



The Church of Saint Boniface

817 Massachusetts Avenue
Lunenburg, MA 01462



September 17, 2023



24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times." - Mt 18:21-22

THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

September 17, 2023 The Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sirach 27:30—28:7/ Romans 14:7–9 /Matthew 18:21–35

Forgiveness begins in the heart. Unfortunately, so do wrath and anger, which Sirach urges us to avoid. When we are wronged, especially when it hurts, especially when it has long-term consequences or even changes our lives completely, it is difficult for the heart to make a complete turn from anger to mercy. But, as doctors will say, we need to nurture a healthy heart. When we hug tightly wrath and anger, allowing them to fester into resentment or bitterness, we are unconsciously choosing to have an unhealthy heart. Forgiveness allows us to reconcile with the consequences of the action that hurt us as well as with the cause of that hurt. It allows us to heal the broken relationship with that person, with an apparently unfair world, and with a seemingly unjust God.

Question of the Week:

How do I see myself letting resentment or bitterness build up in my heart? Who do I need to reach out to and forgive?

*“For if we live, we live for the Lord,
and if we die, we die for the Lord; so
then, whether we live or die, we are
the Lord’s.” (Romans 14:8)*

This is the essence of stewardship
– everything we have and
everything we are is a gift from
God. We aren’t “owners” of
anything, we are merely
“stewards” of the gifts that God
has given us, especially our very
own lives. Pray to God, daily, and
ask Him how He is calling you to
the live the life that He intended
for you.



Thursday
September 28th
7:00 pm |
Parish Hall

Topics for Discussion:

Lift Platform

Update on LOH Statuaries

Attention all Ministries: We are looking to have a representative from the parish ministries to address our families in Grades 1-5: Sunday October 1st at 9:15AM This is a great time to chat up your ministry and get some new people on board. I will be compiling a list of contact information for the parents to take with them on that day.

Religious Education Update: We are in need of a Grade 7 teacher every other Sunday beginning September 24th. Please contact us if you can help this year.

Grades 6-9 begin the weekend of September 24th from 9-10:15 in the church hall

Grades 1-5 begin the weekend of October 1st from 9-10:15 in the church hall. One parent is asked to stay with the children for this meeting. We will have breakfast treats.

Grade 10: Confirmation will have a virtual parent meeting on Sunday September 24th at 6PM. The link will be shared. It is a quick meeting on expectations for Confirmation.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sep 17	10:30 am	Louis Nardella, by his brother, Louis Nadella
Sep 23	4:00 pm	Althea Robarge, 2nd Anniversary, by her daughters
Sep 24	8:00am	James and Gerene Maloney, in honor of their birthdays
Oct 1	8:00 am	Joseph Picucci, by his daughter, Ava
Oct 21	4:00 pm	Robert Connors, 3rd Anniversary, by Mary and Bob Bourque
Nov 5	8:00 am	Wesley LaFord, 2nd Anniversary, by his family
Nov 25	4:00 pm	Louis and Angelina Arruda, by their grandchildren
Nov 26	8:00 am	Anne Rivard, 5th Anniversary, by her husband
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.

There will be no weekday Masses September 20-22nd.

A Pro-Life Morning of Reflection and Enrichment

A Pro-Life Morning of Reflection and Enrichment will be held on Saturday, Sept. 16 from 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Paul, 38 High St., Worcester. The day will include Mass and light lunch. There is no cost to attend but pre-registration is required. To register, send your name, parish, and email address to aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org, or contact the Respect Life Office at 508-929-4311. All are invited to attend!

Catholic Women's Conference

All women are invited to the Worcester Catholic Women's Conference, "Male & Female He Created Them", to be held on October 7 at St. Joseph School in Webster. Hear dynamic talks from Catholic leaders, Dr. Deborah Savage, Dr. Christopher Klofft, Fr. Derek Mobilio, Fr. Colin Blatchford, and Patricia Sandoval. Diocesan priests will hear confessions and there will be many interesting exhibitors. Bishop McManus will celebrate Mass. For more information and to register, visit our website at www.wcwconference.com or call Corinn Dahm at 508-277-3969. Seating is limited, register early!

Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass – October 22, 2023

Bishop Robert J. McManus will celebrate the Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 22, 2023 at the Cathedral of St. Paul, Worcester. This liturgy of thanksgiving to God for many years of faithful witness to the sacredness of Christian marriage honors couples who are marking significant anniversaries (25th, 40th, 50th, etc.) this year. A light reception will follow downstairs in the Cenacle. Family and friends are welcome! Couples wishing to attend should pre-register no later than October 13 so that commemorative certificates may be issued. To register, complete the registration form at www.worcesterdiocese.org/wedding-anniversary-mass, or contact the Office of Marriage and Family at 508-929-4311 or email aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org to request that a copy of the registration form be sent to you.

STEWARDSHIP

September 9/10

Sunday	2,616.00
Maintenance	380.00
Religious Education	<u>217.00</u>
Total	\$3,213.00

Thank you for your continued, generosity and support



God of infinite mercy,
instill in us the courage to
forgive one another
and a love for exercising mercy.
Grant this and all the
prayers we make
through the one who taught us
to forgive without limits,
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

The Celebration of the Eucharist
Sunday: 8:00am and 10:30 am | 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:	phone	email
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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.

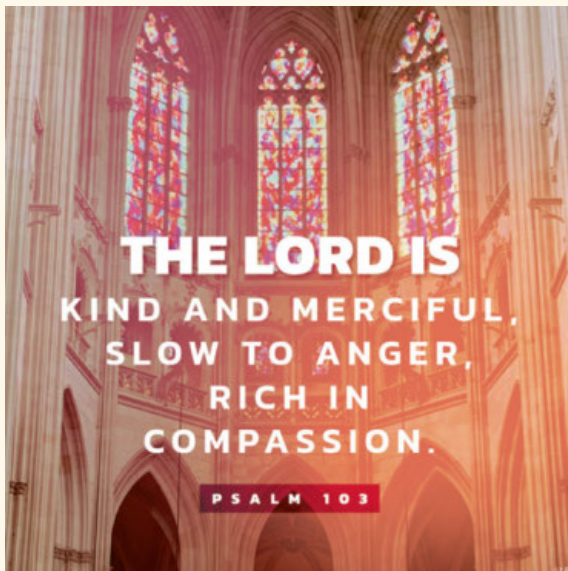
Today's Gospel reading directly follows last week's Gospel in which Jesus taught the disciples how to handle disputes and conflict within the Christian community. In today's reading Peter asks Jesus how many times one ought to extend forgiveness to another. Peter proposes a reasonable number of times, perhaps seven. Jesus replies by extending Peter's proposal by an enormous amount; not just seven times should one forgive, but 77 times. The parable of the unforgiving servant is Jesus' elaboration of his initial reply to Peter. Through the parable we come to understand the depths of God's mercy toward us and the results of our acceptance of God's forgiveness.

The king in the parable decides to settle accounts with his servants. We are told that one servant in particular owes the king an enormous sum of money. Despite the promise of the servant, it is unlikely that he would ever be able to repay the debt that he owes. The king is moved by the humility of the pleading servant and mercifully forgives the debt. Rather than displaying gratitude for this forgiveness, the servant confronts a fellow servant who owes him a small debt—a pittance when compared with the amount that was owed to the king. The unmerciful servant refuses the pleas of his fellow servant and sends the servant to prison.

A few other servants tell the merciful king about the actions of the unforgiving servant. The king punishes the servant because he refused to show the kind of mercy he had himself received from the king. Jesus concludes by indicating that this is how it will be with God and those who refuse to forgive one another.

There is a temptation to quantify forgiveness as Peter tried to do, but Jesus' point is that forgiveness is not about quantity—the number of times we extend forgiveness to another. In the parable the king's forgiveness is like God's forgiveness, and it transforms us, helping us to be as forgiving as God. The lesson is clear: If we hoard God's mercy while showing no mercy to others, we risk forfeiting the effects of God's mercy in our lives.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/24th-sunday-in-ordinary-time-a-sunday-connection/>



Dear Heavenly Father,
oh how our hearts struggle to
forgive wholly and fully.
We thank You for
demonstrating such
forgiveness by graciously
extending it to us. Help us
forgive freely and let go of
bitterness, and grant
us the strength to trust
Your way is best.
In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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