



Saint  
**Boniface**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish  
Weekly

December 8th, 2019

Sunday Masses: 8:30 am and 11:00 am  
Reconciliation on Sunday 10:15 - 10:45 am

531 E. Liberty St. Louisville Kentucky 40202

Office Hours 9 am—2 pm Monday—Thursday  
502.584.4279  
www.stbonifaceparish.com

December 8th ~ Second Sunday of Advent (*Fr. Steven*)

8:30 am ~ Deborah DeGrella Bischoff +

11:00 am ~ People of the Parish

December 15th ~ Second Sunday of Advent (*Fr. Jeff*)

8:30 am ~ People of the Parish

11:00 am ~ Ann Trott +

Pastor~

Fr. Jeff Shooner ~

[jshooner@stpatlou.org](mailto:jshooner@stpatlou.org)

Associate Pastor ~

Fr. Steven Reeves ~

[sreeves@stpatlou.org](mailto:sreeves@stpatlou.org)

Deacon ~ David Tomes ~

[davidtomes@aol.com](mailto:davidtomes@aol.com)

Business Manager ~ Gale Gowen

[ggowen@stpatlou.org](mailto:ggowen@stpatlou.org)

Organist and Director of Music ~

Ryan McEldowney ~

[ryanmceldowney@gmail.com](mailto:ryanmceldowney@gmail.com)

Office Manager ~ Patty Loerch ~

[patty@stbonifaceparish.com](mailto:patty@stbonifaceparish.com)

Welcome to the Parish!

Everyone is invited to be a member of the parish family 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 as soon as possible of an address change or any other changes to your family records.

Stewardship, A Lifetime of Opportunity, Responsibility, Accountability.

Have you remembered St. Boniface Church in your will?

***St. 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: St. John's Day Center for Homeless Men, Central Louisville Community Ministries (CLCM), and by assisting Nativity Academy in its 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.***



**"It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: A voice of one crying out in the desert, Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."**

I have visited a prayer and fasting retreat center in Colorado a number of times. At 9,000 feet, it is 110 acres of mostly mountain fields, rock formations, aspen and pine stands, and amazing blue skies. It is beautiful, and I have had some of my most profound experiences of God there. On my last visit several years ago, I noticed, significantly, that a neighboring property had essentially turned into a junk yard. Old machinery, supplies, materials and trash were piled up around the property, easily visible from the retreat center. I think I made the observation in small talk to the woman who ran the retreat center that it would be nice if the neighbor would clean up his property. Her reply surprised me, "In Colorado, we have strong property owner rights, and I wouldn't have it any other way." There is a tension, sometimes, between individual rights and the common good, or put a different way, between the personal and the communal.

Every generation has the same experience: times are changing. While there are some exceptions, our society has generally been swinging toward the importance of the individual over the group. As a teenager, I can remember having a debate among my friends about whether or not athletes should have their names on their jerseys or just the name of their school, not to mention (because it didn't exist) a twitter account or social media following. Pretty much every social organization, from the country club to the moose lodge, is in decline. Many cultural experiences of the practice of the faith have followed suit. It wasn't long ago that, as a group, Catholics didn't eat meat on Fridays, gathered at Churchill Downs each year for a huge Eucharistic procession, and packed the pews on Sunday. Even many summer social calendars in Louisville revolved around parish picnics. Times are changing.

As you read this, there are about 17 days until Christmas. This is now synonymous to the shopping days until Christmas, but wasn't always so. The first law on record restricting activity on Sunday is under Emperor Constantine in Rome dating to 321 AD and blue laws in the United States limited activities on Sundays, especially many retail sales. Stores would put in the window the actual number of days they would be open before Christmas. In some places, people even didn't do yard work, let children go to a friend's house to play, or hang clothes out to dry on Sundays out of consideration for their neighbors. There were legal or cultural norms that established boundaries around personal behavior for the, at least perceived, common good. The good of the group was emphasized over the individual. Few of us would argue for shutting down Amazon.com on Sundays and much has been gained, but some things have been lost. Times are changing.

The external, cultural, or legal supports for being Christian or Catholic have diminished, if not disappeared. This is not all bad. Most of us can no longer coast along at being Catholic for purely cultural reasons. That's not what Jesus ever wanted, anyway. John the Baptist came to prepare the way, but it wasn't a sociocultural endeavor. He baptized with water because of changed hearts and lives. The one who came after him would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire for the same. The Church has always been both personal and communal, not in opposition, but together. In Advent, we are journeying together to prepare each of our hearts, to make straight the paths, for the Lord's coming: to personally and communally encounter God with us, Jesus in our midst. We can't coast into it. We are invited and called to respond. Times are changing. The question now is, are you?

Fr. Jeff

## Servers for this Week

8:30 a.m. Mass

Server: Ed Hilbert

Lector: Fred Williams

Gift Bearers: Gary and Cathy Zirnheld

Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Ellen Hilbert, Charles Gazaway

Hospitality Ministers: Carol Cook, Kim McCoy

11:00 a.m. Mass

Server: Charles Gazaway, Nick Perri

Lector: Dawn Wibbels

Gift Bearers: Jim and Diana Duggins

Eucharistic Ministers: Jean Skaggs, Carlotta Ingram, Judy Perri

Hospitality Ministers: Nick Perri, Chris Hellman

*If you are interesting in serving please contact Charles Gazaway at 502.553.0317 or cgazaway@outlook.com*



**Ministry Team**

## Prayer Requests

Precious Adams  
Marty Bedoian  
Bob Camfield  
Steve Chambers  
Deacon Brian Karley  
Piper Kastan  
Scott McCoy  
Al Pepper  
Marty Severance  
Gene and Joyce Trott

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



## Parish News



**A Celebration of Winter Concert...**performance will be held on Friday, December 20th, 2019 at 7:30 pm in the church. Join us as we celebrate the holiday season with a performance of a wide array of works. Our performance will feature pieces by Antonio Vivaldi, Johann Sebastian Bach, Felix Mendelssohn, Gabriel Fauré, and other works performed by our various affiliated chamber ensembles. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children, and \$3 for high school and college students and are available at the door or online on our website: [www.stbonifaceparish.com](http://www.stbonifaceparish.com)



**Angel Tree for Nativity...**Thank you for participating in our annual Angel Tree. All Angels are from students families at Nativity Academy. Please attach the angel as a gift tag on your wrapped gift and return it church on Sunday, December 8th. We are still in need of gift cards for families to make dinner, if you would like please bring a Kroger, Walmart or Target gift card and these will be given out to our families. If you prefer to use our volunteer shoppers, you may choose to attach your check to an angel and return it to church or school by December 8th. The suggested amount for angels for the children is \$60.00.

**Central Louisville Community Ministries....**Personal items needed are: toilet paper, bar soap, body lotion, deodorant, dishwashing liquid, disposable razors, feminine hygiene products, laundry soap (liquid or pods), shampoo, toilet paper, toothpaste and toothbrushes. Please bring next week. We will continue to collect on the third Sunday of each month



**Kroger and Amazon Smile programs...**Would you like to help the church while you shop? Then sign up for these two wonderful programs! Using your Kroger card, go to [Kroger.com](http://Kroger.com) and click on community rewards and designate St. Boniface. To donate to St. Boniface through Amazon, you must use their website: [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com). and designate St. Boniface Church.

**Marriage Moments...**"think in harmony with one another." (Rom. 15:5) In any marriage, spouses will have disagreements. That's because we are independent individuals—and that is good. But today, celebrate one quality that you wholeheartedly agree upon.

**Parenting Pointers...**The purpose of Advent is not to shop but to learn to wait. Even if you are not a Christian, teaching your child to delay gratification is an important life skill. Perhaps this W.A.I.T. acronym can help W—waiting can give us time to make a good decision or buy the right thing. A—Anticipation can enhance appreciation. I—Instant gratification is often fleeting. T—take stock of your blessings; what you already have.

**Retirement Fund for Religious Collection...**will be held in our parish TODAY. Your gift to the fund provides vital funding for medications, nursing care, and more for senior religious. It also helps religious congregations plan for future retirement needs, even as they continue to serve the people of God. Please give in thanksgiving for the thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who worked tirelessly to educate the young and serve those in need.

## Diocesan News

**Conversations with Archbishop Kurtz...**given Archbishop Kurtz's absence from the Archdiocese as he is being treated for cancer, upcoming episodes of Conversations with Archbishop Kurtz will feature the "Best of Conversations", with various segments from the past organized around a topical theme. December's theme is the charitable work of the Church through the ministry of Catholic Charities of Louisville. The three segments will include an interview of Catholic Charities CEO Lisa DeJaco Crutcher, an conversation with Catholic Charities Board Chair, Deacon Scott Haner, about the Building a Brighter Future Capital Campaign, and the capital campaign video.

**Cradles of Christ Nativity Display...**View over 300 elegantly displayed nativities from around the world, learn the stories behind them, and bid on items in the "Silent Night Auction" while listening to live music and enjoying light refreshments. Tickets are \$5 per person or \$20 per family at the door. Proceeds support Water With Blessings to bring clean water to God's thirsty children. Join us at St. Patrick Parish, Schindler Hal , 1000 N. Beckley Station Rd. , on Saturday December 14th from noon—7 pm and Sunday, December 15th from 10 am—2 pm.

### Next week's readings....

1st Reading—Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10  
2nd Reading—James 5:7-10  
Gospel Reading—Matthew 11:2-11

### December 1st, 2019 Collection Report

\$7,000.00	Weekly Budget
\$4,290.00	Weekly Stewardship
\$(2,710.00)	Budget Over (Under)
\$77,279.37	Stewardship Year-to-Date
\$85,500.00	Budget Year-to-Date
\$(8,220.63)	Year-to-Date Over (Under)

*Regular use of your offertory envelopes assures that you are kept as an active member of the parish.*

### Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

"Repent," John the Baptist cried out, "the kingdom of heaven is at hand." He told the people of Judea that to prove their sincerity, they should produce good fruit. We should heed his call. To prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming, we can begin with an examination of conscience. Let us see when and how we have failed to produce good fruit and commit to bearing good fruit in the future.

### Today's Focus:

#### Seeing Differently, through God's Eyes

Our mortal eyes mostly see the here and now. When we immerse ourselves in the life of God, our vision also sees what may be, what may come.

Second Sunday  
OF  
ADVENT



### Reflection on the Gospel

As human beings we desire consistency, predictability, and stability. Though it's good to experience new things, not many of us thrive on doing new things all the time. Our lives may be punctuated by difference, but regularity reigns.

Even so, it's good for us to be shaken up a bit and jostled from our regular routine, as John the Baptist is doing today. We are reminded that we need to repent, turn away from selfish interests and turn toward God. What regular routines do we need to abandon? From what in our lives do we need to turn away? An interior reorientation toward God and the values of his kingdom is demanded.

*"Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God."  
Romans 15:7*

### Consider/Discuss

*In this season of preparation for the coming of Jesus, as God sees into our hearts, what is one thing that we could chop off or prune in order to bear stronger fruit?*