



The Church of Saint Boniface

817 Massachusetts Avenue
Lunenburg, MA 01462



February 12, 2023



6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"Again you have heard that it was said to your ancestors,
Do not take a false oath, but make good to the Lord all
that you vow." - Mt 5:33

THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

February 12, 2023 • The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sirach 15:15–20 / 1 Corinthians 2:6–10 / Matthew 5:17–37

Let us review Jesus' four examples in this light. If our hearts are merciful, we overcome whatever anger we might have toward our neighbor and replace it with a desire to reconcile. We forgive rather than retaliate. If we truly love our brothers and sisters, we see them in their wholeness, not merely the part of them that pleases us. With forgiveness and love, marriage is not just a legal contract, but a lasting covenant. If we are always honest, we do not need to swear to any kind of oath that we are telling the truth this time. This is what Jesus expected of his disciples, and so of us as well.

Question of the Week: When do the temptations of anger, lust, or deceit affect what I say or do? How can I build the habit of treating everyone else with honesty, mercy, and love?

**Who was the real St. Valentine?
Remember—it's Saint Valentine's Day.**



You have to wonder whether St. Valentine and St. Patrick commiserate in Heaven about their feast days being somewhat obscured by their popular celebrations.

Treating your sweetheart to a nice dinner or a box of chocolates on this day is certainly a nice thing to do. However, as a part of your celebrations, be sure to call to mind Saint Valentine, whose real story is usually forgotten on his feast day.

We actually don't know a lot for sure about this saint. He was either a Roman priest or a bishop in central Italy who was martyred in the 3rd century. His remains are buried along the Via Flaminia in Rome.

The connection between him and romantic love is also a bit uncertain. One legend says that he secretly married Christian couples, a grave offense according to the persecuting government. Some versions say that this favor was done particularly for Roman soldiers, who were not allowed to marry since—the government thought—this would make them unwilling to risk their lives in war.

The customs we associate with St. Valentine's Day are traceable to the Middle Ages. Based on the tradition that birds began to pair on St. Valentine's Day, lovers exchanged letters and tokens of affection on this day. We see references to these customs in literature from 14th- and 15th-century France and England.

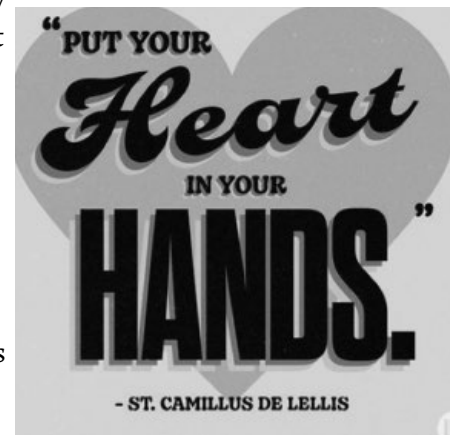
Whatever the veracity of the legends surrounding the life of St. Valentine, we know that this holy priest existed, and that he died for his faith during a time of bitter persecution. His very status as a martyr makes him an apt patron for love: he and his fellow-martyrs illustrate to us, through their sufferings, the depth of their love for Christ, Who is Love Himself.

As you enjoy your day with your sweetheart, remember the love of St. Valentine, which gave him the courage to suffer everything for the sake of his Beloved—and made him a saint.

Not all of us are called to prove our love by physical martyrdom, but we can live out the vocation to love by sacrificing ourselves in smaller, though still powerful, ways. Married couples know this well! Our popular Daily Companion for Married Couples offers short, daily spiritual exercises that spouses can adopt in order to live their vocation to the fullest. A great gift for your spouse or for an engaged couple.

“For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” MATTHEW 5:20

The Pharisees lived according to the letter of the law and they used this to elevate themselves above the other people. Jesus is clear – it's the love that you have in your heart, for God and others, that will get you to heaven. Simply following church rules to the letter and not out of love, does not necessarily put you on the path to heaven. Attending Sunday Mass and then gossiping about a fellow parishioner on the parking lot is an example of being a modern day Pharisee.



Love is patient and kind,
It doesn't envy or boast
and it's never proud.
Love is not rude or selfish,
It doesn't get angry easily,
or keep track of wrongs.
Love doesn't delight in bad
things but it rejoices in the
truth. Love always protects,
trusts, hopes and perseveres.
Love never fails.

– St. Paul to the Corinthians

MASS INTENTIONS

Feb 19	8:00 am	Gerene Maloney, 2nd Anniversary, by her family
Feb 19	10:30 am	Michael Brisson, 9th Anniversary, by his family
Mar 4	4:00 pm	Joseph Rodrigues, by the Montemurro Family
Mar 18	4:00 pm	Helen Keating, 15th Anniversary, by her children
Apr 1	4:00 pm	Keith Keating, 19th Anniversary, by his siblings
Apr 16	10:30 am	John McShane, 4th Anniversary, by his family
Apr 23	10:30 am	Judith Murray, 5th Anniversary, by her daughter
Apr 30	8:00 am	Howard and Ella May Crane, by the Laford 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 p.m. in the church, led by members of the Saint Boniface Knights of Columbus.

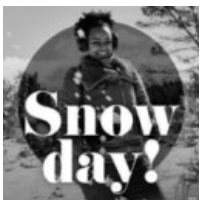
St Patrick's Day Celebration: The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a St Patrick's Day dinner with a performance by Irish step dancers. The celebration will start on Saturday March 18th at 5:00 PM. The dinner will consist of corned beef and cabbage, potatoes and vegetables with Irish soda bread coffee and dessert. Tickets are priced at \$12 per individual or \$35 per family. Proceeds will benefit Knights of Columbus charities. There will be only advance ticket sales; no tickets will be sold at the door. The Knights of Columbus will be selling tickets after weekend masses starting February 25th through March 12th. Tickets may also be purchased on-line at the parish website.

Lent is upon us - Ash Wednesday Masses will be held on Wednesday, February 22nd at 6:30 am and 6:30 pm.

Food Donations for the months of January and February will go to the Lunenburg Lions Club. Please place all donations in the back of the church. We thank you for your continued support and generosity

Multi-Parish Light of the World Retreat

Sacred Heart of Jesus, St Ann, and St Roch Parishes unite to present their Spring Light of the World Retreat at Sacred Heart of Jesus, 11 Day Street, Webster on March 17-20. Fr. Adam Reid and Father Michael Roy invite you for an experience that will change your life. For details or to register visit strochoxford.com/religious-education/adult-education.com or sacredheartwebster.org/light-of-the-world-parish-retreat call St Roch 508-987-8987, St Ann at 508-987-8892, Sacred Heart 508-943-3140 or email strochoxford@gmail.com, stannrectory@hotmail.com, office@sacredheartwebster.org.



Snow Day/Weekday Mass - Please note that If the Lunenburg Public Schools is closed or delayed there will be no 8:00 a.m. Mass on Thursday or Friday.

Adoration Beginning in February, Adoration will be held on the last Wednesday of the Month from 5:30-6:30 pm.

STEWARDSHIP

February 4th/5th

Sunday	2,400.00
Fuel/Maintenance	465.00
Holy Day(s)	20.00
TOTAL	\$2,885.00

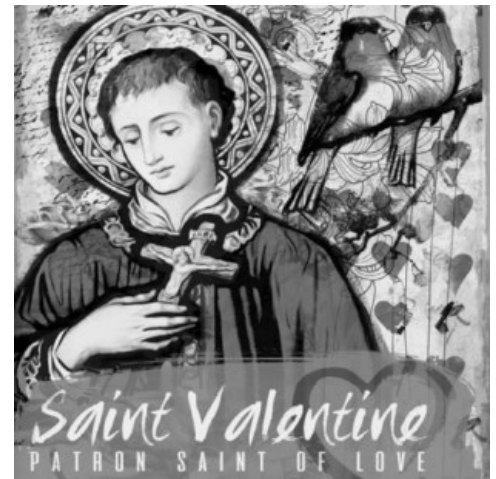
January 2023 Electronic

Donations \$5,039.00



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 and click on "Online Giving Options" in the upper left.



*Direct, O Lord, we beseech you,
all our actions by your holy
inspirations,
and carry them on by your
gracious assistance,
that every prayer and work of ours
may begin always from you,
and by you be happily ended.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

— Prayer Before Study or Work

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 – 4:00 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

Summer schedule: Sunday: 9:00 am | Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm

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, 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
Heather Sroka, Administrative Assistant	978-582-4008	stbonifaceparish@verizon.net
Lucy Marcil, Religious Ed Coordinator (Grades 1-6)	978-502-7993	lmarcil419@gmail.com
Terry Stramowski, Religious Ed Coordinator (Grades 6-10)		gr610@cffstboniface.onmicrosoft.com
Claire Garrity Neas, Music Ministry	617-823-4237	cmkakosgarrity@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.

The Heart in Your Hands
Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill." — Matthew 5:17

In my work as a freelance writer, I often find myself producing content on the subject of Catholic schools. For more than ten years, I've written hundreds of articles about Catholic schools, coming at the issue from every angle. I've written about current Catholic school families, and the sacrifices they make to ensure their children receive a Catholic education. I've written about alumni and their feelings about the education they received in a Catholic educational setting. I've written about the importance of Catholic identity in a Catholic school, and the lengths to which teachers and staff members will go to ensure their classrooms aren't offering merely a private education, but a Catholic one.

All this writing — hundreds of thousands of words, if you added it all up, I'm sure — and it all says basically the same thing. It's about the whole person.

In a Catholic school, you're not just going to learn math and science and language arts and all other sorts of things that are good for your intellect, you're going to learn about the Incarnation, about God's plan for you, about salvation history and the Great Commission. You're going to learn about the stuff that's good for your soul.

It's about the whole person.

That's the catchphrase when it comes to Catholic education, but it reflects the Catholic worldview as a whole, and it's a worldview that has its origins in today's Gospel passage, when Christ breaks the bad news that he hasn't come to do away with any rules, but to add one ginormous, supreme, uber-important clause to every existing part of God's law. It's a clause, I think, that can best be expressed in the words of St. Camillus de Lellis, "Put your heart in your hands."

It matters if you have anger in your heart, Christ tells us. It matters if you have lust in your heart. It matters.

It's about the whole person.

Whatever you do, you have your heart in your hands. It doesn't matter if you're offering a sacrifice exactly as the Book of Leviticus dictates it should be offered. Your heart is now in your hands, and if the heart is not pure, neither is the sacrifice. It's the whole-person approach to the law.

It's significant, too, that, when Christ tells us to "be reconciled with your brother" before making an offering to God, he doesn't forget to tell us to make the offering in the end: "and then come and offer your gift." As he said, he's not here to abolish the law. He doesn't care only about what is in our hearts, he cares what our hands are doing, too. The law is still in effect, it matters what you do. But it also matters why you do it. The law now includes the heart.

It's about the whole person

For Teens: You Are Loved
Susan Hines-Brigger - Franciscan Spirit Blog

The subject of love is a major part of the teenage years.

Sometimes teenagers tend to think of love in its narrowest sense, romantic love. But there are lots of different types of love and ways to express that love. For instance, you can love someone as a friend, but not be romantically in love with him or her.

On Valentine's Day, recognize all the different people you love in your life. Let them know, somehow, what they mean to you, or you can do something special for them. Perhaps you could stick a note in your friend's locker at school saying how much you appreciate that he or she is always there for you. Leave your mom or dad a note saying how much you love them. Or recognize someone who helped you a lot in the last 12 months.

Although we should let our friends and family know how much we love them every day, Valentine's Day provides a great opportunity to let them know you care.





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