

The Church of Saint Boniface

817 Massachusetts Avenue
Lunenburg, MA 01462



April 10, 2022

Palm Sunday



*They proclaimed: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest."*

Gospel: Luke 19:28-40

THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

April 10, 2022 • Palm Sunday

Readings: Isaiah 50:4-7 | Philippians 2:6-11 | Luke 22/14-23:56

As Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole multitude of disciples proclaimed words of praise for the Lord. Their words, "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest" (Luke 19:38), echo the words of the multitude of the heavenly host on the night Jesus was born. It would appear, however, that the Lord brought as much discord as peace. The religious and civil authorities saw him as a threat to their well-being and were determined to rid themselves of him and his following. Even his followers were divided, one betraying him, one denying him, and others abandoning him out of fear. But the Prince of Peace continued to show us the way. Even when facing death, he reached out with love and mercy to both those who hated him and those who let him down. Only by doing so ourselves can we bring the peace and harmony to our lives and our world that Jesus promised.

Question of the Week:

What sacrifice is God calling me to make?

Connect! Sunday Reflection

by Bro. Silas Henderson, SDS

The blessing and procession with palm branches is easily the element of Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord that most stands out for worshippers. Gathering outside the body of the church (when this is possible), the celebrant reminds us that our works of charity and self-sacrifice during Lent have helped bring us to this moment and to the beginning of the week that we call "holy." And then, we again hear the story of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem and the acclaim of the crowds who accompanied him. The branches we raise are blessed and we, too, accompany Jesus into the holy city adding our own joyful "Hosannas" to those sung out on that first "Palm Sunday."

The movement of our procession is an embodiment of what Pope Francis has called the "two-fold mystery" of this liturgy: "Joyful acclamations at Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem, followed by his humiliation. Festive cries, followed by brutal torture ... two characteristic moments of today's celebration: the initial procession with palm branches and the solemn proclamation of the Passion" (Homily, April 14, 2019).

It would be easy to see the triumphal tone of the entrance into Jerusalem — when even the "very stones would cry out" (Luke 19:40) — as a grand conclusion of Jesus' mission. But, as we know, his mission, his journey did not end there. And it is here, in this "distilled journey" with Jesus, that he shows us the way we are to go: the way of humility. As the second reading wonderfully reminds us, Jesus was walking a path that leads from "the form of God" to "the form of a servant," and, in obedience, journeying along a path that led "unto death, even death on a cross" (Philippians 2:6-8). This is why Pope Francis could also reflect that Jesus "knows that true triumph involves making room for God and that the only way to do that is by *stripping oneself, by self-emptying.*"

Palm Sunday and Holy Week remind us that if we are to truly journey with Jesus, then we must also be willing to give up our own agendas and preferences and give ourselves over to God. The liturgies of these days make real for us that Christianity is not a set of doctrinal statements or an ideology, but a way of life which calls us out of ourselves and confronts our ideas about how the world should be.

In his *Spiritual Diary*, Blessed Francis Jordan, founder of the Salvatorians, reflected, "The works of God prosper only in the shadow of the cross." This is a beautiful and remarkable image because, while it acknowledges the reality of the cross, with its humiliation, abasement, and death, it also speaks of a light shining behind and beyond the cross, which is not our final destination. The cross and its shadow are there, yes, but looking toward the light beyond we already glimpse the joyful light of the Paschal Mystery which illumines every moment of Holy Week and all of life.

"...I tell you, Peter, before the cock crows this day, you will deny three times that you know me."

(LUKE 22:34)

How many times have you heard someone make a disparaging comment about God or our Catholic faith? How did you react? Do you remain quiet not to cause a disturbance? Or, because you don't want people to think negatively about you? Or, because you don't think you know enough about the Catholic faith? Pray for the courage to speak up and enter into a respectful dialogue when the opportunity arises. Joyfully share your faith with others.

PRAYER

*Almighty, ever-living God,
you have given the human race
Jesus Christ our Savior
as a model of humility.
He fulfilled your will
by becoming man and
giving his life on the cross.
Help us to bear witness to you
by following his
example of suffering
and make us worthy
to share his resurrection.
Through Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

Prayer for "Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday)"
in *Christian Prayer: The Liturgy of the Hours*

MASS INTENTIONS

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	8:00 am	Victor Burchfield , (69th wedding anniversary) by his wife
	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
Apr 27	6:30 pm	Virginia Fernandes , by her family
Apr 28	8:00 am	John McShane , 3rd Anniversary, by his wife

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.

HANNAFORD COMMUNITY BAG PROGRAM: the St. Boniface Social Action Committee will receive a \$1 donation from each purchase of the \$2.50 reusable Community Bag at the Hannaford store located at 333 Mass Avenue, Lunenburg Crossing, for April 2022.

A LETTER FROM MOST REV. ROBERT J. McMANUS, BISHOP OF WORCESTER

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Participating in the Way of the Cross is such a powerful way for Christians to recall the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ during Lent. Christians in the Holy Land are faced with the particular challenge of bringing their own suffering to the cross as they witness to the faith. The Latin Patriarch of the Holy Land has been a voice for Christians living not just in Jerusalem, but also in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

Christians living in the Holy Land not only struggle to live their faith and worship in their parishes – they are also the stewards of the sacred places as Christians arrive in pilgrimage day after day. Each year, the Holy Father asks Catholic parishes around the world to take up a Good Friday Collection to support Christians in the Holy Land. In particular, the collection supports the work of the Franciscans in the sacred shrines and allows them to receive pilgrims, minister to the parishes, provide formation and education in the communities and schools, and care for the basic needs of the people in the Holy Land. Your support is essential to their ministry.

For the past few years the COVID pandemic had brought a halt to all pilgrimages and the associated means of support for the Christian churches in the Middle East. It will take some time for pilgrimages to return to pre-pandemic levels and pilgrims once again will be able to experience walking in the footsteps of Christ and Our Blessed Mother.

Please be generous in this year's Good Friday collection in your parish. I invite you to visit www.myfranciscan.org to learn more about the good work made possible thanks to your response to this pontifical collection. With your help, the Franciscans can continue to be a light of hope to Christians who continue to struggle in the Holy Land.

Thank you.

STEWARDSHIP

APRIL 3, 2022

• Sunday Offering	\$ 2,758
• Maintenance/Fuel	447
• Catholic Relief Services	246
• Other	<u>102</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

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





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Saint Boniface 2022
Goal: \$22,500



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As of March 31, 2022
23 Gifts Received: \$6,400
Thank you!



Scan the code to watch the video and get more information about the many ways Partners in Charity funds bring hope through charity, education and ministry. Help us reach our parish goal by donating online at Partners-Charity.net, text the word DONATE to 84576, or place cash or check in the special envelope at church.

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 / 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
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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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“Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

Today, we reflect on some of Our Lord’s final words from the Cross. They were spoken to St. Dismas, the Good Thief, as he and Jesus hung dying side by side on Good Friday. We find these words only in the Gospel of Luke.

Dismas and his fellow-thief had, like Christ, been condemned to death by crucifixion. Unlike them, Jesus was innocent, suffering His punishment due to others. The bad thief reviled Christ and demanded that He save Himself and them, if He be truly the Son of God. Dismas rebuked him for his impiety, proclaiming that they—as criminals—deserved their punishment, but that Christ had done no wrong.

Dismas then made a strange request of Jesus:
“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

He did not ask to be saved from the cross. He did not ask to escape the punishment for his crimes. He did not even ask for mercy. He simply asked to be remembered. The request is stunning in its simplicity and its profound humility.

Even more stunning is the response of Our Lord.
“Truly I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

Dismas will not only be remembered. He will be forgiven, and the gates of Paradise will be open to him, once his (and Our Lord’s) agonies are complete. The Just Man hanging beside Dismas has taken the crimes of Dismas and all humanity upon Himself, so that we can escape the punishment we deserve.

Dismas’ reaction is left to the imagination, but one can surmise that he died filled with joy and hope. Perhaps he offered up his suffering—in union with Christ—in reparation for his sins and those of humanity. What a beautiful and extraordinary thing, to suffer in perfect imitation of Christ! What a grace—to rise from being a common thief to being the chosen companion of Jesus in His final hours! How superabundant is the mercy of God!

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Saints of the Week

April 11.

SAINT STANISLAUS

Saint Stanislaus, the bishop of Kraków, was martyred for denouncing political and social corruption. He became the patron saint of Poland, and remains a popular saint throughout Eastern Europe.

Saint Stanislaus is a patron saint of Poland.



April 12.

SAINT TERESA of LOS ANDES

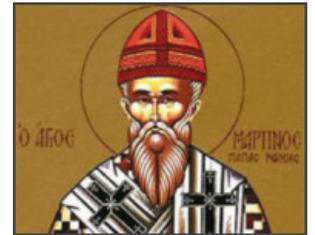
At age 19 Juana Fernandez became a Carmelite nun, taking the name of Teresa. The convent offered the simple lifestyle Teresa desired and the joy of living in a community of women completely devoted to God. Not quite 20 years old when she died, she left a legacy rich in virtue—rich enough for her to be considered a saint.



April 13.

SAINT MARTIN I

Pope Saint Martin I is considered a martyr for the faith even though he was not killed outright. He witnessed to the true faith by his consistent and constant teaching, which resulted in physical and mental torture.



April 14.

BLESSED PETER GONZALEZ

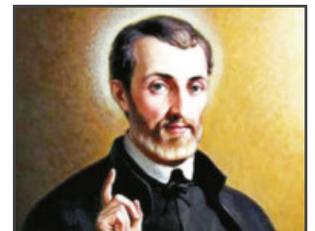
Blessed Peter Gonzalez had a bad experience while riding a horse that changed the course of his life. He became a Dominican, was ordained a priest, and worked in the court of King Ferdinand III. *Blessed Peter Gonzalez is a patron of Spanish and Portuguese sailors.*



April 15.

BLESSED CAESAR de BUS

Blessed Caesar de Bus decided on becoming a priest after having had a very negative experience in the military. He was a successful priest and worked primarily among the needy, teaching catechetics.



April 16.

SAINT BERNADETTE SOUBIROUS

Saint Bernadette was a poor, uneducated peasant girl who no one would believe had seen apparitions of the Blessed Mother. But Mary had appeared to her, and Lourdes has become a popular shrine of devotion to Mary, the Immaculate Conception, and of healing.





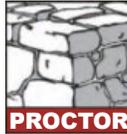
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