

The Church of Saint Boniface

817 Massachusetts Avenue
Lunenburg, MA 01462



April 23, 2023



3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER



They set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" - Lk 24:33-34

THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

April 23, 2023 • 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14, 22–23/ 1 Peter 1:17–21/ Luke 24:13–35

The two disciples from Emmaus enjoyed the company of the stranger enough to invite him to stay with them, but it was not until the stranger broke bread with them that they recognized him. Only then did they realize that their hearts had been burning within them as they'd listened to him open God's word to them. Sometimes recognition only comes in retrospect. We don't always realize the significance of an encounter with someone unexpected in the moment. Only later do we realize how special it was.

Question of the Week: Luke says that at first the disciples' "eyes were prevented from recognizing him" (24:16). What prevents me from recognizing the Lord in our midst?

Who Travels With You?

Fr. Mark Suslenko

Pope Benedict XVI suggests that "Emmaus is really everywhere, the road that leads there is the path of every Christian, indeed, every human being." From the time we develop the gift of reason, our journeys are adventures that seek to understand the past, find joy in the present, and plot the course for the future. We are constantly in dialogue with ourselves, others, and God. We try to put together the pieces of the past so that we can understand how we came to be where we are today and what we need to do in order to face tomorrow. We reach for voices that can help us interpret and learn from events and circumstances that have affected us, helping us make sense of where life has brought us. We need to listen to the right voices as we ponder a pivotal question: where is the road of my life going to end? If we are not cautious, we can easily be deceived.

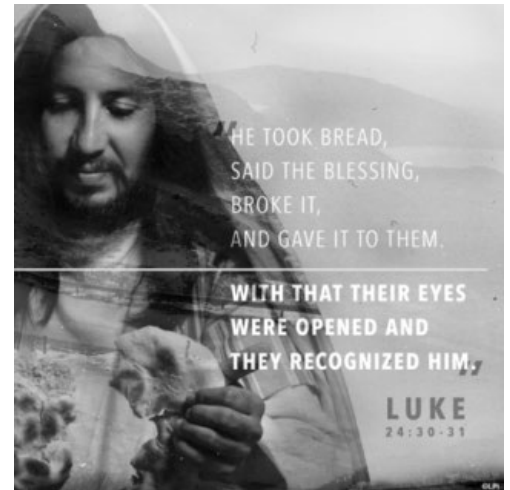
When we are walking through life with our heads held high, spunk in our step and eyes twinkling bright with glances to heaven, all is right with the world, it is easier to see God's hand. God's glory dances in myriad ways around us and the hand of His loving presence holds ours as we exhale songs of praise. When life's disappointments, challenges, and difficulties are in recession and the warmth of joy's rays are shining on our face, it is easier to see God's love and guidance. Everything is in sync. But, when sorrow, failure, disappointment, and fear weigh us down, our eyes are fixed downward, and we walk through life looking downcast. We carry heavy burdens. We see not what is above but what is below and easily tire from the sacks we carry. It is harder to see God's love when we are hurting and feeling betrayed or abandoned. Finding meaning in life's ugliness can be an arduous task indeed. We need a discerning eye.

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*"Did not our hearts burn within us while
He talked to us on the road, while He
opened to us the scriptures?"*

LUKE 24:32

How often do you take the time to discern what Jesus is calling you to do with your life? Are your prayers always petitions, asking Jesus to do things for you? If so, that's a one-sided relationship. Living our faith means developing a personal relationship with Jesus. Just like any friendship, there is give and take, each side listening to each other and helping each other out. Take time, in silence, to listen to what Jesus is asking of you today.



Loving God,
you have shown us the
path of life
and have sent your Son to
accompany us on that path.
As we continue our
journeys to you,
hear the prayers we make
and grant the needs we have,
through your beloved Son,
Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord.

MASS INTENTIONS

Apr 23	10:30 am	Judith Murray, 5th Anniversary, by her daughter
Apr 23	10:30 am	Roland and Jane Huntoon, by Tina and John Huntoon
Apr 30	8:00 am	Howard and Ella May Crane, by the LaFord Family
May 6	4:00 pm	Brian Connors, 3rd Anniversary, by his family
May 7	8:00 am	Rev. Andre Gariepy, by the LaFord Family
May 14	10:30 am	Kathleen Cronin, by her husband
May 14	10:30 am	Daniel Cronin, by his father
May 21	8:00 am	Richard and Francis Hebert, by the LaFord Family
May 28	8:00 am	Raymond Powers, 1st Anniversary, by his wife, Mary

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.

The Montachusett Chorale will present its Spring Concert on Sunday, April 30th at 2pm n Tata Auditorium, Leominster city Hall, 25 West St. Concert proceeds will benefit Team Rubicon a local, national, and international volunteer veteran-led disaster relief organization. Musical selections will include patriotic songs, songs from the stage and scree ad the Big Band Era. Advance tickets are \$12 and are available from Chorale members, in the Mayor's Office, Leominster City Hall or at chorale25@hotmail.com. At door tickets are \$15. Under 18 are free.



To date 47 Parish families have donated \$13,980 toward our 2023 goal of \$22,000. 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' Acts 20:35

The Ladies of St. Boniface will be hosting a "membership tea" at our next meeting - Thursday, April 27th at 6:30 pm.

Formerly the Women's Guild, the Ladies sponsor a number of social events and fundraisers throughout the year to support our parish and our community. We provide opportunities for fellowship, service, spiritual reflection and fun for the women of our parish. Meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month and dues are just \$20/year.

Please join us for tea and sweets on April 27th - bring a friend and give us a try! You'll be glad you did!!

St. Boniface Preschool is currently looking for someone to take over the Treasurer's position. This position calls for someone who is able to provide net income exhibits based off of QuickBook reports that are run by our bookkeeper. A yearly budget, reviewing all expenses and deposits, tracking Grant expenditures and budget forecasting. This person will help and answer questions for the Director when needed. The board meets once every eight weeks.

Please contact Nina Charpentier if you or someone you know would be interested in this position. 978-582-7110 or email ninastboniface@gmail.com

STEWARDSHIP

April 15/16

Sunday	2,046.00
Fuel/Maintenance	293.00
Holy Day	17.00
Easter	35.00
Food for the Poor	<u>727.00</u>
TOTAL	\$3,118.00



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.

FIRST
COMMUNION
Blessings

On Sunday, May 7th at the 10:30 am mass these young parishioners will make their First Communion.

Luke Barrios
Adam Callahan
Michael Carkin
Nathaleigh Carkin
Jameson David
Cora Donnell
Rosemary Gallagher
Henry Gilman
Carly-Jo MacKenzie
Valentina Rey-Restrepo
Lukis Viera

Please keep them in your prayers.

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.

Who Travels With You?
Fr. Mark Suslenko



Continued from page 2

Is God a real Being or simply an idea that we entertain? Often, we reduce God to a set of ideas, rules, expectations, theories, and principles and neglect seeing him as a Real Presence who walks with us. What are we expecting God to do? If we are expecting God to rearrange and fix the disjointed and broken furniture of our lives, then we may end up very disappointed. Even the disciples on the Road of Emmaus suffered from this myopic shortsightedness. They were expecting Jesus to put Israel back together, save it from the Romans and redeem it! That's what they were hoping for! Instead, he was killed, and they were seemingly left alone with all of their broken furniture. Their misconceived expectations blinded them to what was really going on. We lose our sight, too. Our hope gets displaced.

God's Word wonderfully keeps it all in balance. It holds together life and death, suffering and healing, grace and sin, joy and despair, justice and injustice, and faith and doubt. The Word, who was with God from the beginning bursts forth into the Word made flesh with creative love, sustaining and creating all things for all times and in all ages. The Word, captured in the pages of Scripture, is the only thing that can interpret our lives and help us find the presence of God. The Word alone helps us lift our eyes from what is below and fix them on what is above regardless of time and circumstance. It is the Word who helps us walk with purpose and determination reminding us how foolish we are not to believe all that has gone before us. We need to trust that our companions in faith, whose lives of fidelity and witness abound in Sacred Scripture, are here to help us and interpret all that is happening.

We are called to walk with purpose and listen to and notice things that may not at first be apparent. We have to allow the One who has special claim on our soul to enlighten, instruct and inspire us! The incarnate Mystery of God is pulsating in and through all of creation, which is where the presence of the Word who became flesh can be discovered. He has been with us all along. How could we have missed him? We can become too preoccupied with ourselves and forget which kingdom is the one to which we must give our allegiance. We forget that we travel a road whose destiny ends here but whose end is in eternity. Sometimes, our slowness to understand is intentional as we struggle with whether it is our will or God's will that is supposed to be done. We allow all of the busyness to rob us of the silence needed to simply "be" and understand.

There is something mystically, simply, majestically, and profoundly beautiful and centering about the Eucharist. There is a presence discovered there in the simplicity of some of God's most basic gifts: flour, water, and fruit. It's almost so simple that we find it hard to believe. Wouldn't God want to make a grander and more spectacular entrance into our lives? God chooses to walk as we walk, beside us and with us, feeling as we feel. It is an incredible moment of connection when we "take and eat," becoming one with all of our brothers and sisters and one with our God, who is our Emmanuel (God with us). There as we take and eat our eyes are opened as we stand before the cross and death, the grave and life. It is there where not with words or thoughts but with the profound language of our souls we give voice to our faith that God is here and all is well. The eyes of our hearts are lifted high above the cross, beyond the tensions and tragedies of life. And, for a moment it all makes sense, we see clearly, and all is well. We must rest, and learn to see with the eyes of our souls.

In listening deeply to the enlightenment that comes from the Word made flesh and the written word of Sacred Scripture and the nourishment and encounter that is discovered in the Eucharist, we become more like Christ. In becoming more like Christ, we gain confidence and are able to walk through whatever life brings with head held high. Our traveling companions of faith, hope, and love are with us.



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