



The Church of Saint Boniface

817 Massachusetts Avenue
Lunenburg, MA 01462



October 1, 2023



26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you.” - Mt 21:31

THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

October 1, 2023 The Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ezekiel 18:25–28 / Philippians 2:1–11 / Matthew 21:28–32

It certainly does seem unfair that a virtuous person can be undone by a single instance of sin, but Ezekiel insists that the LORD does not see it as we do. It is wise to use this example as a reminder to not be complacent, to think that it's not a big deal to act sinfully from time to time because we have a history of doing the right thing. Note that Ezekiel uses the word turn repeatedly to describe the change in behavior of both people. It is our fundamental orientation toward God, toward discipleship, toward virtue, that determines our future. Always keep in mind that we can turn in either direction at any time.

Question of the Week:

How would my behavior change if I reorient myself toward others and away from myself? What could I do this week that I hadn't planned to do and for whom?

"Do nothing out of selfishness; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves..."
(Philippians 2:3)

Pride and ego are hard things to control. We see how others act or dress and think we are superior to them. We idolize our own self-image. But, if we truly believe everything is a gift from God, we recognize all the people that God has put in our lives as gifts! We are grateful for how they enrich our lives. Pray every day for the people in your life: your family, your friends and those who make you angry.

Angel of God,
my guardian dear, to
whom God's love commits
me here, ever this day be at
my side, to light and
guard, to rule and guide.
Amen.

The context for today's Gospel is the mounting tension between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders. Jesus has entered Jerusalem and overturned the money changers' tables in the Temple. Jesus has caught the attention of the religious authorities; the chief priests and elders question Jesus about the source of his authority. Jesus refuses to name for these religious leaders the source of his authority. Instead, he questions the priests and elders through the parable we hear in today's Gospel. The answer given by the religious leaders is correct, but it convicts them for their failure to heed the call of John the Baptist and for their inability to recognize the Kingdom of God.

The situation Jesus poses is rather straightforward. Given the same task by their father, one son asserts his disobedience in words, but then obeys in his actions; the second son obeys with his words, but disobeys in his actions. The question that Jesus poses is pointed and direct: Which son did what the father wanted? All would agree that "actions speak louder than words" and that even if his words were disobedient, the son who did the work as ordered did the father's will.

Jesus' conclusion is also direct. The chief priests and elders, the ones who speak most often about God, did not act accordingly. They did not respond to the message of repentance announced by John the Baptist with a change of heart. Instead, John's message was heeded by those one would not expect to repent—tax collectors, prostitutes, and other sinners. Because of their actions, these sinners will enter the Kingdom of God ahead of the religious leaders.

Jesus could ask us the same question. Do our words indicate our obedience to God? If not our words, do our actions? God desires a full conversion of heart, that our actions (and our words as well) will give evidence of our love for God.

MASS INTENTIONS

Oct 1	8:00 am	Joseph Picucci, by his daughter, Ava
Oct 1	10:30 am	Alfonse A. Cinotti, by Christie LeTarte
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 16	4:00 pm	Bernard J. Robarge, 12th anniversary, by his daughters
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.

Our week for **North Star Family Services** begins **October 8th**. Leaves with items for donation can be found on the window in the rear of the church. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Become a Bernardian!

Join us on Wednesday, Oct. 4 from 6-8:00 pm for St. Bernard's High School Fall Open House. Meet teachers, students, and families while getting a true sense of how much Northern Worcester County's only Catholic high school has to offer you and your family! Register online today: <https://stbernardshighschool.org/openhouse>.

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!

Community Service Day

November 4th
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Please contact Bob Borque at rbourque73@gmail.com
Volunteer sign up sheets are located at the rear of the church.

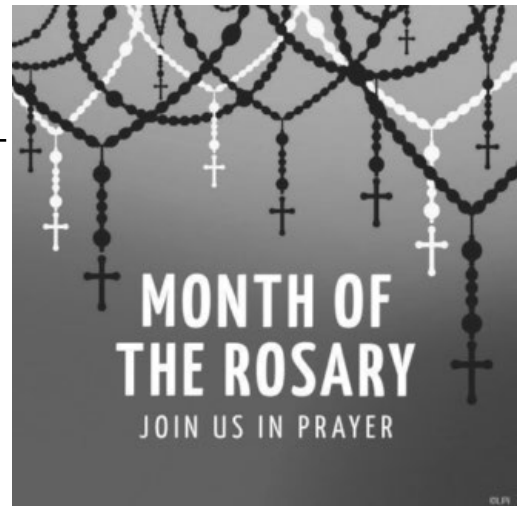


STEWARDSHIP

September 23/24

Sunday	1,776.00
Maintenance /Fuel	10.00
Religious Education	11.00
Catholic School Appeal	<u>393.00</u>
Total	\$2,190.00

Thank you for your continued, generosity and support



Merciful God,
your Son emptied himself
and obediently accepted death,
death on a cross,
to redeem us sinners.
May that ultimate sign of your
love for us
give us confidence
that you hear these prayers
we make in his name,
who is our Lord for ever and

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.

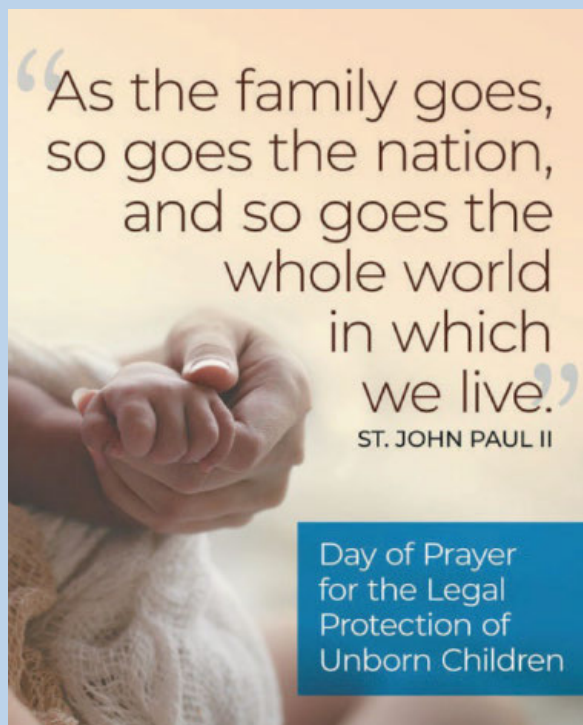
PRAYER LINE MINISTRY If you or someone you know needs prayers or if you would like to be a part of this ministry of those who pray for the needs of neighbors, please contact the parish office at 978-582-4008, email stbonifaceparish@verizon.net or contact Louise Nadeau at dinalou1@comcast.net.

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
Rev. Charles Omolo, Administrator	978-582-4008	stbonifaceparish@verizon.net
Heather Sroka, Administrative Assistant	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.



October 1, 2023
Respect Life Sunday
As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of life to its end, and at every point in between.

www.respectlife.org/celebrate

GUARDIAN ANGEL

A guardian angel is entrusted to a person to guide and to protect them through this life and to lead them safely to the next. Our Heavenly Father sent our angels to guard us against temptations and to help us to make the proper choices in life.

In Scripture, there are numerous references to angels. In Exodus 23:20, God promises an angel for Moses. "See, I am sending an angel before you, to guard you on the way and bring you to the place I have prepared. Be attentive to him and heed his voice." The Psalms help us realize what our angels can do for us. "The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. For to his angels he has given command about you, that they guard you in all your ways."

In the New Testament, Jesus tells us that even little children have guardian angels who are close to the Father. "See that you never despise one of these little ones. I assure you, their angels in heaven constantly behold

my heavenly Father's face." An angel strengthened Christ in the Garden and freed St. Peter from prison.

The duties of angels to defend, to warn, to unite, to console and to inspire us are also seen in the writings of the Fathers of the Church and the lives of the Saints.

St. Thomas states that the lowest order of angels are sent to us and consequently are our guardians. St. Jerome says that the dignity of the soul is great since each has from his birth an angel to guard it. St. Rose of Lima was closely devoted to her Guardian Angel and spoke of times when her angel saved her from danger. Finally, St. Bernard tells his order, "Always remember that you are in the presence of your Guardian Angel."

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❖ *Feast Day: October 2*



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