

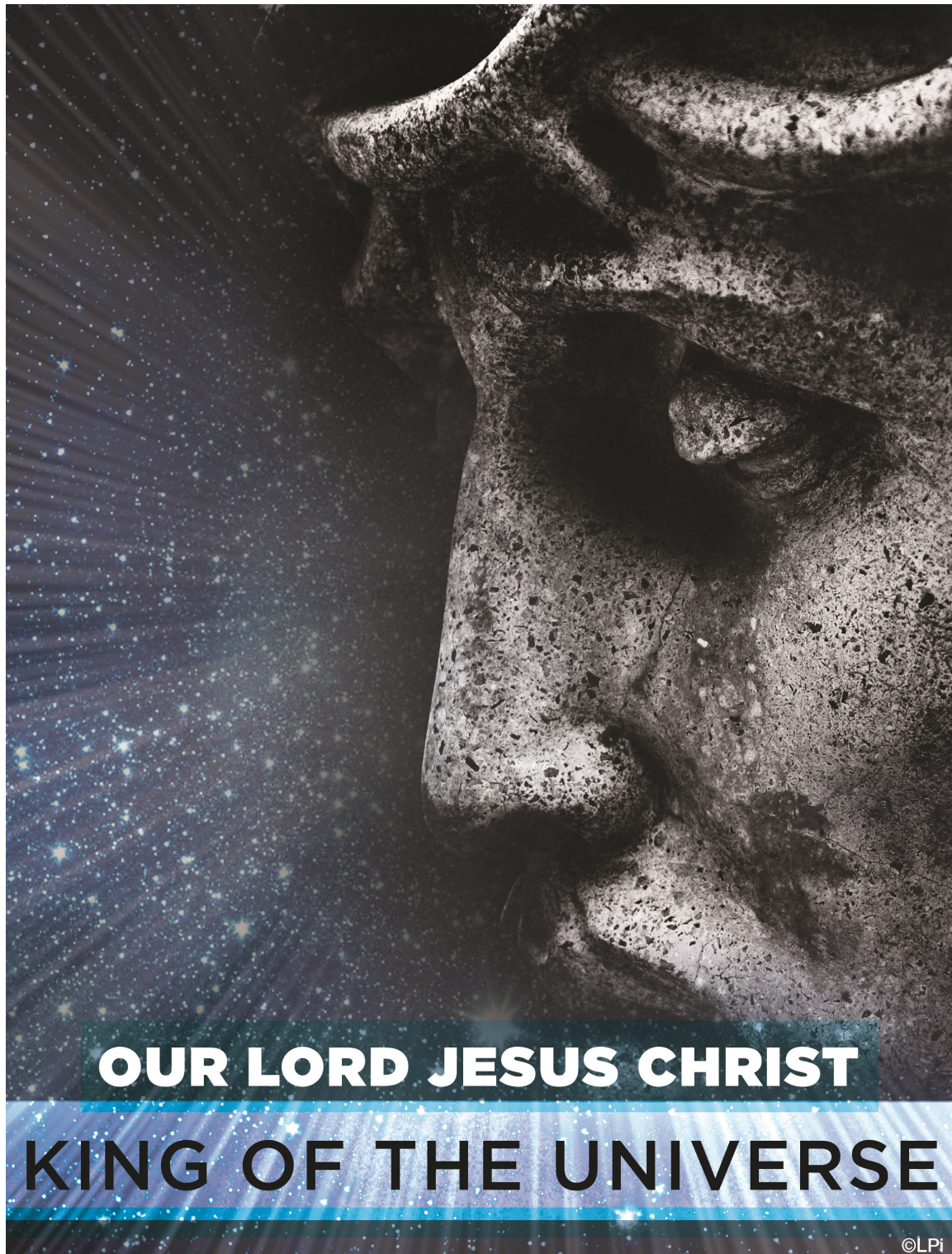


THE CHURCH OF SAINT BONIFACE

817 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
LUNENBURG, MA 01462



NOVEMBER 26, 2023



THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

NOVEMBER 26, 2023 / SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE KING

Ezekiel 34:11–12, 5–17 / 1 Corinthians 15:20–26, 28 / Matthew 25:31–46

What is the secret? How can we gain the kingdom? Easy. Give food to Jesus when he is hungry, drink when he is thirsty. Welcome him and clothe him as a poor stranger. Care for him when he is ill. Visit him when he is in prison. But clearly it will not be the Son of God personally that is any of these things. No, it will be the least of his brothers and sisters. The secret, then, is to see beyond our superficial vision. Our eyes may see a homeless person, a poor beggar, a refugee, a person in pain, a convict. Our eyes of faith must look harder. With eyes of faith, we can see Christ in everyone in need.

Question of the Week: Whom do I overlook and in whom do I fail to see Christ? How can I force myself to look past surface impressions?

“...whatever you did for one of the least of my brothers, you did for me.” (MATTHEW 25:40)

Most of us are generous when it's convenient for us. We are generous when we have the time or the money. But, real generosity is the opposite of that. It means giving of one's time, money, compassion, forgiveness or mercy when it's not convenient to us, when it's not on our schedule, but on the other person's timeline.

Act of Love

O my God, I love you above all things, with my whole heart and soul, because you are all good and worthy of all love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of you. I forgive all who have injured me and ask pardon of all who I have injured. Amen.

Family Connection

In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches us that we will be judged on only one thing: the acts of mercy we have shown to the least among us. Jesus identifies with the least ones; thus we serve Jesus whenever we serve one of the least ones. The Church calls the actions that Jesus described in today's Gospel the Corporal Works of Mercy. These works are to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to bury the dead, to shelter the homeless, to visit the sick and imprisoned, and to give alms to the poor. In these actions we show God's compassion and mercy to those in need.

As you gather as a family, recall the list of the Corporal Works of Mercy. Talk about some concrete examples of how your family might do these actions in your community and then discuss why it is important that we do these things. Read Matthew 25:31-46. Ask: Why does Jesus say we ought to do these works of mercy? (Because whenever we show mercy to another person, we show mercy to Jesus himself.) Choose one Corporal Work of Mercy that your family will act upon this week. Pray together that your family will see and serve Jesus in the least ones among us. Pray the Lord's Prayer or an Act of Love.

www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection

MASS INTENTIONS

NOV 25	4:00	PM	LOUIS & ANGELINA ARRUDA
NOV 26	8:00	AM	ANNE RIVARD
NOV 26	10:30	PM	HARRY SCHOFIELD
DEC 2	4:00	PM	ELAINE CHARPENTIER
DEC 9	4:00	PM	OTTAVIO & ANTONIA ANGELINI
DEC 16	4:00	PM	BERNARD J. ROBARGE
DEC 23	4:00	PM	ANGELINA ARRUDA
JAN 13	4:00	PM	PETER CHARPENTIER
JAN 21	8:30	AM	THOMAS COTTER

Prayer of the Rosary

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

Food Donations for the months of November and December will go to Catholic Charities of Leominster. Donations can be placed in the rear of the church. Thank you for your continued generosity.

The Montachusett Chorale will present its Holiday Concert, "Sounds of the Season", on Sunday, December 3rd at 2pm in Tata Auditorium at Leominster City Hall, 25 West St. The concert will benefit The Leominster Flood Relief Fund. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door and under 18 admitted free. Tickets are available in the Mayor's Office at Leominster City Hall or on Venmo under charities at: @The Montachusett Chorale.

Donations Needed

For many, many years, St. Boniface parishioners have provided Christmas gifts for residents of two local rest homes: Village Rest Home in Leominster and Penny Lane in Fitchburg. Our tradition continues this year as sign ups become available this weekend. Please pick a name, shop for a gift that you wrap and label with the recipient's name and return to the labeled bins after masses no later than December 10. We also would like to include some Christmas treats (cookies, etc.) for the guests to enjoy during the holidays; perhaps our bakers will pitch in! Please see Mary Bourque or Mary Powers after masses on the next two Sundays to sign up and receive a name and requested gift. You will help Santa make someone's Christmas merrier!

Looking for something to do in the upcoming weeks. Please consider supporting the Lunenburg High School Basketball Booster Club in their upcoming community Holiday Fair. Over 25 vendors including some of our very own talented parishioners will be there. This is a wonderful way to support our younger parishioners who volunteer and contribute to our parish community.



STEWARDSHIP

Thank you for your continued, generosity and support



The Feast of Christ the King was instituted in 1925 to address growing attitudes of secularism and atheism and to proclaim Christ's kingship forever. The day also marks the final Sunday on the Church's Liturgical Calendar.

God of all, we stand before you hungry and thirsty, naked and alien, ill and imprisoned. Grant us the grace to recognize that we all stand in need before you, as you listen to the prayers we make, through Jesus Christ, our King.

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

phone

978-582-4008
978-582-4008
978-502-7993
978-855-2104
978-582-4008
978-582-7110

email

stbonifaceparish@verizon.net
stbonifaceparish@verizon.net
lmarcil419@gmail.com
gr610@cfftstboniface.onmicrosoft.com
juditernst@comcast.net
stbonifaceparish@verizon.net
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.

TODAYS GOSPEL

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel passage is the conclusion of Jesus' discourse with his disciples. It is about the end of time, the coming of the Son of Man, and the final judgment. We hear this description of the final judgment at the conclusion of our liturgical year, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King. In the context of Matthew's Gospel, this passage might also be read as a conclusion of Matthew's report on Jesus' life and ministry; the remaining chapters report the events of Jesus' Passion and Resurrection.

In today's Gospel, Jesus describes to his disciples the scene of the judgment of the Son of Man. All the nations will be assembled before him, and he will separate them as a shepherd separates sheep and goats upon their return from the pasture. The judgments made by the Son of Man will be based upon the acts of mercy shown to the least ones—the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the ill, and the imprisoned. Indeed, Jesus, who suffered on the Cross, identifies himself with the least ones.

Recall that last week's parable of the talents taught us that the gifts that we have been given are intended to be used for the service of others, especially the least among us. Our judgment before God will be based not only on how we have used these gifts and talents, but also on how we have extended ourselves in service to these least ones. Indeed, Jesus tells us that whenever we have served these least ones, we have served Christ himself.

When we read today's Gospel in the context of the chapters that follow in Matthew's Gospel, we learn the extent to which Jesus identifies with the least ones. In accepting death on the cross, Jesus shows himself to be one of the hungry, the naked, the ill, and the imprisoned. To accept Jesus is to accept him who suffered and died on the Cross as one of the least ones. www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection



All Soul's Day— In Memory of:

Angelina and Louis Arruda

Maryann and Joe Arruda

Christine Carbon

Charles Hastings

Louise Hebert,

Helen P. Keating

John P. Keating,

Keith E. Keating,

Paul T. Keating

Winfred Keating,

Rose and Manuel Laite

James McBride, Jr.

James McBride, Sr.

Joseph McBride

Eleanor O'Hara

Walter O'Hara

Blanche Ridley

Anne Rivard

Wilfred Rivard

Priscilla Rivard

Bernard & Madelyn Roberts