

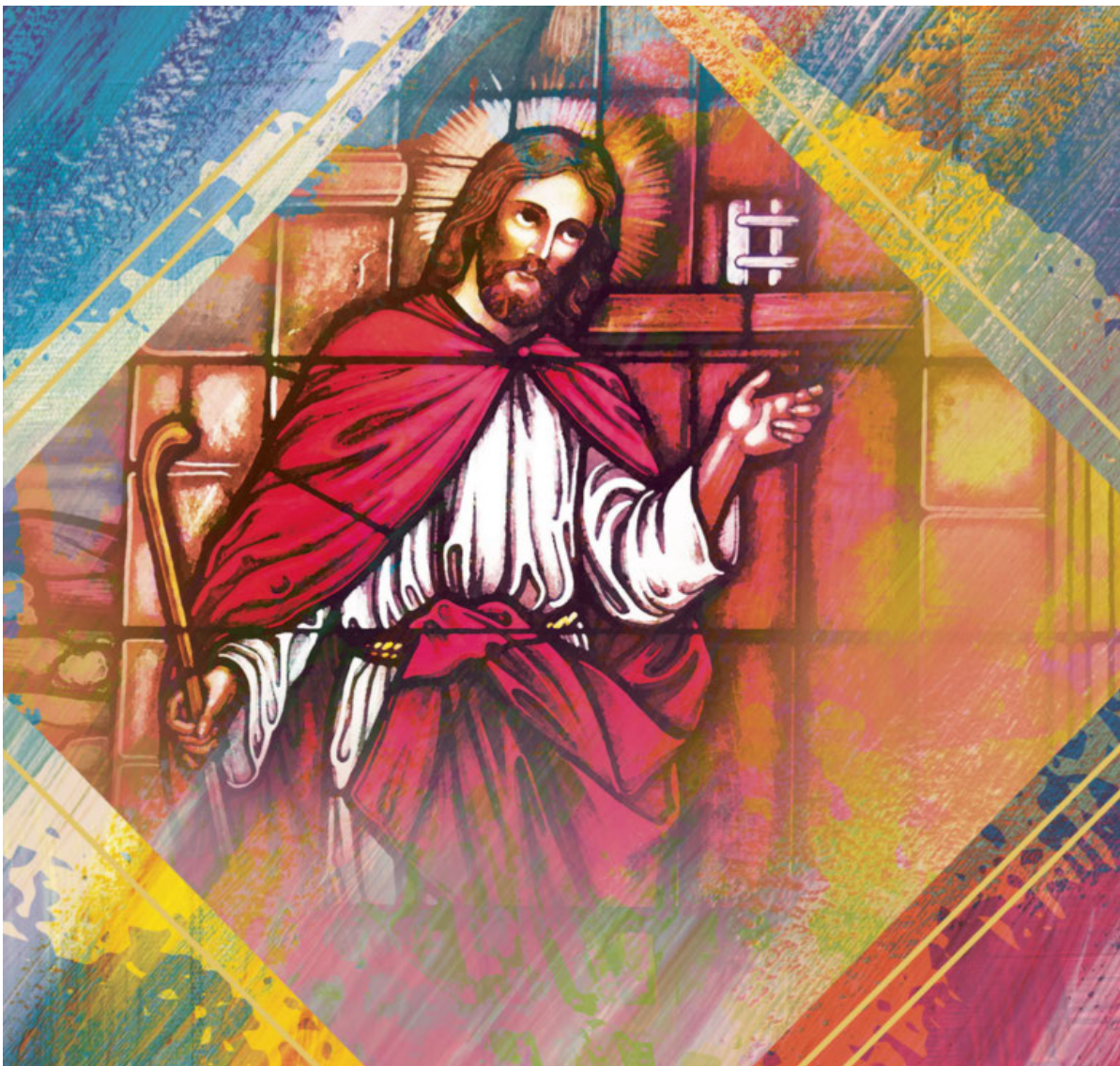
# The Church of Saint Boniface

817 Massachusetts Avenue  
Lunenburg, MA 01462



July 24, 2022

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



"And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find;  
knock and the door will be opened to you"

Luke 11: 9

## THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

### July 24, 2022 • Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Genesis 18:20-32 | Colossians 2:12-14 | Luke 11:1013

As God's children, we are all invited to ask God for whatever we need, from our daily bread to forgiveness for our trespasses. We are reminded of this every time we pray the Lord's Prayer, but today's readings speak to this as well. Gathered here today to listen to God's word and share in the Eucharist, let us be consoled in the knowledge that there is no limit to the generosity of a God who willingly sent the Son to suffer and die for us. Indeed, Jesus tells his disciples, when they pray they should specifically ask the Father for help and mercy.

#### Question of the Week:

*Have I failed to be generous with what I have or been inhospitable to those I meet? How can I do better?*

### Connect! Sunday Reflection

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

I'm from the Midwest. My parents and grandparents were all born, raised, and lived their lives in the Midwest. There is a pathological politeness that has worked its way into our genetic code and the thought of inconveniencing another person causes us actual physical discomfort, so we find it impossible to ask for help unless we preface the request with five minutes of apologies and explanation.

Which is why I deeply identify with the very Midwestern moment that Abraham has in today's reading, where he finds himself concerned for the innocent residents of Sodom and Gomorrah but cannot bring himself to bother God about it. God assures him that He will spare the cities if He finds even fifty innocent people there. It isn't enough, Midwestern Abraham is still worried, and he needs more assurance, but he can't do it without falling all over himself apologizing.

God's patience with him throughout the exchange is just so wholesome and parental. You get the sense that Abraham is twitching with anxiety, and the Lord knows this, but gently and matter-of-factly answers his questions, one after the other, all calmness and serenity.

The theme that leaps off the page from today's readings is persistence in prayer. To the modern world, that's a very strange — almost silly — concept. If God is omnipotent, why does He need to be asked to do anything? And isn't that a paradox, anyway — trusting in God's providence, but daring to ask again and again for what you need? What makes that different from nagging? Isn't that just trying to micromanage the Almighty?

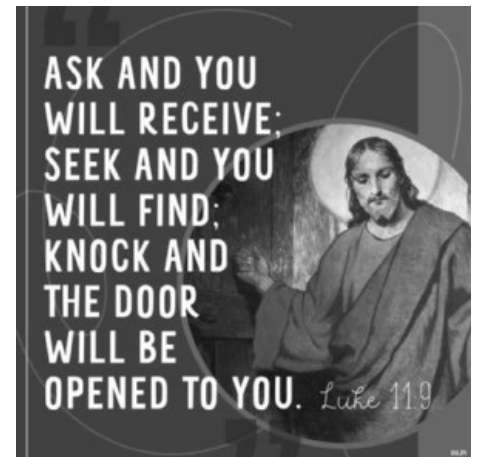
And then there's the inescapable truth that so often, the very specific things we request will never materialize. We pray for peace and plenty, and in return we are treated to an endless barrage of headlines announcing violence, recession, and disunity.

What's the use of praying, we might ask, when our hearts will continue to break?

I return to today's readings, in particular to one phrase: Abraham drew nearer. The phrasing makes me think of a child having a meltdown, trying to keep it together, little fists clenched around his face to hide the tears, as his father stretches out his arms to bring him into a reassuring embrace that says, "See how I am here. See how I love you. See how I will take care of you."

Persistent prayer is really just good communication. It's letting someone know about your feelings and your needs and allowing them to be there for you. Even if you're from the Midwest, and even if it causes you physical discomfort.

God's faithfulness is what we need. The world is broken, it will always be broken, and us along with it. There is only one who can piece us back together again, and only if we ask. There will be those who tell you that thoughts and prayers are not enough when it comes to combating the great evils of the world. But I think we will find that any action without prayer is what is insufficient. Prayer changes things because it changes people. So, keep praying. Dare to seek, to knock, to ask. Dare to draw nearer.



Jesus assures us that if we ask, God will take care of what we need. The problem is that our culture often confuses what we really need with what we simply want. The truth is that many of us need very little. However, we usually want so much more! Stewardship is simply being grateful for all that we are and all that we have been given, and generously sharing all of our God-given gifts with others. Generosity is a gift that opens doors to new relationships with others and with God.

#### PRAYER

*Merciful God,  
when we call for help  
we know that you will answer.  
Hear our cries for help today  
and answer us  
according to your divine will  
through your Son, our Lord,  
who taught us all to pray.  
Amen.*

## MASS INTENTIONS

July 23	4:00 pm	<b>The Reardon/Venesky Family</b> , by Marc & Jeanne Raboin
July 24	9:00 am	<b>Ray Powers</b> , by the Gardner family
July 30	4:00 pm	<b>Virginia Fernandes</b> , by her family
July 31	9:00 am	<b>Diane Melnicki</b> , by the Melnicki family
Aug 6	4:00 pm	<b>The Fisher Family</b> , by Marc & Jeanne Raboin
		<b>Peter Charpentier</b> , by Aime & Elaine Charpentier
Aug 7	9:00 am	<b>Virginia Fernandes</b> , by her family
Aug 13	4:00 pm	<b>The Raboin Family</b> , by Marc & Jeanne Raboin
		<b>Leon Tarbell</b> , 2nd Anniversary, by his family
Aug 14	9:00 am	<b>Tom Cotter</b> , by his wife
		<b>Virginia Fernandes</b> , by her family
Aug 20	4:00 pm	<b>Michael S. Dionne</b> , by Daniel Raboin
Aug 21	9:00 am	<b>Diane Melnicki</b> , by the Melnicki family

An individual may ask a priest to offer a Mass for several reasons: for example, in thanksgiving, for the intentions of another person (such as on a birthday), or, as is most common, for the repose of the soul of someone who has died. If you wish to schedule a Mass intention for a loved one, please call, email or visit the parish office.

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

**2022 SUMMER MASS SCHEDULE: Saturday 4:00 p.m. | Sunday 9:00 a.m.**  
Effective May 28th through September 4th.

## CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSETS AND ATTICS!

Donations for the Oktoberfest white elephant sale may be left by the stage in the parish hall through the month of August. New or gently used items only. We cannot accept large furniture, appliances, books, or clothing. THANK YOU!

**PARISH PROJECTS UPDATE:** This week the upper parking lot is expected to be completed. This will then allow for work to begin on the walkways and church entrances, in preparation for the landscaping between the church and rectory, and also around the new preschool playground.

## DO YOU HAVE A LITTLE SPARE TIME DURING THE WEEK?

Saint Boniface is in need of volunteers to help with the following:

- Collection counting — Monday mornings, once or twice a month, approximately 8:30-10:30 a.m., some computer skills required.
  - Cleaning the main church — Monday or Tuesday, flexible time, once or twice a month, general cleaning of pews, vacuuming, dusting.
  - Parish website — update content as needed, some experience with websites helpful.
- Please contact the parish office if you are interested.



More information:  
[holyfaceadoration.com](http://holyfaceadoration.com)

Please register via email:  
[WQPH898@comcast.net](mailto:WQPH898@comcast.net)  
and indicate the location  
(Saint Cecilia's) and the  
number attending

**Presentation of the Relic of the Most Holy Face of Jesus**  
by **Guardian Vicki Shreiner**  
**Saturday, August 20, 2022**  
**9:00 a.m. Mass at Saint Cecilia Church, Leominster**

A beautiful presentation for those who wish to learn about this Holy Devotion and show veneration to an actual Holy Face of Jesus. This Holy Relic has been touched to Veronica's Holy Veil, touched to the True Wood of the Cross, and touched to the Spear-head that pierced Christ's side. These facts are verified by the wax Papal Seal and the Certificate of Authenticity signed by His Holiness, Pope St. Pius X, in the year 1905. It is now 114 years old.

In the early 1900s, Vicki Schreiner's great-grandparents brought the Holy Relic with them when immigrating to Chicago, Illinois from Trier, Germany. Almost four years ago, her family appointed her guardian of the Holy Face Relic. She began doing presentations at that time after falling in love with this beautiful devotion. Vicki has now done numerous presentations in Missouri, Illinois, Tennessee, Louisiana, and Oklahoma.

## STEWARDSHIP

JULY 17, 2022

• Sunday Offering	\$ 1,757
• Maintenance/Fuel	---
• Other	---
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,757</b>

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUOUS GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT!

Give to your parish whether you're in the pews or not! Many parishioners make their weekly offerings online. It's easy, secure, and convenient to make one-time or recurring donations. Scan the code below with your phone or visit [www.stboniface-lunenburg.org](http://www.stboniface-lunenburg.org)



SAINT BONIFACE PARISH



**SAVE THE DATE: SEPT. 17, 2022**

**10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

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**VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED**

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Saint Edith Stein



"The phenomenon of faith is revealed to her from her contact with Christian philosophers and she was struck by the fact that such educated people are people of faith."



REV. THIAGO IBIAPINA  
Parochial Vicar  
Annunciation Parish

**August, 8th 6:30pm** Holy Rosary's lower  
church hall

Annunciation Parish - 135 Nichols St. Gardner, MA

# 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  
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](mailto:stbonifaceparish@verizon.net) or Louise Nadeau at [dinalou1@comcast.net](mailto: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 the parish office at 978-582-4008, email [stbonifaceparish@verizon.net](mailto:stbonifaceparish@verizon.net) or contact Louise Nadeau at [dinalou1@comcast.net](mailto:dinalou1@comcast.net).

**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](mailto:kofc16480@gmail.com).

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PARISH STAFF:	phone	email
Rev. Charles Omolo, Administrator	978-582-4008	<a href="mailto:stbonifaceparish@verizon.net">stbonifaceparish@verizon.net</a>
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Ministry Schedule	978-582-4008	<a href="mailto:stbonifaceparish@verizon.net">stbonifaceparish@verizon.net</a>
Nina Charpentier, Director, Preschool	978-582-7110	<a href="mailto:ninastboniface@gmail.com">ninastboniface@gmail.com</a>

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**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.*





## PIER GIORGIO'S UNSTOPPABLE CLIMB TO THE "HEIGHTS"

**He loved the Faith. He lived the Faith.**

A phrase we often hear in connection with Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati is *Verso l'alto*—"towards the top," or "towards the heights." He wrote it on the back of a famous photo of him doing his favorite thing: mountain climbing. After his death, the phrase became a two-word summary of his brief yet unforgettable life.

Pier Giorgio was born at the beginning of the 20th century into a well-to-do family in Turin, Italy. He was a happy, fun-loving youth who loved to spend time with his friends, swim, hike, and—you guessed it—mountain-climb among the celestial peaks of his homeland.

What was it that made this young man so happy?

Pier Giorgio's vibrant faith was the interior furnace that fueled his ebullient joy. Even those of us who only see his trademark smile in photographs can tell that it was the genuine expression of a soul on fire for God.

He was devoted to Our Lady and to the Eucharist. He received permission to receive Holy Communion every day, which was rare back then. He practiced the corporal works of mercy, serving the poor with his own hands, feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, helping the war-weary soldiers coming home from World War I.

He was also involved in various apostolates of the Church, joining the Third Order Dominicans in 1922. In other words, he lived his faith to the fullest at every moment of his rather ordinary life.

Of course, Pier Giorgio's inability to give anything less than 100% got him in trouble, eventually. His work with the sick was thought to have caused him to contract polio. He died at the age of twenty-four after a six-day illness. The poor people he loved so much flooded the streets for his funeral.

At his beatification in 1990, fellow-saint and fellow-mountaineer Pope John Paul II named Blessed Pier Giorgio "the man of the eight Beatitudes" for the way he whole-heartedly lived his faith.

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## SAINTS OF THE WEEK

**July 25.**

### SAINT JAMES

Apostle Saint James the Greater, brother of Saint John and one of the three who spent time with the Lord on significant occasions, was a fisherman called by Jesus to follow him. Most likely, he was the first to be martyred, and witness to the faith with his blood. He and Saint John were nicknamed "Sons of Thunder" by Jesus.

*Saint James is a Patron Saint of Chile, laborers, Nicaragua, Rheumatism sufferers, and Spain.*



**July 26.**

### SAINTS JOACHIM and ANNE

We believe that Jesus is truly God and truly human, and this feast of his grandparents is a testimony to that faith. While the names Joachim and Anne may be legendary, we know that Jesus had grandparents in the parents of Mary (as well as those of Saint Joseph). Our God truly became human and lived among us.

*Saints Joachim and Anne are Patron Saints of grandparents.*



**July 27.**

### SAINT TITUS BRANDSMA

A mild-mannered Dutch Carmelite professor, Saint Titus Brandsma became a fierce critic of the Nazi movement and was put to death by lethal injection at the Dachau concentration camp in 1942.

*Saint Titus is a Patron Saint of Catholic journalists, Friesland, and the International Union of Catholic Esperantists.*



**July 28.**

### BLESSED STANLEY ROTHER

Blessed Stanley Rother grew up in Oklahoma on his parents' farm in what could be described as a normal environment. Life changed radically for him when he was ordained a priest in 1963, and again in 1968, when he volunteered for the missions in Guatemala. But the final change came when civil war reached his parish in 1980. He was assassinated on July 28, 1981.



**July 29.**

### SAINTS MARTHA, MARY and LAZARUS

Pope Francis approved the memorial for Martha, Mary and Lazarus after "considering the important evangelical witness they offered in welcoming the Lord Jesus into their home, in listening to him attentively, (and) in believing that he is the resurrection and the life."

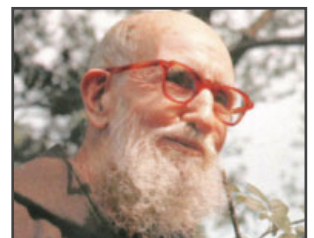
*Saint Martha is a Patron Saint of cooks, homemakers, restaurant servers. Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus are Patron Saints of siblings.*



**July 30.**

### BLESSED SOLANUS CASEY

Blessed Solanus Casey became one of Detroit's best-known priests, even though he was not allowed to preach formally or to hear confessions. Difficulties with studies led to his being limited in some areas of ministry, but he certainly shone in others. This well-beloved friar is a modern day example of humility and perseverance.





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