



THE CHURCH OF SAINT BONIFACE

817 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
LUNENBURG, MA 01462



FEBRUARY 11, 2024



THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

FEBRUARY 11, 2024 / THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Leviticus 13:1–2, 44–46 / 1 Corinthians 10:31—11:1 1/ Mark 1:40–45

Jesus challenges us to do the same, to break down the barriers that keep us apart, that keep some excluded from the community. He challenges us to be unafraid of reaching out to those whom we feel uncomfortable coming in contact with. Paul called upon the Corinthians to imitate him, as he imitates Christ. Though he was Jewish, Paul reached out to Gentiles from Jerusalem to the ends of the known world, bringing all of them into this new religion as full members. This is the inclusivity we are called to imitate in our families, our communities, our nation, and our world.

Question of the Week: Who can I reach out to in order to help make my family/ community/world whole? How can I go about doing so?



Prayer for Vocations

GOD OUR FATHER, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as priests, deacons, religious, and consecrated persons. Send your Holy Spirit to help us respond generously and courageously to your call. May our community of faith support vocations of sacrificial love in our youth. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Family Connection

Today's Gospel invites us to think about the choices we make as individuals and as a family. Jesus was faced with a choice in today's Gospel. By choosing to heal the man with leprosy, Jesus showed God's compassion for the sick and the outcast. The man knew that Jesus had a choice and that Jesus could reject his request. He may have expected that Jesus would not help him. The social taboos regarding leprosy certainly gave him little on which to base his hope. In the person of the man with leprosy, we see an image of all those in need. The sick and the outcast of our world are watching us, to see if we as Christians will choose to extend ourselves to others in need of healing and compassion.

Gather with your family and talk about some of the choices you have made as a family. (where to go on vacation, what activities to do together, how to spend our evenings, and so on) How does your family go about making these decisions? What do your choices communicate to others about your family's values? In today's Gospel, Jesus was faced with a choice. Read today's Gospel, Mark 1:40-45. In choosing to heal the man with leprosy, Jesus chose to show God's compassion and mercy. All our choices reflect our faith, and others are watching. Conclude in prayer together, asking God to help your family show compassion to others in your family decisions. Pray together today's Psalm, Psalm 32, or pray the Prayer for Vocations.

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God of healing and compassion, we come to you broken and repentant, asking that you make us clean.
Grant this and all our prayers,
which we make through the healer of lepers,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

MASS INTENTIONS

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
JUNE 22	4:00 PM	JOHN SANTORO
JUNE 29	4:00 PM	FRANK DIGIACOMO

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.

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

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.

The Ladies of St Boniface will host an afternoon of **Bunco**, a fun and simple dice game, on **Sunday Feb 18th at 1:30**. This is a good way to meet other women of the parish and have fun.

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. 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.

STEWARDSHIP

Jan 27/28

Sunday: \$2,256.00
Maintenance/Fuel: .. \$140.00
CHM: \$420.00
Total \$2,816.00

Feb 3/4

Sunday: \$2890.00
Maintenance/Fuel: \$90.00
Holy Day: \$35.00
Latin America \$5.00
Total: \$3,185.00



2024 Spaghetti Dinner!



**Knights of
Columbus**

**Includes: Spaghetti, Meat Sauce, Salad, Bread,
Dessert, and a Water/Soda & Coffee**

Cost: Dine-in: \$10 adults / \$5 kids under 12 / Take-out: \$10

Dine-in Hours: Saturday February 24, 2024 5:00pm – 6:30 pm

Take-out Pickup: Same day

Location: Church Hall after 4 p.m. Mass

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

In today's Gospel, we continue to hear Mark report the miraculous healings that Jesus performed in Galilee. The Gospel begins with Jesus healing a man with leprosy. Leprosy is a disfiguring, infectious skin disease that has been surrounded by many social and religious taboos throughout history. In 1873, the cause of leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, was identified. We now know that leprosy is caused by a bacterial infection. Although it is infectious, modern medical studies have shown that transmission is more difficult than previously thought. Since the 1940s, medical treatments have been available, and the patient no longer needs to be isolated once long-term treatment has begun.

In Jesus' time, however, religious and social taboos dictated the behavior of those with leprosy and other skin diseases. The Law of Moses provided for the examination of skin diseases by the priests, and if leprosy was identified, the person was declared unclean. People with leprosy lived in isolation from the community. They were instructed to rip their clothes and to announce their presence with loud cries when moving in the community. If the sores of leprosy healed, the Law of Moses provided a purification rite that permitted the person to return to the community.

In today's Gospel, the man with leprosy took the initiative, approaching Jesus and asking for healing. In doing so, the leper violated the religious customs of the day by approaching a person who was clean. His request to Jesus can be interpreted as a courageous and daring act. The confidence of the leper in Jesus' ability to heal him is evident in the words of his request. But his words can also be read as a challenge to Jesus, asking just how far Jesus was willing to extend himself in order to heal someone. While healing the man, Jesus touched him, which also violated established social norms. This is an important sign of the depth of Jesus' compassion for the man and an important statement about Jesus' interpretation of the Law of Moses.

Although Jesus touched the leper, he did not break completely with the Law of Moses. He instructed the man not to tell anyone about the cure and told him to present himself to the priests as prescribed by the Law of Moses. The first instruction sounds nearly impossible to honor. Certainly, the man would want to share the good news of his healing, and his quick improvement would require an explanation. The second instruction honors the Law of Moses.

Mark's Gospel tells us that after this healing, it became difficult for Jesus to travel freely. There are several possible explanations for this. There might have been concern about the repercussions of Jesus' breach of social and religious norms. In touching the man with leprosy, Jesus made himself unclean. Mark's narrative, however, leads to the conclusion that Jesus' movement was hampered by his popularity. Despite his instructions, the cured man spread the word about Jesus' healing power. Even when Jesus was in deserted places, people sought him out in search of his healing.

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