

## THE CHURCH OF SAINT BONIFACE

817 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE  
LUNENBURG, MA 01462



**AUGUST 17, 2025**



## THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

**AUGUST 17, 2025 / TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

*Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10/ Hebrews 12:1-4/ Luke 12:49-53*

Weeks ago, we heard Jesus send the disciples out two by two to heal the sick, drive out demons, and attract disciples in his name. The disciples did so and returned to the Lord rejoicing. Jesus could be pleased that they had taken those lessons to heart so well. But on the other hand, they cannot come to terms with his warning that he—the Messiah—would suffer greatly, be killed, and be raised on the third day. Today we hear Jesus challenge his disciples, sounding like he would wish it would happen already so that they might finally understand. He had, after all, been born into this world in order to suffer and die for it. The baptism he describes is his death, which is necessary for his resurrection, which is necessary for our redemption. Until this is all accomplished, his mission is incomplete, no matter how many are healed, comforted, or transformed.

**Question of the Week:** When has something I've said or done in accordance with my faith divided family or friends? How have I handled this? Could I have handled it better?

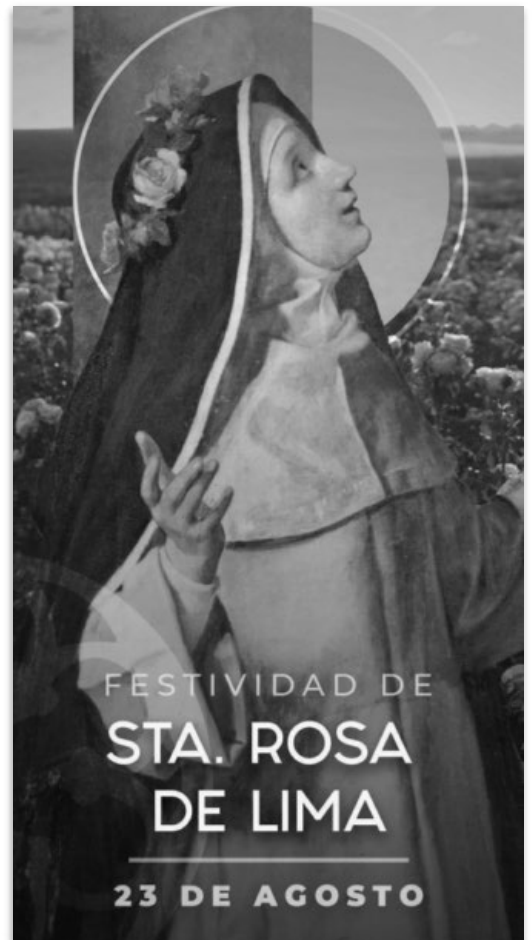
### Gospel Meditation

During my baseball career, my best coach often said, "You shouldn't be worried if I yell at you. Be worried if I don't. If I stop pushing you, it means I don't think you have any more potential." He demanded a lot, and I knew it meant he saw that I could be something special on the baseball field.

Jesus says some demanding words to us this week. "Do you think I have come to establish peace on the earth?" he asks, "No, tell you, but rather division" (Luke 12:51). He wants you and me—in fact, all the earth—to participate in the luminous glory of God. That's why he speaks of himself as a divine arsonist. Divine fire is like a good coach: it demands the removal of all that obstructs the achievement of the lofty goal.

How is your life demanding right now? That inconvenient family situation, the unfair boss at work, the kids who reject their parents' wishes, the nagging health issue? Maybe things would be more peaceful devoid of these seemingly arbitrary difficulties. But for us who believe in the one who comes to set the earth of fire, we should be much more worried if he stops demanding so much from us. In fact, let's thank him for it. He sees how glorious we can become.

— Father John Muir  
©LPi



### Prayer for Bravery

Dear God,  
In the moments when my faith is met with others' disdain or ridicule, give me the grace to be grounded in You. Remind me that Your mission matters, and that You alone bring comfort, healing, and salvation.  
Amen.

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## MASS INTENTIONS

AUG 16	4:00 PM	WAYNE DUFOUR
AUG 23	4:00 PM	DON FEATHERSTONE
SEP 13	4:00 PM	FRANK DIGIACOMO
SEP 20	4:00 PM	WAYNE DUFOUR
SEP 27	4:00 PM	DON FEATHERSTONE
OCT 4	4:00 PM	JOSEPH PICUCCI JR.
OCT 12	10:30 AM	MICHAEL BRISSON
OCT 18	4:00 PM	WAYNE DUFOUR
OCT 25	4:00 PM	DON FEATHERSTONE
NOV 2	8:00 AM	WESLEY LAFORD
NOV 15	4:00 PM	WAYNE DUFOUR

### 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 July and August will go to Lunenburg Food Pantry. Donations can be placed in the rear of the church. Thank you for your continued generosity.

### CCD

Registration for Religious education is now open. If you are new to our parish or if you have a child entering 1st grade, please take a moment to fill out the form at this link

<https://stboniface-lunenburg.org/religious-education-1>.

Our program runs on Sundays from 9-10 AM every other weekend beginning in September. The cost of the program is \$50 per child, with a family max of \$75. We look forward to being a part of your faith journey.

### WELCOME BACK BREAKFAST

Sunday, September 7th

9 AM: ALL CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ARE WELCOME FOR BREAKFAST. We will also have a brief overview of the program.

At 10 AM, Mass is in honor of Jeff Tremont, who has been a teacher in our program for many years. He is retiring from teaching, and we will miss him dearly.

### Free Religious Ed Resources

Our Lady of Hope Parish has the following available for donation: Loyola Finding God (2013 Copyright) Teacher Manuals Grade 6: 6 copies; Grade 5: 7 copies; Grade 4: 8 copies; Grade 3: 5 copies; Grade 2: 10 copies; Grade 1: 8 copies; Grade K: 1 copy. If interested, please contact Darleen Farland at [dfarland@ourladyofhopegrafton.org](mailto:dfarland@ourladyofhopegrafton.org) or 508-839-3993 ext. 13.

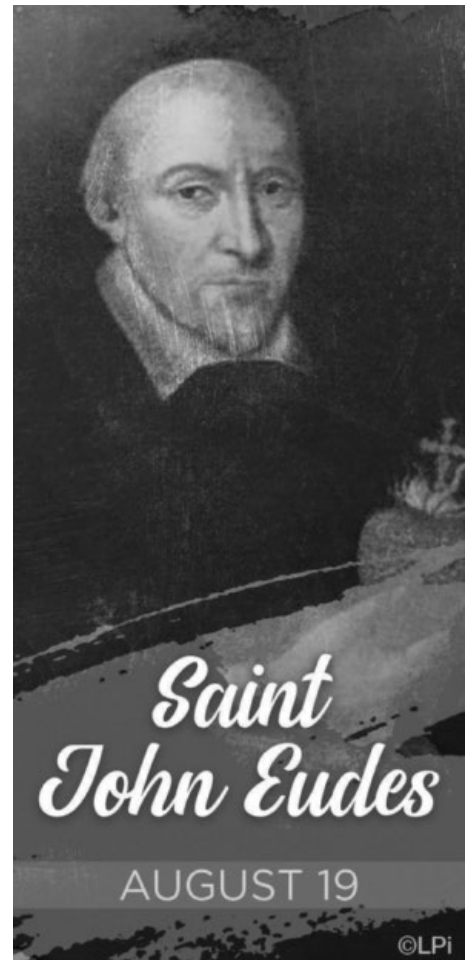
## STEWARDSHIP

Aug 3

Sunday	6,109.00
Fuel/Maintenance	294.00
Other	5.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,408.00</b>



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# 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 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](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  
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](mailto:ninastboniface@gmail.com)

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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.*

AUGUST 17, 2025

## Why do White Petals fall from the ceiling of St. Mary Major every year?

St. Mary Major, or, in Italian, Santa Maria Maggiore, is one of the four major, or papal, basilicas. These are all found in Rome and include St. Peter's, St. John Lateran, and St. Paul Outside the Walls.

St. Mary Major is sometimes called St. Mary of the Snows or Our Lady of the Snows. Its alternate titles trace their origin to the incredible legend of its founding in the 4th century, which tells of the Roman patrician John and his wife who were without heirs. They prayed to Our Lady to show them how they might use their riches for her honor. Our Lady then designated the place of the Basilica through a snowfall on the crest of the Esquiline Hill—a miraculous occurrence, since it was summer! Both John and Pope Liberius received visions informing them of the event and, upon finding the snowfall, the Holy Father marked out the place of the future church. Hence another of its titles: the Liberian Basilica.

The current structure was dedicated by Sixtus III on the 5th of August, 434. Built during the time directly after the Council of Ephesus, which confirmed Our Lady's title as Theotokos, the God-bearer, the Basilica stands as a monument to the Church's ancient and undying devotion to the Mother of God. Every year on the feast of its dedication, a "snowfall" of white petals is released from the ceiling of the Basilica during Mass to commemorate its founding.

In addition to its magnificent 5th century mosaics, the Basilica also houses a far greater treasure. A relic of Our Lord's crib is kept under the high altar: several slats of wood in which He rested the night of His Nativity. This crypt is also the final resting place of the great St. Jerome, who translated the Bible into Latin and spent his last days in Bethlehem.

St. Mary Major also contains the miraculous Marian icon Salus Populi Romani which, according to legend, was painted from life by St. Luke, using wood from the table of the Holy Family. Its title translates to "Health (or Salvation) of the Roman People," and it has been venerated by popes and pilgrims for centuries.

20<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME







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