



THE CHURCH OF SAINT BONIFACE

817 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
LUNENBURG, MA 01462



OCTOBER 22, 2023



THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

OCTOBER 22, 2023 THE TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Isaiah 45:1, 4-6 / 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b / Matthew 22:15-21

The ancient proverb, “the enemy of my enemy is my friend” applies perfectly to Cyrus the Great, king of Persia. He had set his sights on building an enormous empire that would extend from central Asia to the Mediterranean. But the Babylonians, who had destroyed Jerusalem and driven much of the Jewish population from Judah, stood in the way. Cyrus was well known for respecting the religions and traditions of the people living in the regions he conquered, so the Jewish people greeted him as a liberator, not another oppressor. Therefore, Isaiah has the audacity to say that Cyrus must have been called by God, anointed by God, in his mission to defeat the Jewish nation’s greatest enemy, the Babylonians.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

What can I do concretely to repay to God what belongs to God? How does giving back to God make

“Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.”

(Matthew 22:21)

Everything we are and everything we have belongs to God. We aren’t “owners” of anything, we are merely “stewards” of the gifts God has given each of us. All God is asking is that we give back a portion of what He gave us. This is the essence of Stewardship. God should be our first priority in everything. All else comes second, especially our money.

* Isaiah goes on to say that God called Cyrus by name, anointed him, armed him, and gave him his title, even though Cyrus does not even know who God is. It doesn’t matter. We ourselves may feel inadequate when it comes to knowing God or understanding God, but this should not worry us. The important thing is that God knows us. From the leader of the largest empire in history at the time to the tiniest sparrow who falls to earth, God knows every living being in creation.

* Some of the Pharisees seek to entrap Jesus, asking him a question designed to get him in trouble with either the religious or government authorities. But Jesus finds a clever way to answer sensibly and safely. Had Caesar heard his answer, he would have been pleased that Jesus’ followers could be counted on to continue to pay the census tax. But maybe we should ask: What did Caesar have that did not first come from God? All creation has its source in God, and so truly all creation belongs to God. Neither Cyrus nor Caesar likely realized it, but despite all their power and all their wealth, they stood in God’s debt. Even more do we owe God for all we have been given, from what we have here in this world to our eventual destiny in the next.

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR WORLD MISSION DAY 2023

For this year’s World Mission Sunday, I have chosen a theme inspired by the story of the disciples on the way to Emmaus, in the Gospel of Luke (cf. 24:13-35): “Hearts on fire, feet on the move”. Those two disciples were confused and dismayed, but their encounter with Christ in the word and in the breaking of the bread sparked in them the enthusiastic desire to set out again towards Jerusalem and proclaim that the Lord had truly risen. In the Gospel account, we perceive this change in the disciples through a few revealing images: *their hearts burned within them* as they heard the Scriptures explained by Jesus, *their eyes were opened* as they recognized him and, ultimately, *their feet set out* on the way. By meditating on these three images, which reflect the journey of all missionary disciples, we can renew our zeal for evangelization in today’s world.

MASS INTENTIONS

OCT 21	4:00 PM	ROBERT CONNNORS
OCT 22	10:30 AM	MICHAEL BRISSON
NOV 4	4:00 PM	VIRGINIA FERNANDES
NOV 5	8:00 AM	WESLEY LAFORD
NOV 25	4:00 PM	LOUIS ARRUDA & ANGELINA ARRUDA
NOV 26	8:00 AM	ANNE RIVARD
NOV 26	10:30 PM	HARRY SCOFIELD
DEC 16	4:00 PM	BERNARD J. ROBARGE

Prayer of the Rosary

Every Saturday at 3:30 pm in the church, led by members of the St. Boniface Knights of Columbus.

Calling All Singers!

Please Join our choir on Thursday, November 6th at 6:00 p.m. to prepare for the Advent Season. During Advent the choir will be singing at the 10:30 am masses as well as the Christmas masses. There will be a choir sign-up sheet on the window in the rear of the church. All skill levels are welcome.

Thank you!

Many thanks to all the parishioners who contributed to the food and supplies needed for the North Star Family Shelter last week. There were four homeless families in the shelter. A special thanks to Nancy Murray and Erin Peplowski, Buffy Penzola, Judit Ernst, Lori Craig and Carol Archambault who cooked for the families. North Star is in need of volunteers to come and play with the kids on Tuesday evenings while the parents are in class. If you are interested in doing so for our next week of volunteering, please reach out to Allison Lilly at allison.lilly@comcast.net. You will need to complete a CORI as is required of all their volunteers.

Community Service Day

Saturday, November 4th from 9:00 a.m.–1:00 pm. Please contact Bob Bourque at rbourque@gmail.com. Volunteer sign-up sheets are located at the entrances of the church.

You're Invited—

The Knights of Columbus will hold an information session to discuss and share how the Knights can assist families during these tough economic times. Please prayerfully consider attending and join them in fellowship on November 1st at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall.

Harvest Fair in Grafton

The Popular, annual Harvest Fair fundraiser to benefit the combined 3 Grafton Churches now known as Our Lady of Hope Parish will be held at St. James Church Hall, 89 Main Street, S. Grafton on Saturday, Nov. 4 from 9 am– 3 pm. There will be something for everyone. *Come browse, buy, have breakfast or lunch, meet friends, and have fun!*

STEWARDSHIP

Sunday: \$3,072.00
Maintenance/Fuel: \$51.00
World Mission: \$5.00
September Online: . \$4,159.00

Thank you for your continued, generosity and support



Generous God, we
look to you as the
source of all that is
good. Hear the
prayers we make to
you today so that all
in need will be filled
at the table of
your bounty.
We ask this through
Christ our Lord.

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:

Rev. Charles Omolo, Administrator
Heather Sroka, Administrative Assistant
Lucy Marcil, Religious Ed Coordinator (Grades 1-5)
Terry Stramowski, Religious Ed Coordinator (Grades 6-10)
Judit Ernst, Music Ministry
Louise Nadeau, Sacristan
Ministry Schedule
Nina Charpentier, Director, Preschool

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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.

TODAYS GOSPEL

Background on the Gospel Reading

In today's Gospel Jesus and the religious leaders in Jerusalem continue their tense exchange of questions and challenges. At this point the disciples of the Pharisees, together with the Herodians, try to entrap Jesus by their question about the payment of taxes.

Matthew sets up an unusual partnership between the Pharisees and the Herodians. The Herodians were supporters of Herod Antipas, a Jewish political leader who collaborated with the Romans. Such collaboration would have required a compromised observance of the Mosaic Law. The Pharisees, on the other hand, taught scrupulous observance of the Mosaic Law and opposed Roman occupation. Herodians favored the payment of taxes; the Pharisees opposed it. The Herodians and the Pharisees approach Jesus, asking that he take sides in their dispute. If Jesus answers with the Pharisees, he shows himself to be an enemy of Rome. If he answers with the Herodians, he offends popular Jewish religious sensibilities.

Jesus' response to this attempt to trap him exposes the guile of his questioners. From his first words to them, Jesus shows that he is very much aware of what they are trying to do. He asks to see a Roman coin, which is readily provided to him. It may have come from the hand of a Herodian, but the Pharisees show themselves to be quite willing to accept this compromise. Jesus has already exposed the Pharisees as hypocrites.

Jesus takes his response one step further. He asks that his questioners examine the coin. Agreeing that it is Caesar's image on the coin, Jesus tells them that it must belong to Caesar. Avoiding the question of lawfulness altogether, Jesus answers their question with simple logic. Then, going further still, Jesus tells them that their obligation is to pay to God that which belongs to God.

Jesus' response to the Herodians and Pharisees suggests the ethic that Christians ought to adopt. It reminds us of the importance of keeping things in their proper perspective. Do we attach ourselves to worldly things at the expense of the love and honor that we owe to God?

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