



Saint
Boniface
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish
Weekly

December 30th, 2018

Reconciliation

Sundays
10:15 - 10:45 AM

Sunday Mass

8:30 & 11 AM

Office Hours

9 AM - 2 PM
Monday - Thursday

December 30th ~ The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (Fr. Adam)

8:30 AM ~ People of the Parish

11 AM ~ Dorothy and Bernard Maloney +

January 1st ~ Mary, Mother of God (Fr. Adam) ~ 11:00 AM ~ Andrew DeGrella +

January 6th ~ The Epiphany of the Lord (Fr. Adam)

8:30 AM ~ Mr. and Mrs. Charles DeGrella +

11 AM ~ People of the Parish

Pastor ~ Fr. Jeff Shooner
jshooner@stpatlou.org

Associate Pastor ~ Fr. Adam Carrico
acarrico@stpatlou.org

Deacon ~ David Tomes
davidtomes@aol.com

Organist and Director of Music
William Lincoln ~ bill@stbonifaceparish.com

Office Manager ~ Patty Loerch
patty@stbonifaceparish.com

Welcome to Saint Boniface!

Everyone is invited to be a member of the parish by registering as either a member or associate member. Cards are available at the doors of the church.

Change of Address? Please notify Patty in the Parish Office of any changes to your family records.

Stewardship, lifetime of opportunity, responsibility, and accountability.

Have you remembered Saint Boniface in your will?

Saint Boniface is a Roman Catholic Church in the heart of downtown Louisville and has been ministering to the local community *since 1836*. We are a community formed by the Word of God, the Sacraments and the Tradition of the Catholic Church. We strive to be a catalyst for positive change in our neighborhood. We put the faith we have received into action through a variety of social outreach programs, namely: Saint John's Day Center for Homeless Men, Central Louisville Community Ministries (CLCM), and by assisting Nativity Academy in their mission to educate at-risk youth. In these efforts we strive to be a refuge for those in need, and offer hope to our surrounding community.

531 East Liberty Street
Louisville Kentucky 40202

502.584.4279
www.stbonifaceparish.com

Next week's readings....

1st Reading—Isaiah 60:1-6
2nd Reading—Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6
Gospel Reading—Matthew 2:1-12



Prayer Requests

Bob Camfield
Scott McCoy
Al Pepper
Jeff Wenzel



If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please call the church office at 584.4279.

***"Son, why have you done this to us?
Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety."***

This story of Jesus being "lost" in the temple always struck me as strange. Mary and Joseph seem negligent, Jesus seems a bit rebellious and arrogant, and the temple community a bit unconcerned about an abandoned 12 year old. Luke has theological reasons for including this story (i.e., the devout practice of Jesus's family, identifying Jesus's relationship to his Heavenly Father, and marking Jesus's growth to adulthood with wisdom, understanding, and honor as a prophet), but the nagging question in my mind was, "isn't somebody here sinning?" Luke isn't concerned with that question, but it all seems just a bit off for the Holy Family. Aren't they supposed to be perfect?

It's a good reality check for our understanding of holiness. Often we categorize holiness as the opposite of human. It is, we can think, spiritual and transcends human experience. This relates to the thought that our souls or spirits are trapped in a body until we are freed by death or, for those strong enough to will it, that we reach some higher plane of consciousness or spirituality where we are unencumbered in this life by the chains of human experience. The truth about holiness, however, is that it is part and parcel of being human. It is integrated into the human experience and means that we become more human, more of who God created us to be. Think of the quote from St. Irenaeus, "The glory of God is man fully alive." We are not spirits trapped in a body, but human beings with bodies and souls.

The story in today's Gospel is very human. We begin life dependent upon our parents and families. All we have are needs: food, shelter, love, knowledge and much more must be given to us. Without it, we die. As we grow, especially as we reach adolescence, the arc of human development moves toward independence. Having been totally dependent, we begin to carve out our own identity. We take actions that may seem rebellious or arrogant, especially to our parents, but which we use to establish our independence. Following our independence, at least psychologically, we move toward a healthy interdependence: giving and receiving with authentic love. Any number of things can knock this process off the rails and cause dysfunction, but our human development starts with dependence and moves through independence to interdependence. It is also the process of holiness and faith: to receive what has been handed on, make it our own, and learn to give freely.

We have a window in today's Gospel into a moment of Jesus, humanly speaking, establishing his independence. It may seem rebellious or arrogant and doesn't make it any easier for his parents (who also have to let him become independent), but it is part of his human growth. Having completed basic training and returned from my first year of college, where I was preparing to serve in the Air Force and becoming ready to sacrifice whatever was necessary, I came home for a few weeks during summer vacation. I went out one night with friends and returned well after midnight and, having not communicated where I was or when I'd be home, found my mom anxiously waiting up for me. Had I been more mature, I would have called and it would have been much easier for my mom, but it was a moment of independence. It was a moment of change in our relationship, where she grew in her understanding of me as an adult and I grew in my understanding of what it meant to also treat her with respect, which I had failed to do. I grew up, a little, in what it means to be an adult in mutual relationship with my mom. The Holy Family was a human family, with all the relational and developmental realities of our families. Our families, too, are holy when we grow to become who God made us to be. Today's Gospel reminds us that holiness isn't something far off, but within each of us and each of our families.

Fr. Jeff

