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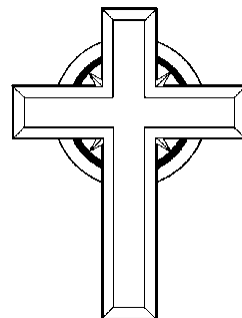
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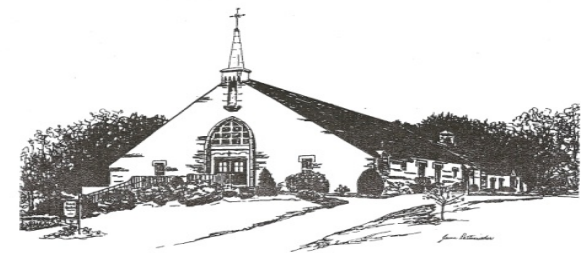
ST. BONIFACE PARISH

817 Massachusetts Avenue, Lunenburg, MA 01462

Parish Office: 978-582-4008

Email: stbonifaceparish@verizon.net

Website: www.stboniface-lunenburg.org



Luke 6:20

**Blessed are you who are poor,
 for the kingdom of God is yours.**

Gospel of the Week
Luke 6:17, 20-26

February 17, 2019

**Sixth Sunday
 in Ordinary Time**

The upside down kingdom of Jesus (Blessedness)

Walking into my first American supermarket was such an experience. It was a Kroger Store in Columbus OH. I had never seen such abundance on display. The choices were so many and even confusing. Where does somebody start, I asked? Milk for example: you have whole milk, reduced 1%, 2%, skim, fat free, chocolate milk, vanilla milk. I later came to discover that each choice came with a price and quality to it. So choose wisely. Every choice has a 'price' to it.

There is an underlying tone in the readings today centered on 'choice' or making a good discernment. There are consequences of our good discernment. Choose to trust in the Lord, you will be 'blessed', choose to trust in human beings you will be 'cursed'. (In the Old Testament world, the cursed formula and Blessed formula is used to encourage people to be responsible as they make good decisions and choices). The Character of an individual is seen in his/her choices.

In the Gospel there is a total turnaround about what it means to be 'blessed' or make the right discernment. Jesus speaks about the poor, the hungry, the weeping, those who are hated, those denounced as evil, everything is totally upside down, it is these who are 'blessed'? The most enviable choice for Jesus is to be involved in the interest of others, not only self-interest. Those who work for the reversal of the conditions of the poor, hungry, the sorrowful and are willing to suffer for this are the ones who are 'blessed'. The mission of the disciples is to improve the lives of others.

Who are the people we all commonly refer to as 'blessed' in our world today? Those we speak of as 'all set'. They are usually the powerful, the rich, the wealthy, those with influence. We want badly to be like them. They set the standards of our desires and longings often times. We learn that in the Kingdom of God the reverse is what is 'blessed'. What is important is to be one who lifts others up, who transforms the life of others (self-giving)

Have a Blessed week in the Lord



Visiting the Sick...

Do you have a sick relative or a friend, in hospital or home-bound?

Are they in need of a visit, communion or the sacrament of the Sick?

Do have a relative in hospice or in assisted care?

Let Fr. Anthony know, after Mass or call the parish office anytime or in case of emergency 9787324340.

PASTOR: Rev. Anthony Mpagi 978-582-4008
stbonifaceparish@verizon.net
STAFF:

- Administrative Asst.: Nancy Wessells 978-582-4008
stbonifaceparish@verizon.net
- Religious Education Office: stboniface-reled@verizon.net
Coordinator: Lucy Marcil 978-696-5230 lmarcil419@gmail.com
- Music Ministry: Claire Garrity Neas 617-823-4237
- Sacristan: Louise Nadeau
- Building & Grounds: Greg Cucchiara
- Ministry Schedule: Jacquie Cronin 978-582-7040
- Early Childhood PreK: Nina Charpentier 978-582-7110

NEW PARISHIONERS: Welcome packets are available at the entrances of the church. Call or stop by the Parish office to register.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Please call the parish office to make arrangements for the Sacrament of Baptism (978-582-4008).

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) welcomes all who may be interested in learning more About the Catholic Faith. For more information contact Fr. Anthony Mpagi at stbonifaceparish@comcast.net

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.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Confession)
Saturday 3:00 - 3:30 p.m. or by appointment.

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 Sue Cote 978-582-0404 sj33@msn.com

LUNENBURG PUBLIC ACCESS TV
St Boniface Mass from the previous week will be broadcast at 10:45 every Sunday on **Lunenburg Public Access Channel 9** ...anyone interested in helping video tape should contact ... tmurphyesq@aol.com

SICK OR HOMEBOUND We would like to bring them Communion and minister to them on a regular basis either at home or in a health care facility. Please call the parish office 978-582-4008 or email Fr. Anthony at stbonifaceparish@comcast.net or Nancy Cieri 978-582-6983 nancycieri@comcast.net to arrange these visits.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
In Service to One. In Service to all.
The members of St. Boniface Knights of Columbus Council #16480 meet 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 should contact Grand Knight James Dijak (978) 534-7956 or Deputy Grand Knight Brian Cusick (978) 534-2326, or you can email the Council at kofc16480@gmail.com



WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE
4PM Saturday Vigil Mass
8am & 10:30am Sunday Morning Mass

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE
All Masses are at 6:30pm
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

PARISH OFFICE HOURS
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
8am-12pm & 1- 4pm

FINANCIAL INFORMATION	
Weekend February 10, 2019	
Sunday Ordinary:	\$2,141.00
Maintenance	703.00
Fuel Collection:	25.00
Total Contributions:	\$2,869.00
Thank you for your continued support!	

2018 ANNUAL APPEAL FINAL UPDATE
Grand Annual Appeal: 73 parishioners contributed \$41,850.00 towards our goal of \$55,000.
THANK YOU TO ALLWHO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS IMPORTANT APPEAL!

CHOIR REHEARSAL for LENT AND EASTER resumes on Thursday, February 28. We welcome new singers to join with us to learn ancient chants and new songs of praise as we ask our God to give us a new Heart and Spirit!

Our Choir Family would love new additions, particularly Men! If you are a teen or older and can come out on Thursdays from 6:30-7:30/8pm; we'd love to meet you in the Loft! For more info, call Claire at (617)823-4237.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER: 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 9th at 5:00 PM. The dinner will consist of corned beef and cabbage, potatoes and vegetables with Irish soda bread coffee and dessert. Tickets are priced at \$10 per individual or \$30 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 through March 3rd.



MASS INTENTION			
Sat	Feb 16	4pm	John McCabe, by the Peplowski Family
Sun	Feb 17	8am	Anne Rivard, by Pat Paton
Sat	Feb 23	4pm	Kenny Herrmann, by the Martin & Reinbold families

Working with the Word
Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time C-February 17, 2019
Reading I: Jeremiah 17:5-8; Responsorial Psalm: 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Reading II: 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20
Gospel: Luke 6:17, 20-26

Focusing the Gospel

Key words and phrases: Blessed are you, kingdom of God, on account of the Son of Man, woe, now
To the point: Luke seems in this Gospel to be exalting the downtrodden simply because they are downtrodden, and cursing the comfortable simply because they are comfortable.

What really is at the heart of this Gospel is the manner of life that makes present the kingdom and assures us that our “reward will be great in heaven.”

The model of this manner of life and the source of the blessedness it brings is Jesus himself.

Connecting the Gospel ...
... **to the First Reading:** Blessedness, by its very nature, bears good things because it is of God. For Jeremiah, blessedness brings the lushness that water can bring to a desert. For Jesus, blessedness brings the unimaginable reward of belonging to God.
... **to experience:** Although we in our society are proud that we do not have classes or castes that separate, in fact we do have distinctions that separate, not least among them being the rich and the poor, the have and the have-nots.

We discover the presence of God’s kingdom when people come together across what divides and share both gifts and needs, so that everyone is on “level ground.”

The Perspective of Justice

The Advantage of the Poor
“Blest are you poor. ... but woe to you rich.” These powerful words, recorded for us by Luke, offer many avenues for thought. Today’s liturgy places them in the context of [Jeremiah 17](#) and [Psalm 1](#), and thus connects them with the search for happiness.

Poverty is wretched. It means physical suffering, psychological anguish, financial insecurity, cultural disparagement, political powerlessness, and social scorn. Affluence is wonderful. It means physical comfort, financial security, political power, social and cultural acceptability, and at least the possibility of psychological health.

Yet Jesus used the word *blest* when speaking of the poor, and he used the word *woe* when speaking of the rich. Obviously he saw some kind advantage to being poor, and some kind of disadvantage to being rich.

What truth was he expressing? That poverty keeps one open to one’s need for God? That riches turn one’s heart away from God? That happiness is found closer to poverty than to wealth?

From a Christian perspective, who is to be pitied, the poor or the rich?

All of us must examine our way of living in light of the needs of the poor. Christian faith and the norms of justice impose distinct limits on what we consume and how we view material goods. The great wealth of the United States can easily blind us to the poverty that exists in this nation and the destitution of hundreds of millions of people in other parts of the world. Americans are challenged today as never before to develop the inner freedom to resist the temptation constantly to seek more.

U.S. Bishops, [Economic Justice for All](#), 1986: 75.
Gerald Darring

Discussion Question

- Although it is inevitable that disciples suffer, such directives don’t require you to be constantly poor or hungry. Simply realize your need for God, whatever your situation. These demand a choice. Is it a choice you can make once or do you have to make it repeatedly?
- In his homily for World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis tells us where we can find the poor today. What does he tell us to do to insure our own poverty of spirit?

The *cry of the poor*: it is the stifled cry of the unborn, of starving children, of young people more used to the explosion of bombs than happy shouts of the playground. It is the cry of the elderly, cast off and abandoned to themselves. It is the cry of all those who face the storms of life without the presence of a friend. It is the cry of all those forced to flee their homes and native land for an uncertain future. It is the cry of entire peoples, deprived even of the great natural resources at their disposal. It is the cry of every Lazarus who weeps while the wealthy few feast on what, in justice, belongs to all. Injustice is the perverse root of poverty. The cry of the poor daily grows louder but is heard less and less. Every day that cry gets louder, but every day heard less, drowned out by the din of the rich few, who grow ever fewer and more rich...

Stretch out your hand to us, Lord, and take hold of us. Help us to love as you love. Teach us to leave behind all that is passing, to be a source of reassurance to those around us, and to give freely to all those in need.

[World Day of the Poor](#)
Nov. 18, 2018
Anne Osdieck



Massachusetts Catholic Conference
66 Brooks Drive
Braintree, MA 02184
617-746-5630
www.macatholic.org

Bishops of Massachusetts to the Catholics of the Commonwealth

We write as your pastors; we write also at a critical moment for the Catholic Church in Massachusetts, in the nation and throughout the world. The issue which confronts us all, but especially confronts us as bishops, is the sexual abuse crisis that has again enveloped the life of the Church.

Catholics throughout the United States and the world have struggled with the deepest questions of reason and faith as the multiple issues of sexual abuse by priests and bishops have become public over the last sixteen years. The past year has been especially traumatic, and we again apologize to survivors and their families for all they have endured. We also apologize to the Catholic community for the seemingly unending nature of this scandal and the many questions it raises regarding Church leadership.

The attention of the Church and the wider society will be focused in an extraordinary way on the upcoming Summit Meeting in Rome, convoked by Pope Francis to address the crisis globally. Our purpose in this message is to provide perspective on the meeting considering what has occurred in the Church in the United States and throughout the world.

The Past: The clergy abuse crisis exploded in the United States early in 2002 when the unprecedented dimensions of the crisis became clear, leading the US Bishops Conference to adopt “The Dallas Charter” later that year. The Charter promised a policy of zero-tolerance of sexual abuse of minors, meaning that accused priests determined to have abused a minor would be removed from ministry; all cases would be referred to appropriate civil authorities and each case would then be investigated within the Church. Beyond the provisions in the Charter, individual dioceses have adopted policies to provide care and counseling for survivors and education and prevention training in our parishes, schools and religious education programs. Reviewing the past, we acknowledge the record includes gaps and failures as well as successful implementation of these policies. At the same time, the Church in the rest of the world has experienced the abuse crisis in different ways at different times.

The Present: In 2018, the primary attention of responsibility for the abuse crisis shifted from priests to bishops. It became clear that the Dallas Charter, focused on priests, needed to be amended to include accountability for bishops’ and cardinals. In order to broaden the policy in this way, the U.S. Bishops have proposed that a publicly announced method of reporting cardinals and bishops implicated in occurrences of sexual abuse be established. We also have advocated for the establishment of an oversight review committee that includes appropriately credentialed professional lay leadership. However, the Holy See asked the U.S. Bishops Conference to postpone action on this proposal until after the meeting in Rome.

The Summit Meeting, convoked by Pope Francis, will involve the Presidents of over 180 Episcopal Conferences from throughout the world; along with Cardinal O'Malley, participating in his role as President of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Children. The goal of the Summit Meeting, as stated by the Holy Father, is "catechesis" of the episcopal conferences. A way to interpret this phrase is that the meeting will seek to create a strong consensus throughout the universal Church of zero tolerance of sexual abuse, to develop the programs which will implement this mandate and to put in place the programs of education and prevention needed to keep children safe throughout the world, even and perhaps most especially in countries where government and law enforcement may not be reliable partners in protecting children.

This meeting will be very complex in its composition, cultural and geographical diversity and the political and legal context that is necessarily present in these matters. We ask your prayers for all involved in the Summit Meeting and your appreciation that a three-day meeting will not produce a finished and final plan for a global Church of 1.2 billion people. Demanding but also realistic expectations will be helpful for us all as we think not only about what the Church in the United States needs to accomplish but also the steps necessary to achieve global solutions, particularly in circumstances where cultural sensitivities must be considered.

The Future: As always, first and foremost in our thoughts are the survivors of abuse for whom we continue to pledge our vigilance. We use this occasion to pledge our continued commitment to the policies we have adopted and to all those measures of care, counseling, education and healing needed to abolish the scourge of sexual abuse throughout the Church.

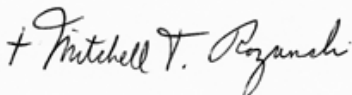
Thank you.



His Eminence Seán P. O'Malley, OFM, Cap.
Archbishop of Boston



Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester



Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski
Bishop of Springfield



Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, SDV
Bishop of Fall River