

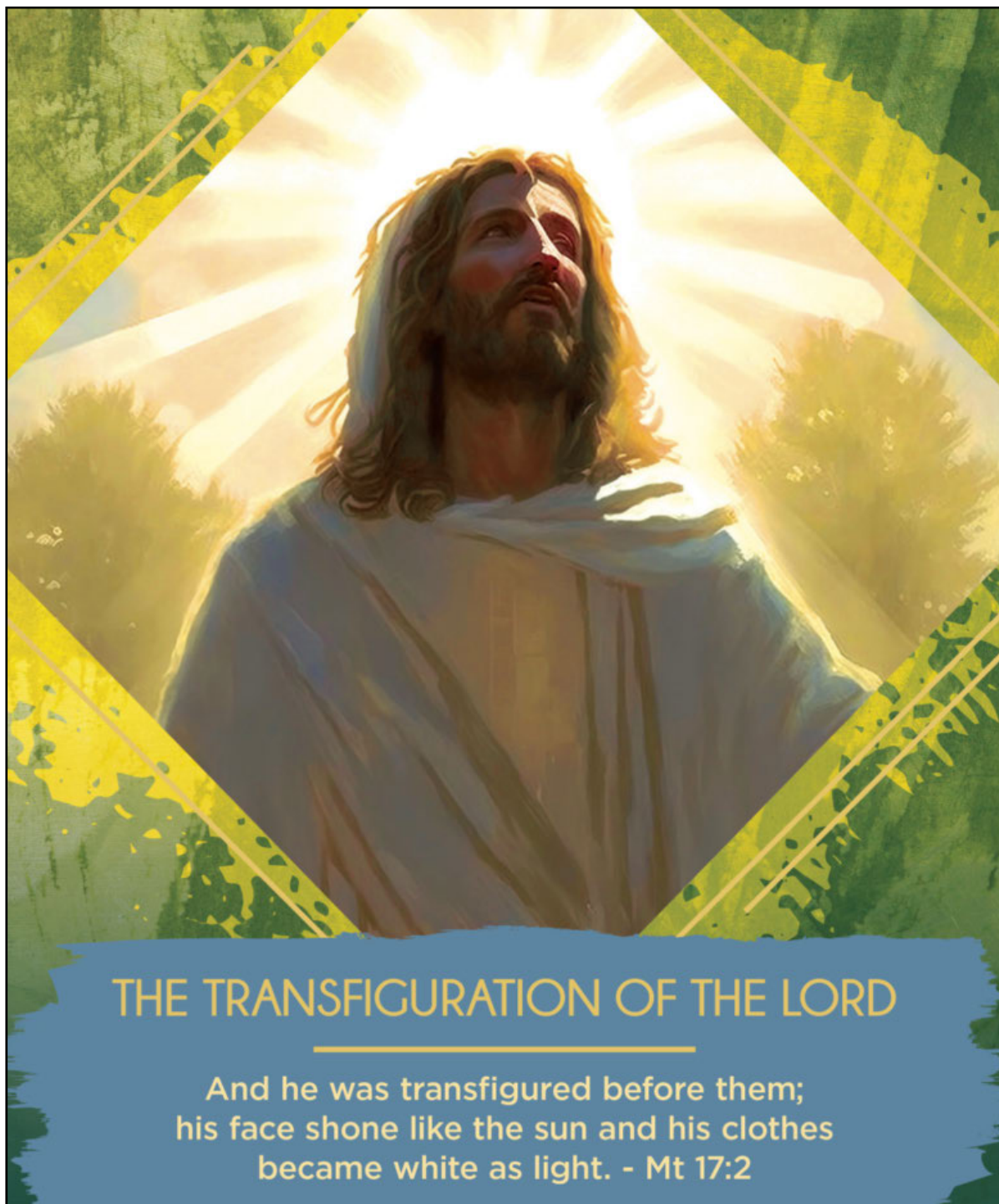


The Church of Saint Boniface

817 Massachusetts Avenue
Lunenburg, MA 01462



August 6, 2023



THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

"...then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.'" (Matthew 17:5)

When Peter, James and John heard this they immediately fell prostrate to the ground and they "were very much afraid." We, too, may respond the same way when we hear God's voice. How many times do you become fearful when invited to participate more fully in the life of the Church? Or, when someone says something negative about the Church, are you afraid to respond? Remember, we too, are beloved sons and daughters of God; Jesus is there to help us, but we need to listen.

August 6, 2023 The Transfiguration of the Lord

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14/ 2 Peter 1:16-19/ Matthew 17:1-9

Our world has always been in need of transformation, and these days that need seems especially great. Jesus gives us the first step. We need to deny our own priorities, our own desires, our own self-interests, and take up the challenge to uncover and reveal the kingdom that God is building in our midst. Let us be, as Peter says, "a lamp shining in a dark place," shining the light of God into the darknesses in need of transfiguration (2 Peter 1:19).

Question of the Week: Which self-interest of mine will I promise to put aside and what cross will I pledge to carry, transfiguring my life and my little part of the world?

Matthew writes that when Peter, James, and John see Jesus transfigured and hear the voice of God they are "very much afraid" (Matthew 17:6). Jesus immediately goes to them and calms them, saying "Do not be afraid" (17:7), recalling the words an angel says whenever appearing to someone in the Bible. Seeing their Lord in his dazzling glory and hearing God's voice unnerves them, just as people visited by spiritual beings are unnerved. To reassure and refocus the disciples, Jesus at once sets their minds at ease.

What should their focus be at this point of Jesus' mission? Just before their journey up this mountain, Jesus had told them for the first time that he would suffer at the hands of the authorities, be killed, and then be raised on the third day. He had gone on to tell them that his disciples must deny themselves, take up their crosses, and follow him. They will be repaid for their conduct when "the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory" (16:27). Now they have just seen a foretaste of that glory. In case they don't put two and two together, God explicitly commands them to listen to Jesus. He told you that he would be put to death. Listen to him. He told you that you must carry your crosses. Listen to him. He promised you that he will be raised and come again in glory to repay you. Listen to him.

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, SEPT. 16, 2023 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

**Vendors Needed - please contact Dave or Claude
for more information**

Family Fun

Raffles - Prizes - Kids & Adult Games
Food - Beer & Wine

Questions? Contact our event

Chairman, Dave McCarthy at dmccarthy484@gmail.com
or Assistant Chairman, Claude Poirier at claudelsa@yahoo.com

SAINT BONIFACE PARISH



MASS INTENTIONS

Aug 20	9:00 am	Tina Forest, 1st Anniversary, by Jo-Anne and Claude Poirier
Aug 27	9:00 am	James and Gerene Maloney, in honor of their birthdays
Sep 3	9:00 am	John McShane, by Carol McShane
Oct 1	8:00 am	Joseph Picucci, by his daughter, Ava
Nov 5	8:00 am	Wesley LaFord, 2nd Anniversary, by his family
Nov 25	4:00 pm	Louis and Angelina Arruda, by their grandchildren
Nov 26	8:00 am	Anne Rivard, 5th Anniversary, by her husband
Dec 23	4:00 pm	Angelina Arruda, 23rd Anniversary, by her grandchildren

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 July and August will benefit the Lunenburg Community Food Pantry. Donations can be left in the back of the church. Thank you for your continued generosity.



The St. Boniface Knights of Columbus will be hosting a parish cook out in appreciation of our parishioners continued support of the Knights charitable activities. The meal of hamburgers, hot dogs, sides, and dessert will be held immediately after the 4pm Mass on **August 19th**.

St. Francis Festival in Fitchburg

St. Francis Parish will hold its Festival on Sunday, August 13 from Noon - 6 pm at 63 Sheridan Street, Fitchburg. Come and join us for delicious food, raffles, flea market, Chinese auction, music, lottery baskets, back to school baskets, and much more. Raffle Drawing at 5 pm. For more information, please email Pastor-@saintfrancis-fitchburg.com or call 978-342-9651.

Diocese of Worcester Night at the WooSox

Join us for a fun, family evening with the Worcester Red Sox on Friday, Sept. 1 at Polar Park. The WooSox will take on the Norfolk Tides with game time at 6:45 PM and it is a Unibank Fireworks night immediately after the game. Ticket price is \$17.00 and for ticket information please visit: <https://fevogm.com/diocese23> See you there. . . GO WOOSOX!

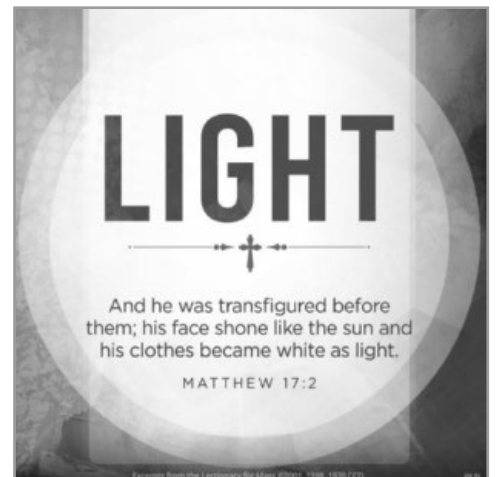
Pilgrimage to Ireland Our Lady of Hope Parish's Pilgrimage to Ireland will be led by Fr. Anthony Mpagi and Fr. Derek Mobilio on April 8-19, 2024. We will visit Galway, Glenstal Abbey, the Aran Islands, Our Lady of Knock Shrine, Cobh, Glendalough, and Dublin. Tour includes round trip airfare, hotel accommodations for 10 nights, 9 dinners and 11 breakfasts, transportation on private motor coach, and admission fees as per itinerary. Double Occupancy Price per Person: \$4750 For information and to sign up, please contact Fr. Derek Mobilio -- fr.mobilio@gmail.com -- 508-556-0553.

STEWARDSHIP

July 22/23	\$1,970.00
July 29/30	\$1,431.00
Fuel/Maintenance	40.00
Propagation of Faith	576.00

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.



Loving God,
you told your Son's
disciples to listen to him.
Help us listen to him
so we may transform
our lives to more closely
conform to his.
Grant this and all our prayers,
through your transfigured Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

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: 9:00am | 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:

	<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.

August 3, 2023

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Although Soviet communism ended in the early 1990s, its destructive effects linger in the societies where it once ruled. Under the communist system, cultural values of charity and volunteerism disappeared. Rapid, sometimes harsh transitions to market economies led to ongoing attitudes of materialism that have left poor and dependent people — such as children, seniors, and people with disabilities — particularly vulnerable. This is especially true in the former Soviet republic of Moldova, which, despite its political independence, is one of the poorest countries in Europe.

The Diocese of Chişinău, founded in 2000, covers all of Moldova and the unrecognized breakaway state of “Transnistria,” currently occupied by Russian forces. Today the diocese contains 20 parishes and seven charity foundations that work to meet the spiritual and material needs of the people. This spirit of love for the most poor and needy is evident in Moldova’s generous response not only to the needs of its own people but also to refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine.

Working in cooperation with Caritas Moldova, the diocese has expanded its outreach and ability to reveal Christ’s mercy to Moldova’s vulnerable children and youth by establishing a network of care and support centers, where they may benefit from informal education programs in a safe, caring environment. The centers also help strengthen the parenting skills of mothers and fathers. With funding from the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, the diocese and its local partners have established the centers according to standards for quality and child protection.

Your support of the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe on the weekend of August 13 is crucial to the success of ministries that affirm the dignity of children, youth, and other vulnerable people and show them the love and mercy of Jesus. Please be generous to the collection. For more information about this collection and whom it supports, we ask you to visit www.usccb.org/ccce. Thank you for your help to restore the Church and build the future in Central and Eastern Europe.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

Feast of the TRANSFIGURATION

The Transfiguration of Jesus is one of the key events in Jesus’ life. He took three apostles – Peter, James, and John – up to a high mountain to pray. As they were praying, His appearance changed, and His clothes became “dazzling white.” At that point, Moses and Elijah appeared and spoke to the Lord about His upcoming death. A cloud overshadowed the group, and God the Father’s voice came from the cloud saying, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!”

The Church celebrates the Feast of the Transfiguration each year on August 6.

What was the reason for the Transfiguration?

According to St. Thomas Aquinas, the Transfiguration occurred because the divine glory which was Christ’s was allowed for a moment to shine through His human body. He did this so that they could taste for a short time the contemplation of eternal joy, in view of the persecutions they would suffer.

What does “transfiguration” mean?

Transfiguration refers to Our Lord’s change in appearance from the passable bodily form in which He would suffer and die, to the glorified form in which He would rise from the dead. The Latin root “trans-“ means “across” or “through.” The root “figura” means “form” or “shape.”

When did the Transfiguration happen?

This event happened approximately a week after Jesus and the disciples went to Caesarea Philippi, which is where Peter declared that Jesus was “the Christ of God” (Luke 9:20). Regarding the timeline of the Gospel events, the Catechism says, “On the threshold of the public life: the baptism; on the threshold of the Passover: the Transfiguration” (CCC 556). The Transfiguration did not happen immediately before Jesus’ Passion, but it is believed to be later in His ministry.

Where did the Transfiguration take place?

Although the Gospels only refer to it as a “high mountain,” according to tradition it was on Mount Tabor in Israel. Not too far from Nazareth, a Franciscan church commemorates the traditional site, where 4th century and 12th century churches had previously existed.



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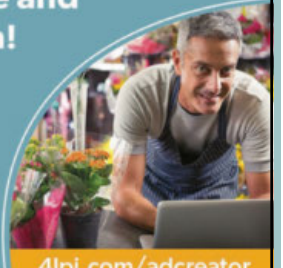
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