

The Church of Saint Boniface

817 Massachusetts Avenue
Lunenburg, MA 01462



May 8, 2022

The Fourth Sunday of Easter



My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

John 10:27

THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

May 8, 2022 • The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 13:14, 43-52 | Revelation 7:9, 14b-17 | John 10:27-30

How appropriate that we hear this Gospel passage on Mother's Day. Jesus compares himself to a shepherd, guiding and protecting us. He promises the sheep of his flock that he will forever hold them securely in his hand. How fortunate we are who have had mothers who have guided us, protected us, loved us, and held us, who have treated us with the tender loving care of the Good Shepherd.

Question of the Week:

How can I be the kind of person to shepherd someone else?

Connect! Sunday Reflection

by Br. John-Marmion Villa

Learn to Hear with Your Heart

When a friend describes a beautiful sunset, a picture is created in your mind. The words enable you to make meaning. When a parent reacts to a child's artwork, meaning is created between child and parent; it can affect the child's self-concept for a lifetime. Likewise, when a lie is spoken, a false reality is constructed that, once discovered, can rupture relationships. This power to affect one another is serious business. Our spoken words shape the reality of those with whom we interact.

Words. We use them all day long — through our speech and through our thoughts. They have the power to destroy and the power to create. They have the power to inspire and delude. They have the power to free and imprison. We hear empty words and encouraging ones, we use both of them as well. Words communicate meaning, and we form impressions and decide actions based upon the value of that meaning, either positive or negative.

Words are spoken by a voice. Some voices are shrill and high-pitched, while others are warm and soothing. The words spoken by that voice communicate meaning as well as emotion. We sense the emotion through the speed and intensity of the words used, not to mention non-verbal body language.

All this lead up is simply to ask one question: what does Jesus' voice sound like to you?

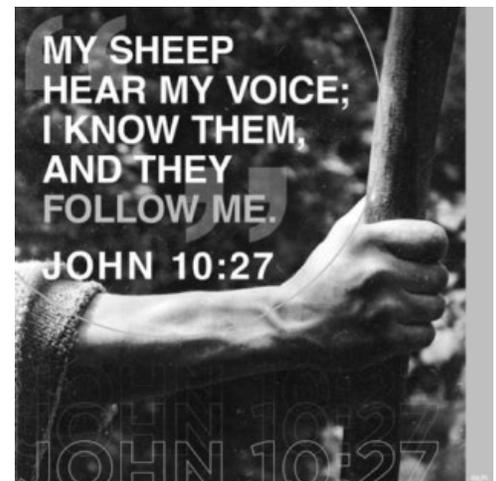
There are many voices that call for our attention throughout the day. We find ourselves being pulled in hundreds of directions trying our best to give our full attention to those voices and addressing their needs. Jesus' voice is that tiny, still voice that speaks in the silence of the heart, which is the organ to hear his voice, not the mind and not the ears. It does not demand our attention, but patiently waits for our attention to be given. His voice speaks nothing else but love, but our hearts drown out his voice because the other voices are clanging and clamoring, and our tendency is to go where the volume is loudest because it is certain, not where the volume is softest.

As one matures in the spiritual life, they discover the voices that call for our attention can be whittled down to three: the voice of the world, the voice of the Evil one, and the voice of God. It takes time to learn how to discern between these, but this skill is of utmost importance in order for us to navigate through the complexities of the modern world and of our daily lives. Having regular faith conversations with a sharing group is certainly helpful, as is seeing a spiritual director regularly. But most importantly, this skill is learned in moments of personal prayer. For it is in these moments, when the heart finally seeks the Lord, He will speak. When you've listened, then act. Do what He tells you. Follow the example of Jesus who did the will of his Father.

*"The disciples were filled with joy
and the Holy Spirit."*

(ACTS 13:52)

The disciples heard Our Lord's call and were able to spread the Gospel message with strength and vitality. We, too, can experience that same joy if we make room for the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts. When we use our gifts in the way that God intends, He fills us with supernatural joy. A joy that others notice and are attracted to!



PRAYER

Loving God,
You sent your Son to be our
Good Shepherd,
protecting us from danger,
comforting us in sorrow,
guiding us to new life.
Grant us the grace
to shepherd each other,
as You grant the prayers
we make through Jesus Christ,
our Risen Lord and Savior.

Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS

May 7	4:00 pm	Virginia Fernandes , by her family
May 8	8:00 am	Rev. Andre Gariepy , by the Laford family
	10:30 am	Jane Huntoon , by John and Tina Huntoon
May 13	8:00 am	Virginia Fernandes , by her family
May 14	4:00 pm	James and Jean Fisher , by Marc and Jeanne Raboin
May 15	10:30 am	Kathleen Cronin and Daniel Cronin , by Dr. Joseph Cronin
May 21	4:00 pm	Virginia Fernandes , by her family
May 22	8:00 am	Judith Corliss , by Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Ciuffetti
	10:30 am	J. Brian Connors , 2nd Anniversary, by his 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.

Good and Gentle God, today we especially pray in gratitude for our mothers and for all women who have joined with you in the wonder of bringing forth new life.

NORTH STAR FAMILY SHELTER: The Social Action Ministry asks for your help to provide food and supplies for homeless families at the shelter during the week of May 23. Tags are posted on the windows in the back of the church with specific items that are needed. Donations should be returned by 5/22 no later than 11:30 a.m. and should be placed in back near the St. John statue under the sign for North Star, with the tag attached. As always, thank you!

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS! Our Finance Committee, through the Legacy of Hope Campaign, has established a Saint Boniface Scholarship for graduating high school seniors who are practicing Catholics at our parish. We invite all interested students to complete an application and submit a short essay no later than May 20. The topic is "What Faith Means to Me" and the essay should be 500 words or less. Application forms are at church entrances, at the parish office, or request by email.



Ladies of Saint Boniface: As we return to "normal" after the pandemic we are reviving our women's ministry at the parish (formerly the "Women's Guild"). The first event will be a brunch on Pentecost Sunday, June 5th. Women of all ages, please join us for hospitality, spirituality, and service to our parish! Registration cards can be found at church entrances and in the pews. Complete and return in the collection basket or to the parish office as soon as possible.

CHICKEN BBQ DINNER: The Fitchburg Knights of Columbus are having a chicken BBQ on Sunday, May 29, noon - 2:00 p.m. Half chicken, baked potato, corn-on-the-cob, & cole slaw, \$15/person. Tickets must be purchased in advance by May 22, and are available at the Knights hall, 165 Electric Ave., Fitchburg, or call 978-343-9841. All proceeds benefit KofC charities.

STEWARDSHIP

MAY 1, 2022

• Sunday Offering	\$ 3,140
• Maintenance/Fuel	563
• Other	<u>13</u>
	\$ 3,716

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUOUS GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT!

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



SAINT BONIFACE PARISH



SAVE THE DATE: SEPT. 17, 2022!
Watch for updates as we develop our plans for this year's festival. Meanwhile, keep in mind that we will again have a White Elephant Rummage Sale which was very successful in 2019. We'll let you know when and where to leave donations of your new, used and/or unwanted items (dishware, collectibles, sports equipment, small appliances and furniture, toys, games, holiday items, pet supplies, jewelry, etc.).
Thank you!



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Goal: \$22,500



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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
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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WHO SAW THE RISEN CHRIST FIRST?

Many saints have spoken about the identity of the first witness of the Resurrection.

In the scriptural accounts of the Resurrection, the story always begins with someone searching for Jesus at the empty tomb after His departure from it. The Gospels don't tell us where Christ was at that point—nor do they definitively say who saw Him first.

But one saint-supported theory offers an answer to the latter question. According to Pope St. John Paul II, St. Vincent Ferrer, St. Ignatius of Loyola and others, the first witness of Jesus' Resurrection was His beloved Mother Mary.

Mary was the one who had been most united with Our Lord in His suffering and death. She was the one who was waiting for Him with the greatest hope and expectation—the one who, notably, never went to an empty tomb searching for Him because she knew He wasn't there.

Our Lady's faith in her Son's Resurrection never failed. She did not go looking for the living among the dead. She simply waited, prayerfully keeping vigil throughout the time when Our Lord was hidden. She knew that He would come.

One can imagine the tender joy they experienced upon seeing one another again, after the sufferings they had both endured for our sake. A spear had pierced His Heart and a sword had pierced hers, but now, sin and death were overcome! The night was over and the glorious dawn was here at last.

To see the face of God—how beautiful the reward of those who are faithful, who bear their crosses with love, who wait for the Lord with a hopeful and steadfast spirit!

As we continue to rejoice in Easter and reflect on the faith, hope, and love of Our Blessed Mother, our thoughts turn to our own mothers, whom we celebrate on this fourth Sunday of Easter, Mother's Day!

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Saints of the Week

May 9.

SAINT JOHN of AVILA

Saint John of Avila had some pretty impressive friends—Francis Borgia, Ignatius of Loyola, John of the Cross, Teresa of Avila—to name just a few. These saints, along with John, were all part of a reform of the Church in Spain. Little did they know at the time the holiness of their group.

John of Avila is the Patron Saint of Andalusia, Spain.



May 10.

SAINT DAMIEN de VEUSTER

Saint Damien de Veuster became so well known for his work among the lepers in Hawaii that Moloka'i almost became his surname. Dedicating his life to those suffering from Hansen's disease, Damien made the world aware of their plight. He succumbed to the disease and died in 1889.



May 11.

SAINT IGNATIUS of LACONI

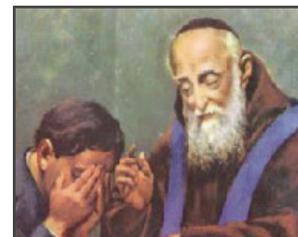
If it hadn't been for an accident, Ignatius might never have become a Capuchin friar. Saint Ignatius of Laconi spent 40 years begging for the friars. He endeared himself to the local people and inspired them by his virtue. While on his rounds, Ignatius would instruct the children, visit the sick, and urge sinners to repent.



May 12.

SAINT LEOPOLD MANDIC

Saint Leopold Mandic, a Capuchin Franciscan, was well known as a good confessor and spiritual director. His one aim in life was to work for the reunification of the Orthodox church with Rome: a goal he prayed for but was unable to achieve due in part to poor health.



May 13.

OUR LADY of FATIMA

Like the apparition of Our Lady of Lourdes, this appearance was not given to Church officials, but to children. Through them, Mary requested that the Church spread devotion to the rosary to all the faithful. The feast of Our Lady of Fatima was approved by the local bishop in 1930; it was added to the Church's worldwide calendar in 2002.



May 14.

SAINT MATTHIAS

Acts of the Apostles records that Saint Matthias was selected by the early Church to replace Judas Iscariot in the ranks of the apostles. Matthias is not mentioned by name anywhere else in the New Testament. We know little more about him except that he was a witness to Jesus from his baptism to his ascension.





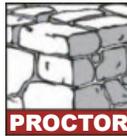
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