

THE CHURCH OF SAINT BONIFACE

817 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
LUNENBURG, MA 01462



SEPTEMBER 14, 2025



THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man." For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. - Jn 3:13, 17

THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025 / THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Numbers 21:4b-9/ Philippians 2:6-11/ John 3:13-17

When those sinners who had been bitten by venomous snakes looked upon the bronze serpent that Moses lifted up high, they lived. Compare this with what Jesus tells Nicodemus, that those sinners who look upon the Son of Man, who would be lifted up, will have eternal life. Through the cross, like a venomous snake, an instrument of death, our immortal souls are saved. As God gave new life to the sinful people in the desert, Christ offers new life to us in the desert of sin. Jesus' self-sacrificing love for us brings us healing and life.

Question of the Week: How can I imitate Christ by helping someone else carry their cross, as he helps me carry mine?

Gospel Meditation

One of my favorite movies is the 1991 comedy *What About Bob?* Bill Murray plays a troubled, paranoid hypochondriac named Bob Wiley who innocently but annoyingly hounds Dr. Leo Marvin, played by Richard Dreyfuss. Bob is paralyzed by his fear of, well, everything, and is convinced the psychologist can heal him. But Dr. Marvin's failed attempts to heal Bob end up driving the doctor to attempt to murder Bob. He fails. The surprise is that, having faced death head on, Bob is suddenly healed. He attributes his healing to Dr. Marvin for break-through "death therapy." In facing the cause of his deepest illness and dysfunction, Bob is healed.

Underneath this light-hearted comedy is a dead-serious resonance with this week's feast: the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Christ is lifted up on the cross to force us to face the truth of sin and death. In that reckoning we find healing. Like Moses' snake on a pole, the cross says: this is what is causing your sickness – rebellion, disobedience, sin. Look at it! Don't run from it. Now seeing it exposed, we see life. We see our physician mercifully healing us. In this sense, we are all like Bob Wiley. The "death therapy" of the cross is our only hope for healing.

This week I invite you to "exalt the cross." If you don't have one in your house, get one. Use it for prayer. Gaze on it frequently. It teaches us to not be afraid. It heals us.

– Father John Muir
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Prayer of Love

Dear God,
Expand my heart in new ways today, to understand the love You have for me, to take that love deeply into myself, and to act from that love.
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
NOV22	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 can 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.

STEWARDSHIP

Aug 31

Sunday	2,627.00
Fuel/Maintenance	30.00
Holy Day	17.00
Catholic School	20.00
Total	\$2,694.00



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SAINT BONIFACE CHURCH

817 Massachusetts Avenue, Lunenburg, MA 01462
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
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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.

Which saint was called to conversion by the voice of a child?

St. Augustine was not saint material to begin with. Though gifted with a brilliant mind, he was a womanizer, a rowdy drunk, an occasional thief, and an unbeliever.

Yet, his mother, St. Monica, prayed continually for his conversion. For many years, her prayers seemed to be unanswered. From Carthage to Rome to Milan, St. Augustine pursued only fleeting pleasures, engaged in entangling affairs, practiced the anti-Christian polytheistic religion Manichaeism, and distanced himself from his mother and her devout faith.

As her son risked his eternal soul and dismissed his inheritance of faith, St. Monica could only watch, deeply pained, and continue to pray for her beloved son.

These years of constant prayer were rewarded when one night, St. Augustine heard the soft voice of a child call out to him from the darkness. The voice urged him to “take up and read.”

When he did so, he read a passage from St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans, which said:

“Not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying, but put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to fulfill the lusts thereof.” (Romans 13:13-14)

The words of St. Paul spoke through the centuries and cut directly to St. Augustine’s heart. Moved by the power of Scripture, St. Augustine began to yearn for truth.

After decades of loss, pain, and disappointment, St. Monica’s prayers were answered. On the Easter Vigil in 387 A.D., St. Augustine was baptized. He became a priest, then a bishop, preached over 6,000 sermons, fought heresies, explained doctrine, became one of the greatest Fathers and Doctors of the Church, and continues to inspire souls through his writings and intercession.

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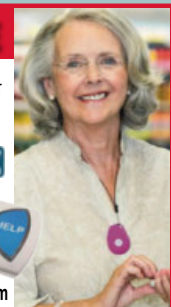
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