

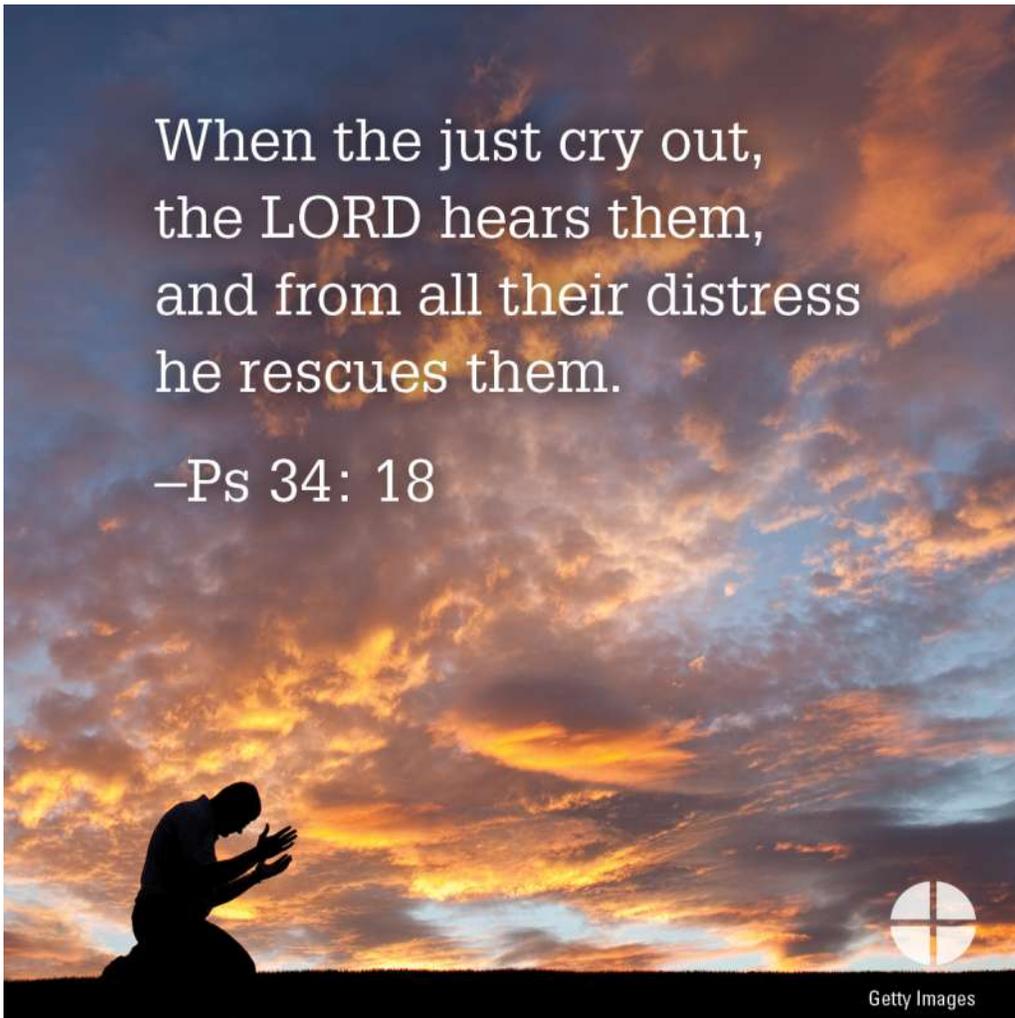
The Church of Saint Boniface

August 22, 2021

The 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

When the just cry out,
the LORD hears them,
and from all their distress
he rescues them.

–Ps 34: 18



THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

August 22, 2021 • The 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's readings emphasize the need to make a commitment. The tribes of Israel are asked to commit themselves to the god that they choose to serve. Paul speaks about spouses' commitments to their partners as a parallel to the relationship between Christ and the church. Jesus asks the Twelve if they will commit to continue to follow him. After listening to God's word, let us consider how we would answer each challenge and pray that our commitment to our faith be strengthened.

A little context might help in today's Gospel, which begins with "This saying is hard; who can accept it?" (John 6:60). What saying? What did we miss? This: Jesus had just told them that he is the living bread and that in order for them to have life they must eat his flesh and drink his blood. Yes, this is much harder to handle than the multiplication of the loaves and fish, which must have seemed like a lifetime ago.

Sadly, but unsurprisingly, many of his disciples bailed. But no matter how confused or shocked the Twelve may have been, Peter drills down at once to the essential truth: "You have the words of eternal life" (6:68). Each time we respond Amen we affirm our acceptance of Jesus' challenging words.

Question of the Week:

What specific action can I take to show my commitment to remain a disciple of our Lord?

Accept the Challenge

"If it does not please you to serve the Lord, decide today whom you will serve...As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

(JOSHUA 24:15)

When we commit to serve the Lord, we must be willing to become a disciple in the work of the Lord. A disciple is a person who spends time in prayer every day, joyfully participates in charitable works and generously supports their local parish and Church mission. If we say we serve God, we must actually do something and not merely talk about it!

Saint Boniface update:
76 parishioners have pledged
a total of \$408,781 (as of August 12)

Thank you to all those who have
submitted their pledge amounts and
have given so generously!



Together we can make a difference!

Approximately \$75,000 will be used for the Priests' Retirement Endowment, \$25,000 toward Catholic schools in the Diocese, \$12,500 to Charitable Outreach Programs throughout the parishes, \$9,400 toward parish-based evangelization efforts, and \$3,125 to the restoration of the Cathedral of Saint Paul.

Over \$280,00 will come back to our parish over the next 4 years. Legacy of Hope is the largest fundraising campaign to date for us at Saint Boniface. We are foregoing our parish Grand Annual Appeal for the next four years in order to place great emphasis on the Legacy of Hope. Our wish is to ensure its success by making it easier for more parishioners to increase the size of their pledges.

About Your Pledge

- Pledges are not legally binding but rather are an indication of your giving intention.
- Payments can be made over the next 4 years either monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually.

Use your phone to scan the QR code at left and learn more about the campaign, or make your pledge online at legacyofhope.worcesterdiocese.org/donate-now



MASS INTENTIONS

Aug 22	10:30 AM	Todd Dickie , by Rev. Charles Omolo
Aug 29	10:30 AM	Vivian Shaw , by Tom & Ann Ferrazzano
Sep 5	10:30 AM	John McShane , by Carol McShane
Sep 11	4:00 PM	Leon Tarbell , by his wife
Sep 12	8:00 AM	Mario & Ann Patacchiola , 77th Wedding Anniversary

If you wish to schedule a Mass intention for a loved one, please call, email or visit the parish office for more information.

PRAY THE ROSARY every Saturday at 3:30 PM in the church, led by members of the Saint Boniface Knights of Columbus.

WEEKDAY MASS & HOLY HOUR SCHEDULE

Wed. 5:30-6:30 PM Holy Hour & Adoration, Mass at 6:30 PM

Thur. & Fri. 8:00 AM Mass

Special Collection Next Week for Haitian Earthquake Relief **As you know the epicenter of last weekend's earthquake in Haiti was in Les Cayes.** Thousands have been killed and many more are injured, missing and homeless. Cardinal Chibly Langlois was injured when his residence collapsed. One of his priests was killed and it is reported that several children were killed during a baptism. This impoverished nation was still struggling from the deaths of more than 100,000 people in the 2010 earthquake when this latest earthquake struck.

For more than twenty-five years the Diocese of Worcester has had a covenant of support with the Diocese of Les Cayes. Eight of our parishes support twin parishes in Les Cayes. In their tremendous need, let us help our fellow Catholics in Les Cayes at this tragic time.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 12

Religious Education classes for grades 1-10 begin on September 12 with our welcome Mass at 10:30 a.m. For those who are new to the program this year, please complete the registration form which is online at the Saint Boniface website.

About Jesus Christ and the Church, I simply know that they are just one thing, and we shouldn't complicate the matter.

– St. Joan of Arc

2021 Worcester Catholic Women's

Conference • Saturday, September 11

Rediscover and renew your faith. There will be wonderful talks by great national speakers and opportunities to meet them and make new friends. There will be time for fellowship, to go to confession, celebrate the Eucharist, and **strengthen your Catholic identity!** Join us for this conference to **“Joan Up with the Armor of God.”** For more information and to register, go to www.wcwconference.com or call Corinn Dahm at 508-277-3969.



COLLECTION REPORT

August 15	
– Sunday Offering	\$ 2,318
– Maintenance/Fuel	135
– Holy Day (Assumption)	155
– Church in Eastern Europe	63
Total	\$ 2,671

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Give to our parish whether you're in the pews or not! Many parishioners have been making their weekly offerings online. It's secure, convenient and easy to make one-time or recurring donations at www.stboniface-lunenburg.org



You're out there. We hear you!!!

Our Diocese has restored the ability for Choirs to gather once again in September. After a very long period of silence, we would like to open up our Choir to new members. Previous choir experience is not necessary, only a heart and spirit open to praising the Lord in song. Please consider meeting with us in the parish hall on Thursday, September 30 at 7 PM when we will begin to warm up our voices with songs of praise.

We'll take it slow. BE NOT AFRAID!!!

If you need more info, please stop and ask Claire after any Mass.

LABOR DAY WALK FOR LIFE

Monday, September 6, 10:00 a.m.

Coolidge Park, Fitchburg
– or walk on your own!

For more information and to register, go to www.friendsofcarenetfitchburg.org

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Do you know where to find the oldest Marian shrine in the U.S.?

St. Augustine, Florida, has a serious claim to fame. It is the oldest city—that is, the oldest permanent settlement—in the United States.

It was founded when a group of Spaniards led by General Pedro Menéndez de Aviles landed on the coast of La Florida and proclaimed the land for Spain and for God. As they came ashore, Fr. López—who had disembarked the evening prior—came to meet them with a cross, singing the Church’s great hymn of thanksgiving: the Te Deum. Menéndez and his party, along with natives who witnessed the event, knelt and kissed the cross.

Fr. López then celebrated a Mass of thanksgiving on a rough altar under the open sky. It was the first Mass offered in a parish setting in the United States. The mission would be called **Nombre de Dios, “the Name of God.”**

In the early 1600s, the settlers placed in the mission’s chapel a statue of **Our Lady of La Leche**, or *Nuestra Señora de La Leche y Buen Parto*. The title means **“Our Lady of the Milk and Happy Delivery,”** and the statue depicts Our Lady nursing the Infant Jesus.

Over 400 years later, devotion to Our Lady of La Leche at Mission Nombre de Dios continues. The shrine is a particular center of devotion for those praying for fertility, healthy pregnancies, and safe deliveries. In 2019, the USCCB elevated the shrine to the status of a National Shrine. This year, on October 10, the statue of Our Lady of La Leche will receive a *canonical coronation*, which is a special papal honor granted to an image or statue of Our Lord, Our Lady, or St. Joseph that is widely venerated in a particular location. It will be only the fourth Marian image in the United States to receive such an honor.

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Saints of the Week

August 23.

SAINT ROSE of LIMA

A member of the Third Order of Saint Dominic, Saint Rose of Lima lived a life of penance and devotion to the poor at home under the disapproving eyes of her parents. They wanted her to marry, but Saint Rose felt another calling. While her lifestyle raised some eyebrows, at her death the city of Lima recognized her sanctity.

Saint Rose of Lima is the Patron Saint of florists, Latin America, Peru, Philippines and South America.



Saint Rose of Lima with Child Jesus, Museo de Arte de Lima, Lima, Peru

August 24.

SAINT BARTHOLOMEW

We know nothing about Saint Bartholomew except that he was one of the original twelve apostles. If he is the man called Nathanael, then we know he is from Cana in Galilee — **but that still doesn’t tell us much.** But knowing that he gave his life in the service of the faith is enough.

Saint Bartholomew is the Patron Saint of plasterers.



Sant Bertolomeu, by Bernat Jiméñez

August 25.

SAINT LOUIS of FRANCE

Saint Louis of France took his position seriously as both king and Christian. A true son of the Church, Louis worked for peace and reconciliation within his kingdom and beyond. He was generous with his wealth and his time.

Saint Louis of France is the Patron Saint of barbers, grooms, and the Secular Franciscan Order.



The Apotheosis of St. Louis, sculpture by C.H. Niehaus

August 26.

SAINT JOSEPH CALASANZ

Saint Joseph Calasanz dedicated his life to poor children. He gathered teachers to help him, and eventually organized the Clerks Regular of Religious Schools — also known as the Piarists or Scolopi. But his work was not without opposition, as some objected to the education of the poor.



San José de Calasanz by Francisco Jover y Casanova

August 27.

SAINT MONICA

Perhaps Saint Monica is best known as the mother of Saint Augustine — a pretty noble label. But Saint Monica was also the mother of two other children, and is known as a woman of great prayer.

Saint Monica is the Patron Saint of alcoholics, conversion, mothers and wives.



Stained glass window, Church of St. James the Greater, Bouxwiller

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

Holy Hour of Adoration: every Wednesday 5:30-6:30 PM

Weekday Masses: 6:30 PM Wednesday | 8:00 AM 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. Omolo at stbonifaceparish@verizon.net or Louise Nadeau at dinalou1@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.* 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 Peter Bak (978-403-5119) or Deputy Grand Knight Claude Poirier (978-660-3202), or email kofc16480@gmail.com.

PARISH STAFF:

	<i>phone</i>	<i>email</i>
Rev. Charles Omolo, Administrator	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	cmkakosgarrity@aol.com
Louise Nadeau, Sacristan		
Ministry Schedule	978-582-4008	stbonifaceparish@verizon.net
Nina Charpentier, Dir. Early Childhood/PreK	978-582-7110	

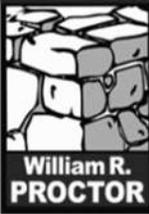
Newcomers to St. Boniface are invited and encouraged to formally register as members of the parish so that we may stay in touch with you with faith formation news, notices of special events, volunteer opportunities, and more.

Registration forms are available at the doors of the church, the parish office, or on our website.

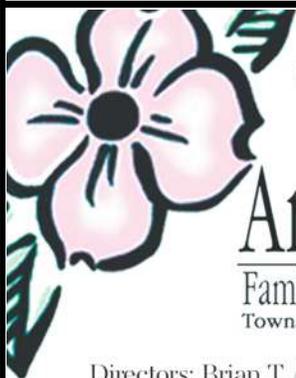
Please note that you must be registered for at least six months before we can issue any verification of your status as a parishioner for godparent or sponsor letters.

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