

The Church of Saint Boniface

817 Massachusetts Avenue
Lunenburg, MA 01462



June 11, 2023

Feast of Corpus Christi



THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

*"Because there is one bread, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one bread."
(1 CORINTHIANS 10:17)*

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to lead holy lives and invite others to join us. We are called to be fed and to feed others. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, serves a twofold purpose. One, it helps build God's kingdom here on earth. Two, it helps us strengthen each other's relationship with God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. It becomes our roadmap to Heaven. Let's help each other get there!

June 11, 2023. • Feast of Corpus Christi

Deuteronomy 8:2–3 | 1 Corinthians 10:16–17 | John 6:51–58

The energy we receive from consuming Christ's Body and Blood can energize us to carry out the mission he calls us to. We are called to be his witnesses, to make disciples, and to build the kingdom. The true food and true drink remind us of his sacrifice, sustain us in our faith, and nourish us. In this way, as Saint Paul writes, we participate in the body and blood of Christ. Participating in Christ's body and blood assists us in participating in Christ's mission.

Question of the Week:

How do I participate in Christ's mission? Do I recognize the strength I receive in the Eucharist?

Connect! Sunday Reflection

Imagine this: you've been waiting a long time to attend a conference with a speaker whom you admire. You've paid the registration, made your travel plans, settled into your hotel, and now you've taken your seat among many others, ready to listen, learn, and be inspired. You are ready to take notes, and you even snap a quick selfie so you can post your attendance to your social accounts, hoping to get some likes and comments. After some dazzling videos and introductions, the presentation begins with some jaw-dropping demonstrations — miracles — for which there are no real explanations, just amazement. Then, a break. You take 15 minutes to walk around and get a fresh cup of coffee, add two French Vanilla creamers and stir, just the way you like it. And you re-take your seat, coffee in hand, eagerly anticipating the next session. A meal is served — a simple one at that. Then, the conference day is over. And you head home.

If you are like me, you'd be thinking that this conference was a waste of time! The time and money invested wasn't worth the show and the food. There wasn't even a swag bag to take home or a merch table there to buy resources! I suspect that many of us have a similar mindset when we approach the Eucharist.

The late-Archbishop Harry Flynn would begin the celebration of Mass by inviting us to become aware of "our need" for God's forgiveness and mercy. My *need*. What needs do I bring with me to Mass? Certainly, there are family concerns, country and global concerns, community concerns, job concerns, health concerns, financial concerns, etc. As I've gotten older, I don't think that these were the needs he was talking about. The needs I have deal more with my 'soul-sickness' than anything else. These (aka, sin) involve those private, interior battles of doubt, lust, insecurity, abandonment, anger, worry, boredom, bitterness, powerlessness, gluttony, greed, judgement, and condemnation, apathy ... all sorts of symptoms that keep us *incurvatus in se* — curved inwards towards ourselves — as St. Augustine would say. Rather than go to Jesus with our needs, we think that we have to fix ourselves with all the modern self-help approaches available to us ... or sometimes, we deny there's a need altogether through fear or ignorance! But these human remedies lack the

genuine power to heal a soul-sickness, which only Jesus' presence can. Only a brief review of the Gospels reminds us what happens every time Jesus appears on the scene: people are healed, sicknesses are cured, and evidence of His Kingdom is believed.

So, our needs — whatever they may be, no matter how grievous or how many there are — become the offering that we bring each time we come to Mass. The verbs in the Gospel text then show us what Jesus does with our meager offerings (symbolized by the loaves). Jesus "takes" the loaves — the curse of sin away from us through his cross, he "blesses" them — with divine adoption into the family of God through faith and baptism, he "breaks" them — through instruction and experience and prayer that our ways aren't his ways, and then "gives" them to the disciples for distribution — so we can share with others how our lives have been changed by Jesus.

The Eucharist — his body, blood, soul, and divinity — then, is the sacrament of Jesus' abiding presence (μένει, *menō*) within us. He is with us in our need. We are aware of this mystery only in faith, with the spiritual eyes of a pure heart. We are not left abandoned or orphaned to figure out this messy life according to our own whims and fascinations. He gently tethers himself to us in the Eucharist, so our sorrows are his, our tribulations and trials are his, our joys are his. Our life becomes his life because his life courses within our souls.

So, the Eucharist is not an event we attend or a commodity we consume, but the mystery of a Person we encounter that brings peace into the senseless and broken world in which we find ourselves today.

Br. John-Marmion Villa



MASS INTENTIONS

June 18	9:00 am	Peter Murray, 12th Anniversary, by his sister
July 16	9:00 am	Lawrence Paton, 18th Anniversary, by his family
Nov 5	8:00 am	Wesley LaFord, 2nd 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 pm in the church, led by members of the Saint Boniface Knights of Columbus.

2023 SUMMER MASS SCHEDULE: Saturday 4:00 p.m. | Sunday 9:00 a.m. Effective through September 3rd.

Training Workshop for Parish Respect Life Ministries

The Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Worcester will offer "Respect Life Ministry in the Parish: The Church's Vision" on Saturday, June 17, 2023 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon at St. Francis of Assisi parish hall, 81 Sheridan St., Fitchburg. Whether you have been involved in Respect Life Ministry for many years, are considering starting or joining a ministry in your parish, or would simply like to learn more, there is something for everyone in this basic training session for parish volunteers. An opportunity for Q & A will follow the presentation. For more information, contact Cathy North-Erickson at adoration314@gmail.com or 978-257-4559. All are welcome!

Religious Freedom Week will be celebrated in dioceses nationwide from June 22 to June 29. Throughout the week we will focus on the importance of preserving the essential right of religious freedom, both now and in the future, for Catholics and all people of faith. This year's theme is "Embracing the Divine Gift of Freedom". The significant feast days during the week (Saints Thomas More and John Fisher – June 22, Saint John the Baptist – June 24, and Saints Peter and Paul – June 29) inspire us to follow the example of these great saints who loved God above all and remained faithful in the face of adversity. Please visit www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek to download the "Pray-Reflect-Act" pages for each day on various religious liberty topics. These excellent resources are intended to inspire us to learn more about religious liberty from a Catholic perspective, help us to pray about particular issues, and provide us with tools to act on what we learn. Additional information and resources for parish and personal use can be found at www.worcesterdiocese.org/religiousfreedomweek.

Adult Ed Sessions in North Grafton

Are you ready for "The Chosen Season 3"? These Adult Ed Sessions will take place on Wednesdays, June 21 -August 9 at 6:30-8:00 pm at Our Lady of Hope Parish-St. Mary Campus, 17 Waterville St., North Grafton. To register contact Darleen at: dfarland@ourladyofhopegrafton.org

STEWARDSHIP

JUNE 3/4, 2023

• Sunday Offering	\$ 2,163
• Maintenance/Fuel	252
• Catholic Communications	101
• CCD	220
	<u>\$ 2,746</u>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUOUS GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT!

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



SAINT BONIFACE PARISH



Mark your calendars

Oktoberfest is coming.

September 9th 10AM – 6PM.

Fun for all with raffles, games, music and food.

We will have many local vendors showcasing their wares.

Plus plenty of opportunities to pitch in and support the effort.

Tell your friends and families and bring them.



Saint Boniface 2023 Goal: \$22,500

To date 64 Gifts Received: \$17,610

Please prayerfully consider making a donation.

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: 9:00 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

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:	phone	email
Rev. Charles Omolo, Administrator	978-582-4008	stbonifaceparish@verizon.net
Heather Sroka, Administrative Assistant	978-582-4008	stbonifaceparish@verizon.net
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Louise Nadeau, Sacristan		
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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.



WHAT IS THE FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI?

The Feast of Corpus Christi is also called the "Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ." Its origins are rooted in powerful Eucharistic miracles that occurred when certain persons struggled to believe in Christ's true presence in the Eucharist.

Two different events inspired this feast day.

At age sixteen, around the year 1208, an Augustinian nun by the name of Sr. Juliana began to have mystical visions during Eucharistic Adoration. In these visions, she would see a full moon with a stripe across it. God revealed to her that the moon represented the life of the Church and the stripe indicated that the Church needed a feast to honor the Real Presence. St. Juliana originally kept these visions to herself, but later expressed to her bishop (who eventually became Pope Urban IV) the need for a Eucharistic feast day.

Nearly half a century later in 1263, a priest (Fr. Peter of Prague) was having real doubts about Jesus' presence in the Eucharist. He was a pious cleric, devoted to his people, yet he was troubled as to whether the words of consecration really changed the bread and wine into Christ's Body and Blood. In the midst of his doubts, Fr. Peter traveled to Rome and stopped at the Church of St. Christina in Bolsena, Italy, to say Mass.

Eucharistic Miracle

As he recited the words of consecration, blood began seeping from the consecrated host onto the altar and corporal. Stunned, Fr. Peter reported the Eucharistic Miracle to Pope Urban IV, who opened an investigation to confirm the miracle.

For Pope Urban IV, this miracle corroborated St. Juliana's visions. He established the Feast of Corpus Christi (Corpus Christi means "the Body of Christ"), its first celebration taking place in 1264, one year after the Eucharistic miracle reported by Fr. Peter.

The Feast of Corpus Christi reminds us that while we may sometimes find the reality of the Eucharist hard to believe, Christ is always faithful and will provide us with His grace to strengthen our belief and understanding.

On this Feast of Corpus Christi, let us pray that all Catholics may come to a deeper understanding of Christ's love for us—a love so great that He gives Himself to us personally and intimately every Sunday in the veiled forms of bread and wine.

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Saint Boniface's Story - Feast Day, June 5

Boniface, known as the apostle of the Germans, was an English Benedictine monk who gave up being elected abbot to devote his life to the conversion of the Germanic tribes. Two characteristics stand out: his Christian orthodoxy and his fidelity to the pope of Rome.

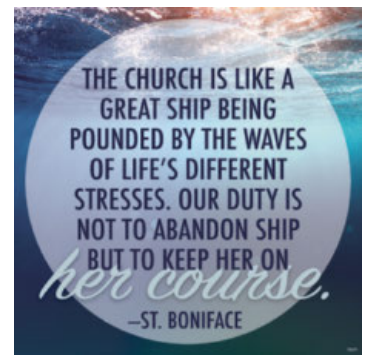
How absolutely necessary this orthodoxy and fidelity were is borne out by the conditions Boniface found on his first missionary journey in 719 at the request of Pope Gregory II. Paganism was a way of life. What Christianity he did find had either lapsed into paganism or was mixed with error. The clergy were mainly responsible for these latter conditions since they were in many instances uneducated, lax and questionably obedient to their bishops. In particular instances their very ordinations were questionable.

These are the conditions that Boniface was to report in 722 on his first return visit to Rome. The Holy Father instructed him to reform the German Church. The pope sent letters of recommendation to religious and civil leaders. Boniface later admitted that his work would have been unsuccessful, from a human viewpoint, without a letter of safe-conduct from Charles Martel, the powerful Frankish ruler, grandfather of Charlemagne. Boniface was finally made a regional bishop and authorized to organize the whole German Church. He was eminently successful.

In the Frankish kingdom, he met great problems because of lay interference in bishops' elections, the worldliness of the clergy and lack of papal control.

During a final mission to the Frisians, Boniface and 53 companions were massacred while he was preparing converts for confirmation.

In order to restore the Germanic Church to its fidelity to Rome and to convert the pagans, Boniface had been guided by two principles. The first was to restore the obedience of the clergy to their bishops in union with the pope of Rome. The second was the establishment of many houses of prayer which took the form of Benedictine monasteries. A great number of Anglo-Saxon monks and nuns followed him to the continent, where he introduced the Benedictine nuns to the active apostolate of education.





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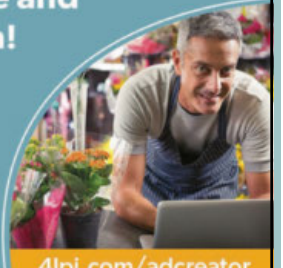
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