



The Church of Saint Boniface

817 Massachusetts Avenue
Lunenburg, MA 01462



April 30, 2023



4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



"Whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out." - Jn 10:2-3

THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

April 30, 2023 • 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41/ 1 Peter 2:20b-25/ John 10:1-10

In the part of this lesson that makes up today's Gospel, Jesus describes himself as the gate to the sheepfold. The gate serves two purposes. Closed, it protects the sheep in the sheepfold from robbers and predators; open, it allows the sheep to come and go in response to the sound of their shepherd's voice. Imagine that instead of an iron or wooden gate at the opening of the sheepfold, there is only Jesus. Jesus is stronger than any gate, better able to protect the sheep from harm. And Jesus is more forgiving and loving than any gate, welcoming the lost and caring for the hurting..

Question of the Week: How can I be that gate, in imitation of Jesus? How do I protect others from danger or trauma and how do I comfort those who are lost or in pain?



**Why should we have Masses said for our intentions?
We can pray for anyone at any time.
So why do Catholics talk about having Masses said?**

When a priest offers the Holy Mass, he prays that the graces which come from the Mass be bestowed on someone in particular, such as a parishioner, family member, or departed soul. The intention he prays for is usually one that has been requested by a parishioner. That's right!

We, the laity, can ask a priest to offer Mass for someone we are praying for, whether that person is someone who has passed away or who is still living. The intentions can vary: for conversion, for health, on birthdays or anniversaries...

But why ask a priest to offer Mass? Why not just pray for them ourselves? It is good to do this because of the multitude of spiritual fruits gained from the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. It is the greatest and most efficacious of all prayers, because in it, we are offering Christ Himself to His Father: the perfect Lamb of God, the supreme and most pleasing Sacrifice.

As St. Leonard of Port Maurice says:

Let us be diligent in hearing Mass as often as possible, and with all possible devotion; and furthermore, let us endeavor to have as many Masses as possible celebrated for our intention.

By this means, be our debts weighty as they may, and countless beyond numbering, there can be no doubt that we will be able to discharge them all completely and entirely by the treasure which is derivable from the holy Mass.

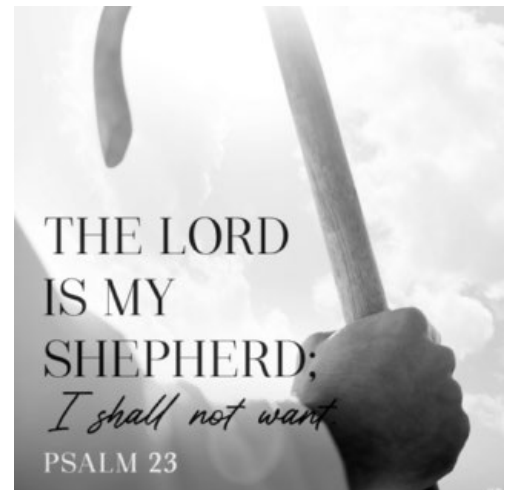
There you have it—from a saint! His words are a good reminder not to take the Mass for granted, for it is more powerful than we know.

“And Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ...’”

Acts 2:38

The word “repent” means to turn from sin - to change our thoughts, words and actions. Change that is permanent comes from within – a transformation or conversion of heart. This requires prayer, discipline and perseverance.

Change is hard. The first step is recognizing that we are broken and that we need God's help. The good news - we are not alone in our journey. Ask Jesus daily for guidance and patiently listen for his response.



God of mercy and love,
your Son came to us, a sinful
people,
and shared your unparalleled
mercy and love
with sinners and outcasts.
He showed us the way.
May we find the strength to
share your mercy and love
with all who need it, not just
those who deserve it,
as we ask you to hear our
prayers,
through Jesus Christ, our
Good Shepherd.

MASS INTENTIONS

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 13	4:00 pm	Antonia and Ottavio Angelini, by their daughter, Mary
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 25	8:00 am	Daniel Gilligan, on his birthday, by his mother
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.

Congratulations to Ruby Grace daughter of Virginia and Nicholas Tedesco III who was baptized at St. Boniface Church on Saturday, April 22nd. Welcome to our Parish Family.



To date 50 Parish families have donated \$15,230 toward our 2023 goal of \$22,000. 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' Acts 20:35



On May 25th at 6:30 pm the Ladies of St Boniface are hosting a baby shower for CareNet mothers. We are blessed to have the director speaking at our shower. In advance of this we are asking our parishioners if they would donate any of the following items and leave them in the back of the church: clothes size 3 months to 24 months for boys and girls, toys, baby lotion and baby wash, diapers sizes 3,4 and 5 and childproofing items (outlet covers).

2023 Baccalaureate

May 30, 2023 at 7:00 pm
Pilgrim Covenant Church
138 Beal Street
Lunenburg, Ma



The Baccalaureate in Lunenburg was started many years ago as a service held at the HS conducted by the clergy from the town's churches. It offered a time to share inspirational readings and messages to all the graduates. It is organized so that each year the service will rotate between the local churches. Parents, families, and community members from all Faiths are invited to participate and celebrate the Class of 2023.

STEWARDSHIP

April 22/23

Sunday	1,679.00
Fuel/Maintenance	306.00
Easter	70.00
TOTAL	\$2,055.00



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.



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 Memorial Day - Labor Day : 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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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.

Hope and Invitation — Good Shepherd Sunday

Bro. Silas Henderson, S.D.S.

“The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice. —John 10:3-4

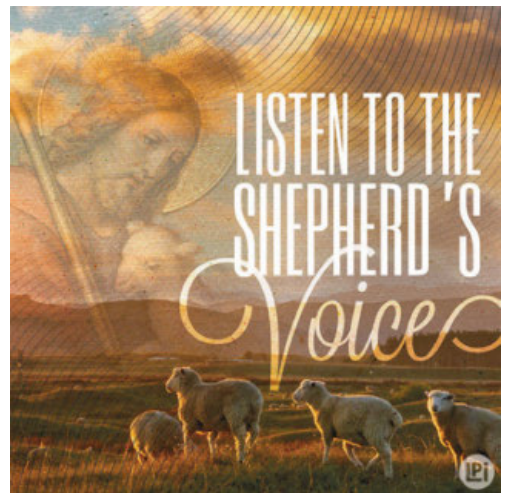
In his message for the 50th World Day of Prayer for Vocations (which is celebrated each year on the 4th Sunday of Easter) Pope Benedict XVI observed, “Hope is the expectation of something positive in the future, yet at the same time it must sustain our present existence, which is often marked by dissatisfaction and failures ... To have hope, therefore, is the equivalent of trusting in God who is faithful, who keeps the promises of the covenant.”

This sense of hope is at the heart of this week’s Gospel which places before us one of the greatest biblical images of God’s faithful care and mercy: the Good Shepherd. The Evangelist John uses the image of the Good Shepherd to illustrate the intimate way Christ knows each of us — the flock entrusted to his care — and how, like a faithful shepherd, he constantly watches over us and lifts us up.

The most important point of this Sunday’s Gospel is that eternal life is the Good Shepherd’s gift. Through Jesus and because he has given his life for “his flock,” we have an abundance of life. While it seems so simple, this fundamental Christian belief is one that we can often take for granted. And that is unfortunate, because this Gospel also includes an unspoken invitation for us: listen to the Shepherd’s voice.

Accepting that gift of “abundant life” means that we listen to and follow the direction of our Shepherd. We can see this lived out in the preaching and witness of Peter and the other Apostles (in this Sunday’s first reading and throughout the Acts of the Apostles) as they remind the people of Jerusalem that God is calling them to do and be more in Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit blessed the Church with many new members through the obedient service of the Apostles. We have to have the same obedient spirit if we want to see the Church continue to grow in our own time.

On this Good Shepherd Sunday, we ask God to bless the Church with an increase in men and women willing to serve the Kingdom as priests, deacons, and religious brothers and sisters. But the readings also remind us that each of us (and not only our pastors and religious) has a vocation follow the example of the Shepherd and listen to his commands by building up the Church as we promote what Henri Nouwen has called the “three spiritual qualities of the resurrected life”: unity, intimacy, and integrity. “We are called to break through the boundaries of nationality, race, sexual orientation, age, and mental capacities and create a unity of love that allows the weakest among us to live well” (from *The Road to Daybreak*).



While we can (and should) take comfort in the Shepherd’s provident care and protection — and the gift of abundant life that he offers us — we can only say we truly know this Good Shepherd if we are willing to listen to his voice and follow his commands in our daily lives. As we continue our Easter celebrations, we would do well to remember the words of Saint Cyril of Alexandria, “The mark of Christ’s sheep is their willingness to hear and obey... People who hear God’s voice are known by him.”



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