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THE CHURCH OF SAINT BONIFACE

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

November 10, 2019



*"What do you expect to learn by questioning us? We are ready
 to die rather than transgress the laws of our ancestors."*

(2 Maccabees 7, 2)

From the Desk of the Pastor

Sunday Reflection: November 10

Lord, when your glory appears, my joy will be full. (Psalm 17)

The first reading this weekend comes from the Second Book of Maccabees. The surname ‘Maccabee’ can be traced to Judas Maccabees, one of the sons of Matthias, who rebelled against the campaign of forced Hellenization of the Jews; in fact both books are the story of the Martyrs of Israel, who resisted in faith to the point of shedding blood. *Fidelity to God before all things.* The second book of Maccabees in particular stresses the belief in the afterlife (resurrection) and that the afterlife begins ‘now’ (in the present, meaning how one lives). The book is also about courage, the courage to stand firm for what one believes even if this means persecution and death.

Listen to the courage of the mother and her seven sons: They refuse to eat pork (violates God’s Law). One of the brothers says, “What do you expect to achieve by questioning us? We are ready to die rather than transgress the laws of our ancestors.” (2 Maccabees 7, 2) They regard suffering as nothing, the resurrection awaits them. This strong faith and hope permeates their life and decisions.

Do we even know that our ancestors in faith shed blood for what we believe? Faith was born of resistance and steadiness. When you have not struggled for something you often times do not know its true worth or value. When was the last time you stood your ground for the faith? Or when has the hope of what is to come guided your decision?

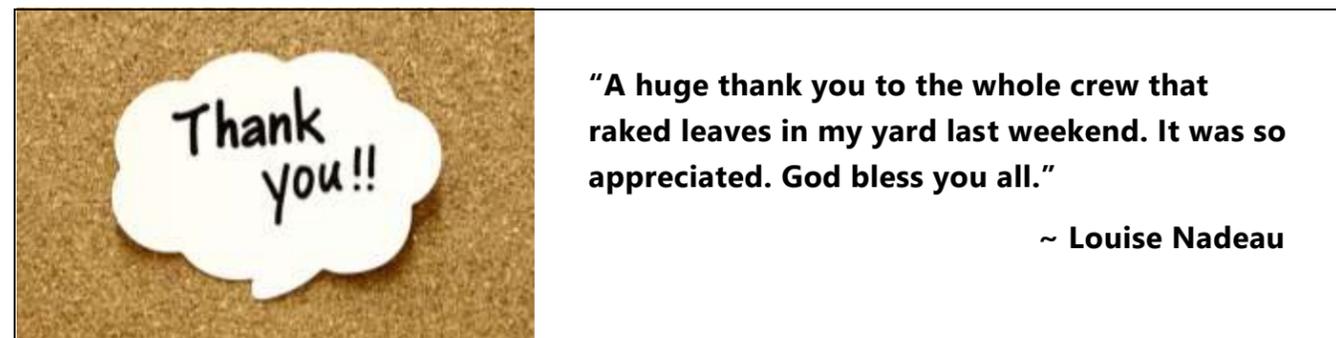
The Sadducees are a group that do not believe in the resurrection of the dead. Actually they thought that human life continues in some way after death, hence the question: whose wife will this be? Jesus answers that the Life in heaven will be way different. Our earthly pleasures and hungers will no longer be our focus and longing. Those who then lived a life worthy of God on earth will see a new life only. Those who hoped in God in the present life will have their promise of life fulfilled. So how we live now, does prepare us for heaven. The afterlife begins now.

How then is our daily living changed by what we believe and what we hope? When do our convictions of faith and values affect our relationships and choices? Do we resist and stand firm for what we believe? Will we be ready to be hated or rejected for our God choices?

Our heroic examples like that of the martyrs of bygone ages are needed to give encouragement and inspire others.

Have a Blessed Week in the Lord!

~ Fr. Anthony



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 9	4:00 pm	Our Parish Family
Sun	Nov 10	8:00 am	All Veterans
		10:30 am	Our Parish Family

“SOUNDS OF THE SEASON”

The Montachusett Chorale will perform its holiday concert, "Sounds of the Season", on Sunday, December 8th at 2 pm in Tata Auditorium, Leominster City Hall, 25 West Street. This concert will benefit the Catholic Charities' Women's Recovery Program in Leominster.

Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door, under 18 admitted free. Tickets can be purchased in the Mayor's Office or on our website: montachusettchorale.org using Paypal. Pre-paid online tickets will be held at the door.

Praise Him All Ways

an Ecumenical Gathering of choirs, children, ethnic groups and clergy from churches near and far to offer their song of thanks or praise!

Donation: School supplies for preschool-elementary age children

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Sunday, November 17 • 2:00 PM

St Boniface Church
817 Mass. Ave., Lunenburg

Food and Fellowship to follow.

COLLECTION REPORT WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 3, 2019

SUNDAY ORDINARY:	\$2,802.00
MAINTENANCE:	827.00
FUEL:	40.00
HOLY DAYS:	102.00
OTHER:	5.00
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS:	\$3,786.00

Thank you for your continued support!

Wit and Wisdom...

Do not judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.

Robert Louis Stevenson

The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes.

Marcel Proust

Be careless in your dress if you must, but keep a tidy soul.

Mark Twain

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.

Do we live every day secure in the knowledge of the resurrection?

Jesus' journey to Jerusalem has come to an end. After leaving Zacchaeus behind in Jericho, Jesus went up from the Jordan Valley to the heights of Bethany, which rise over Jerusalem toward the east (Lk 19:11-34). Jesus then entered Jerusalem in triumph, an event we commemorate on Palm Sunday (28-44). Immediately after, he entered and cleansed the Temple (45-48).

Luke then recounts something extraordinary. Jesus returns to the Temple daily, where he teaches and interprets the Scriptures.

He draws on passages from the Prophets (Lk 20:1-8, probably a reference to Dn 7:14, and Lk 20:9-19), the Psalms (Lk 20:41-44) and, in this Sunday's Gospel passage, the Torah.

Throughout these interactions Jesus encounters hostile opponents. His presence in the Temple is provocative, especially after he drove out the money changers and vendors on his earlier visit. Several people try to trick him into saying something that will get him arrested. Readers of Luke's Gospel realize something that these opponents do not: Jesus is secure in his Father's house.

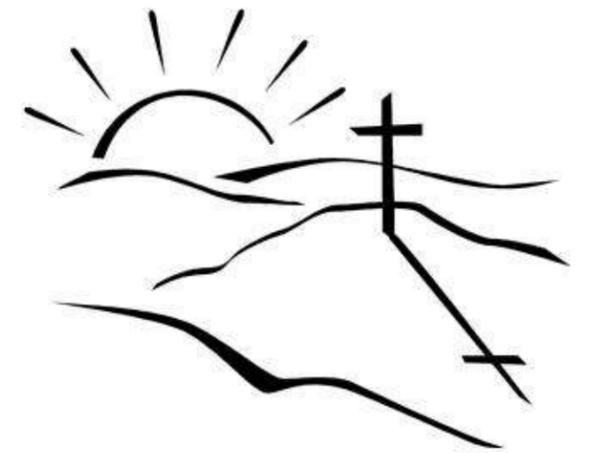
In fact, the Temple is a framing device for Luke's entire Gospel. Luke's account begins when Gabriel appears to Zechariah in the Temple, promising the birth of a son. Luke's Gospel ends with the apostles spending their days in the Temple praising God as they await the descent of the Spirit. This Sunday's Gospel passage, too, closes a narrative opened in the early chapters of Luke's Gospel. When Jesus was left behind in the Temple as a boy, he spent his time with the teachers of Torah, “listening to them and asking them questions; all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers” (Lk 2:46-47). This time, however, his interlocutors are hostile, and the stakes are his very life.

In this Sunday's passage, the topic is the resurrection. Although the topic is well developed in later Jewish writings, like the prophecy of Daniel, the most important texts of the Hebrew Scriptures (from Genesis through Deuteronomy) do not overtly mention it. For some of the characters in today's reading, this omission renders the teaching suspect. They pose a question to Jesus that they believe will make the whole idea of resurrection unravel. Jesus subverts their question and reduces his questioners to silence by pointing out an implicit mention of the resurrection in Ex 3:2-16. He counters with his own question, to which they give no answer. Luke makes sure to show his readers that Jesus has nothing to fear in his Father's house; he is the master of every argument and the authentic teacher of Israel's religious tradition.

This is important to remember today. Evidence all around us can call into question any belief in eternal life. Under this questioning, Christianity can devolve into a purely moral venture — just one of many ethical systems that produce good behavior. But if we trust, as Luke did, that Jesus had deeper insights into God's action, then new realities suggest themselves. Jesus teaches in this Sunday's Gospel that every one of us lives a life of eternal consequence. Like him, we must live each day secure in the knowledge that, someday, we will rise again.

| Michael R. Simone, S.J.

This article also appeared in print, under the headline "The Ones Who Will Rise," in the October 28, 2019 issue of America Magazine





Saint Boniface Community Service Day — Nov. 2, 2019

Bob Bourque and crew helped clean up the yard of this Lancaster Avenue home. Several other crews worked at different locations around Lunenburg to assist elderly and disabled residents.



The Perspective of Justice

Reading I: 2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14

Responsorial Psalm 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15

Reading II: 2 Thessalonians 2:6-3:5

Gospel: Luke 20:27-38

Today's liturgy affirms our faith that "the dead rise again" and our "God-given hope of being restored to life" after death. This faith and hope are founded in Jesus Christ, "the first-born from the dead," the source of our "eternal consolation and hope."

Our "God is not the God of the dead but of the living," and our religion is not a religion of death but of resurrection and life. Faith in eternal life has energized Christians for centuries. It has also, unfortunately, caused some of them to neglect the immediate task at hand: the right ordering of the world in preparation for the coming of the kingdom. Today's liturgy counteracts that tendency with a message of doing God's work on earth and giving our lives in service to all.

"The King of the world will raise us up to live again forever." In the meantime, there are the "burdens and challenges of life" which must be met head-on if we are to be "a kingdom of priests to serve our God and Father."

All too often Christians are faulted with a certain indifference toward earthly projects, as if one could not fully count on us for radical social reform. The charge may be unfair, but the danger is real enough. Our hope in another life must not be allowed to seduce believers into neglecting our task in the present one.

U.S. Bishops, Pastoral Letter on Marxist Communism, 1980:4

Gerald Darring

SAINTS OF THE DAY November 11 - 15



Dedication of Churches of Saints Peter and Paul

November 18. November 18. St. Peter Basilica is probably the most famous church in Christendom and the largest in the city of Rome. St. Paul Outside-the-Walls is second in size only to St. Peter's. Built over the presumed graves of these two saints, they are attractive places of prayer for the faithful..

Image: The Papal Basilica of Saint Peter in the Vatican / photo by Fczarnowski

Image: Statue of Saint Paul in front of the facade of the Basilica of Saint Paul, Rome / photo by Berthold Werner



Saint Agnes of Assisi

November 19. Often confused with Saint Agnes of Bohemia to whom Saint Clare wrote her famous letters, Saint Agnes of Assisi was Saint Clare's younger biological sister as well as first follower in the way poverty.

Saint Agnes of Assisi / France / gift of E. Royall Tyler



Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne

November 20. Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne, a Sister of the Society of the Sacred Heart and French by birth, was an early missionary to the United States. There she and her sisters faced formidable difficulties, but finally settled in Missouri and built the first free school west of the Mississippi in the town of St. Charles.

Mosaic of Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne in the Cathedral Basilica in St. Louis, MO | photo by Andrew Balet



Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

November 21. This feast celebrates Mary's presentation in the Temple by her parents Anna and Joachim. While it is not mentioned in Scripture, there is early evidence that this event was celebrated in both the Eastern and Western Churches.

Presentation of Mary in the Temple / Alfonso Boschi | photo by sailko



Saint Cecilia

November 22. Although there is little historical evidence concerning the life of Saint Cecilia, she is one of the famous martyrs of the Church in Rome. She is mentioned in the list of saints in the first Eucharistic Prayer—Roman Canon. Cecilia is often depicted playing an organ.

Saint Cecilia / photo by Jill Watson