



Saint
Boniface
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish
Weekly

September 17th, 2023

Sunday Masses: 8:30 am and 11:00 am
Reconciliation on Sunday 10:15 - 10:45 am

531 E. Liberty St. Louisville Kentucky 40202
Office Hours 9 am—2 pm Monday—Thursday
502.584.4279

www.stbonifaceparish.com

September 17th ~ Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (*Fr. Quan*)

8:30 am Marry and William McGrath +/- People of the Parish

11:00 am ~ Rose, Anthony and Leo Paalz +

September 24th ~ Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (*Fr. Jeff*)

8:30 am Marry and William McGrath +/- People of the Parish

11:00 am ~ Rose, Anthony and Leo Paalz +

Pastor~

Fr. Jeff Shooner ~

jshooner@stpatlou.org

Associate Pastor ~

Fr. Quan Nguyen ~

qnguyen@stpatlou.org

Deacon ~ David Tomes ~

davidtomes@aol.com

Business Manager ~ Gale Gowen

ggowen@stpatlou.org

Organist and Director of Music ~

Sam Firkins ~

sam@stbonifaceparish.com

Office Manager ~ Patty Loerch ~

patty@stbonifaceparish.com

Welcome to the Parish!

Everyone is invited to be a member of the parish family by registering as either a member or associate member. Cards are available at the doors of the church.

Change of Address? Please notify Patty in the Parish Office as soon as possible of an address change or any other changes to your family records.

Stewardship, A Lifetime of Opportunity, Responsibility, Accountability.

Have you remembered St. Boniface Church in your will?

Regular use of your offertory envelopes or online giving assures that you are kept as an active member of the parish.

St. Boniface is a Roman Catholic Church in the heart of downtown Louisville and has been ministering to the local community since 1836. We are a community formed by the Word of God, the Sacraments and the Tradition of the Catholic Church. We strive to be a catalyst for positive change in our neighborhood. We put the faith we have received into action through a variety of social outreach programs, namely: St. John's Day Center for Homeless Men, Central Louisville Community Ministries (CLCM), and by assisting Nativity Academy in its mission to educate at-risk youth. In these efforts we strive to be a refuge for those in need, and offer hope to our surrounding community.



"Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?"
Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times."

Moreover, he forgave our sins and those who sin against us, as we ask him as often as we pray the Our Father, "to forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us." The world cannot survive if we seek only justice. Our life does not bear fruits if we seek only justice. Pope John Paul II affirms that "There is no peace without justice and no justice without forgiveness."

The message of this week's Gospel may be one of the most difficult passages in the Gospel. We are hearing much about a society of violence, and of terrorism. We are reading much about a world of hatred, and of resentment. In the Gospel, Jesus shows us that love is the only act that can overcome hate. Blessing is the only act that can overcome cursing. Forgiveness is the only act that can right a wrong. This is the core of Jesus' teaching, which he himself practiced. This is the love that God has for us. It is a one-sided love in the sense that a return is not expected. God reaches out in infinite love to every single person without exception. God wishes every person to experience that love. That love is not returned; it is often rejected or ignored. Love is known in action. Love is a verb. One of the most important and difficult actions of love is forgiveness. We forgive because we know we need forgiveness. We bless because we know we need blessings. We show mercy because we know we would be lost if we do not have God's abundant mercy. From the Gospel of this week, Jesus teaches us what forgiveness means.

Third, forgiveness is not forgetfulness; it is holiness. Forgiveness is impossible without God's grace. We can only forgive our enemies, our brothers, and sisters based on God's love for us - a personal experience of God's mercy towards us, and by a desire to forgive those who sin against us. Forgiveness is not from us. It begins with God. We do not choose to forgive. We only choose to share the forgiveness we have already received from God. Hence, when we forgive, we do not forget what God has done for us. Our conversion could only come about through God's grace, mercy, and love, and we must desire that for our enemies, our brothers, and sisters.

Finally, forgiveness is not human; it is Christian. Forgiveness creates space for new life. Forgiveness is an act of hopefulness and resurrection for the one who forgives. It is the healing of our soul and life. Forgiveness takes us out of darkness into light, from death to life. We look to the future rather than the past. We try to see and love as God sees and loves. Forgiveness is a way in which we align our life with God's life. To withhold forgiveness is to put ourselves in the place of God.

First, forgiveness is not a sign of weakness; it is a sign of strength. It frees ourselves from what others think of us; from the opinions of the world; from our own faults and failures; from resentment and revenge. Forgiveness is something we do first of all for ourselves so that we can be free and move on in life. Being merciful and forgiving is an important way to ensure that we remain in close relationship with the Lord. Forgiveness is self-healing, it cleanses not only our pains but our sins as well.

Forgiveness is the most precious gift God has given to us. Forgiveness, for Jesus, is not a quantity. It is a quality; a way of being, a way of living, a way of loving, a way of relating, a way of thinking and seeing. Forgiveness is nothing less than the way of Christ. If we are to follow Christ then it must become our way as well.

Second, forgiveness is not ideal; it is reality. We must remember that we are all sinners and justice would demand our very own condemnation. We believe that God promises to forgive everyone who repents and trusts in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. Jesus forgave his disciples and his enemies.

Peace,
Fr. Quan

Prayer Requests

Twilight Ingram—Mayes
Mary Frances Paalz
Cathe Rodes +
Dick Robison
Greg Ross Smith
Dean Scott Toller
Sonny Wick
Sharon Yates +



If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please call the church office at 584.4279.

Ministers for this Week



8:30 am Mass

Server: Bob Springer
Lector: Bridget Davison
Gift Bearers: Annie Givens
Eucharist Ministers: Charles Gazaway

11:00 am Mass

Server: Charles Gazaway
Lector: Gray Grisham
Gift Bearers: Pat Robison, Ruth Cheshire
Eucharist Ministers: Carlotta Ingram, Judy Perri, Dan Barlow

*If you are interested in becoming a Lay Minister, please contact Charles Gazaway:
Charles@stbonifaceparish.com*

Nativity Academy...is moving the annual auction to November. Nativity's Auction "Together We Soar" will be held on Friday, November 3rd at The Olmstead, Louisville, KY. Here are some of the ways you can help make this event a success:



- Join us for an evening celebrating with friends "Nativity's 20th Anniversary"
- Purchase a \$50.00 raffle ticket for a chance to win \$10,000
- Make a cash donation or donate an Item or Gift Card for our silent auction.
- Visit <https://one.bidpal.net.na24/>

Raffle tickets will be on sale after both masses on Sunday, October 1st. For more information scan the code.

Marriage Moments... Last week, I urged married couples to take a "criticism break." But sometimes hurts or problems need to be aired. Was it hard to refrain from criticizing? If the complaint still bugs you agree to a calm time to share it, then pair it with an appreciation.

Parenting Pointers..."Forgive your neighbor's injustice" (Sirach 28:2) Sometimes our neighbors hurt us. Children especially can get angry with a playmate or adult. Is there someone you have difficulty loving? Model for your child a forgiving heart.



2023 Catholic Higher Education Collection...TODAY, our parish will take up the annual collection for Catholic Higher education. Catholic colleges and universities strive to form students in the spirit of faith and educate them in the richness of the Catholic intellectual tradition. This collection supports the Catholic University of America as well as the two Catholic universities in our Archdiocese—Bellarmino University and Spalding University.

Red Mass 2023...Please join the legal and judicial communities for the annual Red Mass, which invokes God's blessing and guidance on all those in the legal community, including attorneys, judges, paralegals, and clerks. Archbishop Shelton J. Fabre will celebrate this Mass on Tuesday, September 26th at 12:15 pm at the Cathedral of the Assumption, 433 S. Fifth St. People of all faiths who serve in the legal profession are invited to attend.

"What's New In ArchLou Podcast" – September 2023...Join us each month to find out what's new in the Archdiocese of Louisville. This monthly podcast highlights the people and ministries of the Archdiocese of Louisville, the Catholic Church in Central Kentucky. Each month, we welcome guests to discuss what's going on in the Archdiocese and invite you to get involved as you deepen your engagement with your Catholic faith. For the September episode, Martine Siegel, Director of Counseling Services for the Archdiocese and Emily Lindon, School Counselor for St. Patrick School, join host Dr. Brian Reynolds, Chancellor of the Archdiocese. They will discuss the mental health challenges facing children and youth, how Catholic schools are addressing the social and emotional health of students, and how Catholic schools help parents deal with these issues. This podcast can be found on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts, iHeart Radio, the Faith Channel and the Archdiocese of Louisville's web page, YouTube Channel and Facebook page. This program is brought to you by the Arch Lou Podcast Network. Each episode is released the first Tuesday of each month.

New Online Giving Platform—ParishGiving...

We have launched our new online giving platform. Now is a great time to consider utilizing this new platform via your mobile device or online at the parish website. Our goal with this new platform is to improve the end user experience and we are confident that you will find it user friendly. To start, select one of these options: from your mobile device, text "giving" to 1.502.747.1110 and follow the prompts, OR visit the parish website www.stbonifaceparish.com and click on GIVE, OR scan the QR code and follow the prompts. If you have any questions please contact Patty Loerch in the parish office at 502.584.4279 or email patty@stbonifaceparish.com



Church Tours are now available!...For anyone interested in taking a tour of our church, see Judy Perri and Dan Barlow at the Sorrowful Mother statue in the rear of the church after the 11 am Mass.



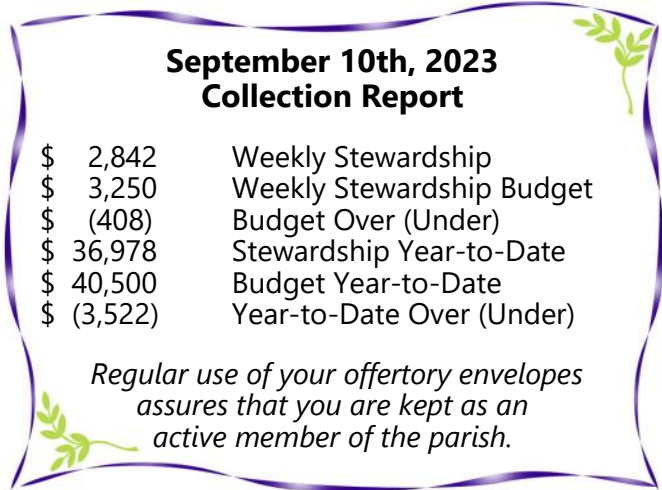
Next week's readings...
1st Reading—Isaiah 55:6-9
2nd Reading—Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a
Gospel Reading— Matthew 20:1-16a



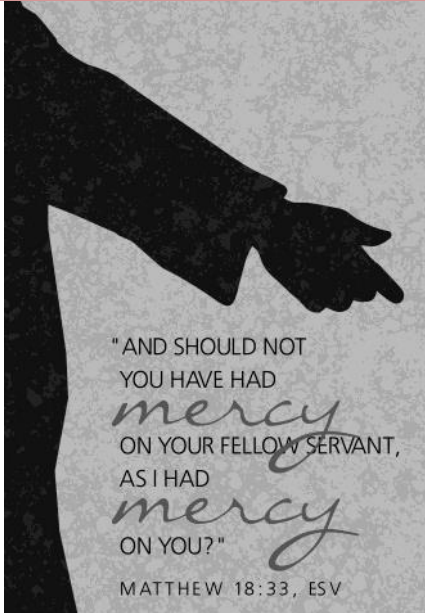
**September 10th, 2023
Collection Report**

\$ 2,842	Weekly Stewardship
\$ 3,250	Weekly Stewardship Budget
\$ (408)	Budget Over (Under)
\$ 36,978	Stewardship Year-to-Date
\$ 40,500	Budget Year-to-Date
\$ (3,522)	Year-to-Date Over (Under)

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Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day
 Today's readings remind us how important it is to forgive. More than that, they teach us to be forgiving people, showing mercy to all those who have wronged us, whether in matters great or small. After all at the end of our lives we believe we will be completely reliant on God's mercy to forgive our many sins, great and small. Let us resolve to forgive our neighbor, to heal our relationships, and to live lives of kindness and mercy.



Reflection on the Gospel
 Jesus likens membership in the kingdom of heaven to the expectation that forgiveness received from a loving and compassionate God is the basis for forgiveness offered in return to others. To "Forgive and forget" is usually a psychological contortion that is not humanly possible. The real challenge is to remember and forgive. Forgiveness is a personal demand of discipleship of Jesus, but in a world where we have experienced so much destructive bitterness between peoples, often bred from generations to generations, there is also a need for forgiveness among nations.

**Today's Focus:
On the Sidelines**
 There are many reasons that we (or others) don't show up or get involved in doing God's work. There is, however, always plenty of work to be done!

"None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's." Romans 14:7-8

Question of the Week

*How do I see myself letting resentment or bitterness build up in my heart?
 Who do I need to reach out to and forgive?*