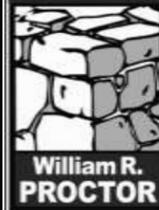


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## THE CHURCH OF SAINT BONIFACE

*Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**February 23, 2020**



*Be holy, for I, the LORD, your God, am holy.*

(Leviticus 19:2)

## From the Desk of the Pastor

**Sunday Reflection: February 23**

### No entitlement, no rights.

*Bless the LORD, my soul; and do not forget all his gifts, who pardons all your sins, and heals all your ills, who redeems your life from the pit, and crowns you with mercy and compassion.*  
(Psalm 103, 2-4)



Recently I went out with a good friend to lunch; at the end of lunch he said: "I will take that" (meaning pay the bill); I insisted we split it, but he refused saying – "I have been blessed!"

We use this phrase often in casual ways or conversations to express something we truly believe but may not easily find the words — how God, indeed many times over, surprises us and blesses us so much. "I have been blessed" for me has always meant: it is only because of God that I am what I am. How unworthy we are of many things, many times; how we have escaped much, wrongly thinking it was by luck or chance but it was all in God's plan. Why is it that you did not go through this or that and others who were just like you in every way or merited more, did?

It is with this kind of attitude or mindset that we can reflect on the readings of this weekend. The challenge of the readings is: But if God has indeed blessed us, we in turn must be like Him; do to others what He does so many times for us without our merit or planning it out.

"Be holy, for I, the LORD, your God, am holy." (Leviticus 19:2). Holiness sounds intimidating and to some repulsive. Who can really be holy or perfect as God? But this simply means: as God is to you, so you are to be too. Be like Him to others. Moses reminds the community of Israel that their relationship with God must translate in the way they relate and live with others. All rules, regulations and commandments find their meaning and purpose only to this end (practice what you preach).

The best impression of God to us all and how he blesses us is through his kindness and mercy. How he so many times even overlooks our wretchedness, our weaknesses, our frailty. Pope Benedict XVI phrase is: "He writes on crooked lines straight." He is a 'Good Father' who is never out to get us, or fault us, or even to trap us. He takes no revenge, cherishes no grudge, loves us as we are. He forgives. Can we be like Him with others?

As a Christian, the world around us will not let us be like Him, for it is governed by another principle. It is a world of merit, a world of competition, a world of retaliation, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. It is a world of boasting and ridicule. To be like God is often seen as foolishness.

The Gospel message today is radical. To be a disciple means: No expectations, no rights, no entitlements, no I-owe-you's or you-scratch-my-back-and-I'll-scratch-yours attitude like that of the pagans. To be a disciple is about only the obligation to serve others. And no one is 'unworthy' of Jesus and the Father's mercy and compassion, even our enemies.

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](mailto:stbonifaceparish@verizon.net)

**Discover St. Boniface ~ Visit our website: [www.StBoniface-lunenburg.org](http://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 9<sup>th</sup> grade; students are confirmed in the spring of the 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:stbonifaceparish@verizon.net) or Nancy Cieri 978-582-6983 [nancycieri@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:kofc16480@gmail.com).

### **PARISH STAFF:**

Rev. Anthony Mpagi, Pastor	978-582-4008	<a href="mailto:stbonifaceparish@verizon.net">stbonifaceparish@verizon.net</a>
Jo-Anne Poirier, Administrative Assistant	978-582-4008	<a href="mailto:stbonifaceparish@verizon.net">stbonifaceparish@verizon.net</a>
Lucy Marcil, Religious Education Coordinator	978-502-7993	<a href="mailto:lmarcil419@gmail.com">lmarcil419@gmail.com</a>
Claire Garrity Neas, Music Ministry	617-823-4237	
Louise Nadeau, Sacristan		
Ministry Schedule	978-582-4008	<a href="mailto:stbonifaceparish@verizon.net">stbonifaceparish@verizon.net</a>
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	Feb 29	4:00 PM	<b>Anita &amp; Louis Siegel,</b> by Doug & Joanne McQuaid
Sun	Mar 1	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Our Parish Family Our Parish Family
Sat	Mar 7	4:00 PM	<b>Michael Horgan,</b> by Harry & Elise Schofield
Sun	Mar 8	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Our Parish Family <b>John McShane,</b> by his wife <b>Patricia Alario,</b> by her husband

### COLLECTION REPORT

#### WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 16, 2020

SUNDAY ORDINARY: \$1,842.00

MAINTENANCE/FUEL: 120.00

OTHER: 2.00

**Total Contributions: \$1,964.00**

*Thank you for your continued support!*

### THE WAY OF THE CROSS (STATIONS)

6:30 PM Every Friday during Lent

Beginning February 28 led by members of the choir.

### EVENING MASS DURING LENT

6:30 PM Wednesdays & Thursdays beginning February 27

### HOLY HOUR (Eucharistic Adoration)

Every Wednesday 7-8 PM until Holy Week

### SAVE THE DATE! MARCH 21-22, 2020

**Saint Boniface Parish Lenten Retreat** (watch for more info)

### NOTRE DAME ACADEMY SPRING OPEN HOUSE

**Sunday March 22, 2:00 – 4:00 PM** Register online today at [www.nda-worc.org](http://www.nda-worc.org)

### SPEND A DAY AT NDA. Discover the difference!

Register your daughter to spend the day shadowing one of the students at our all-girls Catholic, college preparatory school in Worcester. Now accepting students in grades 7-12. Register today at [www.nda-worc.org/admissions](http://www.nda-worc.org/admissions).



### Substitute Teacher Position

Saint Boniface Early Education School is looking for highly motivated EEC certified substitute teachers on a daily, as needed basis. The children range in age from 2 years, 9 months to 6 years old. Interested applicants can send their resume to [ninastboniface@gmail.com](mailto:ninastboniface@gmail.com) or call Nina Charpentier at 978-582-7110.

### LENT BEGINS ON FEBRUARY 26 (ASH WEDNESDAY)

**Fishermen's Morning Mass, 6:30 AM**

**Evening Family Mass, 6:30 PM**  
(Parents: bring the children!)

Lenten Theme this Year: *We Wait in Joyful Hope*

### Discussion Questions

#### First Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

1. "Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy." Does the Lord tell us what holiness is? What does this reading prescribe for us to be holy? Is holiness related to how we interact with others?
2. If we all "loved our neighbors as ourselves" do you think there would be wars, prisons, hunger and poverty? One way the Lord says to love your neighbor is "you shall not bear hatred for your brother or sister in your heart. ... Cherish no grudge against any of your people." Is this an easy thing to do? Have you tried it? Will you try again?

#### Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

1. St. Paul says that "the Spirit of God dwells in you." Do you remember this often? How about when you have important decisions to make? Or when you are in serious trouble? When good things happen? Or is it not very often? Will this reading cause you to make changes regarding this issue?
2. He also says " ..for the temple of God, which is you, is holy." And is your neighbor holy too? If this is so, do you treat all the people in your life as though they are holy temples?

#### Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48

1. Why would Jesus tell you to "Love your enemies?" Who loves like that? Did Jesus show us a new revolutionary kind of acting when he showed us how to love our enemies? How far was he willing to go for them with his radical self-emptying? How far was the Father willing to go for his children?
2. What are the two things that praying for our enemies does—according to Pope Francis?

In Jesus' explanations of the commandments, especially in St. Matthew's Gospel, there is a journey of healing. Every heart wounded by sin—as each one of us has—must undertake this journey of healing in order to be more like our "heavenly Father (who) is perfect." ...The power of prayer will do two things: it will change that person for the better and it will make us become more like children of our heavenly Father.

*Home is calling*

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- STUDENT-LIFE VIDEOS
- TOURS OF THE SCHOOL
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### ASH WEDNESDAY REMINDS US THAT SALVATION IS A TEAM SPORT.

In Spanish it is called *tira y aloja*, literally, “pull and loosen.” The Italians have two different phrases, depending upon whether one is speaking figuratively or literally. The figurative, *braccio di ferro*, means “arm of iron.” The game itself is called *tiroallafune*, “pull at the rope.” That is quite close to the French *tir à la corde*. One of our English terms is prosaic, “rope pull,” like the German *Tauziehen*. The other is more provocative, bringing out the essentially communal nature of the game: “tug of war.”

Tug of war builds teams, because it requires a disparate group of people to pull as one. Their individual strengths are multiplied, and weakness anywhere in the line can be exploited. As any camp counselor knows, if you want strangers to begin to rely on each other, to see that they are all in this together, make them play tug of war.

Each year, the church has her own version of the same. Ash Wednesday is a team sport. Last time I checked, people were sinning every day. And every day, a lot of people repent of their sins to live the Gospel more faithfully. So, why make a day of it, one that grows more popular with Christians of every sort each year?

The reason we mark ourselves this day with ashes, right on the forehead, where everyone can see them, is to tell the world and each other that we are all in this together. When any saint resists sin and remains faithful to the Gospel, the whole line of faith grows taut. When we choose to sin, we slacken the very line of salvation. We live in a time so rooted in the individual—my desires, my rights, my need to be who I am—that it’s very difficult for us to see that individuals must rise above themselves to become a community, to be a country, to be church. But today we hear:



Women wear the mark of ashes at St. Helen Church in Glendale, Arizona. (CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)

*Blow the trumpet in Zion!  
proclaim a fast, call an assembly;  
Gather the people, notify the congregation;  
Assemble the elders, gather the children and the infants at the breast;  
Let the bridegroom quit his room and the bride her chamber.  
Between the porch and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep,  
And say, “Spare, O Lord, your people, and make not your heritage a reproach,  
with the nations ruling over them!  
Why should they say among the peoples, “Where is their God?”” (Jo 2:15-17).*

We could do Ash Wednesday every day of the year or, at the very least, every Wednesday, but it would lose much of its illustrative power. Smearing each other with ash, the first step toward washing each other at Easter with the water of baptism, is how we annually remind ourselves that salvation is a tug of war. We stand with Christ and his saints. We depend upon each other. In the words of that great team player, St. Paul:

*Working together, then,  
we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain.  
For he says:  
In an acceptable time I heard you,  
and on the day of salvation I helped you  
Behold, now is a very acceptable time;  
behold, now is the day of salvation (2 Cor 6:1-2).*

— REV. TERRANCE KLEIN

## SAINTS OF THE DAY February 24 – 29



### Blessed Luke Belludi

**February 24.** Was Blessed Luke Belludi just at the right place at the right time, or was there something more at work in his happening to meet Saint Anthony and become his protégé? We would all agree that this is how the Lord works — through convenient happenstances.

Chapel of Blessed Luke Belludi | Padua, Italy



### Blessed Sebastian of Aparicio

**February 25.** Some holy people have a rather full life spread over a couple of vocations. Blessed Sebastian of Aparicio is such a person having been married twice before becoming a Franciscan.

Statue of Blessed Sebastião de Aparício in A Gudiña

Blessed Sebastian of Aparicio is a patron saint of travelers.



### Saint Maria Bertilla Boscardin

**February 26.** Courage, perseverance, and hope seem to characterize Saint Maria Bertilla Boscardin. In spite of all odds, she kept going and, in the process, helped many people find healing and peace.

Statue of Santa Bertilla | facade of Church of Saints Peter and Paul, Cagnano, Italy



### Saint Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows

**February 27.** Disappointments, setbacks, loss, and suffering seem to define the life of Saint Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows. But undeterred by whatever happened, Saint Gabriel kept his focus and lived life well — so well that he was an example to both young and old.

Stained glass of Saint Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows | church of Brioux-sur-Boutonne, France

Saint Gabriel is a patron saint of clergy, students and young people.



### Blessed Daniel Brottier

**February 28.** Some people would call Blessed Daniel Brottier “lucky.” But in the eyes of faith, God’s providence and desire for Blessed Daniel to do great things in his kingdom is what protected him in some very dangerous situations. Blessed Daniel cooperated with that providence and became an example to all.

Photograph from World War I of Blessed Daniel Brottier, army chaplain



### Saint Oswald

**February 29.** Saint Oswald knew people in high places — his uncle was the archbishop of Canterbury. But even though he received “favours” from his uncle, he humbly served and gained holiness.

Saints Oswald and Notburga | Hand-colored metalcut print | Meister mit dem Maschenhintergrun