

THE CHURCH OF SAINT BONIFACE

817 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
LUNENBURG, MA 01462



OCTOBER 26, 2025

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

O GOD,
BE MERCIFUL TO
ME A SINNER.

— LUKE 18:13 —



THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

OCTOBER 26, 2025 / THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18/ 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18/ Luke 18:9-14

By all signs, the Pharisee is a laudable person. He fasts, he gives alms, he visits the temple and prays. In other words, he practices the three traditional works of the faith. But his self-righteous attitude puts him in the wrong relationship with God. He has no sense of needing God for anything. He doesn't thank God for the grace to be a good person, but with disdain for people who sin. That the Pharisee "spoke this prayer to himself" could merely mean he is not speaking it aloud, but it's also the case that he's addressing himself more than God (Luke 18:11). He seems to be patting himself on the back more than thanking God with sincere gratitude. When we become too full of ourselves, too convinced that we are the reason for our own goodness, we forget our own humanity. We forget that we are flawed creatures in need of forgiveness and mercy.

Question of the Week: In what senses am I poor, in need of God's grace? Do I recognize this poverty when I pray?

Gospel Meditation

Every now and then readers of these reflections write letters in which they object to something. Years ago, this Gospel of Luke 18 prompted such an email. A man wrote to me: "I find it deeply offensive that you suggest we are still sinners once we are God's sons and daughters." His objection stirred in me a profound awareness of the paradox at the heart of our faith. Are we sinners or beloved children of God?

In this Gospel (Luke 18:9-14), a tax collector appears as one who has missed the mark. His sins have isolated him. His breast-beating is not an act of self-flagellation for pride's sake but a heartfelt admission of his failure and unworthiness. Remarkably, Jesus honors the candid humility of the parable's penitent. Why? Because we are always in need of mercy, always. But even more, perhaps because on the cross, Jesus will fully embrace a similar place of humiliation and rejection. He will enter into the most shameful, offensive place of the sinner so that we might "go home justified."

There is a sacred tension in admitting that we are sinners and yet have profound hope. We are beloved sons and daughters of God, growing precisely through our honest acceptance of failure. When we cry, "Have mercy on us," during Mass or when we repeat the "Jesus Prayer" in quiet moments, or in the confessional, we embrace our imperfections as fertile ground for divine grace. In doing so, we follow Christ's example – finding true exaltation in the humble acknowledgment of our human frailty..

– *Father John Muir*
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Prayer of Praise

Dear God,
As we look to the week ahead, help us to remember that You will accompany us at every moment – You who greet us with mercy anew every morning, and grace in abundance each night.
Amen.

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MASS INTENTIONS

OCT 24	8:00 AM	DIANE RAPTERY
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 & ANGELNA ARRUDA
NOV 23	10:00 AM	ANNE RIVARD
DEC 20	4:00 PM	WAYNE DUFOUR
DEC 20	4:00 PM	ANGELINA ARRUDA
DEC 27	4:00 PM	DON FEATHERSTONE

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.

North Star Family Shelter

Our next week to support the North Star family shelter dinner and weekly groceries begins November 9th. Tags will be in the back of the church under the North Star basket. Please put any donations in the basket with the tags, so it doesn't get confused with pantry donations, prior to the 10am Mass on 11/9. Refrigerated items can be placed in the downstairs refrigerator.

If any parishioner enjoys cooking and is able to cook a meal for the families, or if anyone has questions about this ministry, please call Allison Lilly at 617-947-3574. Thank you for your many years of supporting the unhoused families in our community.

Community Clean-Up Day

Our annual Parish's Community Clean-up Day will take place on Saturday, November 1 from 9 am to 1 pm. We are asking you to consider assisting us this year. We will again help some of our fellow parishioners with cleaning and raking of their yards.

We will meet in the upper parking lot of our church at 8:50 am on Saturday, November 1. Please consider giving of your time to this worthy annual activity.

Any amount of time that you are able to help will be much appreciated. To sign up or for further information contact Bob Bourque at bobbourque@comcast.net

Montachusett Chorale

The Montachusett Chorale will present a Program of Remembrance with sacred music and the spoken word on Sunday, November 2nd, at 3 pm in St. Cecilia Church, 180 Mechanic St. Leominster. Join us for an afternoon designed to soothe grieving hearts and remind us of the Eternal Life our loved ones now share with the Lord.

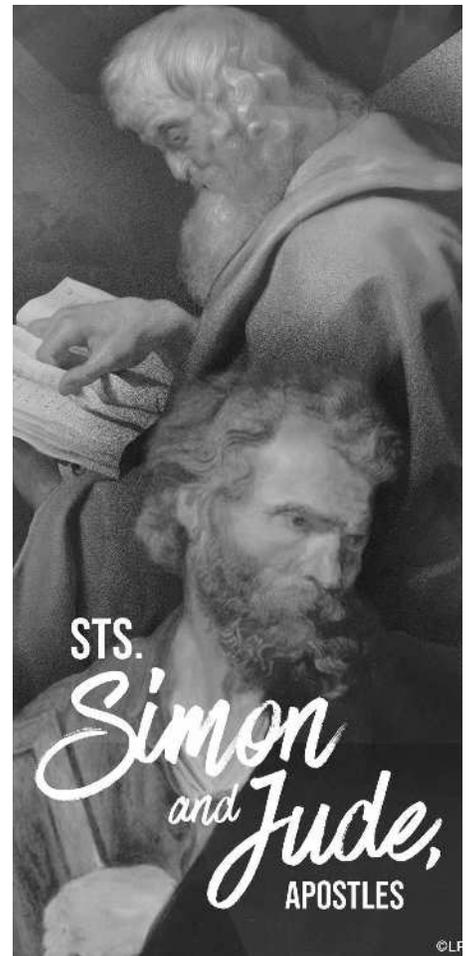
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Oct 12

Sunday	3,177.00
Fuel/Maintenance	423.00
Holy Day	5.00
World Mission	2.00
Total	3,607.00



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Musical Instruments

We are still in need of any musical instruments for the children music program you can donate. They would be greatly appreciated and can be placed in the back of the church. Thanks so much!

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 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 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:

	<i>phone</i>	<i>email</i>
Rev. Charles Omolo, Administrator	978-582-4008	stbonifaceparish@verizon.net
Parish Office	978-582-4008	stbonifaceparish@verizon.net
Lucy Marcil, Religious Ed Coordinator	978-502-7993	lmarcil419@gmail.com
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Judit Ernst, Organist	978-582-4008	stbonifaceparish@verizon.net
Louise Nadeau, Sacristan		
Ministry Schedule	978-582-4008	stbonifaceparish@verizon.net
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.

OCTOBER 26, 2025

What is the Saint Monica Club?

If you're suffering the pain of a child leaving the Faith you might feel very alone. But you're not.

A mother sits beside an open window, the morning sun streaming in as it always does and falling warmly on the gentle wrinkles of her folded hands. She closes her eyes and prays for her son. She misses him. He has long since grown up and moved away, but he had always been her little boy, hiding behind the doorposts and filling the hallways with his mischievous laughter.

She is a devout Christian and has done her best to raise her son in the Faith. But he left home to study in a big city, fell under bad influences, and is now leading a life of egregious sin. She thinks about him all the time and prays for him just as often, but it doesn't look like he is coming back to the Faith any time soon.

To many mothers, this story sounds all too familiar.

Well, that mother was St. Monica...her son was St. Augustine...and their story took place 1,600 years ago. If you're a mother praying for a prodigal child, you aren't the first, and you're certainly not alone.

St. Monica has become synonymous with persistent, unfailing prayer for fallen-away family members. Her "club"—as Maggie Green calls it in her book *Saint Monica Club*—includes all devoted mothers who have ever experienced the pain of seeing a child leave the Faith and who have prayed without ceasing for their return.

In this book, Maggie Green (herself a member of "the club") discusses how to stay constant in prayer, how to talk to fallen-away children and relatives, and how to hold fast to the virtue of hope when things look really bleak.

Yes, St. Augustine did return to the Faith. It took a while, but it happened. Not only did he convert; he became one of the greatest Fathers of the Church and one of her most prolific and influential teachers.

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30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME





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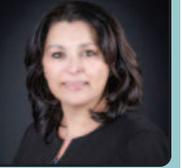
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