



## THE CHURCH OF SAINT BONIFACE

817 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE  
LUNENBURG, MA 01462



**MARCH 8, 2026**



## 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." - Jn 4:10

# THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

**MARCH 8, 2026 / THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

*Exodus 17:3-7/Romans 5:1-2, 5-8/ John 4:5-42*

The God we encounter in the Torah does not hesitate to punish those who disobey or break the commandments. When the Chosen People complain to Moses, accusing him of bringing them to the desert to die of thirst, and Moses complains to God, God could have made them pay for their insolence. But instead God quenches their thirst by taking a rock as hard as their hearts appear to be and imbuing it with flowing water. Similarly, Jesus does not shame the woman for her many marriages or her current lifestyle, but offers her living water, water that within her will well up to eternal life. Paul points out that Jesus went on to die for us on the cross while we were still sinners, saving us rather than condemning us. May we realize that the life-giving water we receive in baptism is a gift most undeserved.

**Question of the Week:** *How can the life-giving water I received in baptism flow through me to quench the thirst of others in need?*

## Gospel Meditation

Recently I received a note from a teenager I met years ago. He wrote, "Dear Father Muir, you probably do not remember me, but I wanted to thank you for your inspiring and humorous homilies at the parish. They helped me appreciate the beauty of Catholicism, which I have now embraced in a personal way." That small note moved me more than he probably imagined. I had no idea my words had taken root in him. I was simply sowing seeds – week by week, Mass by Mass. Someone else – his parents, a youth minister, or God Himself – was doing the deeper work. Now this young man is joyfully reaping a harvest of faith.

In today's Gospel, Jesus offers living water to a Samaritan woman whose life had been full of searching and disappointment. By the end of their encounter, she becomes a bold and joyful evangelist. Then Jesus turns to his disciples and says something easily overlooked: "One sows and another reaps" (John 4:37). He is helping them – and us – understand how evangelization works. Often, the one who sows the seeds of faith is not the one who sees the fruit.

This Lent, ask yourself: Are you in a sowing phase or a reaping phase? If you are sowing – raising children, praying for someone, mentoring – be patient. Your work matters. If you are reaping – seeing someone come alive in faith – be grateful. You are standing on sacred ground, tilled and watered by others.

Lenten challenge: Thank someone who once sowed faith into your life. And keep sowing, even when the harvest is unseen.

– *Father John Muir*  
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## Blessing of Living Water

Lord, where there has been dryness in my life, bless me with Your living water! Where I fear to dream of new hope and growth, bless me with Your living water! Where I'm thirsty for new and abundant life, bless me with Your living water! Drench the parched earth with Your promise, bless me with Your living water!

Amen.

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## MASS INTENTIONS

MAR 14	4:00 PM	VAL LANDRY
MAR 21	4:00 PM	WAYNE DUFOUR
MAR 22	10:00 AM	GILLES CHAMPAGNE
MAR 28	4:00 PM	DON FEATHERSTONE
MAR 29	10:00 AM	VAL LANDRY
APR 5	8:00 AM	RAY POWERS
APR 9	8:00 AM	PAUL AND MARIE REMY
APR 12	10:00 AM	VAL LANDRY
APR 18	4:00 PM	WAYNE DUFOUR
APR 18	4:00 PM	ROSANNE KEATING

### 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 March and April will go to St Francis Food Pantry. Donations can be placed in the rear of the church. Thank you for your continued generosity.

### 40 hours with the Lord

All are welcome to join Annunciation Parish during our upcoming 40 Hours of Adoration at Holy Rosary Church, 135 Nichols St., Gardner, beginning at 4:30 PM on Friday, March 20th and concluding with the the 8:30AM Mass on Sunday, March 22nd. To learn more about the various devotions which will be held during our 40 hours or to sign up to be a guard for one hour of Adoration go to our parish website [AnnunciationGardner.org](http://AnnunciationGardner.org) or call Maura Sweeney at 978-632-0253 ext. 117.

### St. Patrick's Day Celebration

St Patrick's Day Celebration: The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a St Patrick's Day dinner with a performance by Irish step dancers. The celebration will start on Saturday March 14th at 5:00 PM. The dinner will consist of corned beef and cabbage, potatoes and vegetables with Irish soda bread, coffee, soft drinks and dessert. Tickets are priced at \$15 per individual or \$40 per family. Proceeds will benefit Knights of Columbus charities. There will be only advance ticket sales; no tickets will be sold at the door. The Knights of Columbus will be selling tickets after weekend masses starting February 28th through March 8th. Tickets may also be purchased online at the parish website, [stboniface-lunenburg.org](http://stboniface-lunenburg.org), located half way down our Home Page.

### St Boniface Women's Guild

At its February meeting, the St. Boniface Women's Guild celebrated with a Mardi Gras theme. Those in attendance enjoyed refreshments, learned about the origins of Mardi Gras/Fat Tuesday traditions and enjoyed an authentic King's cake. The cake is decorated in purple, green and gold colors symbolizing faith, prosperity and justice, and contains a small baby figure hidden within the cake. Mary Bourque found the "baby" in her slice of cake and was crowned "queen" of the festivities and will enjoy good luck in the coming year!

**Grief Group** The St. Boniface Grief Group meets every Thursday from 5:00 to 6:30 pm in the church basement. Walk-ins are welcome to join the group. \*No class on March 19th

## STEWARDSHIP

Feb 22

Sunday	3,224.00
Fuel/Maintenance	64.00
Religious Retirement	177.00
Total	3,465.00



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**Collection Volunteer:** We are in need of additional help with collection counting for two Monday mornings per month. Please call the office if you are able to offer 2-3 hours of your time bi-weekly. We can always use an extra volunteer, but we also need someone with some Microsoft Excel experience.

# 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, 10:00 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 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:

	<i>phone</i>	<i>email</i>
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Nina Charpentier, Director, Preschool	978-582-7110	<a href="mailto:ninastboniface@gmail.com">ninastboniface@gmail.com</a>

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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.*

MARCH 8, 2026

## He is the Living Water

When I think about the story of the Samaritan woman at the well, I think of my father. This Gospel reading that we use every year for the First Scrutiny of the RCIA was always my favorite to discuss with those who would be baptized in just a few weeks at the Easter Vigil. Not that many years ago, my father was one of those elect. That year, the story was more powerful than ever.

The woman went frequently to the well looking to get the water that would sustain her body. But in the story, Jesus tells her of a different kind of water, one that gives life and quenches even the driest of thirsts. The story tells us that she put down her water jar and ran to the town telling of her encounter with the One who may be the Christ. She left that jar at the well. She did not need it anymore.

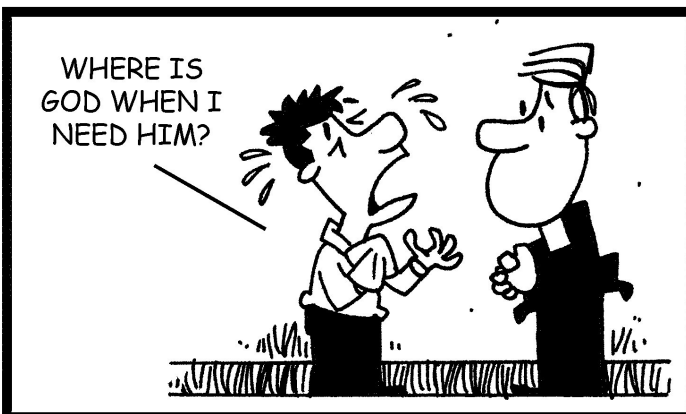
I encounter people all the time that spend their days going up the hill to draw water. They are tired and spent. My father was one of those. But with the gift of baptismal water, that constant chore is now over. There is no need to travel up that hill.

This Lent, if you are one of the baptized, reclaim the gift of your baptism. Stop climbing that hill in search of something that can only quench your thirst temporarily. You encountered Christ and have the everlasting, living water already. Put down that water jar. Your new life has only just begun.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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3rd SUNDAY OF LENT





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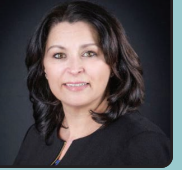
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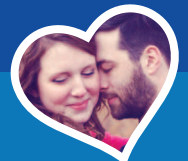
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