



The Church of Saint Boniface

817 Massachusetts Avenue
Lunenburg, MA 01462



October 8, 2023

27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." - Mt 21:42ab

THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

October 8, 2023, The Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 5:1-7/ Philippians 4:6-9/ Matthew 21:33-43

It must have been a beautiful vineyard. Impressively built and expensively furnished, it attracted tenants who wanted the finer things in life. They saw the vineyard and they envied its owner. They probably felt that they deserved it and its bountiful harvest. After all, they'd worked all year while the owner traveled far and wide. Who did this absentee owner and lowly servants think they were to take away all that they had produced? They wanted it all for themselves. So they fought to keep it, escalating their fight until they saw their opportunity to keep it forever. Their greed drove them to murder. Their desire to possess what was never truly theirs prevented them from finding joy in living in the beautiful vineyard for the season in the first place. The kingdom of God will be taken from the greedy and given to the generous.

Question of the Week:

What specific thing can I do this week to produce fruit for the kingdom of God?

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel follows directly after last Sunday's Gospel in which Jesus was questioned by Jewish religious leaders about the source of his teaching authority. After refusing to answer their questions, Jesus tells the parable of the two sons and then criticizes the priests and elders for their lack of belief in John the Baptist.

In today's Gospel, Jesus once again speaks to the priests and elders with a parable. In this parable, the landowner leases his vineyard to tenants and sends his servants to collect the portion of the harvest that the tenants owe to him. Several times the servants are sent to collect payment, and each time they are beaten and killed by the tenants. Finally, the landowner sends his son to collect his rent. The tenants, believing that they will inherit the vineyard if the landowner dies without an heir, plot together and kill the landowner's son. After telling the parable, Jesus questions the chief priests and elders about what the landowner will do to the wicked tenants. They all agree that the landowner will kill the wicked tenants and give the land to new tenants who will pay the rent.

In telling the parable, Jesus is clearly drawing upon Isaiah 5:1-7, which is today's first reading and one that the priests and elders would have known well. Jesus doesn't, therefore, have to explain the symbolism of the parable; the Pharisees would have understood that the vineyard represented Israel, the landowner represented God, the servants represented the prophets, and the bad tenants represented the religious leaders. Yet Jesus nonetheless explains the meaning of the parable for his audience: the Kingdom of God will be taken from the unbelieving and given to the faithful. The chief priests and elders have condemned themselves with their answer to Jesus' question.

Today's Gospel has a parallel in Mark 12:1-12. There are some notable differences, however. In Matthew's version, the religious leaders condemn themselves; in Mark's Gospel, Jesus answers his own question. Matthew names the religious leaders as Pharisees and chief priests. Clearly this Gospel shows the tension that was mounting between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders who thought that his message was dangerous. Matthew's Gospel was written about 70 years after Jesus' death and reflects the conflicts and tensions found in the Christian community for whom Matthew was writing. Many biblical scholars believe that the tension between Matthew's community and their Jewish neighbors can also be heard in today's reading.

This Gospel reminds us of the importance of listening to God's word. God speaks to us in many ways—through Scripture, through our Church tradition, in our Church's teaching, and through modern-day prophets. Are we attentive and receptive to God's word to us through these messengers?

MASS INTENTIONS

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.

Food donations for September and October will go to the St. Francis Food Pantry in Fitchburg. Thank you for your continued generosity.

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.

Bereavement Support Group

Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, 111 Worcester Street, West Boylston will hold its next 6-part series of "A New Day" bereavement support group beginning Monday, Oct. 16, 1-2:30 pm. For more information or to register (required prior to the start of the sessions) call Renate Isbell (508) 835-3286.

Respect Life Month Novena October 13-21

Join thousands of Catholics praying for the protection of human life from conception to natural death. The Respect Life Month novena takes place Friday, Oct. 13 – Saturday, Oct. 21. Get daily intentions, brief reflections, and more. Sign up at respectlife.org.

Rosary Rally in Worcester

Please join us on Saturday, Oct. 14 at Noon in front of Our Lady of the Angels Church, Worcester as we pray the rosary to save souls. The voice of our community's Rosary Rally will be part of over 22,000 Rosary Rallies across the Nation. America will be blanketed in prayer, asking God to have mercy on America, through Our Lady's intercession.

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.

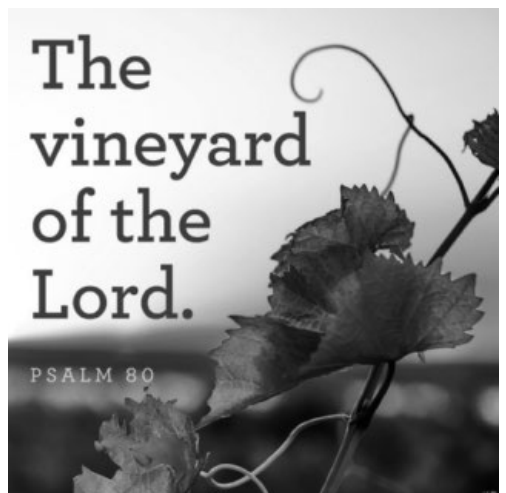


STEWARDSHIP

September 30/October 1

Sunday	2,321.00
Maintenance /Fuel	427.00
Holy Day	10.00
Catholic School Appeal	<u>25.00</u>
Total	\$2,783.00

Thank you for your continued, generosity and support



God of all kindness,
you have given us the mission
to be stewards of your creation.
Guide us in its loving care,
grant us hope for the future,
and empower us to
work without tiring,
for the cornerstone of
the kingdom,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

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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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.

Celebrating 50 Years of Respect Life Month!

Did you know that 2023 is the FIFTIETH YEAR that the U.S. Church has been celebrating October as Respect Life Month? That is quite a milestone! This demonstrates how important and fundamental it is, and in fact, an integral part of our Catholic identity, that we reverence God's gift of human life from conception to natural death.

This year's Respect Life Program theme is "Radical Solidarity", reminding us that we are called to accompany those who are most vulnerable with the love of Christ, particularly those at life's beginning and at life's end.

www.respectlife.org/celebrate

Almighty God, giver of all that is good, we
thank You for the precious gift of human
life:

For life in the womb, coming from your
creative power,

For the life of children, making us glad
with their freshness and promise,

For the life of young people, hoping for a
better world,

For the life of people who are disabled,
teaching us that every life has value,

For the life of the elderly, witnessing to
the ageless values of patience and wisdom.

Like Blessed Mary, may we always say "YES"
to Your gift. May we defend it and promote
it from conception to its natural end. And
bring us at last, O Father, to the fullness of
eternal life in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen





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