

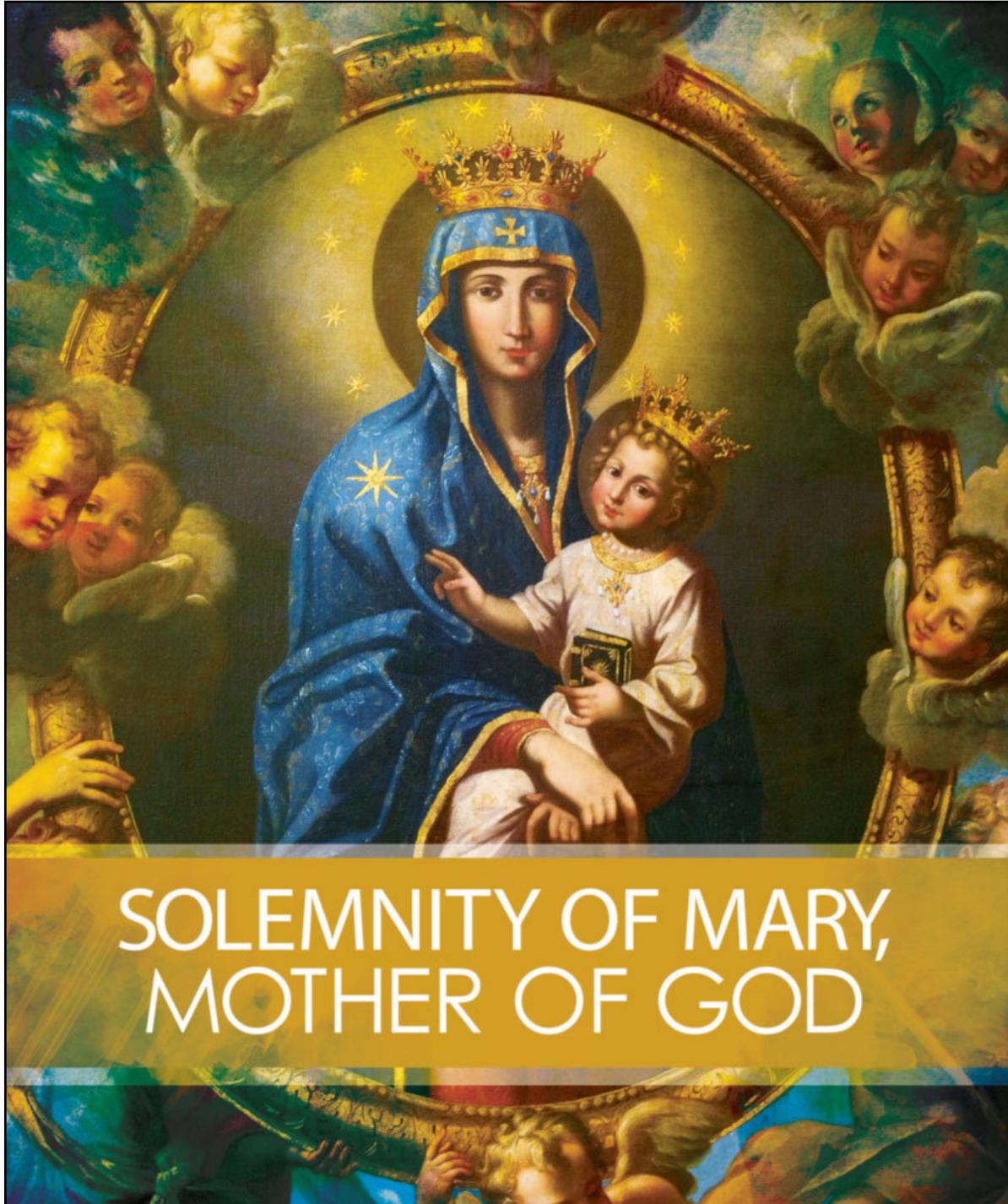


The Church of Saint Boniface

817 Massachusetts Avenue
Lunenburg, MA 01462



January 1, 2023



SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
MOTHER OF GOD

THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

January 1, 2023 • Solemnity of Mary

Numbers 6:22–27;/ Galatians 4:4–7 /Luke 2:16–21

On this first day of a new year, we look forward to new beginnings, hopeful that this year will be better than the last. The Chosen People were looking forward to a new beginning in the promised land when Aaron and his sons called down God's blessings, God's grace, and God's peace upon them. The shepherds realized a new beginning was taking place in Bethlehem and hurried there to see the newborn king. Mary embraced the new beginning her life had taken after she was visited by the angel. May we look forward to our new beginning, assured that we have a God with us who chose to become incarnate in the world, who chose to share in our humanity, who chose to redeem us from our sins.

Question of the Week: What happened in my life in 2022 that I treasure in my heart? How do I recognize God's role in these blessings?

Which are the 10 principal virtues of Mary?

True devotion to Mary, says St. Louis de Montfort, leads us to imitate these virtues. In his classic work *True Devotion to Mary*, St. Louis de Montfort explains that this devotion to Mary "leads the soul to avoid sin and to imitate the virtues of the Blessed Virgin," especially her ten principal virtues. He lists them as:

- Profound humility
- Lively faith
- Blind obedience
- Continual prayer
- Universal mortification
- Divine purity
- Ardent charity
- Heroic patience
- Angelic sweetness
- Divine wisdom



During this final week of Advent, we will explore these ten virtues and how they were manifested in her life. We'll start with the first five today and read about the rest during Christmas week.

Profound humility. Our Lady was the most exalted of all creatures, yet also the most humble. "My soul doth magnify the Lord..." she said during her Visitation to St. Elizabeth, recorded in the Gospel of Luke. Not only did Mary attribute everything good to God and see herself as His creature, totally dependent on Him, but she also saw her life's very purpose as glorifying the Almighty.

Lively faith. Our Lady believed everything God revealed and in all His promises, without faltering. And she did it with eagerness and joy, not with timidity or skepticism. She trusted in Him completely, He Who can neither deceive nor be deceived. "Blessed is she who believed that the Lord's words to her would be fulfilled," said St. Elizabeth to her at that same Visitation.

Blind obedience. Our Lady was perfectly obedient to God, as exemplified by her fiat at the Annunciation. Even at those times when the way ahead seemed uncertain or fraught with danger—such as when the Holy Family had to flee to Egypt—she always obeyed, trusting in God.

Continual prayer. Mary never stopped praying. She certainly set aside specific time in her day for prayer, to be alone with God and to converse with Him, but this prayer continued even amidst her other duties. Whether she was baking bread, preparing dinner, cleaning her house, or visiting a neighbor, all was done in union with God.

Universal mortification. Mortification is the denial of one's own will and inclinations. Our Lady never followed after her own will, but continually united it to God's will in every circumstance. She accepted patiently all contradictions, sufferings, and hardships with love, offering all things to God with perfect resignation and charity.

"And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart."

LUKE 2:19

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. She heard God's message, and immediately said "yes." Mary teaches us to live with joy and gratitude for the many blessings God has given us. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world. We do this through lives of gratitude and generosity.



***Remember us, O God;
from age to age be our
comforter.***

***You have given us the wonder
of time,***

***blessings in days and nights,
seasons and years.***

***Bless your children at the
turning of the year***

***and fill the months ahead
with the bright hope***

***that is ours in the coming of
Christ.***

MASS INTENTIONS

| | | |
|--------|----------|--|
| Dec 31 | 4:00 pm | John McQuaid, 10th Anniversary, by his family |
| Jan 14 | 4:00pm | Peter Charpentier, Birthday Remembrance, by his family |
| Jan 22 | 8:00 am | Thomas Cotter, 2nd Anniversary, by his family |
| Jan 22 | 10:30 am | Daniel Cornin, by his family |
| Jan 22 | 10:30 am | John McClosky, by his family |
| Jan 28 | 4:00 pm | Daniel Gilligan, 4th Anniversary, by Marilyn Brown |
| Feb 4 | 4:00 pm | Louis Arruda, 18th Anniversary, by his grandchildren |
| Feb 5 | 8:00 am | Wesley Laford, by the Laford Family |
| Mar 18 | 4:00 pm | Helen Keating, 15th Anniversary, by her children |

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 p.m. in the church, led by members of the Saint Boniface Knights of Columbus.

Donations for the months of January and February will be going to Lunenburg Lion's Club Food Pantry. Donations can be left in the back of the church. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

The wicker basket for donations has been misplaced - if you know where it can be found please let the Parish Office know. Thank you.

Pease support our bulletin advertisers! They help make our bulletin available at no cost to the parish.

Parishioner Christmas Flower Donations In Memory/Honor of:

Coakley/Dempsey Grandparents

Cote Family

Richard Perrin

Upcoming Knights of Columbus Events -

Council Meeting all men of the parish are invited to attend the at 7 pm on January 11th in the Parish Hall so you can see what we're doing for the Parish. Pizza and fellowship will be shared after the meeting and we will do our best to answer your questions.

Italian Take-out Dinner the weekend of January 21/22. Details to follow.

Diaper Drive throughout the month of January to support the CareNet Pregnancy Resource Center of Fitchburg. Donations of diapers, baby wipes and formula may be placed in the rear of the church.



STEWARDSHIP

December 17/18

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Sunday | 2,491.00 |
| Fuel/Maintenance | 60.00 |
| Flowers | 75.00 |
| Retirement | 185.00 |
| Holy Day | 26.00 |
| Christmas | 20.00 |
| TOTAL | \$2,857.00 |

December 24/25

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Sunday | 3,250.00 |
| Fuel/Maintenance | 100.00 |
| Flowers | 28.00 |
| Christmas | 1,510.00 |
| Retirement | 20.00 |
| TOTAL | \$4,908.00 |



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 and click on "Online Giving Options" in the upper left.



When Joseph awoke he did as the angel of the Lord directed him."

Are you prayerfully vigilant about discovering your vocation in Christ? Might He be inviting you to the priesthood or consecrated life?

Contact the Vocation Office at (508)-630-4473 or email: dinfante@saintpaulknights.org.

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 – 4:00 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, Thomas Bodkin at tbodkin@bodkinmason.com or (508-363-3422), or email kofc16480@gmail.com.

PARISH STAFF:

| | <i>phone</i> | <i>email</i> |
|--|--------------|--|
| Rev. Charles Omolo, Administrator | 978-582-4008 | stbonifaceparish@verizon.net |
| Heather Sroka, Administrative Assistant | 978-582-4008 | stbonifaceparish@verizon.net |
| Lucy Marcil, Religious Ed Coordinator (Grades 1-6) | 978-502-7993 | lmarcil419@gmail.com |
| Terry Stramowski, Religious Ed Coordinator (Grades 6-10) | | gr610@cffstboniface.onmicrosoft.com |
| Claire Garrity Neas, Music Ministry | 617-823-4237 | cmkagosgarrity@aol.com |
| Louise Nadeau, Sacristan | | |
| Ministry Schedule | 978-582-4008 | stbonifaceparish@verizon.net |
| Nina Charpentier, Director, Preschool | 978-582-7110 | ninastboniface@gmail.com |

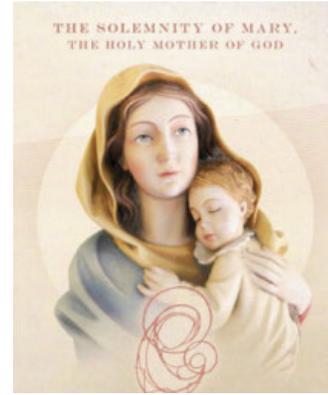
Newcomers to St. Boniface are invited and encouraged to formally register as members of the parish so that we may stay in touch with you with faith formation news, notices of special events, volunteer opportunities, and more. Registration forms are available at the doors of the church, the parish office,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

Reflection — Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The LORD bless you and keep you!
The LORD let his face shine upon
you, and be gracious to you!
The LORD look upon you kindly and
give you peace!

— Numbers 6:24-26



“Today is gonna be a Mommy-and-me day,” my preschool-aged son told me recently. He was perched on the kitchen countertop, his favorite spot in the mornings, where he likes to sit while watching me unload the dishwasher.

“Oh, is it?” I said, my hands full of damp plates. This was news to me. “What does that mean? What are we going to do?”

“We’re gonna read books and put stickers on walls and you’re gonna watch me play,” he told me. “And then at the end of the day you’re gonna make dinner and I’m gonna sit here and watch you, and we’re gonna smile at each other.”

I am not the best version of myself in the mornings, I am grumpy and anxious, and any suggestion of a deviation from the day’s planned activities usually makes me bare my teeth like a threatened Rottweiler. But my son’s little itinerary pierced me through the heart. I stopped what I was doing and looked at him. We smiled at each other.

I wrote down what he said because I didn’t want to forget it, ever. It wasn’t just that he wanted to spend the day with me. That was sweet. But what really got me in the feels was how he described it. Us watching each other, smiling at each other, turning our faces to each other in love. It was astonishing in its simplicity.

There are a lot of different kinds of prayer, a lot of different ways to be with God, to adore him, to sit in his presence. But I think the way that I like best is exactly what my son described for his Mommy-and-me day, the way that famous peasant of Ars described to St. John Vianney two centuries ago. I like when God and I sit and look at each other.

If you are blessed, as I have been, to have a warm relationship with your parents, you know the power of their gaze. You know what it is to lock eyes with them during one of life’s profound moments — a moment of sadness, a moment of triumph, a moment of joy, a moment of confusion. You know that words are not necessary; sometimes they even get in the way. What you need is in the gaze.

When I reflect on the various ways I have experienced God “letting His face shine upon” me, I keep coming back to His mother. How often, for me, has God chosen Mary to communicate His kindness, His love, His protection, and His faithfulness. How often has He desired her to be the Theotokos, the “God-bearer,” in my life. How often is her intercession and encouragement the means by which He turns His gaze upon me.

I think of a small Christ child sitting cross-legged on the ground two thousand years ago, watching his mother go about some domestic work as the sun rises over Nazareth. She looks up, absent-mindedly, and sees the God of Heaven and Earth smiling at her. She smiles back. Without words, they communicate. This happened for her every day.

I think of Mary at the foot of the cross, gazing up at the face she knows better than her own. The forehead is streaked with blood and the mouth is contorted in agony, and all who look upon him are stricken with despair. But not Mary. Mary sees the face of a feeble infant staring up at her from a manger. Mary sees the face of salvation. Mary sees hope. They lock eyes. Without words, they communicate.

Whatever this year brings you, be it good fortune or great trials or a mix of both, may you remember that through it all, you are under the gaze of the one who has loved you since the beginning of creation.



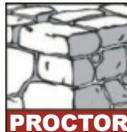
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