

The Church of Saint Boniface

817 Massachusetts Avenue
Lunenburg, MA 01462



August 21, 2022

A graphic featuring a stained glass window design. The window is divided into several panes. The top pane contains a yellow cross. The middle panes contain the text "HOUSE OF GOD" on the left and "AND GATE OF HEAVEN" on the right. The bottom pane contains the text "21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME". Below the window, there is a quote from the Gospel of Luke: "[Jesus] answered them, 'Strive to enter through the narrow gate for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough.' - Lk 13:24". The background of the graphic is a deep red color.

THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

August 21, 2022 • Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 66:18-21 | Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13 | Luke 13:22-30

It is revealing that the same Jesus who warned us about the narrow gate opened his arms wide on the cross to redeem the world. It is the wideness of God's mercy, not our ability to stick to the straight and narrow, that determines whether we end up reclining at table in God's kingdom. By all means, we should strive to be a disciple, to aim for that narrow gate. We are called to focus our attention, our discipleship, on what is truly important, discarding whatever distracts us from that focus, that prevents us from concentrating on striving toward the kingdom. But we must always recognize that we are not the ones in charge.

Question of the Week:

How will I strive this week to aim for the narrow gate?

Connect! Sunday Reflection

by Rev. Mark Suslenko

Abraham Lincoln is said to have remarked that "discipline is choosing between what you want now and what you want most." What is it that you desire most? This is a powerful question that must be asked and answered if we want to avoid a haphazard, disjointed, and chaotic life. It also must be asked and answered if we claim to be a person of faith who is committed to living the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We all have smaller desires that motivate us throughout the day. I may desire to complete a project that has been sitting undone for some time or to spend some quality time with someone I love. But at the end of it all, what is it that you really desire?

St. Augustine tells us that our hearts are restless until they rest in God. If we really believe that we are lovingly and intentionally fashioned and created by a God who wills us into being — and that we are destined to live eternally with that same God in heaven — then these are wise words indeed. Therefore, in order to be true to our real nature, the answer to the question of what we desire most ought to be, "Union with God."

If we are distracted by our lesser desires, we can easily lose touch with our truth and quickly find ourselves off track. But a person who lives a truly disciplined life is always able to call themselves back to the greatest desire, to put their wants and impulses in check, and to do what is necessary to achieve the greater goal. For the believer, this can only be accomplished by developing a habit of strong, centered, and focused prayer. The discipline of prayer allows us to keep our relationship with God fresh so that we become best friends with Him and always stay connected in one way or another.

It is very possible for relationships to go sour, even our relationship with God. While God never abandons us, we can certainly turn our backs on Him. In doing so, we may find ourselves recognizing His presence and surprises less and less and even find ourselves less willing to put ourselves out there for the advancement of the Gospel. Those lesser desires and impulses can gain great control. It is the discipline of prayer that allows us to become the very likeness of God! We then become His true disciples by living and acting in our world as He would live and act in it. The gift of contemplation keeps God in clear focus and our hearts set on our true desire: union with Him.

It will not be easy at first. Who among us really likes discipline? But we all know that the maturity process always involves reluctance, pain, stretching, and honesty. We are constantly learning new lessons about life, God, ourselves, others, and our world, and we must vigilantly be willing to leave one way of doing things in pursuit of another of greater value. Knowing that our ultimate desire is union with God, we can then go about the task of true discipleship and begin living the vision Jesus taught. It is a vision that involves great self-denial, suffering, and possibly even death. However, all of these are always in service of obtaining our ultimate goal.

Life teaches us some hard lessons and can easily disappoint. But God's ever-present love is always available to transform even the most self-focused of hearts, and His holiness touches all of His children. It is our task, then, to ensure that everything possible is done to preserve and respect the sacredness of life and the dignity of every human being.

"For behold, some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last."

(Luke 13:30)

Our cultural standards are different from God's standards. We often rank people by what they have, how powerful they are, or how successful they are. Jesus reminds us that God will not judge us by the same earthly standards. When God asks you, "What have you done with the gifts I have given you?" How will you respond?

PRAYER

Loving God,

I can easily get confused between what I think I need and what I truly desire. You have placed your glorious presence within me.

You flow through my veins and reside in the depth of my soul.

May your Holy Spirit help me see what is within so that as I live and move in your world I can begin to recognize you in all you have made.

Help me create a discerning and disciplined life so that I can dwell more fully in your presence, unite myself with you and contemplate your glory.

May I notice you in the smallest and most humble of your creatures and in the vastness of the ocean's depth!

May I smell the nectar of your presence in the air that I breathe and know that nothing I can imagine will ever give me what only you can bestow upon me. May I learn to watch for your surprises and relish in the daily blessings that come my way.

May I not fall into despair and always live with hope.

Then, when I am asked to leave this world and continue my journey to you, may I do so without regret and with an eagerness to possess the wonder of your embrace.

*Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

MASS INTENTIONS

Aug 20	4:00 pm	Michael S. Dionne , by Daniel Raboin
Aug 21	9:00 am	Diane Melnicki , by the Melnicki family
Aug 27	4:00 pm	Judith Corliss , by Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Ciuffetti
Aug 28	9:00 am	Ray Powers , by Claude & Jo-Anne Poirier
Sep 3	4:00 pm	Patricia Keegan , by the Cote family
Sep 4	9:00 am	Jim & Gerene Maloney , by their family
Sep 10	4:00 pm	Nancy Cieri , by the Gardner family
Sep 11	8:00 am	Jim & Gerene Maloney , by their family
	10:30 am	Tina Forest , by her daughter
Sep 16	8:00 am	Leon Tarbell , by his family
Sep 17	4:00 pm	Nancy Cieri , by Claude & Jo-Anne Poirier
Sep 24	4:00 pm	Antonia Angelini , by her daughter
Oct 1	4:00 pm	Ottavio Angelini , by his daughter

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 28 through September 4.

NO THURSDAY/FRIDAY MORNING MASSES: August 4 through September 2

ADORATION & BENEDICTION: Wednesdays 5:30 PM, August 10 through August 31



Let your light shine! We are currently looking for teachers in grades 6-9. If you have an hour to spare 2 times a month, our Religious Education program would love to have you join the team. Support and training are available: we need you to make our program a success. Please contact Lucy Marcil at 978-502-7993 or lmarcil419gmail.com

Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life

As Fr. Charles shared in his homily on Word of God Sunday, St. Jerome famously said "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." Dedicate some time this fall to getting to know Christ through the study of Scripture! We will follow the Bible study program "Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life." This 12-week journey through Scripture will focus on becoming intimate with Jesus' life and pursuing a life-changing relationship with Him. Look forward to discussion and prayer about expectant faith, what it means to be touched by Jesus, and the meaning of discipleship. We'll gather weekly on Thursdays at 6:00 PM in the church hall September 22 through December 8, 2022. Please contact Mike and Stephanie Hausladen at (315)256-3069 or email michael.hausladen@live.com if you'd like to participate.



3rd ANNUAL LABOR DAY WALK for LIFE

Where? Coolidge Park Fitchburg, MA

When? Monday Sept. 5, 2022, 10:00am

Goal? Raise \$30,000 to provide urgent services in Fitchburg.



Why Do We Host a Labor Day Walk?

This Walk is designed to raise funds for the free services offered at Care Net Fitchburg. Care Net Fitchburg comes alongside those experiencing unplanned pregnancies. These services include pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, pregnancy and childbirth classes, parenting classes, as well as post abortion recovery classes.

REGISTER TODAY at:

friendsofcarenetchburg.org/contactus/labor-day-virtual-walk-run-registration/

STEWARDSHIP

AUGUST 14, 2022

• Sunday Offering	\$1,485
• Maintenance/Fuel	30
• Church in E/C Europe	250
• Other	23
Total	\$1,788

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



SAINT BONIFACE PARISH



SAVE THE DATE: SEPT. 17, 2022

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

LET'S MAKE THIS OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL EVENT EVER!

If you are available for an hour or two on September 17, please sign up to volunteer at the event. Thank you!

Look for signup sheets at church, or contact Claude Poirier at claudelsa@yahoo.com

Help is Needed in Our Lunenburg Community

As we all know, the price of food as well as everything else has skyrocketed, and the Lunenburg Community Food Pantry has seen a huge upswing in need over the past year. All food items that we collect through Labor Day will be donated to the Lunenburg Turkey Hill Lions Club to help supply their pantry. Please leave donations in the designated area at the back of the church, and thank you for your generosity.

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

Summer schedule: Sunday: 9:00 am | Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm

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 the parish office at 978-582-4008, email stbonifaceparish@verizon.net or contact Louise Nadeau at 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.

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
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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, Director, Preschool	978-582-7110	ninastboniface@gmail.com

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.



HOW DID A SHOPPING BASKET INFLUENCE ST. EDITH STEIN'S CONVERSION?

One day around 1917, a young Jewish woman, a student and teacher of philosophy, visited Frankfurt Cathedral. She noticed another woman going into the church with a shopping basket in her hands to say a quick prayer.

The Jewish woman, whose name was Edith Stein, was astounded. She said:

"This was something totally new to me. In the synagogues and Protestant churches I had visited people simply went to the services. Here, however, I saw someone coming straight from the busy marketplace into this empty church, as if she was going to have an intimate conversation. It was something I never forgot."

Edith was from a practicing Jewish family but had lost her faith in childhood. She was a brilliant mind who studied German, history, and her most beloved subject—philosophy. Her studies and providential encounters with people of faith pushed her continually towards the truth.

God built on the Frankfurt encounter with a second, more intimate one. She met with a recently widowed friend and was profoundly struck by her friend's great faith. Edith said:

"This was my first encounter with the Cross and the divine power it imparts to those who bear it... it was the moment when my unbelief collapsed and Christ began to shine his light on me—in the mystery of the Cross."

This encounter would prepare her for her own cross which she would bear later in life.

The third remarkable, grace-filled event in Edith's life came when she was visiting with Catholic friends who happened to have a copy of the biography of St. Teresa of Ávila. Stein became engrossed in the book and read it throughout the night. She later wrote of this, saying: *"When I had finished the book, I said to myself: This is the truth."*

It was after this last event that Edith converted to the Roman Catholic Church. She would later join a Carmelite convent and take the name Sister Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. Her life would culminate in her martyrdom at Auschwitz, where she was deported as a Jewish Christian.

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SAINTS OF THE WEEK

August 22.

QUEENSHIP of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The notion of a queen is somewhat foreign to American ears, but this feast of Mary recognizes her role in the Kingdom of her Son, Jesus. If Jesus is king, Mary is certainly queen. And the title—or its surrogate—goes back centuries in the Church, as Mary has been praised for her position in salvation history and among the people of God.



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 eyebrows, at her death the city of Lima recognized her sanctity.

Saint Rose of Lima is a patron saint of the Americas, florists, Latin America, Peru, Philippines, and South America.



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 a patron saint of plasterers.



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. He was named a patron of the Secular Franciscans.

Saint Louis of France is a patron saint of barbers, grooms, and the Secular Franciscan Order.



August 26.

SAINT JOSEPH of 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.



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 a patron saint of alcoholics, conversion, mothers, and wives.





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