

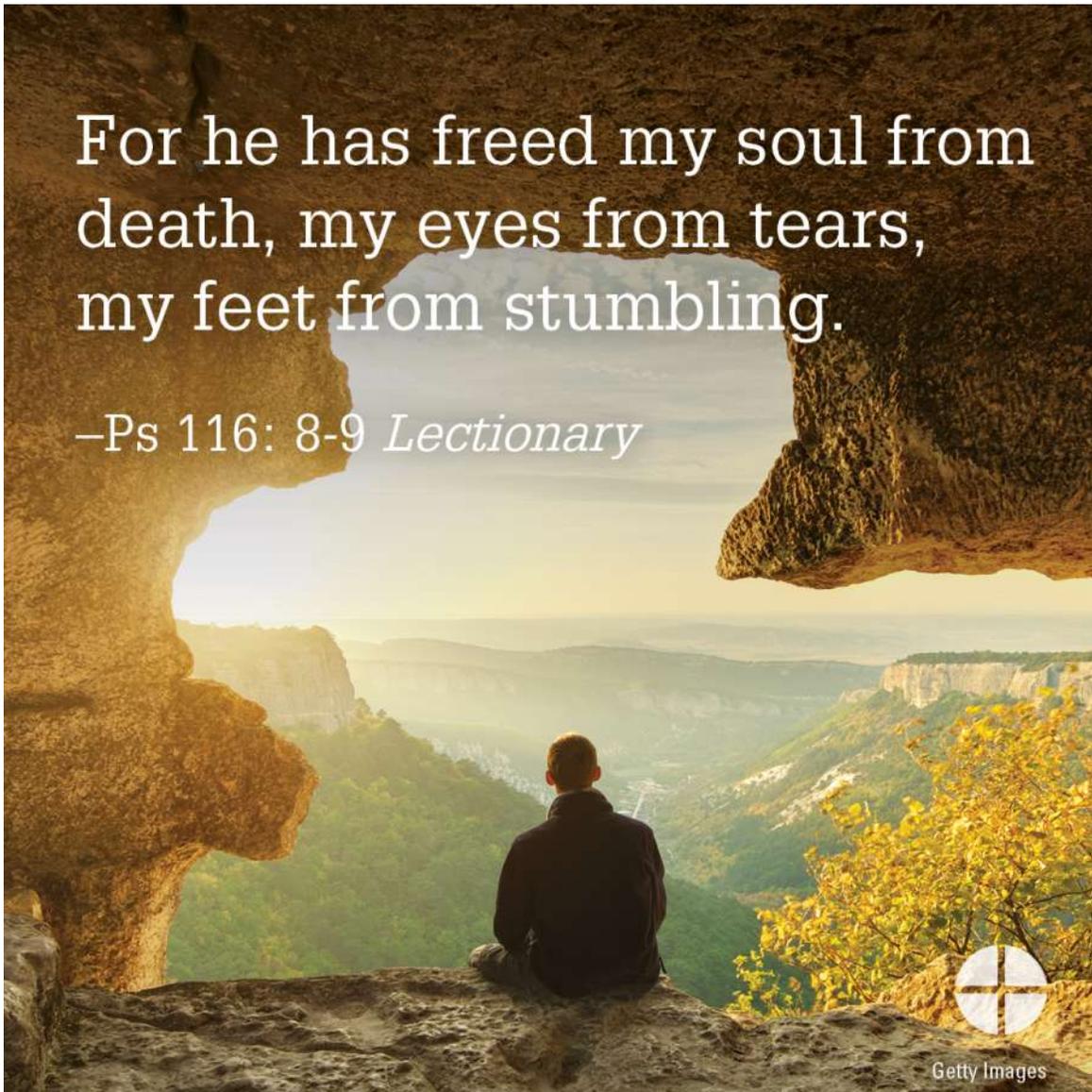
The Church of Saint Boniface

September 12, 2021

The 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

For he has freed my soul from
death, my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling.

—Ps 116: 8-9 *Lectionary*



THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

September 12, 2021 • The 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Hearing God can be a double-edged sword. The deaf man whom we heard Jesus heal last week immediately got to hear the praise and wonder of his neighbors. Isaiah, however, who attests that “the Lord GOD opens my ear that I may hear” (50:4), is beaten and spat at by those who do not want to hear his criticism. Peter hears Jesus say he would suffer greatly and be killed, then immediately gets an earful when he rejects Jesus’ shocking prediction. We are blessed to be able to hear the word of God and recognize what God is calling us to do, but there is no guarantee that what we hear will be will welcome or easy. After all, Jesus follows his tongue-lashing of Peter with a warning to everyone: “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me” (Mark 8:34). Openness to God’s voice requires an openness to God’s will.

But once we accept Jesus’ command, we truly live out our faith. Living out our faith, says James in his letter, means doing something concrete to show it. If we truly believe that all people are made in the image of God and that God’s Son came to save the multitudes, then that faith should drive us to care for our neighbor, especially those in need of material assistance.

Question of the Week:

When do I resist putting my faith into action?

Taking Up My Cross

“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.”

(MARK 8:34)

Living a stewardship lifestyle means not only being responsible for my own life, but for the lives of others as well. We realize that our gifts are not intended for ourselves, rather they are meant to be shared with others. **“Taking up my cross” means doing things when someone else needs me and not when it’s convenient for me.**

There’s no doubt this is a sobering phrase and one that we may even want to avoid at times. But easy to read or hard to digest, we don’t have to be afraid of God’s word and its implications for our lives. We can trust that every word was written for our good!

Saint Boniface update:
79 parishioners have pledged
a total of \$411,031 (as of September 2)

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

Sep 11	4:00 PM	Leon Tarbell , by his wife
Sep 12	8:00 AM	Mario & Ann Patacchiola , 77th Wedding Anniversary
	10:30 AM	Kim Holloway , by Claude & Jo-Anne Poirier
Sep 16	8:00 AM	John McShane , by John & Christine Lattanzi
Sep 18	4:00 PM	Fr. Dennis O'Brien , by our parish
Sep 19	8:00 AM	Fr. Timothy O'Mara , by our parish
	10:30 AM	Gregory Bradt , by Debbie DiPerri & Dora Costa
Sep 26	8:00 AM	Ronald Cormier , by Ray & Mary Powers
	10:30 AM	Fr. Andre Gariepy , by our parish

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES BEGIN

Grades 1-5: Sunday, September 19, 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Grades 6-9: Sunday, September 26, 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Confirmation Parents Meeting: Sunday, Sept. 26, 6:00 p.m.

A Day of Remembrance of Aborted Babies prayer service will be held on Saturday, September 18, 2021 at 12:00 noon at Saint Bernard Parish at Saint Camillus Church, 333 Mechanic Street, Fitchburg.

We will have a Rosary procession to Our Lady's Garden, where the memorial stone for aborted babies is located. If you have any questions please contact Joyce Aucoin: aucoinjoyce@gmail.com or 978-345-0129

Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass This Fall

Bishop Robert J. McManus will celebrate the Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, October 31 at 3:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Paul, Worcester. This liturgy of thanksgiving to God for many years of faithful witness to the sacredness of Christian marriage honors couples who are marking significant anniversaries (25th, 40th, 50th, etc.) this year. A light reception will follow downstairs in the Cenacle. Family and friends are welcome! Couples wishing to attend should pre-register no later than October 18 so that commemorative certificates may be issued. To register, complete the registration form at www.worcesterdiocese.org/wedding-anniversary-mass, or contact the Office of Marriage and Family at 508-929-4311, or email aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org to request that a copy of the registration form be sent to you.

COLLECTION REPORT

September 5	
– Sunday Offering	\$ 2,593
– Maintenance/Fuel	427
– Other	35
– Haiti Earthquake Relief	125
Total	\$ 3,180

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



20TH ANNIVERSARY PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE

Almighty and Ever-Loving God, we remember September 11, 2001, and pray for all those who were affected by the terrible events of that day. We remember, with love and respect, all of those who went tragically to their deaths.

We remember those who still suffer from their injuries of that day twenty years ago and pray for their recovery. We remember the still grieving families and friends and all who lost loved ones.

Gracious Lord, continue to console them in the hope that all who trust in You will find peace and rest in Your Eternal Kingdom. Bless them with Your presence and surround us all with Your love.

God of peace, bless all those defending and protecting our country and its ideals of freedom and liberty. May Your kingdom of justice and of peace reign and may the earth be filled with Your glory.

Amen.



Sunnyside-up: the connection between eggs, St. Clare, and clear skies

A traditional way of praying for good weather involves offering eggs to a community of Poor Clares, the religious order founded by Saint Clare of Assisi. But what do eggs have to do with sunny days?

There is a tradition in which a faithful soul hoping for good weather on, say, her wedding day, makes a trip to the nearest community of Poor Clares. She presents a gift of eggs, along with a petition to St. Clare for clear skies, and the sisters send up their own prayers in exchange for the kind offering.

The exact origins of the egg tradition are uncertain, but here's the background: St. Clare of Assisi was a young Italian noblewoman who left all her wealth to follow in the footsteps of her friend and mentor, St. Francis of Assisi. She founded the Second Order of the Franciscans, known as the Poor Clares, who followed the Franciscan way of poverty and penance. The connection to good weather might have to do with her name, which means "light" or "clear."

The gift of eggs, specifically, has various possible origins. For one thing, eggs are a useful staple for a religious community that depends on donations to survive. Interestingly, the white of the egg is known as the clara in Spanish. So eggs would make sense as a gift to the daughters of Santa Clara.

One monastery in which this is a particularly popular tradition is the Real Monasterio de Sta. Clara de Manila in the Philippines, which traces its history back to 1621. Today you can see engaged couples and other weather-petitioners bringing the community gifts of eggs, wrapped in brightly-colored cellophane packaging, to ask for prayers to their holy patroness for a bright, clear day.

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Saints of the Week

September 13.

SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Saint John Chrysostom, great preacher of Antioch, was the victim of his own success. Called to be a bishop, this simple monk found himself embroiled in the workings of the empire. He, however, managed to stay focused on the needs of the Church.

Saint John Chrysostom is the Patron Saint of orators, preachers, and speakers.



Chrysostomos, by Carl Christian Peters, 1885

September 14.

THE EXALTATION of the HOLY CROSS

Saint Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine, is credited with having found the cross on which Jesus was crucified.

Legend has it that the one on which Jesus died was identified when its touch healed a dying woman. The cross quickly became an object of veneration.



The Exaltation of the True Cross, anonymous

September 15.

OUR LADY of SORROWS

The principal biblical references to Mary's sorrows are Simeon's prediction about a sword piercing Mary's soul, and Jesus' words from the cross to Mary and to the beloved disciple. The two passages are brought together as prediction and fulfillment.



Our Lady of Sorrows statue in Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem

September 16.

SAINT CORNELIUS

Cornelius was elected pope "by the judgment of God and of Christ, by the testimony of most of the clergy, by the vote of the people, with the consent of aged priests and of good men" after a 14 month vacancy in the papacy. Cornelius served as Pope for only two years, but they were years packed with important happenings in the Church.



Stained glass window in the Church of Sainte-Corneille, France

September 17.

SAINT ROBERT BELLARMIN

Saint Robert Bellarmine was ordained in 1570 during a period when the study of theology was in a weakened state. He dedicated his time and energy to the study of Church history, the Fathers of the Church, and to Scripture, in order to organize Church teaching to face the attacks of the Protestant Reformers.

Saint John Chrysostom is the Patron Saint of catechists and catechumens.



Stained glass window in Saint Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, Dayton, Ohio

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
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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	

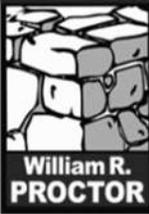
Newcomers to St. Boniface are invited and encouraged to formally register as members of the parish so that we may stay in touch with you with faith formation news, notices of special events, volunteer opportunities, and more.

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

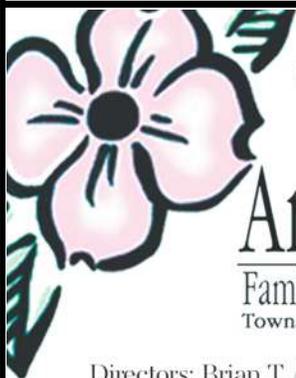
Please note that you must be registered for at least six months before we can issue any verification of your status as a parishioner for godparent or sponsor letters.

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