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THE CHURCH OF SAINT BONIFACE

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

November 3, 2019



"Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house."

(Luke 19,5)

Sunday Reflection: November 3

“...For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost.” (Luke 19, 10)

Am sure many of us have heard of the term “shaming” especially online/social media. It is a form of internet vigilantism in which targets (individuals) are publicly humiliated for actions they have done in private or without intending public broadcast. It is a form of “calling out others” in the worst way, by “washing their laundry in public.” Some who do this justify themselves saying that it is good that people who do wrong things behind closed doors must face their fate. They must pay the price. I do not know what you think, but here is my point of bringing this up — how might God approach people’s sins (wrongs)? With what kind of attitude? Is he keen on punishing or even “shaming” us? What of us? How are we to approach the failures, wrongs and sins of others?

God is mercy and love and never calls out or “shames” anyone one for their sins. The first reading actually says he overlooks people’s sins that they may repent. “Therefore you rebuke offenders little by little, warn them, and remind them of the sins they are committing, that they may abandon their wickedness and believe in you, Lord!” (Wisdom 12, 2). In the face of our sins God’s first instinct is strangely restraint, so that we have the chance to repent, heal and transform our lives. And God will do this countless times. The Lesson is that when we blunder, even in the worst sense, it is not the end! (If you only stopped and reflected on this, how powerful this is for you and me!)

“Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today, I must stay at your house.” (Luke 19, 5). Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector. Certain careers had a bad reputation during Jesus’ time. Tax collectors were known to be corrupt and thieves. They earned their wealth in extortion, cheating and other dubious ways. What then is Jesus doing, getting close to such a person? Wouldn’t he know better? (Hence the grumbling we hear in the Gospel.) But physicians are meant to tender not to the healthy but the sick, so in this case as in many other instances, God initiates “the encounter” that will transform the life of a sinner, always wanting to heal and make new. Zacchaeus might have been part of a rotten system, but he recognizes his sin and wants to change and God gives him a chance. Why not anyway? For God firstly and always comes “to seek and save what was lost.”

How might this mission of Jesus/God become our mission, too? In what unexpected ways does God want us to relieve others of the burdens of failure and mistakes? If God’s mercy is what you long for, for your unknown sins, might you want that for another, too? The world of today — our justice system, our community, our relationships — needs more of this kind message and action. Bring it forth by your lives.

Have a Blessed Week in the Lord!

~ Fr. Anthony



Oktoberfest 2019 Update:
Thanks our many dedicated and generous parishioners, we are pleased to report that this year’s festival made a net profit of \$8,476, a \$1,200 increase over last year!

Saint Boniface Church

817 Massachusetts Avenue, Lunenburg, MA 01462
Parish Office: 978-582-4008 email: stbonifaceparish@verizon.net

Discover St. Boniface ~ Visit our website: www.StBoniface-lunenburg.org

Parish Office Hours

Monday / Wednesday / Thursday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM (closed 12:00 – 1:00 PM)



The Celebration of the Eucharist

Sunday: 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 PM

Summer Sunday Mass schedule: 9:00 AM
(Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend)

Weekday Masses: 8:00 AM, Wednesday/Thursday/Friday

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Confession) Saturday 3:00 - 3:30 p.m. or by appointment.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Adults are baptized at the Easter Vigil as part of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Infant and child Baptisms are by arrangement.

FIRST EUCHARIST Preparation begins in grade one and includes classes, retreats, and home instruction. Children receive First Eucharist in grade two.

CONFIRMATION Our Confirmation program begins in the 9th grade; students are confirmed in the spring of the 10th grade. For young adults who have been baptized but not yet confirmed, contact the parish office.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY It is the policy of the Diocese of Worcester that a couple should contact the parish at least one year prior to the anticipated date of their wedding to allow sufficient time to carry out the various steps of the marriage preparation process. It is important that arrangements be made with the church before plans are made with reception halls, caterers, etc.

ANNOINTING OF THE SICK Please call the parish office 978-582-4008 or email Fr. Anthony at stbonifaceparish@verizon.net or Nancy Cieri 978-582-6983 nancycieri@comcast.net to arrange these visits.

PRAYER LINE MINISTRY If you or someone you know needs prayers or if you would like to be a part of this ministry of those who pray for the needs of neighbors, please contact Sue Cote 978-582-0404 sj33@msn.com.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #16480 *In Service to One. In Service to all.* The members meet in the Parish Hall on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 PM. Any Catholic men over 18 who are interested in joining the Knights should contact Grand Knight James Dijak (978-534-7956) or Deputy Grand Knight Peter Bak (978-403-5119), or you can email the Council at kofc16480@gmail.com.

PARISH STAFF:

Rev. Anthony Mpagi, Pastor	978-582-4008	stbonifaceparish@verizon.net
Jo-Anne Poirier, Administrative Assistant	978-582-4008	stbonifaceparish@verizon.net
Lucy Marcil, Religious Education Coordinator	978-502-7993	lmarcil419@gmail.com
Claire Garrity Neas, Music Ministry	617-823-4237	
Louise Nadeau, Sacristan		
Jacque Cronin, Ministry Schedule	978-582-7040	jaccronin@comcast.net
Nina Charpentier, Dir. Early Childhood/PreK	978-582-7110	

Newcomers to St. Boniface are invited and encouraged to formally register as members of the parish so that so that we can stay in touch with you via email with faith formation news, notice of special events, volunteer opportunities, and more. Registration forms are available at the doors of the church or on our website.

Please note that you must be registered for at least six months before we can issue any verification of your status as a parishioner for godparent or sponsor letters.

MASS INTENTIONS			
Sat	Nov 2	4:00 pm	Our Parish Family
Sun	Nov 3	8:00 am	Our Parish Family
		10:30 am	Barry Neas, by Serra North members
Sat	Nov 9	4:00 pm	Our Parish Family
Sun	Nov 10	8:00 am	All Veterans
		10:30 am	Our Parish Family

VETERANS' MASS

A Veterans' Day Mass will be celebrated on Sunday, November 10, 2019 at 8:00 AM at Saint Boniface to recognize those who have and are currently serving our nation. All veterans and spouses of all religious affiliations are welcome to attend. The Mass will be followed by a breakfast sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Saint Boniface Council. The International Veterans' Chorus will be singing during and after the Mass. Please join us as we honor our Veterans!

OUR NEXT MIHN WEEK BEGINS NOVEMBER 17th.

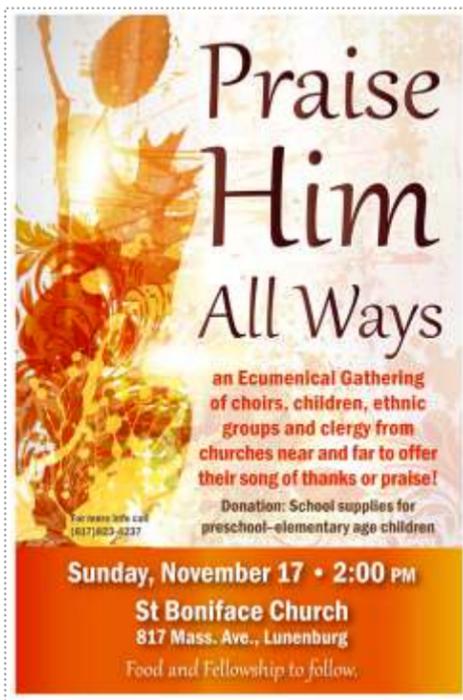
Please take a leaf from the back of the church to help us gather supplies and food for our next rotation at MIHN - Montachusett Interfaith Hospitality Network. This is a family shelter in Leominster that makes it possible for families to stay together when homeless.

HANNAFORD REUSABLE BAG FUNDRAISER

Through the month of November, for every orange and brown reusable bag purchased, the St. Boniface Social Action Committee will receive a \$1.00 donation. Hannaford will also donate 4 meals to those in need for every bag sold. Please help support the SAC and those in need by stocking up on these very sturdy large bags (only the orange and brown). They are located on a kiosk near the pharmacy and at each of the checkouts. Thank you!

St. Cecilia's Parish CHRISTMAS IN ACADIA FAIR

Friday, Nov. 8, 5:00 - 9:00 pm & Saturday, Nov. 9, 11:00 am - 7:30 pm
Acadian foods: Poutines, R p e, Fricot, Meat Pie, Poutine Fries, as well as American favorites: spaghetti & meatballs, cheeseburgers, hotdogs, chicken nuggets, sausage subs, fried dough and much more. Take a chance at winning \$5000, Theme Baskets, Acadian Auction Items, and Red Sox Luxury Box Tickets. Kids will enjoy the many game booths and have their picture taken with Santa for *free* on Friday from 5:30 to 7pm and Saturday from 11:30am to 1:00pm. Santa himself will arrive on a fire truck on Saturday at 11:30. Also, don't miss out on the many bargains at our Large Indoor Flea Market. The Veterans' Choir and Song Birds will perform on Saturday at 12 noon.



Something Fishy Here...

The baby octopus complained to the Creator about being an octopus. God asked, "What's so bad about being an octopus?" The octopus replied, "Do You have any idea how long it takes me to wash my hands before dinner?"

~ ~ ~

Teach a man to fish, and he'll eat for the rest of his life. Teach a fish to learn, and soon they'll be swimming in schools.

From *Hey! Christians Have a Sense of Humor, Too!*
Written and compiled by Patricia Mitchell
in association with Product Concept Mfg., Inc.

"ANGELS AUCTION DINNER" 2019

SAVE THE DATE!! Emmanuel Catholic Radio will host its live "Angels Auction Charity Dinner" Thurs. December 12. Bid online at 1230radio.com Nov. 25 - Dec. 11 for great items, holiday gifts, and more. Then join us for a fun live auction event at St. Paul's Cathedral, Worcester 6-9pm Thurs., Dec. 12. Your generous tax-deductible donation will help keep Catholic Radio on the air in the Diocese of Worcester. For more information call (508) 767-1230 or email cindy.dorsey@1230radio.com.

Sharing God's Love in Unexpected Places

Jesuits of an earlier generation learned the basics of the spiritual life from a book titled *The Practice of Christian and Religious Perfection*. After chapters reflecting on topics like "The Dangers of Vainglory," the author offered illustrations from lives of the saints under the heading "The previous, confirmed by diverse examples." Some of these examples were legendary or difficult to understand out of original context. Most of them, however, emphasized the important point that the Gospel was not a mythic ideal but rather an effective means of transformation.



This is Luke's strategy in this Sunday's Gospel passage. The story of Zacchaeus is the example that confirms the truth of last Sunday's Gospel reading, the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector (Lk 18:9-14). Tax collectors in Israel were loathsome agents of a foreign power. Informants told them who had harvested a bumper crop or who had made a profitable exchange in the marketplace, and they then showed up to demand a percentage. Rome even allowed them to take taxes in kind from those who had no cash; such seizures could include the sale of a family's children into slavery. By such means, even "honest" tax collectors grew both rich and hated.

Luke shows repeatedly that at least some tax collectors were conflicted about their duties. Many came out to hear the preaching first of John the Baptist (Lk 3:12) and then of Jesus (Lk 7:29; 15:1). Because they were so hated, pious Israelites avoided them and never reached out with an invitation to change their lives. Without any encouragement to change, it was easy for tax collectors to cling to what they knew—the accumulation of wealth, and the sense of power that went along with it.

In this Gospel reading, Luke shows the nature of real power. Jesus knew the Father's love and shared it in unexpected places. Jesus reached out with a request for hospitality. That simple word of friendship was all Zacchaeus needed to undergo a complete transformation.

Luke symbolizes Zacchaeus's conversion by revealing a change in his relationship to material possessions. C. S. Lewis once observed that the greatest sinners and greatest saints are made of the same stuff. Luke shows us something similar here. Zacchaeus had accumulated wealth with zeal. He even implies (though he carefully does not admit) that he may have defrauded one or more individuals in the course of his duties. Now, because of a kind gesture from Jesus, he turns that same zeal to the service of the Gospel.

Thus Luke makes it clear to his readers that the Gospel has an effect. The parables of Jesus, like the one about the Pharisee and the tax collector, are not ideals drawn from an alternate reality. The example of Zacchaeus shows that they are accurate portraits of the real world. We fail to see their truth only when we ourselves become mesmerized by wealth, power and other worldly allurements. Instead, Christ's disciples must continue to seek out the company of sinners, even great sinners, for many of these are on the threshold of conversion, awaiting only a sign of God's love—perhaps from us—to become great saints.

| Michael R. Simone, S.J

This article also appeared in print, under the headline "Confirmed by Example," in the October 28, 2019 issue of America Magazine



Grand Annual Appeal 2019

The Saint Boniface Grand Annual Appeal is our largest annual fundraiser. The funds generated from this very important appeal enable us to do many things, which otherwise might not be possible. This includes:

- Maintenance of our beautiful church
- Funding various important programs that have a direct impact on our local community.
- Funding improvements to infrastructure that enhance the safety and quality of the buildings and grounds.

This year, the Grand Annual Appeal will help us achieve a balanced budget and provide funding to redesign and replace the step and walkway at the front entrance of the church. The wear and tear in this area is significant and replacement is necessary for safety reasons and improvement of the entrance.

The start of the Grand Annual Appeal is the weekend of November 2nd, 2019, and it will continue through December 31st, 2019. Our goal for this year's campaign is \$50,000. In order to achieve our goal, we need everybody's help. Our success will be defined in terms of stewardship from all of us — contributing our time, talent, and treasure. The Finance Committee and Parish Council would like to thank all of you for your continued generosity to Saint Boniface. Donations can be made by using the form provided in the bulletin or pews. Also, credit or debit cards may be used by going to the "Online Giving Options" on our website at www.stboniface-lunenburg.org.



The Perspective of Justice: Unveiling the Truth

The story of Zacchaeus is rich in possible interpretations.

The most popular interpretation is to view the story in terms of conversion. Here is a rich man who has not cared for the victims of poverty and injustice until his encounter with Jesus. His conversion makes a strong statement about the affluent caring for the needs of the poor.

It has also been suggested that what changed in Zacchaeus was his concern for those whom he had defrauded. He had always been generous with the poor, but now he cared about all the oppressed. In other words, his growth was from charity to justice.

Recent biblical scholarship has tended to view the story more in terms of the vindication of a person whom society considered a sinner. Everyone thought Zacchaeus was a terrible person because he collaborated, as a tax collector, with the hated occupiers. Jesus unveiled the truth about the man, who in reality was concerned for the welfare of others. The judgmental world was once again proven wrong.

Take your pick! The interpretation of your choice has enormous implications for the pursuit of a better world.

It is the duty of the whole People of God ... to alleviate as far as they are able the sufferings of the modern age. They should do this ... out of the substance of their goods, and not only out of what is superfluous.

Vatican II, Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, 1965: 88

SAINTS OF THE DAY November 4 - 8



Saint Charles Borromeo

November 4. Saint Charles Borromeo lived during the time of the Protestant Reformation, and helped with the reform of the whole Church during the final years of the Council of Trent. He also reformed the Catholic life of his diocese. Charles Borromeo was a member of the Medici family, but unlike many of his relatives, he devoted his life to the Church.

San Carlo Borromeo, cardinal of Milan | Wellcome Images



Saint Peter Chrysologus

November 5. Today we celebrate a Doctor of the Church, Saint Peter Chrysologus, which means "of the golden words." As bishop of Ravenna, Saint Peter taught and led his diocese, showing them his commitment to the faith and to the Church's authority. His writings have come down to us as masterful treatments on what we believe.

Saint Peter Chrysologus | it.wikipedia.org



Saint Nicholas Tavelic and companions

November 6. Saint Nicholas Tavelic and his companions were martyred in the Holy Land in 1391. While their method of evangelization is different from what we would use today, their zeal and courage are evident in their actions. They stand alone as canonized Franciscan martyrs of the Holy Land..

Altar of Saint Nikola Tavelić in church of St. Francis of Assisi, Šibenik, Croatia | photo by ignot



Saint Didacus

November 7. Saint Didacus was a Spanish Franciscan known for his spiritual insights and his penitential practices. He was a missionary to the Canary Islands and aided the sick in Rome. His travels and ministries did not distract him from prayer and contemplation.

San Diego (Didacus) de Alcalá | Francisco de Zurbarán



Blessed John Duns Scotus

November 8. Blessed John Duns Scotus was one of the most influential Franciscans in the worlds of philosophy and theology. He is probably best known for his defense of the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. Scotus served on the faculties of both Oxford University and the University of Paris.

Detail | Stained glass in Franciscan Convent Chapel in Paris | Saint John Duns Scotus | photo by GFrehalter