

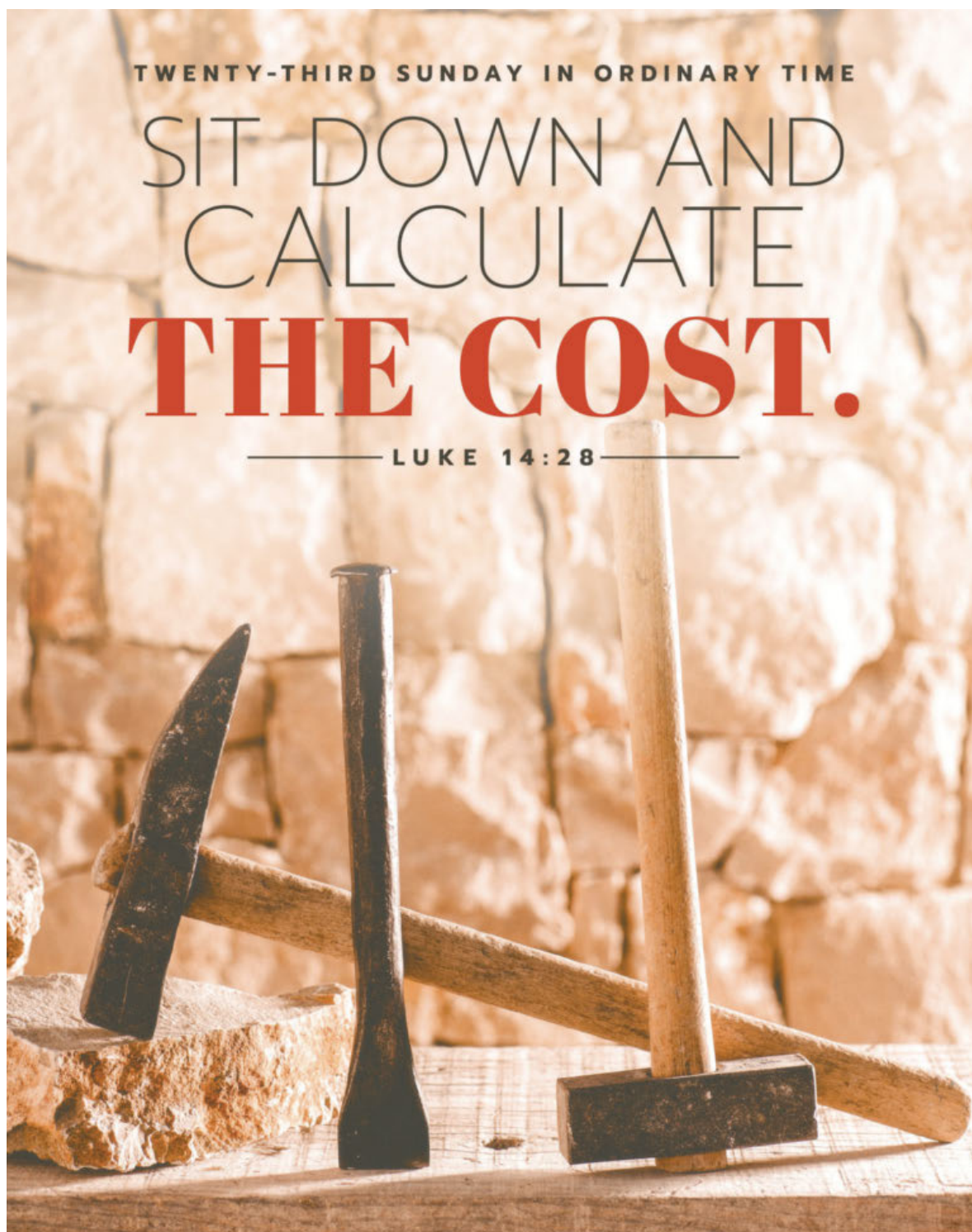


THE CHURCH OF SAINT BONIFACE

817 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
LUNENBURG, MA 01462



SEPTEMBER 7, 2025



THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025 / TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Wisdom 9:13-18b/ Philemon 9-10, 12-17/ Luke 14:25-33

Jesus' words to the crowds are difficult to hear. The demands he makes of his disciples are too much. Hate your family? Carry your own cross? Renounce all your possessions? They range from unreasonable to unthinkable. Can he possibly mean to be so harsh? First, consider that the use of the Greek *misei* for hating one's family could well be an example of semitic hyperbole, intended to shock when "reject," not "hate," could be more appropriate. Secondly, renouncing all possessions doesn't necessarily mean leaving oneself destitute, but no longer regarding what you have as your own property. To follow Jesus means to choose Jesus, who gives us everything we need, even the promise of eternal life, over those things most dear to us: our families, our homes, our wealth, and all our "stuff." Let us look to his first disciples: the twelve apostles. They left their families, their homes, and their possessions, choosing to live a difficult lifestyle instead. Every day they calculated the cost of discipleship and concluded that following Jesus was worth everything they gave up.

Question of the Week: How do I feel challenged by Jesus' demands of discipleship?

Gospel Meditation

One hot Arizona summer afternoon my car ran out of gas. I phoned the parish office and begged for help. My secretary came and helped me fill the gas tank. She chided me, "If you can't manage getting your car from A to B, how can we expect you to guide the parish where it needs to go?" Point taken, Julie. I vowed to always make sure I have plenty of gas in my car.

The Lord Jesus chides us in this week's Gospel, too. He uses the two images of a man building a tower and a king marching soldiers into war to make this single point: acquire what is needed to follow him or look ridiculous. We rightly mock the builder who lacks money for his tower and the king with a short-handed army. But our mocking boomerangs back on us. How do we expect to follow Jesus to the end with insufficient detachment from our possessions and divided hearts?

The good news is, there is still time. Jesus is building a great tower to heaven-his own body. So we renounce all and give ourselves to him as his precious stones. Jesus is waging a battle against our enemy. So we forsake all and swear allegiance and march under his banner. In this way, we will finish what has begun in our discipleship. Or better put, our Lord will have the stones and soldiers required to see his great work through.

– Father John Muir
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Prayer of Simplicity

Dear God,
In my desire for You, take away anything that keeps me from knowing You, myself, or my mission here on earth. Help me to remember what is truly important, and to seek and treasure that.
Amen.

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MASS INTENTIONS

SEP 13	4:00 PM	FRANK DIGIACOMO
SEP 20	4:00 PM	WAYNE DUFOUR
SEP 27	4:00 PM	DON FEATHERSTONE
OCT 4	4:00 PM	JOSEPH PICUCCI JR.
OCT 12	10:30 AM	MICHAEL BRISSON
OCT 18	4:00 PM	WAYNE DUFOUR
OCT 25	4:00 PM	DON FEATHERSTONE
NOV 2	8:00 AM	WESLEY LAFORD
NOV 15	4:00 PM	WAYNE DUFOUR
NOV 22	4:00 PM	DON FEATHERSTONE
NOV 22	4:00 PM	LOUIS & ANGELINA ARRUDA

Prayer of the Rosary

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

Food Donations for the months of September and October will go to St. Francis food pantry. Donations can be placed in the rear of the church. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Spaghetti Supper

On Saturday October 4th from 5:00-7:00PM at St Cecilia Parish Hall. There will be a Spaghetti Supper. It will include salad, pasta with sauce, meatballs, bread, desserts and beverage! Raffles of gift baskets and 50/50 raffle! \$15 for adults and \$8 for children (ten and under). Tickets available at Saint Cecilia rectory and Saint Leo rectory. The Sierra Club works to support our seminarians and to promote all vocations to the priesthood. For more information on joining Serra North, please email us at msgr@stceciliachurch.net

Scholarship Opportunity

The St. Thomas More Society of the Diocese of Worcester is offering a scholarship of varying amounts to a law student attending an accredited law school in the fall. Applicants or parents must be registered and active members of a parish in the Diocese of Worcester. Applicants may be in any year of law school studies. Applications and qualification requirements may be found by visiting the diocesan website, www.worcesterdiocese.org/st-thomas-more-society, by mailing requests to: St. Thomas More Society, Chancery Office, 49 Elm Street, Worcester, MA 01609 or by calling 508-929-4345. Applications are due on or before October 1, 2025.

Songs in the Key of Love

On Saturday, September 27th the Montachusett Chorale will be presenting an evening of songs from the great American Songbook as a benefit for Saint Cecilia's parish. It's at 6:30 PM at Leominster City Hall. Tickets are \$25 and include a glass of wine and appetizers and pastries. Call church rectory 978-537-6541 or Mayor's Office.

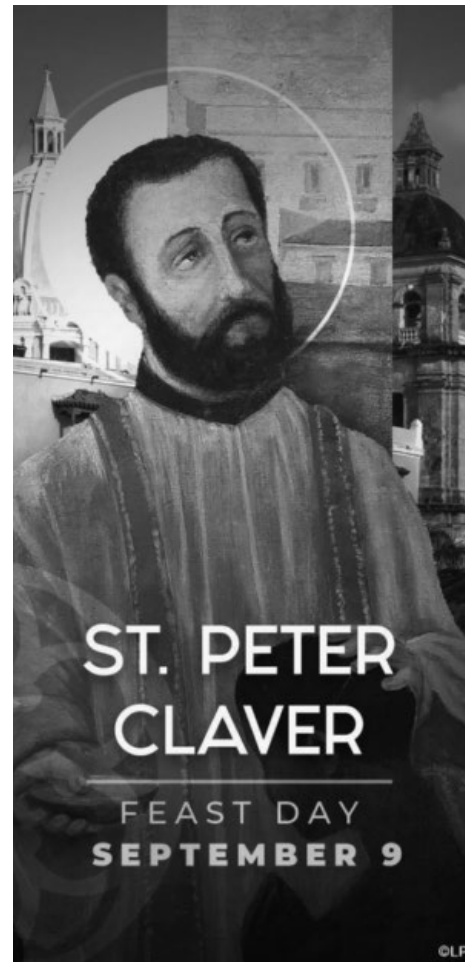
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Parish Office: 978-582-4008 email: stbonifaceparish@verizon.net

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Parish Office Hours

Monday / Wednesday 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:30 am | Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm
Memorial Day through Labor Day — Sunday: 9:00 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 5:00-5:30 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 Thomas St. George at tjstgeorge@gmail.com 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
Parish Office
Lucy Marcil, Religious Ed Coordinator
Carolyn Farley, Music Ministry
Judit Ernst, Organist
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.

7 Saints for Back – to – School Season

It's here already—back-to-school season. Every August, it seems to sneak up on us. The start of a new school year can feel a little overwhelming, but it's also a fresh opportunity, for students and non-students alike, to get organized, refocus our priorities, be inspired to keep learning, and pursue excellence. As Catholics, we don't have to face this season on our own. The saints are powerful intercessors and faithful friends who want to help us along the way. Here are seven saints to pray with during this back-to-school season:

St. Thomas Aquinas – Patron of Scholars

St. Thomas is a classic patron for students. He wasn't just brilliant—he also knew how to place his learning in service of God. His famous prayer before study is still prayed by students today. Pray to him when: you need focus, clarity, and the wisdom to use your studies well.

St. Joseph of Cupertino – Patron of Exams

Known for his struggles in academics, St. Joseph passed his priestly exams by a small miracle. His story gives hope to anyone who feels overwhelmed by tests. Pray to him when: you're facing exams or presentations and need peace and confidence.

St. Catherine of Alexandria – Patron of Students and Philosophers

Brilliant, articulate, and courageous, St. Catherine defended the faith with wisdom that amazed scholars of her time. Pray to her when: you're writing essays, preparing debates, or need courage to stand up for the truth.

St. Monica – Patron of Mothers

St. Monica prayed faithfully for her son, St. Augustine, through years of difficulty. She is a model of perseverance and trust in God. Pray to her when: you feel worried about your children's choices or need encouragement to stay patient and prayerful.

St. Joseph – Patron of Workers and Families

As the foster father of Jesus, St. Joseph balanced the demands of family life and daily work with quiet strength. He understands the challenges of providing and caring for a household. Pray to him when: you're balancing schedules, work, and family life during the hectic school year.

St. Frances of Rome – Patron of Homemakers

Known for managing her household with love and holiness while still serving the poor, St. Frances shows how ordinary tasks can be sanctified. Pray to her when: you need grace in the busyness of chores, errands, and after-school routines.

St. Gianna Molla – Patron of Mothers and Physicians

A modern saint, St. Gianna was a doctor, wife, and mother who managed the challenges of modern family life with deep faith. Pray to her when: you're stretched thin between family responsibilities and personal demands, and need peace in the middle of it all.

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