

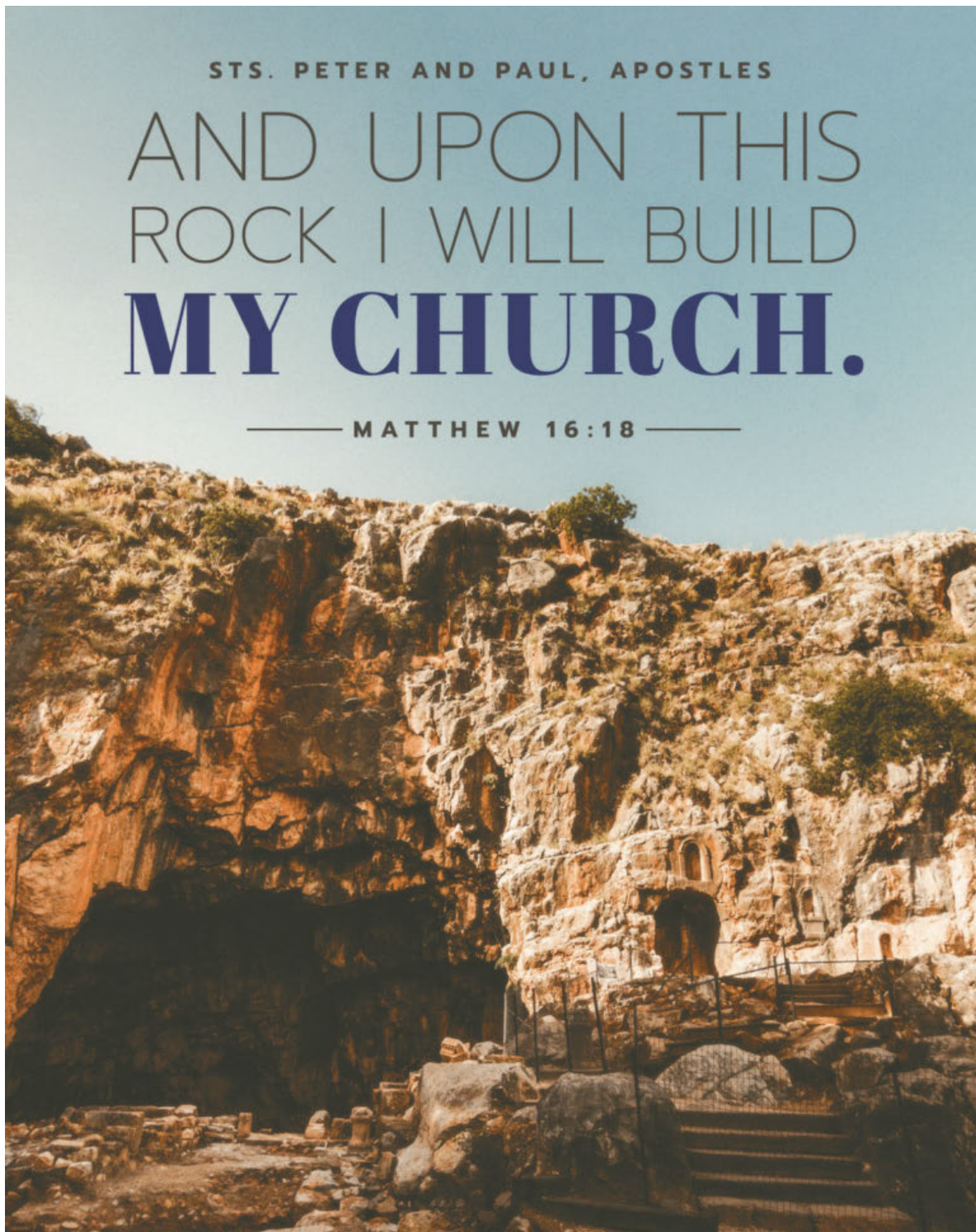


THE CHURCH OF SAINT BONIFACE

817 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
LUNENBURG, MA 01462



JUNE 29, 2025



THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

JUNE 29, 2025 / SAINTS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

Acts of the Apostles 12:1-11/ 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18/ Matthew 16:13-19

Saints Peter and Paul each sees their faith rewarded in the readings we hear today. Peter, imprisoned after James had already been executed by Herod Agrippa and expecting to have a death sentence imposed on him as soon as Passover ended, is rescued by an angel of God. Neither the soldiers nor the guards, neither the chains binding his wrists nor the iron gates of the city, can prevent God from setting Peter free. In the Gospel, Peter's faith that Jesus was indeed the Christ (the Messiah) leads to Jesus choosing him as the rock upon which he would build his Church and giving him the keys to the Kingdom. For Paul, keeping the faith is reward enough for him. The Lord, he asserts, has given him the strength to complete his mission to the Gentiles and will now bring him safely to heaven. By keeping the faith through all his travails, he says he will be awarded the "crown of righteousness," as will all those who place their trust in the Lord (2 Timothy 4:8). Like the members of the early church, who prayed fervently to God for Peter when he was imprisoned, we pray that our faith will see us through our hardships until the end of our days.

Question of the Week: How do the examples of Saint Peter and Saint Paul help me respond to my call and give me hope despite my past actions?

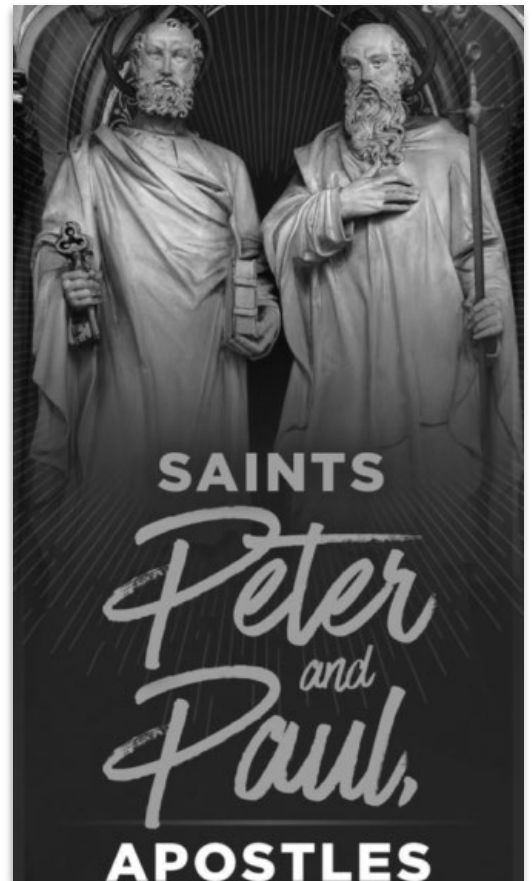
Gospel Meditation

What do you call brothers who are born on the same day? Twins, of course. That is what we celebrate today in the inestimable saints, Peter and Paul. Wait: twins? Yes. The early Church believed that Peter and Paul were martyred in Rome on the same day. Since the day of martyrdom is celebrated as a saints' birth into eternal life, the result is striking: Peter and Paul are twins in God's family, the Church.

Who should care about this? Well, anyone who longs to live in a world marked by love and peace. Remember, the Romans believed that twins, Romulus and Remus, founded their city through an act of fratricide, the former murdering the latter. Sadly, the structures of this fallen world emerge through violence between those who should love each other. But in the Church, a new city has been founded upon this new set of twins, embodying the non-violent power of Jesus' cross and resurrection.

That's why traditional icons represent Peter and Paul in a fraternal and warm embrace. Contrasted with the violence of Rome's founders, it challenges us with a bold claim: do we believe that structures of merciful love are more powerful and lasting than those based on power, violence, and domination? Am I willing to see others in my life as my "twin," with whom I am called to give my life for Christ, or as my rival? Am I committed to living what is embodied in Romulus and Remus, or in Peter and Paul?

— Father John Muir
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Prayer of Pastoral Care

O God,
Bless the souls You have entrusted to
our care. As You hear every one of their
prayers, help us to hear them, too. An-
swer their prayer intentions and per-
sonal needs through us and our minis-
try, as we all seek to do Your will.
Amen.

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MASS INTENTIONS

JUNE 28 4:00 PM DON FEATHERSTONE
JUNE 28 4:00 PM FRANK DIGIACOMO
JULY 6 9:00 AM ROBERT NADEAU
JULY 19 4:00 PM WAYNE DUFOUR
JULY 26 4:00 PM DON FEATHERSTONE
AUG 9 4:00 PM ROSE SANTORO
AUG 16 4:00 PM WAYNE DUFOUR
AUG 23 4:00 PM DON FEATHERSTONE
SEP 20 4:00 PM WAYNE DUFOUR
SEP 27 4:00 PM DON FEATHERSTONE
OCT 4 4:00 PM JOSEPH PICUCCI JR.

Prayer of the Rosary

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

Food Donations for the months of May and June will go to Catholic Charities. Donations can be placed in the rear of the church. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Thank you! Thank you to all who helped make the Jubilee a great success from the Mass to the Party. We have a wonderful community!

Adoration Adoration will be held each Wednesday from 12 noon to 6pm. We would like to invite parishioners to sign up for 1 hour of their choice on any Wednesday. Sign up boards are at the entrance. This will continue the whole Jubilee year.

Knights of Columbus

In Service to One. In Service to All. The St. Boniface Knights of Columbus Council meets in the Parish Hall on the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm. Any catholic men over 18 who are interested in joining the Knights can attend the meeting, contact us at kofc16480@gmail.com, or talk to any member to get more information.

Saint Cecilia's Super Bingo

St. Cecilia's 5th of July Super Bingo at 188 Mechanic Street in Leominster. Games start at 6:30pm and doors open at 4:30pm. There will be (2) \$1199 Games*, (9) \$500 Games* and (3) Mystery Game Payouts*. Three packages are available for purchase (12) Cards \$70, (18) Cards \$100 and (24) Cards \$135. Advance purchasers will be entered into a drawing prize valued at \$150. Must be 18 Years of Age or Older. There will also be a \$10 complete meal deal. Call BettyAnn at the parish office 978-537-6541 for more information. This special Bingo event is to raise additional funds needed to purchase a New Bingo Caller Machine. *Prizes are subject to attendance.

STEWARDSHIP

June 15

Sunday	2,724.00
Fuel/Maintenance	213.00
Other	3.00
Total	\$2,940.00



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SAINT BONIFACE CHURCH

817 Massachusetts Avenue, Lunenburg, MA 01462
Parish Office: 978-582-4008 email: stbonifaceparish@verizon.net

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Parish Office Hours

Monday / Wednesday 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:30 am | Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm
Memorial Day through Labor Day — Sunday: 9:00 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 5:00-5:30 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
Parish Office
Lucy Marcil, Religious Ed Coordinator
Carolyn Farley, Music Ministry
Judit Ernst, Organist
Louise Nadeau, Sacristan
Ministry Schedule
Nina Charpentier, Director, Preschool

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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.

“Which Martyr Died Sheltering a Priest?”

Bang bang bang!

Alban leaped to his feet. It was late at night, and he had just been finishing his prayers to the gods. The sudden noise got him off his knees in an instant.

Who could be at the door at this hour, in the pouring summer rains of Roman Britannia, an inhospitable place at any time of year?

Alban strapped his sword on, just in case. Then he pulled a torch off the wall and—slowly and cautiously—opened the door.

There, in a heap on the step, wet and exhausted, was a man. He looked harmless.

“Who are you?” Alban said, feeling no threat from the stranger, but mistrustful nonetheless.

The man looked up at him, his eyes sharply reflecting the flickering light of the torch.

“I am a priest of the one God,” he said. “I am a Christian.”

Alban stiffened. He’d heard of these Christians but had never met one, and knew they weren’t well-liked among the local Roman powers-that-be. Some had even been killed.

“I am pursued by the agents of the governor,” the priest went on. “I will not stay here long. Only enough time to recover and I will leave you in peace.”

Alban didn’t pay much attention to the last part. He had already begun ushering the stranger inside. He took the priest’s walking staff and wet cloak and threw another log on the fire.

“You are welcome here,” said Alban. “Sit, I will prepare you something hot. Now, please tell me...” He paused a moment, a little surprised at his own curiosity. “Please tell me about your God.”

The rest is history. Alban—a pagan from the area of Roman Britain now known as St. Albans, north of London—was converted in the following days by the words and example of that Christian priest.

But the priest’s pursuers caught up to him eventually. When it became clear what was about to happen, the newly-baptized Alban clothed himself in the cloak of the priest and offered himself up in his place. He was brought before the authorities and scourged, but refused to give up his new faith and was sentenced to death.

They say that when Alban was marched to the place of execution, he stopped the waters of an impending river so that they could cross. They also say that a fountain of water sprang up on the hillside where he was beheaded. He was the very first martyr of Great Britain, killed for his faith in the 3rd or 4th century A.D.

The legends of St. Alban’s life come to us mostly from the work of St. Bede the Venerable in the 8th century, but he has been revered in England since the 5th. He is one of the great patrons of that country which—we hope and pray—will soon return to her ancient faith.

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