



# THE CHURCH OF SAINT BONIFACE

817 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE  
LUNENBURG, MA 01462



## FEBRUARY 4, 2024

A large graphic featuring a starry night sky with a prominent constellation. Below the sky is a silhouette of a mountain range. The bottom portion of the graphic is a solid orange-brown color, overlaid with white and dark blue geometric lines that create a stylized, angular shape.

### 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him. - Mk 1:32-34

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

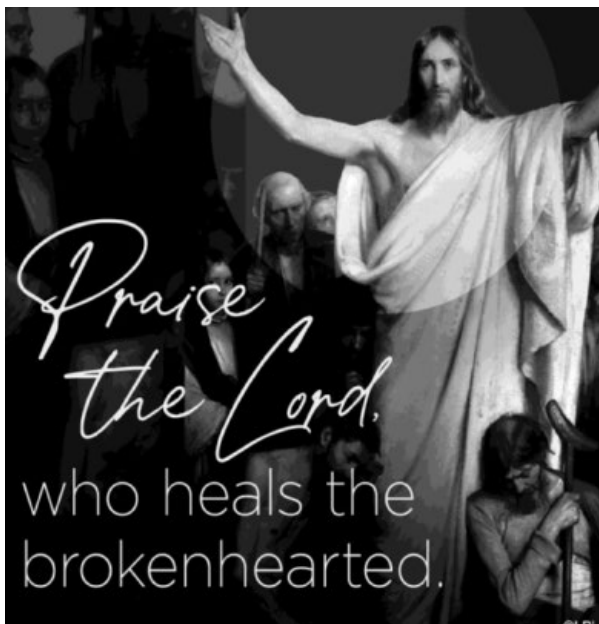
## THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

**FEBRUARY 4, 2024 / THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

*Job 7:1–4, 6–7 / 1 Corinthians 9:16–19, 22–23 / Mark 1:29–39*

Job's life has become a drudgery: restless nights followed by forgettable days. Every evening he ends his day without hope. He has no confidence that his life will change. A couple of weeks ago we heard Jesus call Andrew and Simon. They abandon their nets of drudgery and follow him to a brand-new life. Today we see Jesus enter Simon's mother-in-law's house, where she lay in bed ill. His healing touch leads to her a new life, a life of ministry to her fellow disciples. Often we feel as Job did, stuck in a rut and despairing of our misfortune. May we instead find hope in Christ, as his first disciples did, allowing him to guide us to a life of service, a life with purpose, a life for the kingdom.

**Question of the Week: How do I best learn more deeply about Jesus?**



### Family Connection

We know from last week's Gospel that Jesus gathered and prayed with the community in the synagogue. Today we learn that Jesus also took the time to pray alone. Following the example of Jesus, we also pray together with our community, and we take the time to pray alone. Our children observe our prayer with others. We might want to take the opportunity to talk with them about our private prayer, however, so that through our example, they may learn to make private prayer an important part of their daily lives.

Gather as a family and talk about the ways in which your family prays together (at Mass, grace before meals, bedtime prayers). Invite each member of the family to talk about his or her private prayer: When do you pray? Where do you pray? How do you pray? What do you pray for?

Jesus modeled for us a life of prayer. Read together today's Gospel, Mark 1:29–39. Talk about this Gospel with your family. Ask questions such as the following: What do you think Jesus was praying about in today's Gospel? What guidance have you received from God in prayer? Conclude by asking God to bless our times of prayer so that we can know and follow God's ways. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

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### THE LORD'S PRAYER

OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE  
THY NAME. THY KINGDOM COME. THY WILL BE DONE  
ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN. GIVE US THIS DAY OUR  
DAILY BREAD. AND FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES AS  
WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US. AND  
LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US  
FROM EVIL. FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, THE POWER  
AND THE GLORY FOREVER. AMEN.

Compassionate God, you heal the brokenhearted, bind up the wounded, and sustain the lowly. Hear the prayers we make for the brokenhearted, the wounded, and the lowly, through the One who healed all who gathered at the door, Jesus Christ our Lord.

## MASS INTENTIONS

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
APR 28	8:00	AM	HOWARD AND ELLA MAY CRANE
MAY 5	8:00	AM	REV. ANDRE GARIEPY
MAY 19	8:00	AM	RICHARD AND FRANCES HEBERT

### 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.

**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](http://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.

Lent is upon us! **Ash Wednesday Masses** will be held on February 14th at 6:30 am and 6:30 pm.



## STEWARDSHIP



*"Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed...He told them, 'Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come.'" (Mark 1:35, 38)*

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](mailto: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](mailto:stbonifaceparish@verizon.net) or Louise Nadeau at [dinalou1@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:stbonifaceparish@verizon.net) or contact Louise Nadeau at [dinalou1@comcast.net](mailto: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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**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 we continue to read from Mark's Gospel, learning more about the ministry of Jesus. Jesus cured Simon's mother-in-law, and she immediately began to serve Jesus and his disciples. Jesus also cured many others who were brought to him, healing their illnesses and driving out demons. As we will see throughout Mark's Gospel, Jesus did not permit the demons to speak because they knew his identity and would have revealed it to those who were present.

On the morning after this busy day, Jesus retreated in prayer, but was pursued by Simon and others who brought news that many people were looking for him. At this point in Mark's Gospel, we begin to see a distinct role for the inner circle of Jesus' disciples—they act as intermediaries between Jesus and the people. Jesus reports to his disciples that they need to leave Capernaum to preach in other places.

Today's Gospel completes a picture of Jesus' ministry: preaching, curing the sick, driving out demons, and then moving on to continue this work in another place. Mark's Gospel tells us that Jesus did this throughout Galilee.

Jesus' compassion and healing of the sick is a sign of the Kingdom of God. The Church continues to extend Christ's healing presence to others in its ministry to the sick. In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the Church prays for spiritual and physical healing, forgiveness of sins, and comfort for those who are suffering from illness.

In today's Gospel we also notice the importance of prayer in Jesus' daily life. Jesus rose early in the morning, removed himself from the crowds, and went to a deserted place to pray. When the disciples found him, he told them that it was time to move on. We believe that in his prayers Jesus found guidance and direction from God. We also bring our decision-making to God in prayer, asking for his guidance and direction in our lives.

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## ASH WEDNESDAY COLLECTION



### CARE *for* THOSE WHO HAVE CARED *for* YOU

Please help us support our retired priests this Ash Wednesday. A recent review of the benefits and expenses of priest retirement for our diocesan priests recommended a number of changes in benefits for those priests who have not yet retired. Bishop McManus accepted those recommendations after receiving the input and agreement of our diocesan priests. These changes are projected to save up to \$12 million through the year 2050. Even with these changes, it will require a variety of funding sources including this collection, Celebrate Priesthood, Partners in Charity and Legacy of Hope. Please consider a donation to this Ash Wednesday Collection as a way to express your appreciation for the dedicated service of our retired priests to the people of our diocese.





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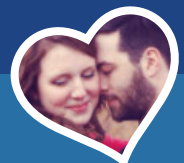
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