



The Church of Saint Boniface

817 Massachusetts Avenue
Lunenburg, MA 01462



June 25, 2023

12th Sunday IN ORDINARY TIME



"Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."

- Mt 10:29-31

THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

"Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father."
MATTHEW 10:32

Would others know that you are Catholic by the way you act and speak? Do you share your Catholic faith with others? Do you defend your Catholic faith when the situation arises or do you remain silent? Do you pray in public before meals? Pray for the strength and courage to be a joyful witness of our Catholic faith when the opportunity presents itself. Let us become the radiant light and bold witness that we are called to be!

June 25, 2023 12th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 20:10–13/ Romans 5:12–15/ Matthew 10:26–33

Grace > sin. This is the point that Paul is making to the Romans. As terrible as sin is—for it caused a fundamental separation from God and brought mortality and death—grace is greater. The grace that Jesus won for us on the cross restores our union with God and brings the promise of immortality through eternal life. Grace is stronger than sin for when both are present, grace overcomes sin. Grace overcomes not just the original sin Adam brought into the world; it is able to overcome all human sin. Grace washes our soul clean from sin.

Question of the Week: What am I reluctant to take a stand on? How can I bear witness most effectively and realistically?

Last Sunday we heard Jesus send the Twelve out to the countryside of Galilee, instructing them to proclaim: "The kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 10:7). This is what he is now encouraging them to proclaim from the housetops. However, he has just warned them about persecution. Like Jeremiah, they would hear people denounce them and worse. But God would watch over them, over every little hair on their heads. Proclaiming the immanence of God's kingdom from the housetops is an acknowledgment that Jesus embodies the kingdom. For this, Jesus assures them that he will acknowledge them in turn.

Jeremiah, Paul, and Jesus all faced persecution, for their values aligned with God's, not society's. Jeremiah's message that Jerusalem's fall was God's punishment for the people's sinfulness did not win him many friends. Indeed, his friends stood ready to take vengeance on him. Paul repeatedly preached a countercultural message across the Gentile world. Jesus found enemies among both religious and political authorities. Tradition holds that Jeremiah was martyred in exile after the fall of Jerusalem, killed by fellow exiles. If this is true, then all three died at the hands of their persecutors. But as Jesus told the Twelve, those who can kill the body but not the soul should not be feared. We have no less an obligation to bear witness to our faith in an often cynical and intolerant world. Our life in the Lord can overcome our very real fears in our day-to-day life.

Pilgrimage to Ireland

Our Lady of Hope Parish's Pilgrimage to Ireland will be led by Fr. Anthony Mpagi and Fr. Derek Mobilio on April 8-19, 2024. We will visit Galway, Glenstal Abbey, the Aran Islands, Our Lady of Knock Shrine, Cobh, Glendalough, and Dublin. Tour includes round trip airfare, hotel accommodations for 10 nights, 9 dinners and 11 breakfasts, transportation on a private motor coach, and admission fees as per itinerary. Double Occupancy Price per Person: \$4750 For information and to sign up, please contact Fr. Derek Mobilio - fr.mobilio@gmail.com - 508-556-0553.

MASS INTENTIONS

July 16	9:00 am	Lawrence Paton, 18th Anniversary, by his family
Nov 5	8:00 am	Wesley LaFord, 2nd Anniversary, by his family
Nov 25	4:00 pm	Louis and Angelina Arruda, by their grandchildren
Dec 23	4:00 pm	Angelina Arruda, 23rd Anniversary, by her grandchildren

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.

SAINT BONIFACE PARISH



SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, SEPT. 9, 2023
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Our first planning meeting will be on **Tuesday, June 27, at 6:30 p.m.** in the parish hall. We will discuss how and what we can offer at the festival (gift baskets, raffles, adult and kids games, food, craft vendors, entertainment, etc.) This is an opportunity for St. Boniface to bring Lunenburg and surrounding communities together for fun and exciting day of activities for young and old alike.

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO ENHANCE WHAT WE HAVE DONE IN THE PAST AND DISCUSS NEW IDEAS TO MAKE THIS YEAR'S OKTOBERFEST EVEN MORE SUCCESSFUL! We cannot do this without the help of many parishioners of all ages. Please prayerfully consider attending this meeting and joining the team.

Questions? Contact our event chairman Dave McCarthy at dmccarthy484@gmail.com or assistant chairman Claude Poirier at claudelsa@yahoo.com

Bible Study Series this Fall - "The Gospel of St. Luke"

Monsignor Thomas Sullivan will offer a course on The Gospel of St. Luke, which will take place this coming fall. The entire Gospel will be read and studied. There will be eight sessions, each devoted to three chapters of Luke's 24-chapter Gospel. The program will take place in the Johnson Room at Christ the King Church, 1052 Pleasant Street in Worcester, on Tuesday evenings, from 7:15 to 8:45 pm. The dates are September 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24 (not 31st); November 7, 14. If you are interested in participating and would like to register for the program you can email Msgr. Sullivan at any time (tsullivan5@mac.com) or call him at 508-754-5361. Please just provide your email address and telephone number. There is no cost to participate. Each week reprints of the following week's chapters will be distributed.

STEWARDSHIP

June 17/18

Weekly 1,294.00
Fuel/Maintenance 384.00

Total \$1,678.00



Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

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.



To date 68 Parish families have donated \$18,810 toward our 2023 goal of \$22,000.

'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

Acts 20:35

Heavenly God,
even the tiniest hairs
on our heads
do not escape your care.
Teach us to care for
our neighbor
as you care for us
and grant the needs
of sinner and saint alike,
through your Son
and our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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: 9:00am | Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm

Holy Hour of Adoration: last Wednesday of the month 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 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
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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.

June 25th

Pray that religious student groups would be free to be faithful to their distinctive missions.

Reflect

Participation in a religious student group at college can be an important part of a young person's education.

However, university policies meant to promote inclusivity – such as a rule that any student has the right to be a leader of a campus student group – have been used to prohibit religious student groups from ensuring that their leaders and members share their beliefs. The sentiment of such policies might seem appealing, but it means that an atheist could lead a Bible study, a climate change denier could lead the environmental club, or a Republican could lead the College Democrats. This false idea of inclusivity essentially prevents groups from having any distinctive mission or identity. College campuses can embrace the gift of freedom by allowing student groups to operate in accordance with their distinctive missions.

Act

Support the Equal Campus Access Act. In 2020, the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) established Equal Campus Access provisions, which aimed to protect religious student groups at schools that receive federal funding. However, in 2023, the USDE proposed to rescind those provisions. The Equal Campus Access Act would codify the 2020 rule. Urge Congress to support the Equal Campus Access Act!



June 22 - June 29

www.worcesterdiocese.org/religiousfreedomweek

June 27th

Pray that business leaders would promote a culture that welcomes faith at work.

Reflect

The Catholic Church calls the lay faithful to bring their faith to bear on all spheres of life. Christians are Christian not only when they pray or serve in a non-profit ministry. Catholics also seek to live out their faith in their work lives. Christians are not the only ones who should be able to live out their religion in a holistic way. All people should be free to allow faith to guide them in their daily affairs, even in work and business. Religious freedom conflicts can arise when an employee seeks accommodation for his or her practices, such as an exception to a dress code in order to wear certain religious clothing or a request to have certain days or times—like the Sabbath or certain times for prayer—accommodated in scheduling. Another kind of religious freedom conflict involves cases where the business itself runs afoul of some government policy. For example, a government may require employers to cover certain products or procedures in their healthcare plans that the employer believes to be immoral, or a government may require creative professionals to produce speech that violates their religious convictions. In all of these scenarios, a culture that embraces the divine gift of freedom will be one that makes as much space as possible for persons to participate in work life in accordance with their religious convictions.

Act

Individuals have the right to receive accommodations from employers for their religious practices.

Businesses have the right to operate in accordance with religious principles. How do you see faith in action at work? Share your story with us!

@USCCBFreedom #ReligiousFreedomWeek





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