



The Church of Saint Boniface

817 Massachusetts Avenue
Lunenburg, MA 01462



March 26, 2023



5TH SUNDAY OF LENT



Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life;
whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live."

- Jn 11:25

THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

Ezekiel 37:12–14 / Romans 8:8–11/ John 11:1–45

The first voice Lazarus hears when his life is restored is his Savior's, calling to him to come out of the tomb, to come back to the land of the living. When we turn away from God, when we turn away from our neighbor in need (where Jesus may always be found), we find ourselves in a spiritual death, entering the tomb that separates us from God. Jesus is always calling us forth, out of those bands that separate us from God and others, back to the land of the living. Let us listen, let us respond, and let the Spirit dwelling in us guide us to life in the Lord. If we have Jesus within us and Jesus is indeed the resurrection and the life, then we have the resurrection and the life within us.

Question of the Week: What spiritual darkness is Jesus calling me to come out of today? What difficulties can I anticipate in shedding these burial bands that separate me from God's grace?

How to keep Sundays holy—besides going to Mass!

Are your Sundays being taken over by the rest of the week?

The modern, technology-driven life is so busy. The week is barely long enough for all the mundane activities that must be done.

Sometimes, the work week even encroaches upon Sunday's rights: a morning slot is set aside for Mass while the rest of Sunday whirls past with the other days in the week.

How can we stop the busyness and truly focus on Sunday—the Lord's Day? How can we extend our God-oriented frame of mind beyond Sunday Mass? How can we “keep holy the Sabbath”?

Well, there are many ways of observing the Lord's Day in a fitting manner. We know what we shouldn't do; let's look at what we should.

The Catechism says:

On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are to refrain from engaging in work or activities that hinder the worship owed to God, the joy proper to the Lord's day, the performance of the works of mercy, and the appropriate relaxation of mind and body. —Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2185
Now, this looks like a “don't”—but look closer. You'll see that this passage tells what we can (and ought to) do on Sundays: worship God, be joyful, perform works of mercy, and rest both mind and body.

Reclaiming Sundays, a practical and enjoyable guide to observing the Lord's Day, expounds on this passage of the Catechism. It will answer all the questions you have about Sunday and what we are permitted and encouraged to do on that day as faithful Catholics.

Divided into liturgically, spiritually, and seasonally-themed Sundays, each chapter begins with a Scripture verse and includes activity suggestions, prayers, and reflections. This book is packed with concrete advice on how to reclaim Sunday as a day of prayer, rest, family time, and celebration.



“Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?’ JOHN 11:40

Many of us say that we believe in God. We attend Sunday Mass and participate in parish events. But when life gets hard and the pressure is on, when things aren't going our way, do we really believe? Do we really put our trust in the Lord? When we live a life of gratitude, recognizing all that we have been given, we really do see that God is providing for our needs. Living a grateful and generous life allows us to see God's active presence in our daily lives and we become “partakers of the divine nature.”



The Gospel of Life is “meant to be a precise and vigorous reaffirmation of the value of human life and its inviolability, and at the same time a pressing appeal addressed to each and every person, in the name of God: respect, protect, love and serve life, every human life! Only in this direction will you find justice, development, true freedom, peace and happiness!”

— *The Gospel of Life*, \$5.
Pope Saint John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae*.
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MASS INTENTIONS

Mar 26	8:00 am	Patricia Alario, 4th Anniversary, by her husband
Mar 26	10:30 am	Robert Nadeau, 9th Anniversary, by his wife, Louise
Mar 26	10:30 am	Kelly Keaveny, 6th Anniversary, by her family
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 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.

"There is an everyday heroism, made up of gestures of sharing, big or small, which build up an authentic culture of life... Part of this daily heroism is also the silent but effective and eloquent witness of all those 'brave mothers who devote themselves to their own family without reserve, who suffer in giving birth to their children and who are ready to make any effort, to face any sacrifice, in order to pass on to them the best of themselves'... We thank you, heroic mothers, for your invincible love! We thank you for your intrepid trust in God and in his love. We thank you for the sacrifice of your life."

~ The Gospel of Life, §86. Pope Saint John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae*.
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STEWARDSHIP

March 18/19

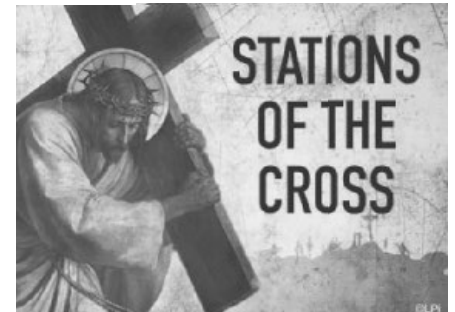
Sunday	1,553.00
Fuel/Maintenance	60.00
Flowers	347.00

TOTAL \$1,960.00



Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

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.



Fridays at 6:00 pm.

All are welcome.



To date 23 Parish families have donated \$6,310 toward our 2023 goal of \$22,000. 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

Acts 20:35

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: 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 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 1-5)	978-502-7993	lmarcil419@gmail.com
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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.

God Who Weeps with Us

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

“And Jesus wept.” — John 11:35

It strikes me every time I read the story of Lazarus’ resurrection. Of all the amazing and surprising things to occur in this Gospel passage — dead man walking! (well, dead man hopping, really) — it is this small detail that never fails to catch my eye, never fails to compel me and confound me.

Why did Jesus weep?

He knows the ending of the story. He knows Lazarus will be raised. So why does he weep?

Several years ago, I suffered a miscarriage. It was very early in the pregnancy, and so the news came to our older children all at once: there was a baby, and now the baby is gone. They understood and they did not understand. They nodded wisely at our words, accepting the information, absorbing it, wrapping their minds around this blessing-become-loss. They held the idea of a younger sibling in their mind, turning it over and inspecting it — I saw this in their eyes — and they did not know quite what to do with such a thing as great happiness that becomes great sorrow. Do any of us, really?

We still talk often about the baby that we lost — Julian, we named him — and he is a presence in their minds that makes himself known whenever we confront the subjects of suffering, pain, sadness, and loss.

“Why did God want Julian to die?” my daughter asked me recently, and I hastened to explain that God did not want Julian to die. “But why wasn’t he born, then?” she asked, shaking her head in confusion.

“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” Both Martha and Mary say this to Jesus when he comes to them in their grief. They don’t say it as reproach, but as testimony: their faith is great that, had Jesus been present, he would not have stood by and watched his friend suffer, and done nothing.

But Jesus was not there. He delayed in the place where he was, and Lazarus died, and now Martha and Mary have to face a future of uncertainty without the protection and companionship of their brother.

And when at last Jesus finally comes to Bethany, the sisters kneel before him and reaffirm their faith in Jesus’ love for them and in his power over life and death. And they accept that this was a power he did not use for their benefit, even though he could have. They accept their suffering.

The women had no expectations. We see that over and over again — they believe clearly that Jesus can bring their brother back, but they don’t dare to dream that he will. “If you had been here,” they say. If you had been here. If you had been here.

And Jesus wept — as if to say: I am here now.

Any suffering that we offer to God, he will sit with us and weep over. And he will accept our offering and take it and transform it from a meaningless pain into a force for good. He most often does this in ways we cannot see and cannot know — not here on earth, and not all at once. We could not bear the knowledge. It would be too much.

So, we understand, but we do not understand.

I could not tell my daughter why Julian was not born. As human beings, we are handicapped by our earthly comprehension of power. If God has the ability to make something easy, we say, then why doesn’t he do it? If God can prevent pain, isn’t it awful of him not to? And in fact, doesn’t that redirect the blame for every misfortune, every loss, every evil in this world to the feet of the One who could have kept it all from happening in the first place?

God can do anything. Can’t he make a world where we don’t suffer?

But my friends, he has. And he has invited us there. And until we can go, he will sit with us in this world — this broken, sinful, dying world — and he will weep.





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