



THE CHURCH OF SAINT BONIFACE

817 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
LUNENBURG, MA 01462



JANUARY 28, 2024



THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

JANUARY 28, 2024 / THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Deuteronomy 18:15–20 / 1 Corinthians 7:32–35 / Mark 1:21–28

It is interesting that Mark chooses not to write anything about what Jesus taught in the synagogue, but only about how he taught. Twice he says that Jesus taught with authority. Teaching with authority can mean two different things. The obvious meaning is reflected in the way Jesus confronts the unclean spirit: he orders it to come out of the man and the unclean spirit obeys. But teachers also speak with authority when they know the subject inside and out. Clearly, no one knows the subject of God or faith better than Jesus. This is the authority the unclean spirit recognizes. Jesus is able to interpret the law beyond measure because he himself has come to fulfill it.

Question of the Week: Can I identify an unclean spirit in me that seeks to destroy me? Can I find the courage to ask God to free me from this demon?



Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Breathe into me, Spirit of God, that I may think what is holy. Drive me, Spirit of God, that I may do what is holy. Draw me, Spirit of God, that I may love what is holy. Strengthen me, Spirit of God, that I may preserve what is holy. Guide me, Spirit of God, that I may never lose what is holy. Amen.

Family Connection

The people who heard Jesus teach and saw him heal in today's Gospel were said to have been astonished and amazed by the authority of his teaching. So compelling were Jesus' words and actions that the news about him could not be contained; it spread quickly throughout all of Galilee. Two thousand years later, the news about Jesus continues to spread. We are called to participate in sharing the Good News of Jesus with others in our words and in our deeds.

Gather as a family and try to name some amazing things, events, or people. In today's Gospel we hear that the people were astonished and amazed by their experience of Jesus. Read today's Gospel, Mark 1:21–28. What did the people who saw and heard Jesus find so amazing? (In Jesus, the people heard and saw the power and authority of God at work.) People should see in our lives the power and authority of God at work. Can you name any modern examples of people in whom you have seen the power and authority of God at work? Conclude in prayer together that we will experience wonder at the work of God in our world today. Pray together the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

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God of mercy and love, we turn to you in our need. Free us from the unclean spirits that disturb and torment us so that we may be freed from the anxieties that divide us from you. We ask this through our greatest teacher, Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord.

MASS INTENTIONS

JAN 27	4:00 PM	MICHAEL MARCIL
JAN 28	10:30 AM	DANIEL GILLIGAN
JAN 28	10:30 AM	BABY T TEDESCO
FEB 3	4:00 PM	ANITA AND LOUIS SIEGE
FEB 4	8:00 AM	WESLEY LAFORD
FEB 11	8:00 AM	NICOLAS MCDONALD
FEB 11	10:30 AM	MICHAEL BRISSON
MAR 3	10:30 AM	CATHERINE SROKA
MAR 17	10:30 AM	KAY WOOD
APR 7	10:30 AM	ROBERT NADEAU
APR 14	10:30 AM	ROLAND AND JANE HUNTOON

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.

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.

The **Knights of Columbus Meeting** is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 31st** at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall. All men of the parish are welcome to attend.

The **St. Boniface Choir** will be resuming choir practice to prepare for the Easter Vigil celebration on Thursday February 15 at 6:15 PM. We would like to encourage any new members to attend. No prior experience is needed.

Irish Festival in Worcester

St. Patrick Day Irish Festival will be held at St. Joan of Arc Church on Saturday, Feb. 24 from 5 pm – 10 pm. Admission is \$5.00. Featuring Live Irish Music and Irish step dancers from the McInerney School of Irish Dance. Corned beef dinner is \$15.00; Corned beef sandwich and chips \$10.00; Beer and wine will be sold. Tickets will be sold for these.

Tickets now available for 2024 Men's Conference

Tickets are now available for the 2024 Worcester Catholic Men's Conference which will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2024 at Worcester's DCU Center. The early availability is for those who may wish to purchase tickets as Christmas gifts! Tickets are only \$50 for Adults and \$30 for Students and can be purchased online at www.catholicmenworc.com or by calling (978) 537-3016. Speakers include Jim Wahlberg, Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers ("The Dynamic Deacon") and other Catholic Thought Leaders.

STEWARDSHIP

Jan 20/21

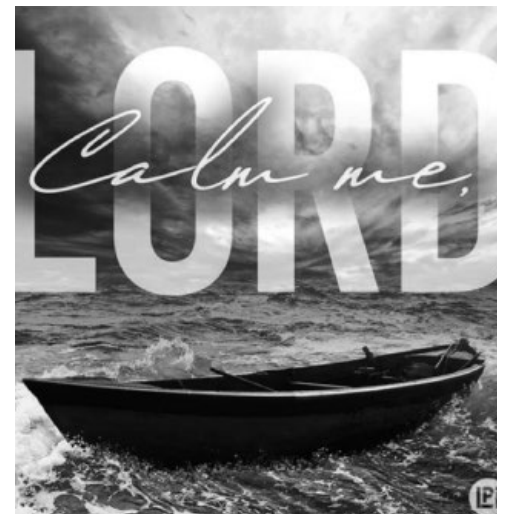
Sunday: \$2,473.00
Maintenance/Fuel: .. \$692.00
Catholic University: \$5.00

TOTAL:.....\$3,170.00



"Brothers and sisters: I should like you to be free of anxieties." (1 Corinthians 7:32)

How much anxiety do we bring upon ourselves by constantly worrying about not having enough or attaining more things? God won't necessarily give you everything you want, but He will provide everything you need. Try this – use the word "pray" instead of the word "worry" in the future. Then spend your time praying instead of worrying.



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

phone

978-582-4008
978-582-4008
978-502-7993
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email

stbonifaceparish@verizon.net
stbonifaceparish@verizon.net
lmarcil419@gmail.com
gr610@cfftstboniface.onmicrosoft.com
juditernst@comcast.net
stbonifaceparish@verizon.net
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.

TODAYS GOSPEL

Background on the Gospel Reading

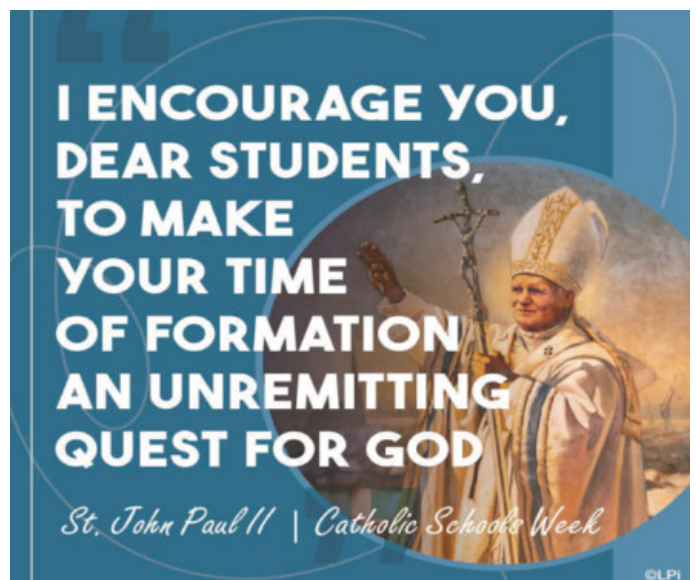
Today's Gospel continues our reading from Mark and describes what some believe was likely to have been a typical day in Jesus' ministry. Jesus and the disciples that chose to follow him in last week's Gospel arrive at Capernaum, a small village on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus teaches in the synagogue on the Sabbath. Mark reports that the people respond to Jesus' teaching with astonishment, noting Jesus' authority and contrasting it with the scribes'. Early in Mark's Gospel we already find evidence of the tension that will manifest itself fully in Jerusalem.

After Jesus' preaching, an even more astonishing thing happens. A man possessed with an unclean spirit calls out to Jesus. As we see in this example and throughout Mark's Gospel, the spirits and demons seem to know Jesus and are often fearful of him. In fact, they seem to understand Jesus' identity better than his disciples. As we will read again and again in Mark's Gospel, Jesus orders the spirit to be quiet and drives the unclean spirit out of the man. Jesus' ability to heal those possessed by demons is an indication of his power over evil.

In the prescientific age of Jesus' time, all illnesses were understood to be manifestations of evil and sinfulness. Our modern understanding of illness is very different. Possession by unclean spirits may have been a way to describe what we might call mental illness today. It may have even been a way of describing certain kinds of physical conditions. There is evidence that there were many kinds of exorcists and healers in first-century Palestine. Jesus appears to be like these healers, but he heals with unique authority and connects his healing activities with the words of his preaching.

We are missing the point that Mark is trying to make in this Gospel, however, if we try to explain away the healing work of Jesus. The crowds see in Jesus' cure of the possessed man further affirmation of his authority. Jesus' power to heal gives greater credence to his teaching. Jesus impresses the crowds through his words, which are manifested with power in his deeds. Mark's Gospel tells us that because of the authority with which he healed, Jesus' fame spread throughout all of Galilee.

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292 Park Ave., Worcester, MA 01609

(L) 978-534-1999 (W) 508-755-7575

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