



# The Church of Saint Boniface

817 Massachusetts Avenue  
Lunenburg, MA 01462



May 14, 2023



**6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

“And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him.”  
- Jn 14:20-21

## THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

May 14, 2023 • 6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:5–8, 14–17 | Peter 3:15–18 | John 14:15–21

In his first letter, Peter speaks particularly to those who are suffering. Christians were persecuted in that era, so he had to know that his letter would find plenty of people who were suffering. He asks those who are questioned about their faith to treat the questioners gently and reverently. After all, they are children of God as well. “Suffer for doing good,” he counseled, as Jesus had (1 Peter 3:17). Despite our suffering, God calls us to love those who malign us as God loves them. And who knows? If we respond to our opponents with grace and without vitriol, we may disarm them and find a glimmer of goodness within them.

**Question of the Week: How can I respond with grace and respect to someone who maligns me or strongly disagrees with me? Can I imagine my response defusing the disagreement?**



**Which Irish saint had a “green thumb”?**  
**As you tend your garden this spring, invite a wise saint to accompany you.**

Gardening was St. Fiacre’s thing.

Passing through the mists of time to where he lived in the 7th century, we find that his original abode was in Kilkenny, Ireland. Some say he was raised in a monastery and there learned about gardening and herbal medicine.

He was ordained and eventually retired to his own hermitage, but his peaceful seclusion was not to last. Drawn by his knowledge and holiness, disciples and crowds streamed to him. So he left for France in search of the solitude that he loved.

He found it in Meaux in the northern part of the country, where he built himself a hermitage, a garden, an oratory to Our Lady, and a hospice for travelers. But attracted by the scent of the garden’s flowers—or more likely, by Fiacre’s holiness and his reputation for miracles—disciples and sick pilgrims besieged his solitude once more. He built a monastery for his followers and welcomed the sick, miraculously curing them by laying his hands upon them.

St. Fiacre’s Miraculous Monastery and Hospice of Healing (as we imagine they were called) eventually evolved into the village of Saint-Fiacre, a town that is still extant in the Île-de-France region of the country. He is buried in the nearby cathedral of Meaux, and is revered as the patron saint of gardeners today.

*“For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that be God’s will, than for doing evil.” 1 PETER 3:17*

The old line says “if you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans.” Many of us are diligent in our planning and making sure things are progressing smoothly. Then disaster strikes, we don’t get the result we anticipated or an unforeseen problem arises. Many times we may respond negatively and ask, “Why me? I did everything right!” Here’s the thing – adversity humbles us and reminds us of our dependence on God and not on our own self-reliance. Rest assured, God has a better plan in store for you



Loving God,  
your Son testified that he  
is in you  
and you in him.  
Help us to see your Son in  
others more clearly  
and see you in him as we see  
our needs fulfilled,  
through the one who remains  
with you always,  
Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord.

## MASS INTENTIONS

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 20	4:00 pm	Terri Chapdelaine, on the occasion of her 90th birthday, by Annette, Suzanne, Rachelle and Paulette
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
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 May and June will benefit Catholic Charities of Leominster. Please place all donations in the back of the church. Thank you for your continued generosity.

### Mass for Healing in Leominster

On Saturday, May 20 at 9:00 am St. Cecilia Church in Leominster will offer Mass a Mass For Healing and for the intentions of everyone who is sick. After the Mass, the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be given to those who are elderly or have a serious illness.

**Ladies of St Boniface** are hosting a baby shower for CareNet mothers on Thursday, May 25th at 6:30 pm. 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).

**Volunteer Positions at St. Boniface** - The following is a list of volunteer positions at the Parish: CCD Instructors, Eucharist Ministers and Food Donation Delivery Persons. Please contact the Parish Office at (978) 582-4008 or [Stbonifaceparish@verizon.net](mailto:Stbonifaceparish@verizon.net) for more information.

**St. Boniface Preschool's** non profit board of directors is currently looking for someone to take over the Treasurer's position. This board of directors is composed of four volunteers and is looking for a fifth to act as our treasurer. 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, and this position typically takes up 10 hours of your time per year. *Please contact Nina Charpentier if you or someone you know would be interested in this position. 978-582-7110 or email [ninastboniface@gmail.com](mailto:ninastboniface@gmail.com)*

## STEWARDSHIP

### May 6/7

Sunday	3,527.00
Fuel/Maintenance	509.00
Holy Day	22.00
Easter	22.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,080.00</b>



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



To date 52 Parish families have donated \$15,780 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](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 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](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).

---

### PARISH STAFF:

	<i>phone</i>	<i>email</i>
Rev. Charles Omolo, Administrator	978-582-4008	<a href="mailto:stbonifaceparish@verizon.net">stbonifaceparish@verizon.net</a>
Heather Sroka, Administrative Assistant	978-582-4008	<a href="mailto:stbonifaceparish@verizon.net">stbonifaceparish@verizon.net</a>
Lucy Marcil, Religious Ed Coordinator (Grades 1-5)	978-502-7993	<a href="mailto:lmarcil419@gmail.com">lmarcil419@gmail.com</a>
Terry Stramowski, Religious Ed Coordinator (Grades 6-10)		<a href="mailto:gr610@cffstboniface.onmicrosoft.com">gr610@cffstboniface.onmicrosoft.com</a>
Judit Ernst, Music Ministry	978-855-2104	<a href="mailto:juditernst@comcast.net">juditernst@comcast.net</a>
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>

---

**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.*

## *Conversations with Jesus* *Br. John-Marmion Villa*

How familiar are we with God's Presence in our lives ... I mean, really?!?! We say that we are because that's the right answer to the question.

Recently, I came across a story of an old man dying of cancer.

"The old man's daughter had asked the local priest to come and pray with her father. When the priest arrived, he found the man lying in bed with his head propped up on two pillows and an empty chair beside his bed. The priest assumed that the old fellow had been informed of his visit. 'I guess you were expecting me,' he said. 'No, who are you?' 'I'm the new associate at your parish,' the priest replied. 'When I saw the empty chair, I figured you knew I was going to show up.' 'Oh yeah, the chair,' said the bedridden man. 'Would you mind closing the door?' Puzzled, the priest shut the door.

'I've never told anyone this, not even my daughter,' said the man, 'but all my life I have never known how to pray. At the Sunday Mass, I used to hear the pastor talk about prayer, but it always went right over my head. Finally, I said to him one day in sheer frustration, 'I get nothing out of your homilies on prayer.' 'Here,' says my pastor, 'read this book by Hans Urs von Balthasar. He's a Swiss theologian. It's the best book on contemplative prayer in the twentieth century.' 'Well, Father,' says the man, 'I took the book home and tried to read it. But in the first three pages I had to look up twelve words in the dictionary. I gave the book back to my pastor, thanked him, and under my breath whispered, 'for nothin'.' 'I abandoned any attempt at prayer,' he continued, 'until one day about four years ago my best friend said to me, 'Joe, prayer is just a simple matter of having a conversation with Jesus. Here's what I suggest. Sit down on a chair, place an empty chair in front of you, and in faith see Jesus on the chair. It's not spooky because He promised, "I'll be with you all days." Then just speak to Him and listen in the same way you're doing with me right now.' 'So, Padre, I tried it, and I've liked it so much that I do it a couple of hours every day. I'm careful, though. If my daughter saw me talking to an empty chair, she'd either have a nervous breakdown or send me off to the funny farm.'

The priest was deeply moved by the story and encouraged the old guy to continue on the journey. Then he prayed with him, anointed him with oil, and returned to the rectory. Two nights later the daughter called to tell the priest that her daddy had died that afternoon. 'Did he seem to die in peace?' he asked. 'Yes, when I left the house around two o'clock, he called me over to his bedside, told me one of his corny jokes, and kissed me on the cheek. When I got back from the store an hour later, I found him dead. But there was something strange, Father. In fact, beyond strange — kinda weird. Apparently just before Daddy died, he leaned over and rested his head on a chair beside his bed.'" —An excerpt from: *Abba's Child: The Cry of the Heart for Intimate Belonging* (p. 106-107) by Brennan Manning

What if we were really attuned to God's Presence in our lives ... like this man in the story? What difference would it make given the realities of the world we live in? How do we even begin to be aware of it?

Let's start with this: Jesus never goes back on his word. So, when he says in today's Gospel, "I will come to you" and "I will love him and reveal myself to him," we can be sure that Jesus intends to do this. This is faith. But there is a qualifying clause, "If you love me" (verse 15). IF ... That's a sobering thought. Peter says to Jesus, "You know I love you" (Jn 21:15). We might say the same. But when pressed further, Peter becomes distressed. The same should be said of us. A careful examination of our conscience might reveal that we might love Jesus, but there are also other 'loves' in our lives which attract us. One of my former co-workers in evangelization was fond of saying, "The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing." It's not that Jesus is a liar, it's that our faith can be flimsy, easily persuaded (or justified) by the ephemeral possession, the esteemed reputation, the novel commodity, the socially acceptable position, the polarizing ideology, the unexpected opportunity, the seductive relationship, or the alluring activity. These may have some value in the short term, but they are not the main thing. The main thing is Jesus, and this lesson is what the man in our story learned even later in life.

Perhaps, we can be honest with ourselves by saying that there are many loves that occupy our hearts and minds. And from that starting point, let's learn to have a conversation with Jesus about what — or who — the 'main thing' in our lives should be.



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](http://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](http://4lpi.com/adcreator)

**THOMAS FUEL**  
LUNenburg, MA  
EST. 1992

Automatic  
Delivery  
Budget  
Programs



**978-342-9716**  
**WWW.THOMASFUEL.NET**

**LITTLE'S  
FLOOR  
COVERING**  
Since 1998

**CARPET • VINYL  
LUXURY VINYL  
PLANK/TILE  
COMMERCIAL  
HARDWOOD**  
[www.littlesfloorcovering.com](http://www.littlesfloorcovering.com)

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



**Lynn Walsh, Realtor®**

Platinum Top Producer

— COLDWELL BANKER REALTY —  
4 Monument Sq. | Leominster, MA 01453

**978.514.2903**

[lynn.walsh9@cbrealty.com](mailto:lynn.walsh9@cbrealty.com)

Call Me for a FREE Market Analysis



**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



**978-571-6596**  
[Petesplumbing@gmail.com](mailto:Petesplumbing@gmail.com)  
[www.PetesPlumbingandHeating.com](http://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.robertalario.com](http://www.robertalario.com)

[bob@robertalario.com](mailto:bob@robertalario.com)

**William G. Schulze**

370 Main Street — West Townsend MA

**978-423-8200**

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



**380 ELECTRIC AVE. (RT 13)  
LUNEBURG**

[www.WHALOMWASH.com](http://www.WHALOMWASH.com)

**978-829-0399**

DAN AND JEAN PROCTOR, OWNERS



**LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS**

Place Your Ad Here  
and Support Our Parish!

**CONTACT ME Tom Blanco**

[tblanco@4LPi.co](mailto:tblanco@4LPi.co)  
**(800) 477-4574 x6285**



**JAMIE TOALE**

**SUPPORTIVE BUSINESS ALTERNATIVES**

Small Business Management | Consulting

Interim Management | Special Projects | Coaching

Municipal Government Specialties

**617-365-4612 | [jamie@jamietoale.com](mailto:jamie@jamietoale.com) | [www.jamietoale.com](http://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**



**"Your Local Real Estate Agent"**

Coldwell Banker Realty

**Call/Text: 978.855.9112**

"President Premier"

[Lana.Kopsala@NEMoves.com](mailto:Lana.Kopsala@NEMoves.com)

[www.LanaSellsHomes.com](http://www.LanaSellsHomes.com)



**One Family  
Insurance  
Agency**



**Auto - Home  
Business**

**978-403-5942**

[1familyinsurance.com](http://1familyinsurance.com)

1 Main Street, Ste 15  
Lunenburg



Ad info. 1-800-477-4574 • Publication Support 1-800-888-4574 • [www.4lpi.com](http://www.4lpi.com)

St. Boniface, Lunenburg, MA

03-1376