

The Church of Saint Boniface

817 Massachusetts Avenue
Lunenburg, MA 01462



April 3, 2022

Fifth Sunday of Lent



“Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”

Gospel: John 8:1-11

THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

April 3, 2022 • Fifth Sunday of Lent

Readings: Isaiah 43:16–21 | Philippians 3:8–14 | John 8:1–11

The Pharisees cite Moses in defending their plan to stone the woman caught in adultery. The law was based on the commandments, presented by Moses to the people on stone tablets. Stone—hard, dense, and unyielding—anchored their sense of justice. Jesus pointed to a better way. He did so by writing on the ground. Instead of chiseled in stone, rigid and permanent, his words were traced in the dirt, unsubstantial and erasable. The dirt recalls the ashes applied to our foreheads a month ago, a reminder of our sinfulness, easily washed away. Jesus' gift of forgiveness washes away her sin. Meanwhile, the dirt, the earth, would eventually reabsorb the stones of the crowd.

But stone does not yield easily. The scribes and Pharisees did not soon forget this challenge to their authority. Not only did he sidestep their test, not only did he remind them of their own sinfulness, he showed them up, as evidenced by the fact that every person in the temple area declined to challenge him. Jesus' radical mix of justice and mercy threatened their world, further inflaming them and convincing them to put him to death.

Question of the Week:

How can I respond to those who have hurt me or hurt others with mercy and forgiveness, as Jesus has shown?

Connect! Sunday Reflection

by Douglas Sousa, STL

In Jesus, we do not find condemnation but restoration and healing.

The fullness of the love and mercy which Jesus came to bring is on display in this Sunday's gospel reading. A woman who had been caught in adultery is dragged before Jesus. The penalty for her sin is that she be stoned to death. We can only imagine the shame and fear she felt. However, while the crowd stands in judgment over her, Jesus takes another posture. He stoops down. He brings himself down to her level. He refuses to stand in judgment of her. It was not to condemn sinners that Jesus came, but to bring them the Father's love and mercy. And so, he scatters the crowd with his famous words, "Let the one who is without sin cast the first stone."

It is interesting that the gospel begins by telling us that Jesus had just spent the night praying on the Mount of Olives. If the name sounds familiar, it is because it is the same place where Jesus will experience his agony in the garden. As Jesus sees the woman dragged to him, he probably cannot help but think that soon this same crowd would be dragging him to judgment before Pontius Pilate. He probably cannot help but think that soon he will be made to stand beaten and humiliated before this same crowd as they shout out, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Jesus knows all too well how bloodthirsty a crowd can be. He refuses to condemn the adulterous woman, no matter how grave her sin. Instead, he offers to die in her place by accepting the tortures of the cross. She can walk away free because he has taken upon himself the punishment for her sin.

When the voices of the crowd and the stones of their condemnation are bearing down on us, we need to fly to Jesus. He alone can dispel all those negative messages and replace them with the Good News of God's love and forgiveness. When we have sinned, it is not the time for us to avoid Jesus but to run to him and beg for his mercy. We can count on him to take our shame away and give us his peace, to take away our guilt and replace it with his joy, and to take away our despair and give us the hope that can only be found in him. We need not fear because he has taken on himself the punishment which we deserve. The one who gave his life to save us will spare nothing in order to restore our friendship with him. We can count on him to treat us with kindness and mercy no matter how shameful our sins may be.

Trust in the mercy of the Lord.

"...For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ..."

(PHILIPPIANS 3:8)

The first commandment says that we should not put other gods before the Lord. Sharing all of our gifts—our time in prayer, our talent in charitable works and our treasure to support the Church helps us keep God first in everything. It helps us from putting other gods before God. It helps us from becoming a slave to our possessions. It helps us to use our gifts for the glory of God and not for the glory of ourselves.

PRAYER

*Loving Father,
You promise mercy and love
To all those who turn trustingly to You.
When we are tempted to pick up stones
Remind us of how much
You have forgiven us.
When we hear the condemnation
of the crowd,
Give us confidence that You are near.
When we feel the pressure
of the world's expectations,
Fill us with the desire to please You alone.
Use us to show Your mercy to all those
Who are burdened with shame and guilt.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mar 30	6:30 pm	Virginia Fernandes , by her family
Apr 2	4:00 pm	Robert Nadeau , 8th Anniversary, by his wife
Apr 3	8:00 am	Virginia Fernandes , by her family
Apr 9	4:00 pm	Virginia Fernandes , by her family
Apr 10	10:30 am	Lena Poirier , by her family
Apr 16	4:00 pm	Fred & Irene Raboin , by Marc & Jeanne Raboin
Apr 17	10:30 am	Virginia Fernandes , by her family
Apr 23	4:00 pm	Ottavio Angelini , by Mary Angelini
Apr 24	8:00 am	Carol DiPrima Rankin , by the Paton family

An individual may ask a priest to offer a Mass for several reasons: for example, in thanksgiving, for the intentions of another person (such as on a birthday), or, as is most common, for the repose of the soul of someone who has died. If you wish to schedule a Mass intention for a loved one, please call, email or visit the parish office.

PRAY THE ROSARY every Saturday at 3:30 pm in the church, led by members of the Saint Boniface Knights of Columbus.

THE ST. BONIFACE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS LENTEN FISH FRY IS BACK!

FRIDAY APRIL 8, 5-7 p.m. \$15/person includes delicious fried haddock and french fries cooked right here in our parish hall. Purchase tickets after Masses through April 3, or on the website. Advance sales only.

THE SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

'Synod' is an ancient and venerable word in the Tradition of the Church, whose meaning draws on the deepest themes of Revelation [...]. It indicates the path along which the People of God walk together. Equally, it refers to the Lord Jesus, who presents Himself as 'the way, the truth and the life' (Jn 14,6), and to the fact that Christians, His followers, were originally called 'followers of the Way' (cf. Acts 9,2; 19,9.23; 22,4; 24,14.22). First and foremost, synodality denotes the particular style that qualifies the life and mission of the Church, expressing her nature as the People of God journeying together and gathering in assembly, summoned by the Lord Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Gospel. Synodality ought to be expressed in the Church's ordinary way of living and working.

By convening this Synod, Pope Francis invites the entire Church to reflect on a theme that is decisive for its life and mission: "It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium." Following in the wake of the renewal of the Church proposed by the Second Vatican Council, this common journey together is both a gift and a task. By reflecting together on the journey that has been made so far, the diverse members of the Church will be able to learn from one another's experiences and perspectives, guided by the Holy Spirit (PD, 1). Enlightened by the Word of God and united in prayer, we will be able to discern the processes to seek God's will and pursue the pathways to which God calls us – towards deeper **communion**, fuller **participation**, and greater openness to fulfilling our **mission** in the world.

In the coming days, all of our parishioners will be invited to participate in this process through various ways. Kindly, check our bulletin and the diocesan website for the full complement of the body of work involving this process of seeking to journey together as a people of faith.

(Adapted from the VADEMECUM FOR THE SYNOD ON SYNODALITY)

STEWARDSHIP

MARCH 27

• Sunday Offering	\$ 2,519
• Maintenance/Fuel	200
• Easter Flowers	145
• Other	<u>80</u>
Total	\$ 2,944

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUOUS GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT!

Give to our parish whether you're in the pews or not! Many parishioners make their weekly offerings online. It's secure, convenient and easy to make one-time or recurring donations. Scan the code below with your phone or visit www.stboniface-lunenburg.org



Saint Boniface Lent & Easter Schedule

Stations of the Cross — Friday at 6:00 PM

Palm Sunday, April 10 — Masses

4:00 PM Vigil (April 9), 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Holy Thursday, April 14

7:00 PM Mass of the Last Supper

Good Friday, April 15

Ecumenical Stations of the Cross 3:00 PM
(Meet at the Lunenburg town gazebo)

7:00 PM Liturgy

Easter Vigil, April 16

7:00 PM Mass

Easter Sunday, April 17

8:00 AM & 10:30 AM Mass



Saint Boniface 2022
Goal: \$22,500

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As of March 21, 2022
Gifts Received: \$5,800
Thank you!



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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 / Thursday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm (closed 12:00 – 1:00 pm)

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:30 am

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm

Holy Hour of Adoration: every Wednesday 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 Claude Poirier (978-660-3202), or email kofc16480@gmail.com.

PARISH STAFF:

	<i>phone</i>	<i>email</i>
Rev. Charles Omolo, Administrator	978-582-4008	stbonifaceparish@verizon.net
Jo-Anne Poirier, Administrative Assistant	978-582-4008	stbonifaceparish@verizon.net
Lucy Marcil, Religious Education Coordinator	978-502-7993	lmarcil419@gmail.com
Terry Stramowski, Religious Education Assistant		gr610@cffstboniface.onmicrosoft.com
Claire Garrity Neas, Music Ministry	617-823-4237	cmkagosgarrity@aol.com
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.

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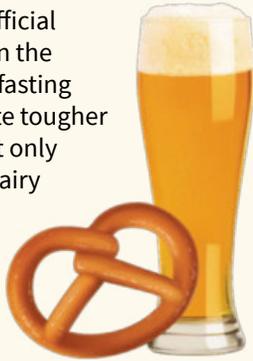
GET FED™

Bite-Sized Faith

WHY ARE BEER & PRETZELS CONSIDERED IDEAL LENTEN FARE?

What else do you really need besides carbs, minerals, and the good Lord?

Beer and pretzels...the official food and drink of Lent? In the Middle Ages, the rules of fasting and abstinence were quite tougher than today, excluding not only meat but also eggs and dairy products. That meant a lot of bread, veggies, and water!



According to legend, a monk in the 600s in Italy decided to make a special Lenten bread for his fellow-monks. He took a long strip of dough and arranged it in the shape of arms folded over the breast in prayer. The three holes left by this shape represented the Trinity. These little breads were called *bracellae*, the Latin word for “little arms,” from which came the German word *bretzel*.

Another story says that the monk gave these folded breads to children as a reward for learning their prayers. The Latin word for “little reward” is *pretiola* (pre-tzi-OH-la), which sounds a lot like *pretzel*!

What about the beer?

In the 1600s, a monastery in southern Germany began brewing beer to give the monks needed strength during their long days of fasting on bread and vegetables. They came up with a hearty concoction containing a lot of nutrients and carbs—the now-famous *doppelbock* beer, also known as “liquid bread.” Paulaner Brewery, which took over the original site of the monastery, adopted brewing methods of the monks and still makes this beer today.

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Saints of the Week

April 4.

SAINT ISIDORE of SEVILLE

Saint Isidore of Seville was a prolific writer and capable administrator of his diocese. Following his brother as bishop of Seville, he founded schools and seminaries, and he was known for his encyclopedic knowledge. Perhaps Isidore's greatest accomplishment is that he was a holy man.

Saint Isidore of Seville is a patron saint of Internet users and Computers users.



April 5.

SAINT VINCENT FERRER

We presently have two living Popes, but they are not both contending for the papacy. That was not the case in the lifetime of Saint Vincent Ferrer. The two contenders both claimed to be the authentic pope, and this went on for almost 40 years. For most of his life Saint Vincent “backed” the anti-pope.

Saint Vincent Ferrer is a patron saint of builders, businessmen, and reconciliation.



April 6.

SAINT CRESCENTIA HOESS

The story of Saint Crescentia Hoess is a twist on the story of rags to riches. Born into material poverty, she eventually rose to true spiritual wealth. But not without many obstacles, including a number of physical ailments.



April 7.

SAINT JOHN BAPTIST de LA SALLE

Probably best known as the patron of many Christian Brothers' schools, Saint John Baptist de La Salle originally had no intention of working with youth or founding a religious community. He saw himself as a comfortable diocesan priest. But God had other plans, and Saint John responded wholeheartedly.

Saint John Baptist de La Salle is a patron saint of educators and teachers.



April 8.

SAINT JULIE BILLIART

Saint Julie Billiard spent many years suffering from incapacitating ailments, but she never lost her drive to work for the Kingdom of God. Her desire to educate led her to help found the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur.

Saint Julie Billiard is a patron saint of educators and teachers.



April 9.

SAINT CASILDA

Saint Casilda grew up as a Muslim. Facing a serious illness as a young woman, she journeyed to a shrine in San Vincenzo, Spain where she was cured. As a result, she embraced Christianity and lived a life of solitude and penance near the miraculous spring. Throughout her quiet, simple life Casilda served her Creator—first in one faith, then in another.





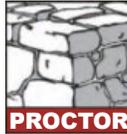
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