

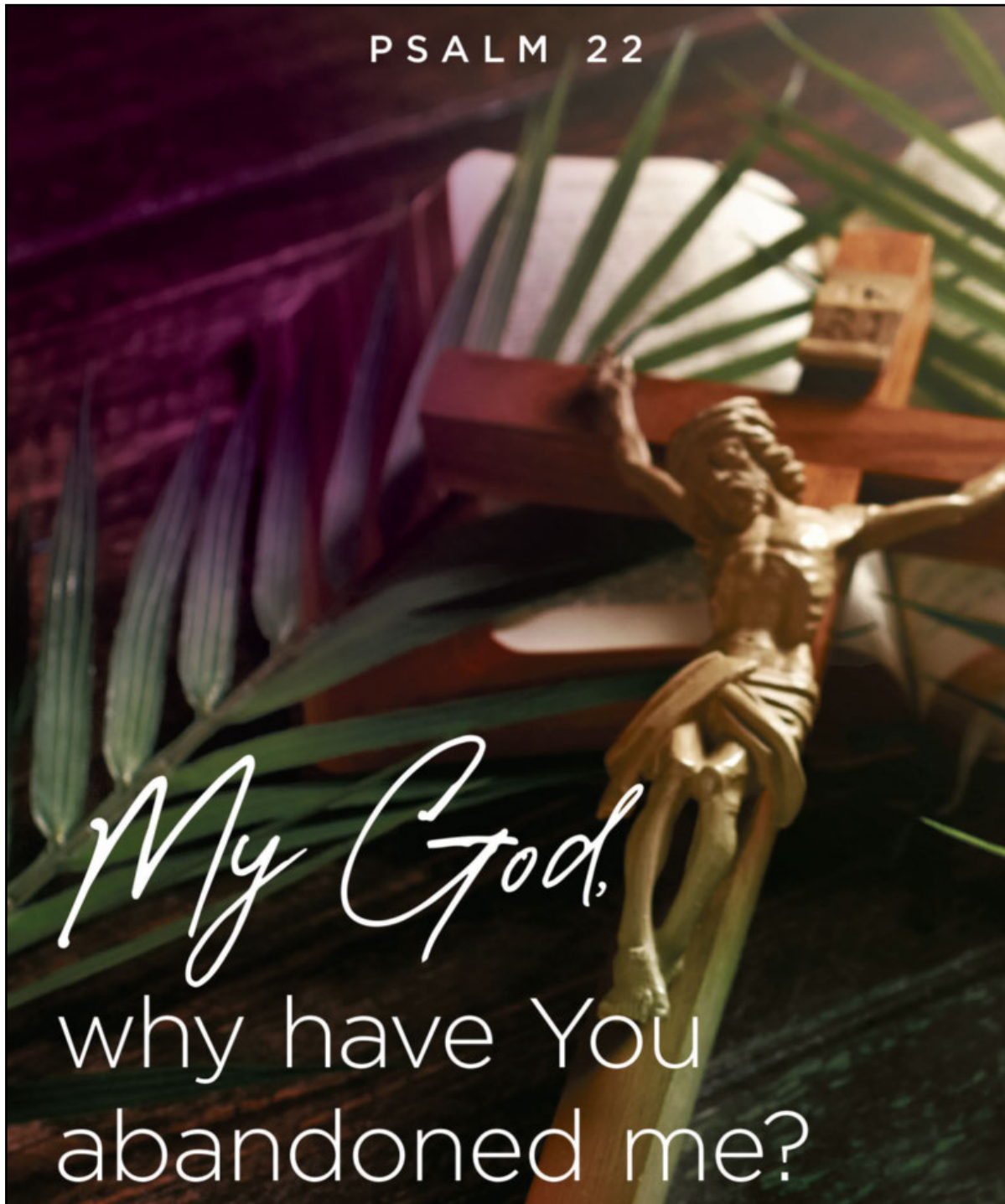


The Church of Saint Boniface

817 Massachusetts Avenue
Lunenburg, MA 01462



April 2, 2023



PSALM 22

My God,
why have You
abandoned me?

THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

April 2, 2023 • Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Isaiah 50:4–7/ Philippians 2:6–11/ Matthew 26:14–27:66

People's behavior changes when they're a part of a crowd. The anonymity of a crowd makes it dangerous, for it gives its members license to do things they know they wouldn't otherwise get away with. Also, it is much easier to do something or shout something when you have immediate support from like-minded people around you. Witness Judas. When he arrives to betray Jesus, he is accompanied by a large crowd, making it easier for him to go through with his plan. But later, when he is alone, he regrets what he has done and returns the thirty pieces of silver. Later, it is not a single witness who comes forward to condemn Jesus, but a crowd that cries out as one. Would any member of that crowd stand up alone to call for his death? Perhaps not. But together, they do exactly that. We can see that kind of mob mentality play out today as well. Something that one single person wouldn't dare do alone becomes a natural course of action when a mob is whipped into a frenzy. It behooves us to be aware of this dynamic and how it can affect our own behavior. Going along with a crowd does not absolve us of individual responsibility.

Question of the Week: In whom am I challenged to see Jesus? How can I help carry Christ's cross by carrying my neighbor's cross?

How can we give back to Jesus today?

As we reflect on Christ's sacrifice for us today, what is one way you can give back to Him?



Every time we look at a crucifix or image of Jesus on the Cross, we remember Christ's sacrificial love, how He bled and died for all of us, including His enemies. Jesus cared about those who despised Him; while He was suffering, He cried out, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Today, on Good Friday, we reflect on Christ's passion and His love for us. How could we possibly repay Him?

Meditations on the Passion and Death of Christ answers this question. The Good Friday devotional walks us through Christ's passion, including reflections and action steps we can take to improve our relationship with Christ.

When considering Jesus's prayer to His Father to forgive His enemies, the Meditations suggests that if we want to imitate Christ, praying for our enemies is a good place to start; it's the bare minimum for finding peace in our relationship with God:

Imitate Jesus praying from His Cross for His enemies, if you wish to have any part in the pardon He then sought to obtain for you. Be reconciled with your brother, if you wish to make peace with God...Excuse those who persecute you, and suffer in silence: forget and forgive. Hate sin, but not the sinner, because for him did Christ die, and for him did He sacrifice His life.

This Good Friday, honor Christ's sacrifice by praying for those who have hurt you and by asking Christ to help you move on from the spite you may feel. Meditating on Jesus's words will help you to better shine His light to those around you throughout the year, not just during Holy Week.



"As they were marching out, they came upon a man of Cyrene, Simon by name; this man they pressed into service to carry his cross."

Matthew 27:32

The Lord calls us to love God and to love our neighbor. Every day we are presented with opportunities to love our neighbor and help him "carry his cross." These opportunities aren't usually big events, they are usually ordinary occurrences like helping someone carry their groceries or holding the door open for them. The key is putting the other person's needs before our own and not expecting anything in return.



*God of all compassion,
again and again your Son
turned to you
as he obeyed your will
through pain, suffering,
and death.*

*Grant us the grace to accept your
will and carry our crosses
as we look to you for all our needs,
which we ask that you grant
through your Son and our Savior,
Christ the Lord.*

MASS INTENTIONS

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
May 21	8:00 am	Richard and Francis Hebert, by the LaFord Family
July 16	9:00 am	Lawrence Paton, 18th 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 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!

Easter Flower Donations have been made in honor and memory of:

*The Cote Family
Roland and Jane Huntoon
Robert and Patricia Keegan
Wes McAnulty
James McBride, Jr.
Jack and Jean Mohan
Sab and Maria Perguitte
Marion Russo
John Russo
Leon Tarbell
Baby T. Tedesco*

Deceased Members of the LaFord and Crane Families

STEWARDSHIP

March 25/26

Sunday	2,328.00
Fuel/Maintenance	25.00
Flowers	195.00
Catholic Relief Services	<u>482.00</u>

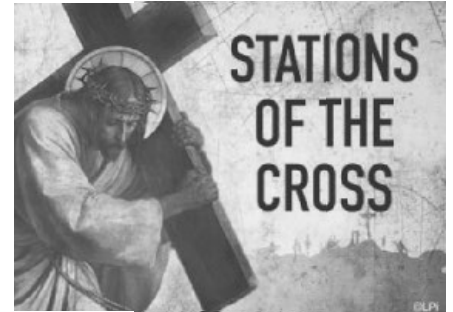
\$3,030.00

TOTAL



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 32 Parish families have donated \$7,830 toward our 2023 goal of \$22,000. 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'
Acts 20:35



Mass Schedule

Wednesday Mass 6:30 pm
Holy Thursday Mass 7:00 pm
Good Friday Liturgy 7:00 pm
Holy Saturday Easter Vigil 4:00 pm
Easter Sunday 8:00 am and 10:30 am

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
Terry Stramowski, Religious Ed Coordinator (Grades 6-10)		gr610@cffstboniface.onmicrosoft.com
Judit Ernst, Music Ministry	978-855-2104	juditernst@comcast.net
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.

Participating in the Mysteries

Br. John-Marmion Villa

The African American spiritual, “Were You There?” is deeply moving and widely used especially at this time in the liturgical year. We’ve heard it so often in churches over the years, but I fear that some (perhaps even me) have lost touch with the meaning behind this spiritual. We will participate venerating the cross during the Good Friday liturgy, but I fear that others (perhaps me included) may have fallen into the mechanics of the ritual without heartfully reflecting on the deeply piercing question from the song, “were you there?”

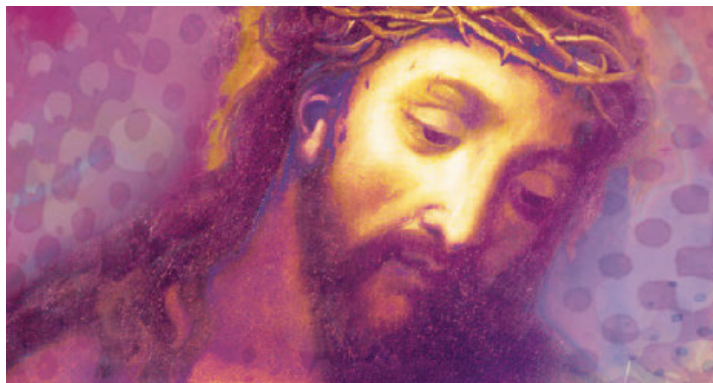
The question is posed in the second-person past tense, indicative mood. Most of us speak English without thinking about tense and mood, but in this case the distinction is important. The indicative mood is a verb form you use to make declarative statements that you assume to be factually accurate, such as when you ask a question in the form of a statement or state an opinion as if it were a fact. The question isn’t “Did you hear about this?” or “Did you read the headline?” or “Have you seen this story trending?” From a lyrical analysis standpoint, the author may have been asking the question in a literal sense, implying that the event should be remembered as if the listener had been physically present.

For us today, how can we be really present to an historical event that happened thousands of years before any of us were born? Isn’t the reading of the Passion in today’s Gospel merely a commemoration of that event? How does an event of the past have any bearing on my present circumstances or future trajectory?

The late Pope Benedict XVI gives us a clue. He writes:

“Jesus is nailed to the Cross. The shroud of Turin gives us an idea of the unbelievable cruelty of this procedure. Jesus does not drink the numbing gall offered to him: he deliberately takes upon himself all the pain of the Crucifixion. His whole body is racked; the words of the Psalm have come to pass: “But I am a worm and no man, scorned by men, rejected by the people” (Ps 22:7). “As one from whom men hide their faces, he was despised... surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows” (Is 53:3f.). Let us halt before this image of pain, before the suffering Son of God. Let us look upon him at times of presumptuousness and pleasure, in order to learn to respect limits and to see the superficiality of all merely material goods. Let us look upon him at times of trial and tribulation, and realize that it is then that we are closest to God. Let us try to see his face in the people we might look down upon. As we stand before the condemned Lord, who did not use his power to Come down from the Cross, but endured its suffering to the bitter end, another thought comes to mind. Ignatius of Antioch, (died circa 120 A.D.) a prisoner in chains for his faith in the Lord, praised the Christians of Smyrna for their invincible faith: he says that they were, so to speak, nailed with flesh and blood to the Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ (1:1). Let us nail ourselves to him, resisting the temptation to stand apart, or to join others in mocking him.”

But it is only Palm Sunday. The events of Jesus’ Passion, Death, and Resurrection will be played out again in our liturgical remembrances in the coming days. Rather than merely “attend the services” of Holy Triduum, maybe we can “participate in the mysteries” in a way we’ve never done before, so as to experience their fruits ... in a way never experienced before ... because “we were there.”





Serving St. Boniface Families
with Three Convenient Locations

Anderson Family Funeral Homes

Townsend ~ Ayer ~ Fitchburg

Directors: Brian T. Anderson & Michael D. Masciarelli
www.andersonfuneral.com • 800-562-2692



PROCTOR
Excavating & Septic Systems

Site Work
Title V Inspections

DAN PROCTOR OWNER
978-582-4764

**Place Your Ad Here and
Support our Parish!**

Instantly create and
purchase an ad with

**AD
CREATOR
STUDIO**



4lpi.com/adcreator

**airport
AUTOPARTS**

New & Used Tires
BUYING UNWANTED CARS
Recycled & New Parts

978.534.3137
56 Crawford St. • Leominster
airportautoparts.com

THOMAS FUEL
LUNEBURG, MA EST. 1992

Automatic
Delivery
Budget
Programs

978-342-9716
WWW.THOMASFUEL.NET

**LITTLE'S
FLOOR
COVERING**

359 Summer St.
Fitchburg, MA
978-345-5425

Since 1998

**CARPET • VINYL
LUXURY VINYL
PLANK/TILE
COMMERCIAL
HARDWOOD**

www.littlesfloorcovering.com



Lynn Walsh, Realtor®
Platinum Top Producer
— COLDWELL BANKER REALTY —
4 Monument Sq. | Leominster, MA 01453
978.514.2903
lynn.walsh9@cbrealty.com
Call Me for a FREE Market Analysis

**COLDWELL BANKER
REALTY**

T & W Custom Builders
SINCE 1976
GENERAL CONTRACTING

370 Main Street • West Townsend, Massachusetts 01474

Wide Range of Subcontract Services
Cabinetry • Millwork Historical Renovations
Excavation • Finish Carpentry • Structural Carpentry

978-597-6277
William G. Schulze

**PETE'S
PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.**

978-571-6596
Petesplumbing@gmail.com
www.PetesPlumbingandHeating.com

KOHLER REMODEL PARTNER &
AUTHORIZED SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

INSTALLATION | REPAIR

**O&W
HEATING
AIR CONDITIONING**

Oil Burner Service

**Fitchburg, MA
978-345-7845**

Robert C. Alario
Certified Public Accountants, PC

75 N. Main St., Leominster, MA 01453
292 Park Ave., Worcester, MA 01609
(L) 978-534-1999 (W) 508-755-7575
Fax: (L) 978-534-0499 (W) 508-755-7599

www.robertalarior.com
bob@robertalarior.com

William G. Schulze
370 Main Street — West Townsend MA
978-423-8200

**Mass State Title 5 • Radon Mitigation
Building Science • Energy Efficiency**

WHALOM WASH

380 ELECTRIC AVE. (RT 13)
LUNEBURG

www.WHALOMWASH.com
978-829-0399
DAN AND JEAN PROCTOR, OWNERS

**Jeffrey's
ANTIQUE CO-OP
MALL**

**JEFFREY'S
ANTIQUE CO-OP MALL**

OPEN 7 DAYS A
WEEK! 10AM - 3PM

Over 150+ dealers
Browse through this friendly
& relaxed shop offering the
most eclectic and ever
changing inventory of
antiques & collectibles.
Come in and find
that unique antique.
Something for every
collector's estate!

your neighborhood garage!

Les' auto repair

foreign & domestic, auto & light truck

978-345-0105

LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS
Place Your Ad Here
and Support Our Parish!

CONTACT ME Tom Blanco

tblanco@4LPi.co
(800) 477-4574 x6285

**FREE
AD DESIGN**
with purchase
of this space

**CALL
800-477-4574**

JAMIE TOALE
SUPPORTIVE BUSINESS ALTERNATIVES

Small Business Management | Consulting
Interim Management | Special Projects | Coaching
Municipal Government Specialties

617-365-4612 | jamie@jamietoale.com | www.jamietoale.com

**St. Boniface
Pre-School & Childcare**

Children Ages
2.9 through 6 years
Open 7:30 am—5:30 pm

817 Massachusetts Avenue
Lunenburg, MA 01462
978-582-7110

Lana KOPSALA
MAKING REALTY DREAMS REALITY

"Your Local Real Estate Agent"
Coldwell Banker Realty
Call/Text: 978.855.9112
"President Premier"
Lana.Kopsala@NEMoves.com
www.LanaSellsHomes.com

**COLDWELL BANKER
REALTY**

**One Family
Insurance
Agency**

Auto - Home
Business

978-403-5942
1familyinsurance.com
1 Main Street, Ste 15
Lunenburg



Ad info. 1-800-477-4574 • Publication Support 1-800-888-4574 • www.4lpi.com

St. Boniface, Lunenburg, MA

03-1376