

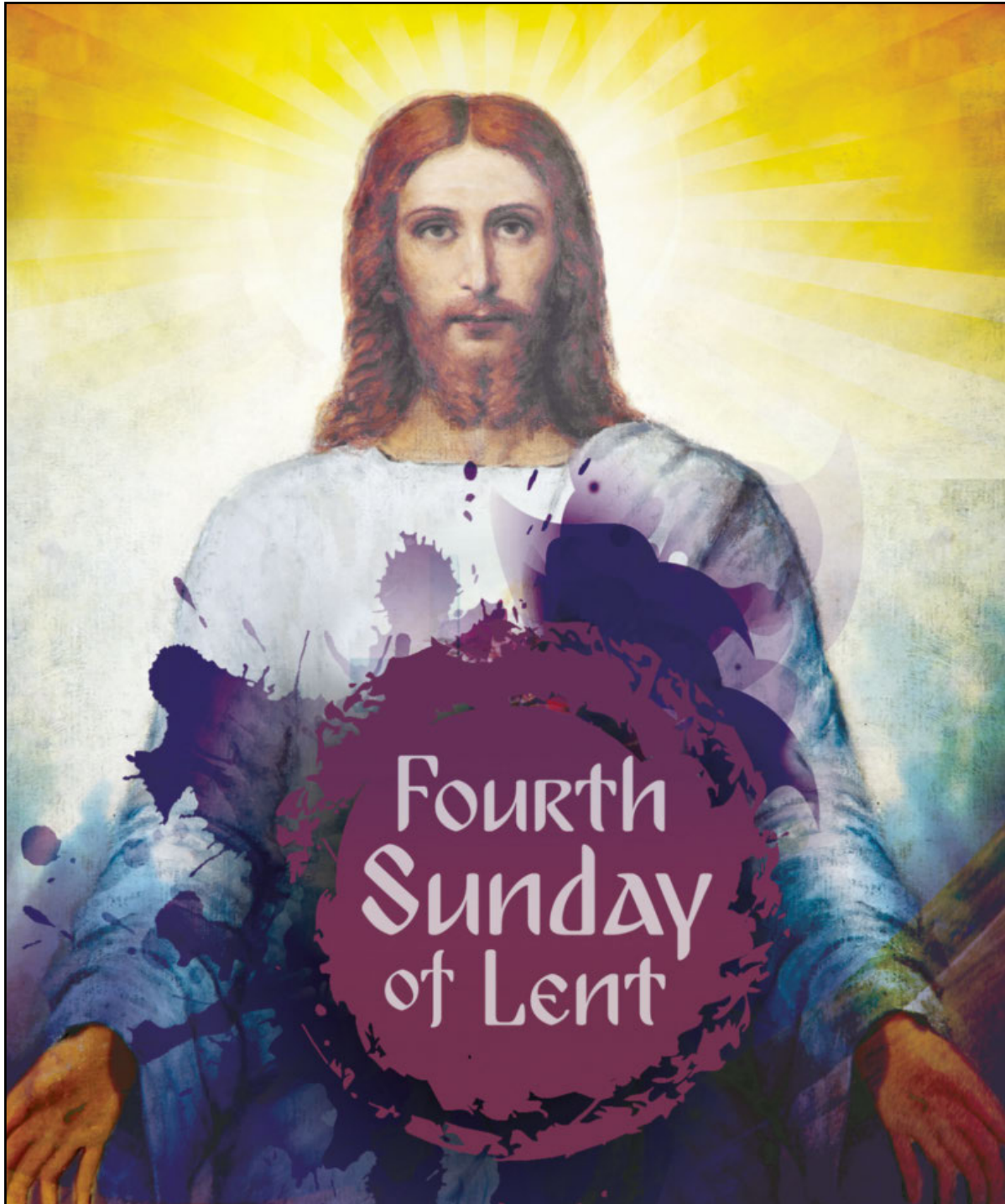


## The Church of Saint Boniface

817 Massachusetts Avenue  
Lunenburg, MA 01462



March 19, 2023



## THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

### March 19, 2023 • The Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6–7, 10–13a / Ephesians 5:8–14 / John 9:1–41

When we witness something unimaginable, we face a fundamental question. Do we accept it, changing our minds to accommodate it, or do we refuse, denying what we have just witnessed? The Pharisees in today's Gospel choose the latter. They refuse to change their attitudes about keeping the sabbath or the sinfulness of the one born blind. The man's parents choose the latter as well, though likely out of fear. They choose to deny what they saw rather than risk being expelled from the synagogue. But not the blind man himself: He accepts this miracle worker as the Son of Man. It wasn't only his literal vision that was changed

**Question of the Week: What keeps me from seeing the truth? What keeps me from acknowledging what I see?**

### Who spread the Stations of the Cross throughout the world?

**St. Leonard promoted the Stations in a way no one else had before.**



Jerusalem was a long way away. It took months for a healthy, lucky pilgrim to reach its walls and reverently follow the Stations of the Cross. And healthy, lucky pilgrims were comparatively few.

St. Leonard of Port Maurice mused over this, casting his mind's eye over the miles and miles of land and sea between Italy—where he lived—and Jerusalem. How he wished that he and all Catholics might venerate the Stations! Not in a distant, unfamiliar fashion, but with a devotion that was very vibrant and close to their hearts—and close to their homes.

Well, there was only one thing to be done. And Leonard did it.

The saintly Franciscan was a missionary, as were most Franciscans. From 1708 until his death forty-three years later, he traveled Italy, preaching. Everywhere he went, Leonard promoted special devotion to the Stations of the Cross. Many of his fellow Franciscans assisted him in this work.

That is not all he did, however.

As he traveled, Leonard built replicas of the Stations so that Catholics could follow Our Lord's path to Golgotha with concrete steps and depictions.

Leonard erected 572 Stations of the Cross throughout Italy. The most famous of these are the Stations in the Colosseum, where the Vatican's Good Friday service has been held for nearly 300 years.

Please join us for Stations of the Cross Fridays at 6:00 pm during Lent.



***"Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart."***

**1 Samuel 16:7**

How often do we invest our time, talent and treasure in creating an appearance that does not matter at all to God? We strive to impress with our clothing, home, career, possessions, car and other marks of distinction. But none of these illusions of greatness will impress God. Instead, He will look into our hearts to see how much we loved Him, how much we loved others and how we showed that love by the way we used our time, talent and treasure here on earth.."



By your grace,  
O Lord,  
make us stick to our resolutions,  
act with courage,  
remain constant in devotion,  
extend forgiveness without  
measure,  
love without ceasing,  
and live ever in your friendship.  
Enable us, with your help,  
to put on Christ,  
and to manifest him to others  
and bear witness to him in  
the world.  
Amen.

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mar 18	4:00 pm	Helen Keating, 15th Anniversary, by her children
Mar 18	4:00 pm	Kelly Keaveny, by her family
Mar 26	8:00 am	Patricia Alario, 4th Anniversary, by her husband
Apr 1	4:00 pm	Keith Keating, 19th Anniversary, by his siblings
Apr 15	4:00 pm	Michael Kolb, by his mother
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
May 7	8:00 am	Rev. Andre Gariepy, 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.

**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.

### Diocesan Mass for Life

The annual Mass for Life will be celebrated by Bishop Robert J. McManus on Friday, Mar. 24 at 10:00 am at the Cathedral of St. Paul. All are invited to join students from our Catholic schools who will be our special guests. The Diocese of Worcester's annual Pro-Life Awards will also be presented at this Mass. All are welcome to attend!

**Food Pantry Donations** for the months of March and April will benefit St. Francis Church in Fitchburg. Please place all donations in the back of the church. Thank you for your continued generosity.

**North Star Family Services** is in need of volunteers to come and play with the kids on Tuesday evenings while the parents are in class. If you are interested in doing so for our next week of volunteering, please reach out to Allison Lilly at Allison.lilly@comcast.net. You will need to complete a CORI as is required of all their volunteers. Thank you!

### CCD 6-9 STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

We are in the season of Lent, a season during which we are asked to focus on prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Almsgiving means to give to the poor or less fortunate. So here is what I ask of you:

Please bring a non-perishable food item with you to class and or mass. A can of soup, beans, tuna; a box of crackers, cereal, pasta. Something along those lines. We will collect the food items tomorrow and every Sunday starting now and until Palm Sunday on April 2 -- to be donated to the local food pantry. You can bring an item with you to Mass each week; there will be a big cauldron and Lucky the Leprechaun's smiling face to greet you at the donation site in the back of the church. Why a leprechaun guarding a cauldron? Well, normally, we think of a leprechaun sitting atop a big pot of gold, right? Lent is the perfect time for us to remember that, for those who don't have a lot of resources to fall back on, a donation of food items can be as valuable as a pot of gold.



## STEWARDSHIP

### March 11/12

Sunday	2,086.00
Fuel/Maintenance	464.00
Church of Latin America	15.00
Flowers	<u>5.00</u>

**TOTAL** \$2,570.00



### 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](http://www.stboniface-lunenburg.org) and click on "Online Giving Options" in the upper left.



Fridays at 6:00 pm.

All are welcome.

### Are you ready for the Catholic Men's Conference?

Next Saturday, March 25 at Assumption University. If you have not purchased your ticket yet, this is the week. Join hundreds of brothers and don't miss the chance to pray, reflect on our faith, and be inspired by Bear Woznick, Jeff Joaquin, Msgr. Jim Moroney, Adam Minihan, David Niles, Fr. Chris Alar and Bishop McManus! Check our website: [catholicmenworc.com](http://catholicmenworc.com) And pray for many blessings upon this day!

# Saint Boniface Church

817 Massachusetts Avenue, Lunenburg, MA 01462  
Parish Office: 978-582-4008 email: [stbonifaceparish@verizon.net](mailto:stbonifaceparish@verizon.net)

**Discover St. Boniface ~ Visit our website: [www.StBoniface-lunenburg.org](http://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: last Wednesday of the month 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](mailto:stbonifaceparish@verizon.net) or Louise Nadeau at [dinalou1@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:stbonifaceparish@verizon.net) or contact Louise Nadeau at [dinalou1@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:tbodkin@bodkinmason.com) or (508-363-3422), or email [kofc16480@gmail.com](mailto:kofc16480@gmail.com).

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### PARISH STAFF:

	<i>phone</i>	<i>email</i>
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Louise Nadeau, Sacristan		
Ministry Schedule	978-582-4008	<a href="mailto:stbonifaceparish@verizon.net">stbonifaceparish@verizon.net</a>
Nina Charpentier, Director, Preschool	978-582-7110	<a href="mailto:ninastboniface@gmail.com">ninastboniface@gmail.com</a>

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**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.*



## ***A Journey of Preparation***

### ***Bro. Silas Henderson***

You were once in darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

—Ephesians 5:8-10

For those involved parish faith formation, the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent are, in many ways, among the most important celebrations of the entire year. These are the Sundays of the Scrutinies, ancient and meaningful rituals that are an essential part of the OCIA (the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, also known as the RCIA).

As the Elect look forward to being received into the Church at the Easter Vigil through Baptism, Confirmation, and receiving the Eucharist, these Sundays provide the rest of us with a perspective on what the Season of Lent is really all about: preparing to renew our baptismal vows at Easter. Unfortunately, many of us don't always understand that preparation for baptism and the renewal of our baptismal commitments as being the ultimate goal of our Lenten penance and good works.

The liturgies for these Sundays, however, are all oriented to helping us reflect on the gift and grace of baptism. The prayers, the readings at Mass (especially the Gospels), and the rites of the Scrutinies all teach (or, at least, remind us) that conversion is an ongoing process. These days aren't only about the Elect and the Candidates for Full Communion, these are the celebrations of the entire Church.

On the Fourth Sunday of Lent — Laetare Sunday — with its rose-colored vestments and joyful tones, we hear the story of the “man born blind” from the Gospel of John (9:1-41). In this story about being enlightened, Jesus gives the gift of sight to a man who was blind from birth, empowering and enabling him to see, for the first time, his parents, the people of his community, the wonders of creation, and, most especially, the face of the Savior who was standing right before him.

In John's account of this event, the evangelist sets up an interesting parallel in this story. On the one hand, we have the blind man who, without any action on his part, is healed by Jesus. On the other, we have the crowd, including the righteous, believing observers who, it turns out, can't see the wonder and the truth of the one who stands before them. The physical blindness of the man-born-blind is not the real disability in this story. Instead, it is the emotional, intellectual, and spiritual blindness of those who condemn Jesus and refuse to open their minds and hearts to the truth of his message.

As we reflect on this story, we are invited to consider Jesus' words at the end of the passage. Responding to the Pharisees who ask, “Surely we are not also blind, are we?” Jesus replies, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, ‘We see,’ so your sin remains.”

When we believe we have all the answers or know all that we need to know, we can, like the Pharisees, lose the ability to see how God is at work in our lives and in the world around us. The blind man, however, didn't have these pretensions — he was open to what Jesus was asking of him. After reading that he allowed Jesus to put mud on his eyes and washed in the pool of Siloam (a reference to baptism), we realize that it wasn't just his eyes that have been opened, his heart has been opened as well. This is why he is able to declare, “I do believe, Lord.” As Saint Augustine of Hippo reflected, “See how [the blind man] becomes the herald of grace. See how he preaches the gospel. See how, once he is endowed with sight, he becomes a witness. That blind man testified, and the ungodly were troubled in their hearts because they did not have in their own hearts what they saw in him” (from *Tractates on the Gospel of John*).

The rose colors of this Sunday remind us that we are now more than halfway through the Season of Lent. As we continue our Lenten journey, we would do well to pause reflect on how our Lenten penances and good works are helping us have a right perspective and to prepare to renew our baptismal promises at Easter.



Partners in Charity 2023 has begun. This appeal provides critical support of 27 agencies and ministries that rely on this funding each year. Our goal for this year is \$22,500. To date 11 families have donated \$3,520. Envelopes are available in the church pews, or visit the Parish website to donate online. Thank you for your continued support!



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