

The Church of Saint Boniface

817 Massachusetts Avenue
Lunenburg, MA 01462



May 21, 2023



7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you." - Jn 17:1

THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

May 21, 2023 • 7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:12-14/ 1 Peter 4:13-16/ John 17:1-11a

When we pray, we often choose to go to a certain place. If we are praying alone, we may choose the foot of our bed or another quiet place inside or outside our home. If we are joining others in prayer, it is often our parish church. After Jesus ascended to heaven, his disciples returned to Jerusalem and immediately chose to go to the upper room of the house where they were staying. Christian tradition holds that they celebrated the Last Supper and received the Holy Spirit in this same room. Whether they'd decided to pray together and chose to come to this room, or whether they desired to go together to a familiar place and then chose to devote themselves to prayer, the place and the activity were well-linked.

Question of the Week: Where do I choose to go to pray? While I am there this week, how can I try to know God better?

What is "Lady Month"?

And what is its connection to the May Crowning?



Bring flowers of the rarest, bring blossoms the fairest
From garden and woodland, hillside and dale;
Our full hearts are swelling, our glad voices telling
The praise of the loveliest Flower of the vale.

So goes the first verse of the beautiful old Marian hymn Bring Flowers of the Rarest. It evokes images of a familiar sight: children bringing flowers to crown a statue of Our Lady in a church or perhaps an outdoor Marian garden or grotto.

Many parishes hold an annual "May Crowning" this month to honor Our Lady, who is indeed the most beautiful, the rarest, the loveliest flower of them all.

Why do we honor Mary in May? Where did this devotion start?

Devotion to Mary during the month of May is such a time-honored tradition in the Church that it's hard to trace its origins with precision, but we can definitely point to a few things.

One historical precursor is the medieval tradition of the "Tricesimum," also called "Lady Month." This was a 30-day devotion to Mary that usually took place from August through September.

Another important development came at the end of the 18th century, when a priest of the Jesuit College in Rome began the practice of dedicating the month of May to Mary as an antidote to poor morals among the students. The other Jesuit Colleges took up this practice and it spread to the whole Church. Subsequent popes have since encouraged May devotions among the faithful.

It just seems intuitive to honor Mary during the height of springtime. It's the time of new life, when the beauty of nature is unfurling, the gardens are bursting with flowers, the weather is lovely, and the earth seems to make itself into a palace fit for a queen. Death entered the world in a garden, through the hand of Eve, whose name means "mother of all the living." Life entered the world again through Mary, the new Eve, the true Mother of all those whom Christ has brought to a new life.

Our hymn continues:

O Mary we crown thee with blossoms today,
Queen of the Angels, Queen of the May.
O Mary we crown thee with blossoms today,
Queen of the Angels, Queen of the May.

"I am praying for them..."

JOHN 17:9

Prayer is the foundation of our Faith and the foundation of Stewardship. Prayer is always the first best option in any situation - not just our last resort. Pray for friends and family, and especially for those that don't treat you very well. Pray to give praise, to thank, and to ask God for help. Pray to see what God wants you to do with the gifts He has given you. Teach others how to pray. It has been said that teaching someone how to pray is the best gift you can give someone.



May I be open every day
to courageously share
how encountering the Risen Lord
changes our life as
beloved disciples.
May I take advantage of
opportunities
that occur within the normal
course of my day
to share the Good News.

MASS INTENTIONS

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
June 18	9:00 am	Peter Murray, 12th Anniversary, by his sister
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.

THANK YOU to parishioner Kathy Raspuzzi for restoring the Statue of Mary located next to the church on the walkway. It looks beautiful.

NORTH STAR FAMILY SERVICES Our next week for services is June 11th. Tags can be found on the windows in the back of the church. Please return all items by the 9:00 am mass on Sunday, June 11th. Thank you.

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS! Our Finance Committee, through the Legacy of Hope Campaign, has established a Saint Boniface Scholarship for graduating high school seniors who are practicing Catholics at our parish. We invite all interested students to complete an application and submit a short essay no later than June 2, 2021. The topic is "What Faith Means to Me" and the essay should be 500 words or less. Application forms are at church entrances, at the parish office, or request by email.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS is an international Order of Catholic men who are called to lead with faith, protect our families, serve others and defend values in a busy changing world. Our parish council will be holding a membership drive at (all Masses) this weekend. You will find that Knights of Columbus membership brings Catholic men together in a powerful way. If you would like to join today simply go to KofC.org/join us and enter our council #16480 for local information, or email the council at kofc16480@gmail.com

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 QuickBooks 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*

STEWARDSHIP

May 13/14

Sunday	2,348.00
Fuel/Maintenance	225.00
Holy Day	43.00
Catholic Education	40.00
TOTAL	\$2,676.00



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.



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).



To date 54 Parish families have donated \$16,330 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 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
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

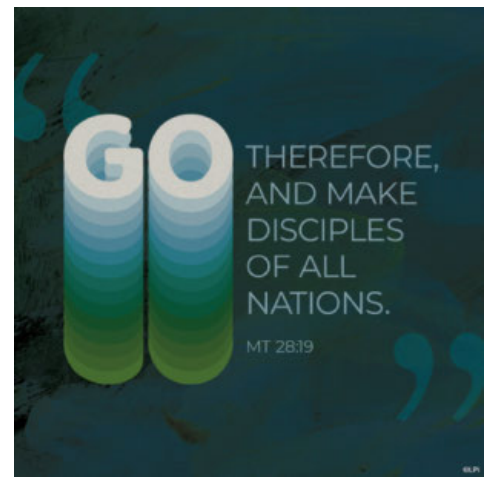
Newcomers to St. Boniface are invited and encouraged to formally register as members of the parish so that we may stay in touch with you with faith formation news, notices of special events, volunteer opportunities, and more. Registration forms are available at the doors of the church, the parish office, 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.

Be My Witnesses

Allison Gingras

For my 40th birthday, I wished only for a fancy pedicure — a real indulgent one complete with a massage where I could relax and escape the stress of life. On my way to the appointment, I stopped for a coffee and, while in line, this nudge to be open to sharing my faith if the opportunity arose stirred in my heart. Only moments into my birthday treat pedicure — reclined, eyes closed and prepared for an hour of quiet, I hear, "Oh, you wear a crucifix, you must be Catholic. I left for a church that follows the Bible." Opening one eye and peering toward heaven, I smirked with a wry acknowledgment of recognizing the day's earlier prompting to be open to being a witness of faith. While I wouldn't say I liked the timing, I obediently sat up and offered my attention to engaging in a friendly dialog about my faith.



The nail technician and I had a delightful conversation, including Saint Jerome's work in translating the Bible, the abundance of Scripture found in a Catholic Mass, and my love of daily meditation on the Word of God. We remained respectful, enlightened, and often amazed by the numerous similarities in our spiritual journeys. Over ten years later, our paths have never again crossed, and I will never know this side of heaven if our conversation inspired her to revisit her Catholic faith. The Lord did not ask me to convert or convince but to simply witness and share all the blessings He had (and continues) to bestow in my life. To acknowledge and relate when He touched my heart and renewed my waning faith. That is the core of evangelization, telling how an encounter with Christ has changed you for the better and increased your desire to know, serve and love him even more.

Are you willing to continue the work of the Apostles, allowing the power of the Holy Spirit —received in your baptism and strengthened in your Confirmation, to encourage you to share Jesus — especially along the normal course of your day? To be open to speaking to what you believe, why you attend Catholic Mass, and help, when necessary, correct misconceptions many people hold against the Catholic faith. That morning, while I listened to this young woman explain why she left the Catholic Church, my heart hurt at how little she knew of the faith and the role that lack of catechesis played in her departure. Recognizing, as she spoke, what she sought had actually been left behind because no one taught her the truth. She left to find Jesus, but he was right there because nowhere is he more present than in the Eucharist.

Jesus promises, just before he ascends into heaven, to send the Holy Spirit. The Spirit animates us in our following Christ more closely, to know and understand what we believe, and to have the courage to proclaim what we believe. What a magnificent gift. These "special graces are given to enable [us] to spread and defend the faith by word and deed as a true witness to Christ" (Didache Bible; CCC 900). The Catholic Church is missionary. Jesus did not intend for only the Apostles to go and make disciples. We, through our baptism, are likewise commissioned to profess the faith. We must allow the plentitude of graces and blessings we receive to provide us the courage and wisdom to encourage many other souls to encounter Jesus and pursue a path to holiness and heaven.

Our goal is not only to reach the gates of heaven — the very ones Jesus opened through his love and sacrifice, but more importantly, through our own love and sacrifice, answering his call to witness to all the ends of the earth is to bring as many others with us as possible — even if it only brings us around the corner to the local salon.



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

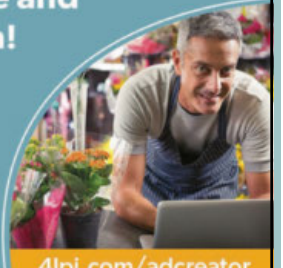
Site Work
Title V Inspections

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

THOMAS FUEL
LUNEBURG, 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

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

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
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

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
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
(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 | 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

www.LanaSellsHomes.com



**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