: Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; St. Thomas Becket
- Saturday: Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord



**December 17, 2017**  
Sunday.....\$ 2111.00  
Children's Envelopes..... 7.00

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



**Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 24, 2017**

The child to be born will be called holy,  
the Son of God.

—Luke 1:35



### GOD'S PROMISE

The lengthy passage from Samuel is a wonderful exposition of God's promise to the house of David: that his throne would forever be gloriously occupied by his descendants. Hidden in the mystery of the prophecy is the promise of the Savior, the Messiah, Son of God and Son of David. The prophet Nathan, speaking in God's name, poetically turns around David's plan to build a house for God, and announces God's plan to build a "house," that is, a dynasty for David. From this house of David will come the Messiah, the Christ, not in kingly splendor as David ruled, but as a humble man, destined to rule forever and over all. When God gives a gift, it's amazing what we are given—so different from what we ever could have imagined.

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**The word Christmas** was derived from the Old English Cristes Maesse or "Mass of Christmas." In North America, the early immigrants brought their different Christmas traditions. Germans brought the Christmas tree, the Irish contributed the lights in windows of homes, Catholic immigrants brought Midnight Mass, and everyone had their own Christmas carols. For most, Christmas is over by Dec. 26. The Church, on the other hand, observes an Octave of Christmas. The Western Church emphasizes the celebration of the Nativity or Birth of Jesus on Dec. 25. The Eastern Church celebrates His manifestation to the Magi on the Feast of the Epiphany, Jan. 6. During Christmastime, there are feasts of three martyrs: St. Stephen on Dec. 26, who represents those who went to their death willingly; St. John the Evangelist on Dec. 27 who represents those who were willing to die but were not put to death, and the Holy Innocents on Dec. 28, representing those who were put to death without their choice, recalling the events surrounding the Birth of Christ. On the Sunday between Christmas and Jan. 1, the Church celebrates the Holy Family. This feast is especially important today as many families today face struggles and challenges in living their Faith.

**The Bake Sale and Raffle** brought lots of goodies and fun to the parish! Thank you to all who baked and donated items. The Bake Sale came to \$657.35 and the Raffle brought in \$1350.00. Along with the annual raffle we also held a free raffle for three Christmas items. The winners were: Amy Rafferty \$200.00, Karen Malichnik \$100.00, John Buch \$50.00, Tracy Sheehan \$50.00, Gert Dileo \$50.00, Margaret Andresiunas \$50.00, Vicki Schmidt – Candle Holder, Phyllis Huske – Jingle Bell Wreath, and Cindy Marden – Fiber Optic Christmas Tree. Congrats!

### TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Children of the parish are somewhat focused on Santa Claus these days, who is keeping an eye on who's naughty and who's nice. Santa Claus, with his heavenly patron Saint Nicholas, has been more or less in charge of gift-giving to American children for a hundred years or so. In other places, perhaps more attentive to our Christian tradition, there are different gift-bearers. In Greece, Saint Basil delivers the presents on his feast day, December 31, and makes sure everyone is sprinkled with holy water. The Baby Jesus is in charge elsewhere, called the *Christkind* in Austria and Belgium, *El Niño Jesús* in Columbia, and *Le Petit Jesus* in France, where he shares his duties with *Père Noël*. In the Czech Republic almost everyone is atheist, but *Ježíšek*, the infant Jesus, brings gifts to one and all. In Poland the "Star Man" is said to bring the gifts, although often he turns out to be the village priest in disguise. Saint Nicholas, not his Americanized cousin, is the giver in Holland, where he wears a bishop's miter, and in Russia, where he wears a bishop's crown. Soviet Russia tried to dethrone Saint Nicholas and promote Grandfather Frost, but no one was much fooled by this attempt to squeeze religion out of Christ's birth. One country has a saintly woman in charge of the gifts, Saint Lucy, honored in Sweden on December 13, when children serve their parents breakfast in bed, and others awake to news that they have been nominated for a Nobel Prize. Some children have a second round of gifts on Epiphany, when the magi assume the gift-giving duties. In general, the gifts of Christmas are simple pleasures, not great heaps of treasures. Once upon a time, a new pair of socks or an orange was enough for us. No matter what gifts we receive, all of them are to point us to the true gift, and the true giver.

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

### CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS DAY SCHEDULE



**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**

As with Blessed Mary long ago, the Holy Spirit is calling me to something important. Can I name it? Will I say "yes" to it after prayer; as Mary did? What does God want me to say or do? How will the Holy Spirit help? Will I do it?