



# The Church of Saint Boniface

817 Massachusetts Avenue  
Lunenburg, MA 01462



February 19, 2023



**7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



"I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those  
who persecute you." - Mt 5:44

## THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

February 19, 2023 • The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Leviticus 19:1–2, 17–18 / 1 Corinthians 3:16–23/Matthew 5:38–48*

Anger and hatred can poison our hearts when they are left to fester. Some would say it's better to release them, whether in the form of a violent action, a hurtful word, or some sort of revenge. But releasing these emotions does not overcome them and it can escalate the situation. Jesus calls his disciples—us—to cleanse our hearts of negative emotions. Last week we heard him tell us to replace anger with the determination to be reconciled with one another. Today we hear him tell us to replace hatred with love. We are challenged to be countercultural.

**Question of the Week: When do I get angry and respond unkindly to provocation? How can I overcome these triggers?**

**God, a mob boss, and the power of grace...  
...that reaches even the hearts of those who  
have spent their lives in grave sin.**



One night in late October, 1935, a parish priest in New Jersey was called to the local hospital for an emergency.

The hospital staff explained to him that a dying man had asked for a Catholic priest—but this was no ordinary plea for Last Rites. The man came from a Jewish family and was known all around New York and New Jersey as Dutch Schultz—a murderous gangster who had quickly risen to wealth and infamy on illegal alcohol and gambling.

Schultz had first turned to petty crime after his father abandoned his family. Crime was more lucrative than honest work, and Schultz excelled in it. Prohibition and gang wars made his career.

That night in October, however, he had been shot by fellow mobsters in a bar. He was rushed to the hospital, but his wounds became infected and everyone in the hospital knew that the crime boss's time was up. No one could imagine a man like Schultz having any relationship with his Heavenly Father...Should they even bother offering to call a rabbi for him?

Then the dying gangster astounded the doctors by urgently expressing his desire for reconciliation with God—but not through his birth religion of Judaism. He wanted baptism in the Catholic Church. That night, one of the most unlikely of men was baptized and received into the arms of the Holy Church.

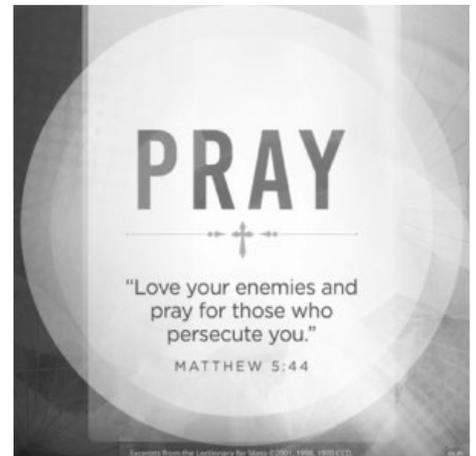
Dutch Schultz's tale is one of many among both famous and unknown people. These people, who surprised those around them by receiving the sacrament of baptism on their deathbeds, were often fugitives from God's love. Many of them heard His call through the years and blindly resisted it, but before death they turned and opened their hearts to Him at last.

Who were some of these people? What are their stories? Learn the full tale of Dutch Schultz and twelve other famous men and women who found refuge at the end in the Church. *Deathbed Conversions: Finding Faith at the Finish Line* will be one of the most fascinating books you'll read, relating thirteen tales of the triumph of God's relentless, loving grace.

***"But I say to you, love your enemies  
and pray for those who persecute  
you..."***

**MATTHEW 5:44**

Love your enemies, easier said than done. But, remember, the foundation of stewardship is prayer. When we are in close communication with God, it opens our heart and it turns our attention away from "me" and moves it towards God and others. It changes my heart and actions, allowing for a little more empathy for "my enemy." When we pray for others, even our enemies, it may soften their hearts as well.



God of Heaven's Armies,  
my Father, You are near to me.  
Even in the valley overshadowed  
with the threatening specter of death,  
You are beside me giving me my  
every breath.  
In this season of strife and shadow,  
I need Your power.  
Father, strengthen me by Your Spirit.  
Grant me the fortitude to withstand  
the slings of the enemy.  
I ask this in the name of Your Son,  
who, when He was facing the cross,  
did not falter in His resolve.

Amen.

## MASS INTENTIONS

Feb 19	8:00 am	Gerene Maloney, 2nd Anniversary, by her family
Feb 19	10:30 am	Michael Brisson, 9th Anniversary, by his family
Mar 4	4:00 pm	Joseph Rodrigues, by the Montemurro Family
Mar 18	4:00 pm	Helen Keating, 15th Anniversary, by her children
Apr 1	4:00 pm	Keith Keating, 19th Anniversary, by his siblings
Apr 16	10:30 am	John McShane, 4th Anniversary, by his family
Apr 23	10:30 am	Judith Murray, 5th Anniversary, by her daughter
Apr 30	8:00 am	Howard and Ella May Crane, by the Laford 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 p.m. in the church, led by members of the Saint Boniface Knights of Columbus.

**St Patrick's Day Celebration:** The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a St Patrick's Day dinner with a performance by Irish step dancers. The celebration will start on Saturday March 18th at 5:00 PM. The dinner will consist of corned beef and cabbage, potatoes and vegetables with Irish soda bread coffee and dessert. Tickets are priced at \$12 per individual or \$35 per family. Proceeds will benefit Knights of Columbus charities. There will be only advance ticket sales; no tickets will be sold at the door. The Knights of Columbus will be selling tickets after weekend masses starting February 25th through March 12th. Tickets may also be purchased on-line at the parish website.

**Lent is upon us - Ash Wednesday Masses** will be held on Wednesday, February 22nd at 6:30 am and 6:30 pm.

**Food Donations** for the month February will continue to go to the Lunenburg Lions Club. Please place all donations in the back of the church. We thank you for your continued support and generosity

### **Fish Fry in Leominster**

Join us for Lenten Fish Dinners at St. Anna's Church Hall, 194 Lancaster St. Leominster on Friday, February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 from 4 - 7 pm or until Sold Out! Adults \$13.00. Fish Dinner Includes: Baked Haddock, Cole Slaw, Potato, Vegetable, Mac & Cheese or Pasta with Marinara Sauce, Dessert and Beverage. Mac and Cheese or Marinara Sauce Pasta Dinner without haddock for \$6.00. Also offering Bowl of Chowder \$6; Wine \$3 per glass. Take out available for all items except wine and soda. Sponsored by the Ladies of the St. Anna's Society. Our TV Raffle is back! For every fish dinner purchased, you will be entered in a free drawing to win a 43" LG TV at the end of the six weeks!

**Second Collection** - There will be a second collection this week for the earthquake relief efforts in Turkey and Syria.

**Adoration** Beginning in February, Adoration will be held on the last Wednesday of the Month from 5:30-6:30 pm.

## STEWARDSHIP

<b>February 11th/12h</b>	
Sunday	2,518.00
Fuel/Maintenance	417.00
Priest Retirement Fund	41.00
Catholic Home Missions Appeal	<u>457.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,433.00</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) and click on "Online Giving Options" in the upper left.



# 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 – 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](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, Thomas Bodkin at [tbodkin@bodkinmason.com](mailto:tbodkin@bodkinmason.com) or (508-363-3422), or email [kofc16480@gmail.com](mailto:kofc16480@gmail.com).

---

### PARISH STAFF:

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

---

**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.*

## ***The Power of our God of Love*** ***Br. John-Marmion Villa***

An excerpt from: *Father Arseny: Priest, Prisoner, Spiritual Father* (pp. 30-31). Saint Vladimir's Seminary Press. Kindle Edition:

"The weather outside was ferocious. Many prisoners froze to death and many new prisoners arrived to work in their stead. It was a difficult time for everybody, but the "political" prisoners had it worst of all. For two days in a row their rations were stolen by the prisoners who were criminals. That night, after roll call and the locking of the barracks, a large fight erupted between the two factions over these rations. Avsenkov took the leadership of the "politicals." The criminals were headed by "Ivan the Brown." He was a hardened criminal, a good-for-nothing, and a murderer many times over. In camp he had also killed more than once; he liked card games in which the one who lost paid with his life. The battle that evening was over the rations that the criminals had taken laughingly — they said that they were used to taking what did not belong to them. The camp administrators, for reasons of personal safety, were always on the side of the criminals.

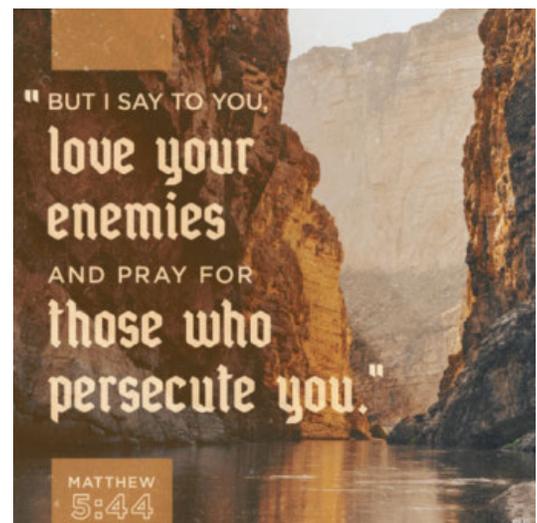
The fight started with fists, and then logs, then knives appeared in the hands of the criminals. Knives were, of course, forbidden. The guards searched for them but never seemed to find them. One of the prisoners, a soldier, was cut up; several "politicals" had their heads cracked. The criminals knew how to work together; most of the "politicals" could only shout and were afraid to help their own. The criminals were cruel. They were winning over the "politicals;" blood was flowing. Father Arseny ran to Sazikov and begged him, "Help! Please help, Ivan Alexandrovich! They are cutting people up. There is blood everywhere. I ask you in the name of God to stop this! The criminals will listen to you!" Sazikov only laughed and said, "Sure, they will listen to me, but why don't you help with your God? Ivan the Brown has already killed two of your friends, and now he is going to kill Avsenkov. Your God seems not to notice this!"

Father Arseny looked all around him. He saw blood on people, he heard screams, swearing, and moans, and his soul was full of pain for their suffering. He lifted his arms, went into the very midst of the heated fight, and said in a clear and loud voice, "In the name of God, I order you! Stop this!" He blessed them with sign of the cross and said in a whisper, "Now, help the wounded," and he headed for his bunk. There he stood, as if in a different world, as if surrounded by light. He stood there, having receded into himself, praying. He did not hear the dead being carried to the door, nor did he see the wounded being helped. He stood; his attention focused on prayer. All was quiet in the barracks now. You could only hear people getting into their bunks and the moaning of a seriously wounded man.

Sazikov came near Father Arseny and said, "Forgive me, Father Arseny. I doubted your God. I see now that he exists. It even scares me. A great power is given to one who believes in him. Even I am frightened. Forgive me for making fun of you." In two days, Avsenkov came to Father Arseny after work and said, "Thank you. You saved my life! You believe in God unconditionally and, looking at you, I'm also beginning to understand that he exists." —Father Arseny

I wonder how I would fare in that situation ... but I have to catch myself in that moment of impending discouragement and remind myself that I am not living in wartime concentration camp amid the cruelest situations where the end result is death for most. I have to remind myself that I live in 21st century America, in a democratic country, in a post-modern secular humanist culture, where there are churches almost on every other street block that I can choose to attend, and there is a wide array of ecclesial options to cater to every seeker and believer, where there are online videos available on demand for every catechetical topic imaginable given by experts from all across the globe, where there are mission opportunities to help the poorest of the poor, even those right on the other side of town, where there are appeals regularly for financial aid for a variety of humanitarian projects, where there are donation centers to distribute goods that I no longer use, where books and podcasts are available at my fingertips to sharpen and deepen my faith ... With all the conveniences of modern Christianity, I should be an expert at 'loving my enemies,' right?

Perhaps, one of the reasons why the Lord called me into the monastic life is to teach me two lessons: "the certainty of being infinitely loved by Love Himself, and the certain ability to love without limits. Nothing but the Cross and Resurrection can give, in a full and definitive way, these two certainties and the freedom they bring." (*Fraternal Life in Community*, Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, 1994.) In this lies not only the perfection in the monastic life, but the perfection of all the baptized in their pursuit of Christ in their chosen state of life. For in each lies ample opportunities to choose a virtue over vice, to choose another's good before my own, to choose sacrifice over comfort, to choose the good over the easy, to choose Jesus' way over all other seductive options.





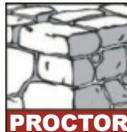
Serving St. Boniface Families  
with Three Convenient Locations

# Anderson Family Funeral Homes

Townsend ~ Ayer ~ Fitchburg

Directors: Brian T. Anderson & Michael D. Masciarelli

[www.andersonfuneral.com](http://www.andersonfuneral.com) • 800-562-2692



**PROCTOR**

Excavating & Septic Systems

Site Work  
Title V Inspections

**DAN PROCTOR OWNER**

**978-582-4764**



**WHALOM WASH**

380 ELECTRIC AVE. (RT 13)  
LUNENBURG

[www.WHALOMWASH.com](http://www.WHALOMWASH.com)

**978-829-0399**

DAN AND JEAN PROCTOR, OWNERS

**NVENERGYLLC.SOLAR**

INSTALLING NORTH AMERICAN  
MADE EQUIPMENT

**\$500  
DISCOUNT  
FOR SENIORS  
AND VETS**



**508.612.8656**

[Nate@NVENERGYLLC.SOLAR](mailto:Nate@NVENERGYLLC.SOLAR)

Ground or roof installations

Locally owned and operated

**airport  
AUTOPARTS**

**New & Used Tires**  
**BUYING UNWANTED CARS**  
**Recycled & New Parts**

978.534.3137  
56 Crawford St • Leominster  
[airportautoparts.com](http://airportautoparts.com)

**THOMAS FUEL**  
LUNENBURG, MA  
EST. 1992

Automatic  
Delivery  
Budget  
Programs



978-342-9716  
[WWW.THOMASFUEL.NET](http://WWW.THOMASFUEL.NET)

**LITTLE'S  
FLOOR  
COVERING**

359 Summer St.  
Fitchburg, MA  
978-345-5425

Since 1998

**CARPET • VINYL  
LUXURY VINYL  
PLANK/TILE  
COMMERCIAL  
HARDWOOD**

[www.littlesfloorcovering.com](http://www.littlesfloorcovering.com)



**Lynn Walsh, Realtor®**  
Platinum Top Producer  
— COLDWELL BANKER REALTY —  
4 Monument Sq. | Leominster, MA 01453  
978.514.2903  
[lynn.walsh9@cbrealty.com](mailto:lynn.walsh9@cbrealty.com)

Call Me for a FREE Market Analysis



**T & W Custom Builders**  
SINCE 1976  
GENERAL CONTRACTING

370 Main Street • West Townsend, Massachusetts 01474

**Wide Range of Subcontract Services**  
Cabinetry • Millwork Historical Renovations  
Excavation • Finish Carpentry • Structural Carpentry

**978-597-6277**  
William G. Schulze

**PETE'S  
PLUMBING & HEATING, INC**

978-571-6596  
[Petesplumbing@gmail.com](mailto:Petesplumbing@gmail.com)  
[www.PetesPlumbingandHeating.com](http://www.PetesPlumbingandHeating.com)

KOHLER REMODEL PARTNER &  
AUTHORIZED SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

**INSTALLATION | REPAIR**

**O&W  
HEATING  
AIR CONDITIONING**

**Oil Burner Service**

**Fitchburg, MA  
978-345-7845**

**Robert C. Alario**  
Certified Public Accountants, PC

75 N. Main St., Leominster, MA 01453  
292 Park Ave., Worcester, MA 01609  
(L) 978-534-1999 (W) 508-755-7575  
Fax: (L) 978-534-0499 (W) 508-755-7599

[www.robertalario.com](http://www.robertalario.com)  
[bob@robertalario.com](mailto:bob@robertalario.com)

**William G. Schulze**  
370 Main Street — West Townsend MA  
**978-423-8200**

**Mass State Title 5 • Radon Mitigation  
Building Science • Energy Efficiency**



**Jeffrey's  
ANTIQUE CO-OP  
MALL**

**JEFFREY'S  
ANTIQUE CO-OP MALL**

OPEN 7 DAYS A  
WEEK! 10AM - 3PM

Over 150+ dealers  
Browse through this friendly  
& relaxed shop offering the  
most eclectic and ever  
changing inventory of  
antiques & collectibles.  
Come in and find  
that unique antique.  
*Something for every  
collector's estate!*

your neighborhood garage!

**Les'  
auto repair**

foreign & domestic, auto & light truck

**978-345-0105**

**LDC  
LEOMINSTER DENTAL CARE™**

**High Quality  
Dental Care  
For The Whole  
Family**

**978-534-3595**  
28 Washington Street  
Leominster MA 01453

We use safe dental materials and practice using  
the Biomimetic approach (Natural/Conservative)  
Emergencies seen promptly

Senior Citizens receive a 10% discount • We work with most dental insurances



**JAMIE TOALE**  
**SUPPORTIVE BUSINESS ALTERNATIVES**

Small Business Management | Consulting  
Interim Management | Special Projects | Coaching  
Municipal Government Specialties

617-365-4612 | [jamie@jamietoale.com](mailto:jamie@jamietoale.com) | [www.jamietoale.com](http://www.jamietoale.com)

**St. Boniface  
Pre-School & Childcare**

Children Ages  
2.9 through 6 years  
Open 7:30 am–5:30 pm

**817 Massachusetts Avenue  
Lunenburg, MA 01462  
978-582-7110**



**Lana  
KOPSALA**  
MAKING REALTY DREAMS REALITY

**"Your Local Real Estate Agent"**  
Coldwell Banker Realty  
**Call/Text: 978.855.9112**  
"President Premier"  
[Lana.Kopsala@NEMoves.com](mailto:Lana.Kopsala@NEMoves.com)  
[www.LanaSellsHomes.com](http://www.LanaSellsHomes.com)




**One Family  
Insurance  
Agency**

Auto - Home  
Business  
978-403-5942  
[1familyinsurance.com](http://1familyinsurance.com)  
1 Main Street, Ste 15  
Lunenburg