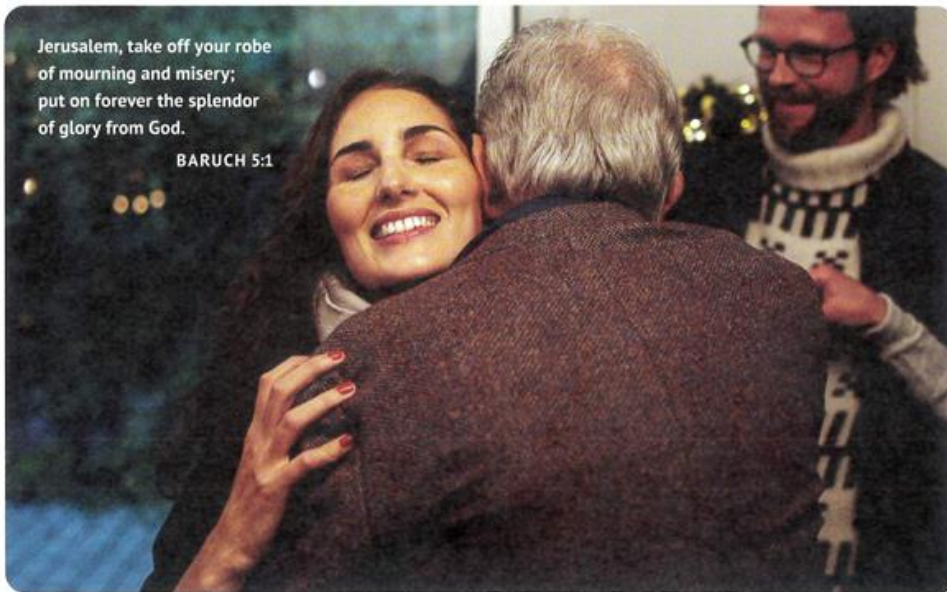




Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on forever the splendor of glory from God.

BARUCH 5:1



Coming Home

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Coming home can take place in many varied ways. Sometimes it's at the end of a long day when we come home to where we can be ourselves without any pretensions. Sometimes it's going back to the neighborhood we grew up in, to the old haunts that remind us of the dreams we had and how they now seem tucked in every niche. Sometimes coming home is what happens after many wanderings, after we've sown our oats and harvested little and now have nowhere else to go. That too is a coming home, back to where it all began, back to where we dare to hope that life might begin again.

All of this is how the Hebrew people found themselves coming home to Jerusalem after eighty years of exile, coming back to start anew with the hope that their God would once again be proud of them, back to where they could be as God intended them to be. All of that is what we do when we decide we will try to be the sort of person we'd always hoped to become. It's when we attempt a second effort at making a marriage work, or a job productive, or maybe simply putting the pieces of our lives back in some sort of order. It's all about coming back home to God's dream for us, a kind of second Advent, when God comes into our lives and is born once again. ●

Reflect

Have you wandered too far from the values of your true home? Can you find your way back?

St. Agnes • St. Boniface • St. John the Evangelist

Rev. Michael Pampara Pastor email: pamparasdb@gmail.com

P O Box 309, Stapleton, NE 68163, email: abj Catholics@gmail.com

Parish Office 308-636-2421; Secretary—Kristie Walz Cell 308-636-8399; Father Michael Cell 308-660-5730

Website: www.abj Catholic.org - Facebook Page: St Agnes, St Boniface & St John the Evangelist

Second Sunday of Advent (C)

This week and next, our Gospel readings invite us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. To affirm this, Luke quotes at length from the prophet Isaiah. John baptizes for repentance and for forgiveness of sins, preparing the way for God's salvation.

The three Synoptic Gospels—Mark, Matthew, and Luke—attest to the importance of the baptism of John in preparing for Jesus. Only the Gospel of Luke, however, extends the connection between these two men to their birth. The first two chapters of Luke's Gospel contain the Infancy Narrative, which tells about the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. These stories set the stage for the beginning of Jesus' public ministry in chapter 3.

The evangelist Luke is the author of the Gospel that bears his name, and he also wrote the Acts of the Apostles as a continuation of the story of Jesus and the Church. In these two works, Luke's sense of time and history emerges. He identifies three epochs of salvation history: the time before Christ, the time of Christ, and the time of the Church and the Holy Spirit. In today's Gospel reading, as elsewhere, John the Baptist is presented as the figure who bridges the time before Christ and prepares the way for Christ's own ministry.

In today's Gospel we also note Luke's attention to political and historical detail. Luke shows that salvation is for all people and situated in world events. Therefore, Luke lists the political and religious leaders at the time of John's appearance in the desert. Salvation is understood as God's breaking into this political and social history.

John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus, we too are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives the coming of the Lord, as John did.

Mass Schedule & Intentions

For the week of Dec 9, 2024

Mon.	Dec	09	7:00	AM	SB	Cody & Charlie Sierks
Mon.	Dec	09	4:00	PM	SB	Joyce Brestel
Mon.	Dec	09	6:00	PM	SA	Maurice Andre †
Tues.	Dec	10	7:00	AM	SJ	No Mass
Wed.	Dec	11	5:30	PM	SA	No Mass
Thurs.	Dec	12	5:30	PM	SB	No Mass
Fri.	Dec	13	8:30	AM	SJ	No Mass
Sun.	Dec	15	8:00	AM	SJ	Al Bemiss †
Sun.	Dec	15	9:30	AM	SA	People of the Parish
Sun.	Dec	15	11:00	AM	SB	Ted Kalinowski †

†

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jayden Welch Dec 9th
Margaret Ann Mills Dec 10th
Chris Pandorf Dec 11th
Claire Kulp Dec 14th
Luke Boeser Dec 15th
Wyatt Brogan Dec 15th

Happy Anniversary

Mr. & Mrs. Luke Boeser Dec 15th

Ministry Schedule

Date: Dec 15	<i>St. Agnes</i>	<i>St. Boniface</i>	<i>St. John's</i>
<i>Time</i>	<u>Sunday 9:30 AM</u>	<u>Sunday 11:00 AM</u>	<u>Sunday 8:00 AM</u>
<i>Hospitality</i>	Aleta & Conrad P.	Bartley ^ Kaylee B.	Rex & Kristie Walz
<i>Lector</i>	John B.	Emily P.	Tara B.
<i>Server</i>		Charli P. & Emmett P.	Cayson J. & Wyatt D.
<i>EMHC</i>	Evan B. & Gary M.	Mike P. & John R.	Steve & Cindy F.
<i>Communion to shut ins or Music</i>		Mike P.	Music: Kaman & Klara

<u>St. Agnes</u>	<u>St. Boniface</u>	<u>St. John's</u>
<p>Our Gifts to God & Church Dec 1, 2024</p> <p><u>Total Collection:</u> \$539.49</p> <p><u>Diocesan Appeal</u> Dollar Goal = \$2310 of \$4014 Donor Goal: 5 of 16</p> <p>Thrift Store Open Dec 20th from 9AM to 4PM</p> <p>- CCD Class Dec 11th <u>UPCOMING:</u> Holy Day of Obligation Dec 9th Immaculate Conception Monday Dec 9th at 6:00 PM</p> <p>Sunday Dec 8th Children's Christmas Program following mass then a potluck to follow</p> <p>Confession Dec 22nd Starting at 8:30 AM Mass to follow at 9:30 AM</p> <p>Christmas Mass Dec 24th on Christmas Eve at 7:00 PM</p>	<p>Our Gifts to God & Church Dec 1, 2024</p> <p><u>Total Collection:</u> \$1180.00</p> <p><u>Diocesan Appeal</u> Dollar Goal = \$3870 of \$7306 Donor Goal: 11 of 19</p> <p>- CCD Class Dec 11th COIA Monday, December 9th @ 6:00 Topic: The Story of Salvation</p> <p><u>UPCOMING:</u> Holy Day of Obligation Dec 9th Immaculate Conception Monday Dec 9th at 4:00 PM</p> <p>All Parish Confessions Wednesday Dec 11 starting at 6:00 PM</p> <p>Sunday Dec 15th Children's Christmas Program following mass then a potluck to follow</p> <p>Christmas Mass Dec 24th on Christmas Eve at 5:00 PM</p>	<p>Our Gifts to God & Church Dec 1, 2024</p> <p><u>Total Collection:</u> \$1344.50</p> <p><u>Diocesan Appeal</u> Dollar Goal = \$34350 of \$5001 Donor Goal: 7 of 17</p> <p>-- CCD Class Dec 11th Supper: Dailey</p> <p><u>UPCOMING:</u> Holy Day of Obligation Dec 9th Immaculate Conception Monday Dec 9th at 7:00 AM</p> <p>Sunday Dec 15th Children's Christmas Program following mass then a potluck to follow</p> <p>Confession Dec 21st 4:00 PM Mass for Saturday Dec 21st at 5:00 PM NO Sunday Mass Dec 22nd</p> <p>Christmas Mass Dec 25th on Christmas Day at 9:00 AM</p>

Quotes for Today
Saint Lucy (283-304)

"Those whose hearts are pure are the temples of the Holy Spirit."

Dear Padre,

If Christmas is on December 25, why is the Immaculate Conception on December 8, rather than sometime in March?

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception asserts that Mary was free of the stain of original sin from the time she was conceived in her mother's womb. Jesus was also free of the stain of original sin and his conception by Mary is referred to as the Incarnation of Christ. Mary's Immaculate Conception is often confused for Christ's Incarnation.

In the Church's liturgical calendar, Mary's conception is celebrated on December 8; her birthday is celebrated exactly nine months later on September 8. Likewise, Christ's conception is celebrated on March 25 on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord; his birthday is celebrated exactly nine months later on December 25.

Mary's Immaculate Conception was celebrated many centuries before Pope Pius IX defined it as dogma on December 8, 1854: "The doctrine that maintains that the Blessed Virgin Mary in the first instant of her conception, by a unique grace and privilege granted to her by Almighty God, in consideration of the merits of Jesus Christ the Savior of mankind, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore must be firmly and constantly believed by all the faithful" (*Ineffabilis Deus*). In fact, eight years before, in 1846, the bishops of the United States had already adopted the Immaculate Conception as the patronal feast for Catholics in this country.



Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 9 <i>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> Gn 3:9–15, 20 Eph 1:3–6, 11–12 Lk 1:26–38	December 10 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 40:1–11 Mt 18:12–14	December 11 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 40:25–31 Mt 11:28–30	December 12 <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> Zec 2:14–17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab Lk 1:26–38 or Lk 1:39–47	December 13 <i>St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</i> Is 48:17–19 Mt 11:16–19	December 14 <i>St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i> Sir 48:1–4, 9–11 Mt 17:9a, 10–13	December 15 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> Zep 3:14–18a Phil 4:4–7 Lk 3:10–18



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

By calling us to conversion, John urges us to go "beyond" where we presently are; to go beyond what our instincts tell us... Let us ask for the grace to believe that with God things really do change, that he will banish our fears, heal our wounds... Let us ask for the grace of hope....

HOMILY, ATHENS, DECEMBER 5, 2021