

# St. Boniface

Catholic Church

stboniface.net

230 1st St. NW - Lidgerwood, ND 58053

Also Serving St. Martin of Tours, Geneseo and Sts. Peter & Paul, Cayuga

## Weekend Mass Schedule

**Saint Boniface**

Saturday - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday - 8:30 a.m.

**Saint Martin of Tours - Geneseo**

Sunday - 10:30 a.m.

**Saints Peter & Paul - Cayuga**

Sunday - 12:00 p.m. (noon)

December 1, 2024 - 1st Sunday of Advent

### Remembering Advent

It always makes me laugh a little, these apocalyptic Gospel readings that come at the beginning of Advent. What a funny juxtaposition — all of us stringing twinkle lights and wrapping presents, with Jesus thundering on about the end of the world. It's Christmas! Don't be a downer. Pour me some more eggnog and turn up the Nat King Cole.

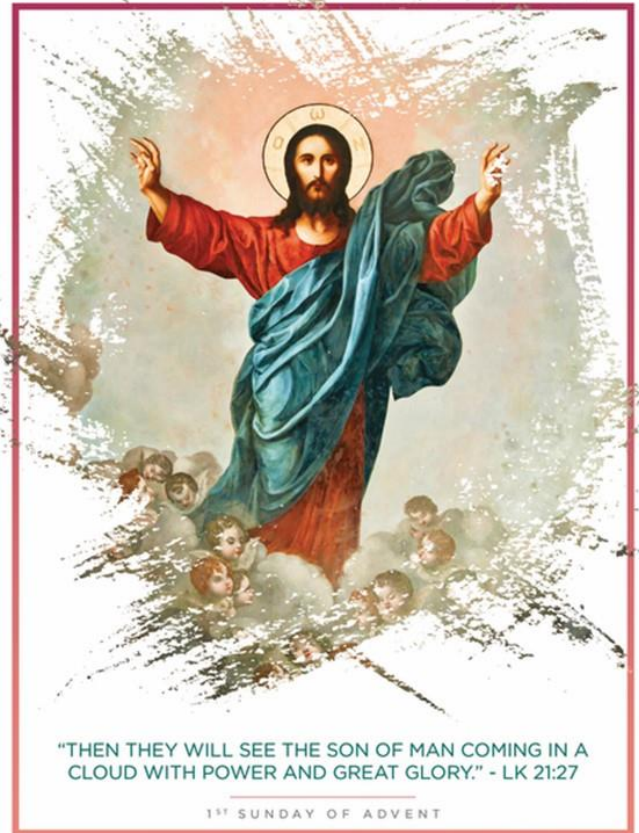
Well, except it's not Christmas. It's Advent.

There's nothing wrong with the cultural accessories that have developed alongside this religious holiday. There's nothing wrong with the twinkle lights and the eggnog.

But here's the thing: when Satan knows we're watching the front gate, he slips in the back door. And something I've found is that one back door he likes to use in my life is Cultural Christmas.

I love Cultural Christmas. I tend to overdo Cultural Christmas. I overschedule, I overdecorate, I overgift. All this "over" leads to — you guessed it! — overwhelm. "The anxieties of daily life," as Jesus describes in today's Gospel, make my heart drowsy. My *spiritual* Christmas joy, time and time again, is diminished — all because I embrace Cultural Christmas and ignore Advent. Satan sneaks in with the twinkle lights and the Christmas carols and he snatches The Present like the nasty little Grinch he is. He photobombs my experience of the religious holidays with the anxieties I so willingly embrace because of the production that is Cultural Christmas.

So, remember to rest this Advent, folks. Rest your heart. Rest your hands. Watch the back door *and* the front. Remember that this is the perfect time to be thinking about the state of your soul and not just the state of your house.



**Jeremiah 33:14-16**  
**1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2**  
**Luke 21:25-28, 34-36**

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## Weekly Mass Schedule



<u>Sunday Liturgies</u>		
Saturday, Nov. 30	5:00 pm (St. B.)	† Roman Heley
Sunday, Dec. 1	8:30 am (St. B.)	Pro Popula
	10:30 am (St. M.)	† Lawrence Harles
	12:00 pm (Sts. P&P)	Special Intention
<u>Weekday Liturgies</u>		
Monday, Dec. 2	NO MASS	
Tuesday, Dec. 3	NO MASS	
Wed., Dec. 4	10:00 am (Dakota Est.)	† Donald Kuzel
Thursday, Dec. 5	10:00 am (St. M.)	† Donnie Brown
Friday, Dec. 6	10:00 am (St. B.)	† Dec. Members of Al Polansky Family
<u>Sunday Liturgies</u>		
Saturday, Dec. 7	5:00 pm (St. B.)	Landyn Lysne
Sunday, Dec. 8	8:30 am (St. B.)	Pro Popula
	10:30 am (St. M.)	† Dec. Members of St. Martin's Men's Society
	12:00 pm (Sts. P&P)	Special Intention

### **Reconciliation Schedule**

**St. Boniface: Saturday & Sunday** – Before/after Mass  
**Thursday** – after Mass

**St. Martin: Sunday** – Before and after Mass

**Sts. Peter & Paul** – Before and after Mass

### **Prayer Requests**

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Dan Schmit - Tony Schouviller - Joan Moerke  
 Shelby Northrop - Peggy Harles - Nick Podliska  
 Rick Kane - Dan Frolek - Brad Meyer - Shirley Ahrens  
 Barb Perry

If you have any imminent prayer requests, please call or text Cindy at 701-640-1401.

### **All Parishes**

**Eucharistic Adoration** – Please come and spend time with Jesus on Thursdays in adoration, anytime from 5am – Midnight. We are still in need for someone to share the 9-10 am, 3-4 pm and 6-7 pm adoration slot. Please contact Sharon at 612-790-1211 or 538-7010 if you are able to help.

**CCD/CYO** – There will be class this week.

**Capital Campaign** – Thanks to all the families who have made their commitments to the campaign. If you have not yet sent in your pledge, please prayerfully consider what you will give to God from the heart.

**St. Boniface Church Cleaning** – There is a list of in the kitchen of things that still need to be done. Please consider helping out whenever your time allows. We just ask that you mark the list as to what has been completed.

**KC Blood Drive** will be held at the KC Hall on Tuesday, Dec. 3. Please call Mike at 538-7396 or 701-318-0947 or Dave at 538-4343 to schedule an appointment.

**St. Martin's Christian Mothers Advent/Christmas Celebration** will be held on Thursday, Dec. 5. Mass will be at 10am at St. Martin's with a potluck and bingo to follow.

**The Immaculate Conception, Holy Day of Obligation Schedule** -Monday, Dec. 9 - 7am at St. Boniface  
 - 4pm at St. Martin's  
 - 7pm at St. Boniface

**Penance Service** – Sunday, Dec. 15 at 3pm at St. John's in Wyndmere and at 7pm at St. Boniface.

### **U.S. Bishops Approve Cause of Canonization of Minnesota Nun**

Sr. Annella Zervas, OSB, had a deep devotion to the Eucharist and the Virgin Mary, as well as a healthy sense of humor.

Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota, presented the cause of beatification and canonization of Sr. Annella Zervas, OSB, to his fellow bishops at their November Plenary Assembly.

The bishops assembled then voted, and according to the USCCB, there were "206 votes in favor, 7 votes against, and 11 abstentions" which resulted in "the bishops affirming their support for the advancement of the cause of beatification and canonization at the local level."

This marks a crucial first step for the cause of Sr. Annella Zervas. The local diocese will now continue its investigation into her life to determine if she lived a life of "heroic virtue."

Once the local diocese has completed their investigation, her cause will be forwarded to the Vatican for approval, resulting in the bestowing of the title "venerable."

#### **Who was Sr. Annella Zervas?**

Sr. Annella was born in Moorhead, Minnesota, on April 7, 1900, to a German immigrant family. She attended the Catholic school at her local parish and felt drawn to join the Benedictine sisters who taught there.

At only 15 years old she joined St. Benedict's Monastery in St. Joseph, Minnesota and eventually become a music teacher and organist with the Benedictine sisters.

According to the USCCB, "Sister Annella was known for her devotion to the Eucharist and the Virgin Mary, as well as for her kindness, generosity, sense of humor, musical talent and artistic abilities."

Then her life changed. In 1923 she became afflicted with a rare skin disease. This caused her a great amount of suffering, which she offered up to God as a sacrifice.

Sr. Annella died when she was 24 years old, but her saintly example was an inspiration to the local community.

According to the Catholic News Agency, "Those praying for the Benedictine sister's intercession have reported miracles and answers to prayers."

Bishop Cozzens "shared that he too is inspired by the nun's story, which he first learned about through his own sister. He acknowledged receiving many requests from people to begin the formal process of investigation to determine her holiness."

### **Here are some traditional Advent customs to enrich your family's Christmas**

Advent should neither be spent in a spirit of consumerism nor in a state of rigid Puritanism. Rather it ought to be spent in a most worthwhile way by reclaiming traditional advent customs. Prayers around the advent wreath, advent hymns, observing a little lent by making resolutions, accompanied by a visit from St. Nicholas, enjoying gingerbread on the feast of the Immaculate Conception and hanging Jesse tree ornaments are the recipe for a well spent advent from which will flow a truly merry Christmas.

One way is by setting up an advent wreath in the home at the beginning of advent. The father sprinkles holy water on the wreath then leads the family in the prayer for the first week of advent. This prayer is taken from the [collect of the Mass for the First Sunday of Advent](#). The family continues praying this prayer all week as the first purple candle is lit by the youngest child. After the prayer is said all sing an advent hymn such as "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." The second week's prayer is taken from the [collect for the Second Sunday of Advent](#) and so on through the fourth and final week. The oldest child lights two purple candles the second week, the mother lights the Gaudete (rose colored) candle along with the two purple candles on the third week, and on the final week the father lights all four candles. All the candles are removed on Christmas as more evergreens are added and one large white candle is placed in the center of the wreath. Grace before meals is prayed followed by a Christmas hymn. A triumphant hymn like "Joy to the World" contrasts strikingly with the mournful singing of advent hymns. The whole family can see that a change in season has definitely taken place.

Another custom that young children especially love is the Christmas crib. During the weeks leading up to Christmas, advent resolutions are made by each member of the family and an empty crib is laid on the family altar. Nearby is a basket full of "hay" that can be offered as a visual sign of the sacrifices being made by members of the family. By the time Christmas arrives this manger is overflowing with "hay" and makes for a comfortable bed for "baby Jesus." Usually it is the mother of the family that lays "baby Jesus" on the hay as the family sings a hymn such as "Silent Night."

On December 6th, a visit from St. Nicholas takes place. In our family, two of the older boys dress up in costumes, one as the good bishop and the other as Pieterbass his assistant.

St. Nicholas brings candy canes, apples, oranges, and nuts. As St. Nicholas gives each child his gifts, he asks the child what he has been doing to prepare his heart for Christ's coming at Christmas further reinforcing the resolutions that were made at the beginning of advent. This is a bit elaborate but there are more simple ways to celebrate St. Nicholas day. Many children find their boots filled with goodies on the morning of his feast day.

Gingerbread and gingerbread houses have long been associated with this season. Many do not know that gingerbread is symbolic of the Blessed Virgin Mary because it gives off "the odor of sweetness." It can be a nice family tradition to make gingerbread houses or decorate gingerbread cookies on St. Nicholas Day then eat them as dessert on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

A very old Catholic custom is the Jesse tree. In Catholic homes beginning on December 1st running through the 16th an ornament is hung on the bare Christmas tree in the main living space of the home. Each night the father reads a scriptural account of salvation history that is represented with an ornament. On the lower boughs are displayed apples, fig leaves and serpents. Raising upward are tents, camels, and altars of sacrifice followed by rainbows, stone tablets, and tree stumps. Then comes a parade of slingshots, oil lamps and temples. As the top of the tree is neared, seashells, a staff that blooms lilies and Immaculate Hearts grace the branches. On the 16th the star of Bethlehem is placed on the top of the tree. The O Antiphons start on the 17th and continue through the 24th. Each of these ornaments are purple giving the tree a penitential look. On each is a title for Our Lord that is read one at a time as the nights close in on Christmas.

On Christmas Eve, after the little ones have gone off to bed, the time comes to remove all the advent ornaments and decorate the tree for Christmas leaving only the star on top reminding us of Christ's birth in a stable in Bethlehem so many years ago. All the presents that have been thus far hidden are brought out and placed under the tree. The transformation impresses on little hearts that something wonderful happened on Christmas Day.

Families will have to decide how to strike a balance between secular celebrations and religious customs. My husband and I have chosen to mix in a bit of the American culture that we enjoyed as children. Nevertheless Rudolf and Santa are very much on the sidelines in our children's minds. When asked if there really is a Santa Claus we always answer that it doesn't matter who delivers the gifts, they all come from the Christ Child. This has worked well in our family.

It is sights, tastes and sounds that impress childhood memories the most. The best way to pass on the faith is through these senses so take the time to give your children a slow advent. And if your home is not filled with little ones, remember Our Lord wants us to become as little children.