

# THE CHURCH OF SAINT BONIFACE

817 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE  
LUNENBURG, MA 01462



## JANUARY 7, 2024

A large, vertical image showing a starry night sky with the Milky Way galaxy visible. Below the sky is a desert landscape with a prominent butte in the center. A bright star is visible in the sky, and a white line with a blue outline points towards it. The bottom of the image has a dark blue background with white text.

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." - Mt 2:1-2

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

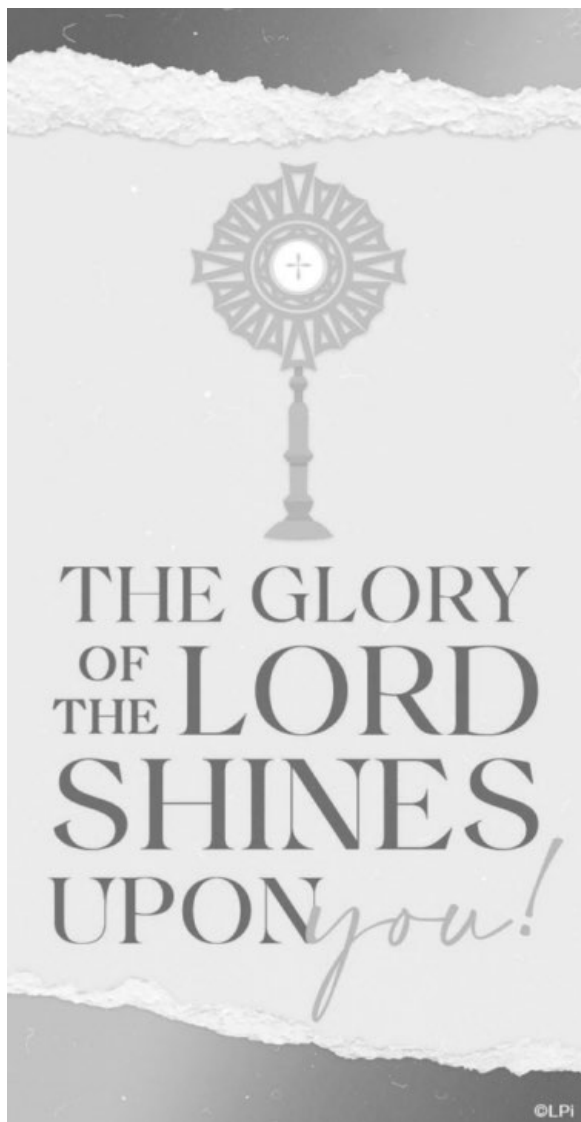
## THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

**JANUARY 7, 2024 / THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

*Isaiah 60:1–6 / Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6 / Matthew 2:1–12*

Light is an invaluable resource. It's no accident that in Genesis we hear that it was created first. In complete darkness, we are all blind. For millennia, the stars enabled travelers to navigate at night and light from the moon enabled them to see their way. When the Israelites' long exile ended, Isaiah pointed to Jerusalem as a beacon, shining radiantly to draw families, rulers, and foreigners to its glory, even as it was still rebuilding after years of desolation. So too the star above nearby Bethlehem drew the magi, though it was to a humble stable, inhabited by a family that to Herod would have looked absolutely unremarkable. We may feel that we have nothing radiant in us or in our lives, but with the light of Christ in us we are in fact blessed with a source of light for ourselves and others.

**Question of the Week:** Have I had an epiphany, a sudden insight, after an experience where I've recognized an encounter with Christ? If I cannot recall one, can I imagine how it could happen?



### Family Connection

Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi seek out Jesus and do him homage.

The tradition of giving gifts at Christmas is thought by some to be rooted in the gift giving of the Magi. In many cultures, gifts are not exchanged at Christmas, but rather on the feast of the Epiphany. Whenever you exchange your Christmas gifts, take some time to reflect on this tradition of gift giving at Christmas. Think of the best gift you have received. What was it? What made it special? Was it the gift itself, the thought that went into it, or the person who gave it to you?

Read today's Gospel, Matthew 2:1-12. The gifts of the Magi—gold, frankincense, and myrrh—have come to be understood as symbols of Christ's royalty, divinity, and eventual suffering and death. They are special because in giving them, the Magi acknowledge who Jesus was to be: our Savior. We pray that we will acknowledge Jesus as Savior in all that we do and say. Conclude by singing together "We Three Kings."

[www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection](http://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection)

## MASS INTENTIONS

JAN 6	4:00	PM	RENNIE SHATTUCK
JAN 13	4:00	PM	PETER CHARPENTIER
JAN 21	8:00	AM	THOMAS COTTER
JAN 21	10:30	AM	DANIEL CRONIN
JAN 21	10:30	AM	JOHN MCCLOSKEY
JAN 27	4:00	PM	MICHAEL MARCIL
FEB 4	8:00	AM	WESLEY LAFORD
FEB 11	10:30	AM	MICHAEL BRISSON
MAR 3	10:30	AM	CATHERINE SROKA

### Prayer of the Rosary

Every Saturday at 3:30 pm in the church, led by members of the St. Boniface Knights of Columbus.

The Parish Office will be closed and there will be no weekday masses the week of January 1st.

**Food Donations** for the months of January and February will go to Lunenburg Community Food Pantry sponsored by the Lions Club. Donations can be placed in the rear of the church. Thank you for your continued generosity.

### Pro-Life Morning of Reflection – Jan. 13

All are invited to attend a Pro-Life Morning of Reflection and Enrichment on Saturday, Jan. 13 from 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Paul, 38 High St., Worcester. The day will include reflections by Msgr. James Moroney, Mass, and light lunch. There is no cost to attend but pre-registration is required. To register, send your name, parish, and email address to [aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org](mailto:aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org), or contact the Respect Life Office at 508-929-4311.

### January Pro-Life Mass

All are invited to join Bishop McManus for the annual Mass for Life on Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Paul, 38 High St., Worcester. Please join us to pray for and with our pilgrims who will be travelling to Washington, DC for the annual March for Life on Jan. 19, and to pray for an end to abortion and the conversion of our nation. All are welcome! Join the National Novena for Life!

**The Ladies of Saint Boniface** invite you to attend a performance by The Voices of Angels on Sunday, January 28th at 1 pm. We have the honor of having the nuns from Saint Benedict in Harvard sing for us at church. The performance will take place in the church and light refreshments will be served in the Parish Hall following their concert.

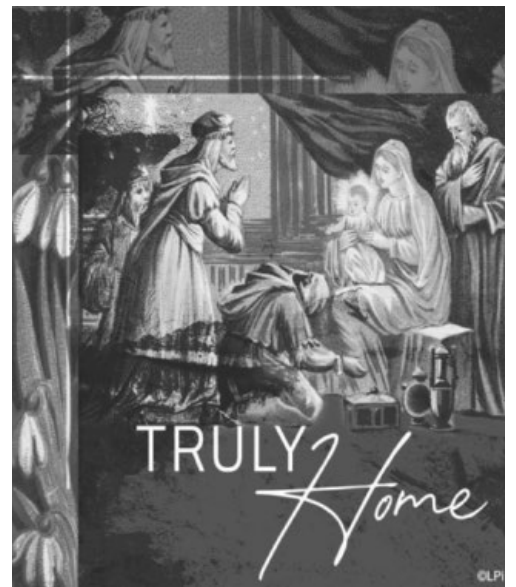
A huge thank you to Terry Stramowski for organizing the Advent Retreat for our CCD students in grades 6-9 at Launch in Leominster on December 20th. Fun was had by all in attendance.

## STEWARDSHIP

**Dec 24/25**

Sunday: .....\$2,854.00  
 Maintenance/Fuel: .....\$15.00  
 Christmas .....\$4,240.00  
 Flowers: .....\$10.00  
 Holy Day: .....\$45.00

**TOTAL.....\$7,164.00**



Lord of Light, much as the magi at the time of your Son's birth, we look toward the light of Christ to lead us on our journeys. Hear the prayers we make as we continue on our way home to you and grant them through your Son, Jesus Christ, the light of our world.

# 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](http://www.StBoniface-lunenburg.org)**

## Parish Office Hours

Monday / Wednesday / Thursday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

## The Celebration of the Eucharist

Sunday: 8:00am and 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

**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 Thomas St. George at [tjstgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:tjstgeorge@gmail.com) 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).

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## PARISH STAFF:

Rev. Charles Omolo, Administrator  
Heather Sroka, Administrative Assistant  
Lucy Marcil, Religious Ed Coordinator (Grades 1-5)  
Terry Stramowski, Religious Ed Coordinator (Grades 6-10)  
Judit Ernst, Music Ministry  
Louise Nadeau, Sacristan  
Ministry Schedule  
Nina Charpentier, Director, Preschool

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ninastboniface@gmail.com

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**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.*



## TODAYS GOSPEL

### *Background on the Gospel Reading*

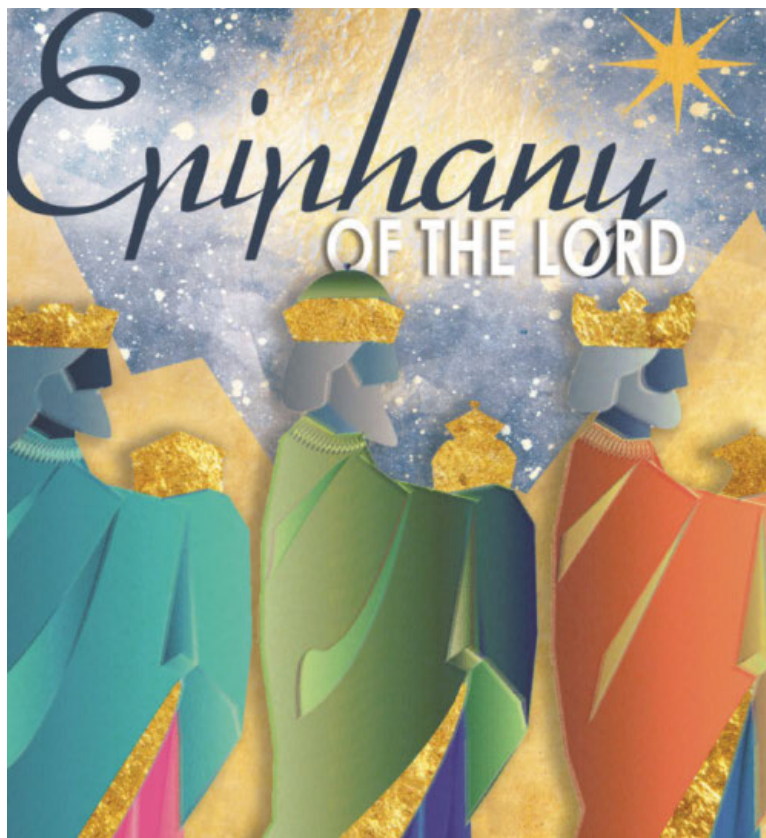
The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . ." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.

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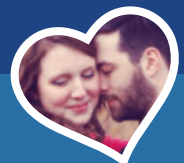
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