

THE CHURCH OF SAINT BONIFACE

817 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
LUNENBURG, MA 01462



JANUARY 14, 2024

A religious poster featuring a portrait of Jesus Christ with a halo, set against a red and orange background with a green banner at the bottom.

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. - Jn 1:35-36

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

THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

JANUARY 14, 2024 / THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

1 Samuel 3:3b–10, 19 / Corinthians 6:13c–15a, 17–20 / John 1:35–42

Sometimes God's voice comes out of the clouds loud and clear, as when Jesus is baptized. But when God calls one of us, it is often soft and unclear, as it is in today's first reading. Only after twice mistaking God's voice for his guardian Eli's does Samuel respond to the LORD, and only then because Eli realized what must be happening. Much later, Elijah has a similar experience when he hears God's voice in a tiny whispering sound. There was no fanfare when Jesus called for Andrew and his friend to come and follow. We should not wait till we are thrown to the ground like Paul or hear a thunderous voice from the clouds like Moses. God often calls in faint and subtle ways.

Question of the Week: What will I do during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity to be one with other Christians?



Glory Be

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Family Connection

In today's Gospel we learn about one of at least two family relations that appear among Jesus' first disciples. Andrew is the brother of Simon, whom Jesus renames Peter. In next week's Gospel, we will learn about the brothers James and John, the sons of Zebedee. We know from the letters of Paul and other witnesses to the early Church that it was a common occurrence for an entire household to be baptized together. From the very beginning of the Church, families helped one another to know and follow Jesus. We hope and pray that this continues to be true in our family life.

Before your family gathers, look around your house and gather some items that your family might have that remind you of your faith. Perhaps you have a cross or crucifix displayed in your home, a statue of Mary, or statues or other art depicting saints. In today's Gospel we learn about how Andrew led his brother, Simon, to Jesus. Read today's Gospel, John 1:35-42.

In our family life, we also help to lead one another to Jesus. Talk together about the items that you gathered, discussing what these items mean to you and how you might use them during the day for prayer. Pray that your family will continue to help one another grow in our faith in Jesus. Pray together the Glory Be to the Father.

www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection

MASS INTENTIONS

JAN 13	4:00 PM	PETER CHARPENTIER
JAN 14	10:30 AM	CARTER VEILLEUX
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.

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, 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.

NorthStar Family Services—The next week for St. Boniface to prepare meals and donate food is January 28th. Food Tags can be found on the window in the rear of the church.

STEWARDSHIP

Dec 29/30/31

Sunday: \$2,270.00
 Maintenance/Fuel: ..\$260.00
 Christmas \$15000
 Flowers: \$2.00
 Holy Day: \$142.00
 Religious Retirement:\$500.00

TOTAL.....\$3,324.00

Online December

TOTAL.....\$3,994.00

Jan6/7

Sunday: \$2,286.00
 Maintenance/Fuel: ...\$196.00
 Holy Days: \$12.00
 Catholic Comm Fund ... \$5.00
 Christmas \$25.00
 Prop of Faith: \$10.00
 Catholic University ...\$107.00

TOTAL.....\$2,641.00



God of wonder and welcome,
 you call each of us by name,
 inviting us to share in your
 Son's mission. Grant the
 prayers we make as we
 respond to your call, joyous in
 the wonder of all you have
 given us through your Son,
 Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

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

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 or Deputy Grand Knight, Thomas Bodkin at tbodkin@bodkinmason.com or (508-363-3422), or email kofc16480@gmail.com.

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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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

Although the liturgical season of Ordinary Time begins this week, today's reading continues with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, which concludes the Christmas season. Today's reading from the Gospel according to John immediately follows John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus and his identification of Jesus as the Lamb of God. Having been baptized by John, Jesus begins to gather followers. The first followers sought out Jesus because of the testimony and witness of John the Baptist.

We are familiar with the title that John the Baptist uses for Jesus—the Lamb of God. We hear it weekly at the fraction rite during Mass. For those who heard John the Baptist, however, this title recalled key themes from the Old Testament. It alludes to the paschal lamb offered as a sacrifice when God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, the event that is commemorated by the Jewish Passover celebration. The designation also recalls the prophet Isaiah's description of the suffering servant of Israel. In using this name for Jesus, John the Baptist predicts Jesus' passion and death and the new interpretation of Passover that will begin with Jesus' Last Supper.

We learn in today's reading how Jesus' first followers were gathered. The first two, Andrew and another man, were followers of John the Baptist. After hearing John's testimony, they became followers of Jesus. During their time with Jesus, the details of which are not specified, Andrew and the other follower came to believe that Jesus was the Messiah. Andrew then brings his brother, Simon, to Jesus. Immediately, Jesus gave Simon a new name, calling him Peter, which means "rock" in Greek. The renaming of Simon to Peter is reported in all four of the Gospels.

In the exchange between Andrew, the other disciple, and Jesus, we see an example of the usual pattern for first-century Jewish rabbinical schools. Jews sought out rabbis and established themselves as disciples of a particular rabbi. Jesus appears to have been unique in that he sought out individuals, inviting them to be his followers. In the passage that follows, John's Gospel tells us how Jesus took the initiative in calling Philip and Nathanael.

Jesus asks Andrew and the other disciple, "What are you looking for?" This is a telling question, and one that we might often ask of ourselves. John the Baptist testified to Jesus' identity, the Lamb of God, using the framework of the Old Testament. Andrew, Simon, and the other first disciples were looking for the Messiah, whom they also came to know as the Son of God. What do we look for and what do we find in Jesus?

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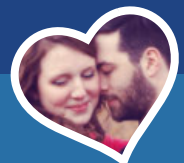
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