

St. Boniface Catholic Church

REV. ROGER KUTZNER, PASTOR

Church: 5304 W. Main St., Monee, IL 60449
 Rectory: 25942 So. Middlepoint Avenue
 P.O. Box 217, Monee, IL 60449 (534-9682)
 PERMANENT DEACON: Mark Otten (815-469-7165)
 PARISH SECRETARY: Kathy Short
 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR: Deacon Mark and Anita Otten
 MINISTRY OF CARE: Erwin Bogs

MASSES: Saturday (Sunday Obligation) 5:30 PM, Sunday: 9:00 AM
 WEEKDAY MASSES: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8:30 AM
 SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturdays After 5:30 Mass
 BAPTISM: To have a child baptized at Saint Boniface Church, you must be a registered, active member of the parish and attend a Baptism Class. Baptisms are held the 2nd Sunday of the month at 12:00 PM (Noon). Baptism classes are by appointment only. Call the office to schedule an appointment for both the Baptism Class and a Baptism.

MARRIAGE: By appointment only. Normally made 6 months in advance.
 RELIGIOUS ED CLASSES: Grades K thru 4th meet on Saturdays from 9:00-10:30 AM. Grades 5, 6, 7, and 8th meet on Sundays from 10:00-11:30 AM. Please consult the bulletin for additional details.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
 MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY
 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM



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

Monday, January 1

10:30 AM—Parish Intentions

Wednesday, January 3

8:30 AM—Marge Shurilla (D) Req. by Pat Fogerty

Friday, January 5

8:30 AM—Larry Smith (D) Req. by Bogs Family

Saturday, January 6

5:30 PM—Eleanore Kurowski (D) Req. by Bogs Fam.
 Joe Egofske (D) Req. by Clarissa Summa

Sunday, January 7

9:00 AM—Dutch and Mary Deckelmann Req. by Pat Fogerty
 Betty Rettig (D) Req. by Gert Dileo



December 24, 2017

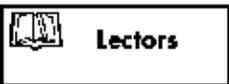
The collection for this weekend and Christmas will be posted in next week's bulletin.

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



January 7

5:30 PM—D. Schmidt, C. Dancer, M. Schnepf, C. Semanovich
 9:00 AM—M Otten, B. Daly, B. Mitchell, K. Short



January 7

5:30 PM—J. Lehnerer
 9:00 AM—P. Huske



January 7

5:30 PM—M. Albano, **Volunteer Needed**



SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
- Monday: Mary, the Holy Mother of God; The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord; World Day of Prayer for Peace; New Year's Day
- Tuesday: Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen
- Wednesday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus
- Thursday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
- Friday: St. John Neumann; First Friday
- Saturday: St. André Bessette; First Saturday

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
 December 31, 2017**

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.

—Luke 2:30-31

BEARERS OF THE WORD

The Church has placed a number of notable feast days immediately after Christmas. The feasts of Stephen, John the Evangelist, and the Holy Innocents form a summary of the life lived in Christ, the Word made flesh. What do these have to do with the feast of the Holy Family, which crowns the Octave of Christmas? These feasts remind us that suffering will occur in fulfilling the mission of Christ, and that we are all called to be bearers of this Word whose birth we celebrate.

We also see this manifested in the lives of Joseph and Mary, both of whom took social and religious risks in obedience to the will of God, and both of whom were open to the word of God sent to them from on high. In these ways they prefigured the life of Jesus himself.

Most likely, few of us found ourselves at Mass this past Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, but the essence of these feasts and the essence of the holiness of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus remain central, a holiness we celebrate today.

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EPIPHANY BLESSING KIT

The Greek word "Epiphanias" means "surprise appearance", i.e. appearance of the Lord which was celebrated in the early Christian centuries on January 6. In the 4th century this holiday was shifted to December 25, the January 6 obtained the name of The Three Kings (the "Wise Men," the Magi), or simply Twelfth Day. According to an old legend based on a Bible story, these three kings saw, on the night when Christ was born, a bright star. They followed it to Bethlehem and found there the Christ child and presented Him with gold, frankincense, and myrrh. On this day, the doorways would be sprinkled with holy water and the initials of the Three Kings - C+M+B (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar), plus the year, are inscribed in chalk over doorways on the eve of January 6 to protect house and home. Although historically, the three letters are supposed to come from the Latin phrase for "Christ bless this house" - "Christus mansionem benedicat."

20+C+M+B+18

If you are interested in blessing your home this year, there are kits available at the back of the church for you to take home. May you have every blessing and much happiness in 2018.

Knights of Columbus December Raffle winners:
\$150.00 Mary and Rich Rogers \$100.00 Laura Toron
\$50.00 Rose Marie Ponton \$50.00 Laraine Moody
\$25.00 Council 7072 \$25.00 Dennis Claxton

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

There's no more unusual setting to celebrate today's Feast of the Holy Family than Barcelona, Spain and the towering unfinished sandcastle known officially as the Temple Expiatori de la Sagrada Familia. In 1882, the plan was hatched to build a vast place of worship in reparation for the revolutionary and liberal leanings of the city. The modern artist Antoni Gaudi dedicated his life to the project, living in the building, attending Mass daily, and giving up his personal wealth. When people pressed him to pick up the pace, he responded, "My client is not in a hurry." (Gaudi's cause for beatification is moving along, and he could be the first professional artist and architect to be beatified.) The Spanish Civil War, a disaster for the Catholic Church in which thousands of priests, brothers, and nuns were murdered, halted work in 1935. In the 1950s work began anew, speeded up by computers in the 1980s. Still, the final stage of construction is not due to end until 2026. If the original methods had stayed in place, it would take several hundred more years to complete the plan. So far there are eight towers, with four to go. The highest steeple is three feet shorter than the nearest hill, since the architect didn't want his work to surpass God's artistry. The three faces of the basilica each have three doors, with the faces named Passion, Nativity, and Grace. The interior is crammed with geometric figures that almost seem to spin, crazy-quilt windows, spiral staircases, and jumbles of statues and figures. Although inspired by ancient Gothic cathedrals, the style is called Expressionist, and very little is left unexpressed by the masonry. If you can't afford a visit, Sagrada Familia maintains a web site, and virtual visits are free.

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

**Perhaps the best Yuletide decoration is each of us
being wreathed in smiles.**

—Unknown

Family. Every child is born to greatness in the Lord. Every child is full of grace – even when growing old. Every family is holy. Not only Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, but also, me and mine. Also, yours. How will I cherish my children, my family this week? How can I grow and become strong in the Lord? How will I strengthen family life by mercy works?

All are welcome to the Celebration of Life Mass held at 11:00 a.m. with Bishop R. Daniel Conlon on Sunday, January 14, 2018 at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus 604 N. Raynor Ave, Joliet IL. Join us for a Rosary with pro-life intentions at 10:30 a.m. Reception to follow in the Commons.

**Do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is
made of.**

—Benjamin Franklin