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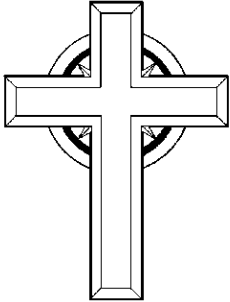
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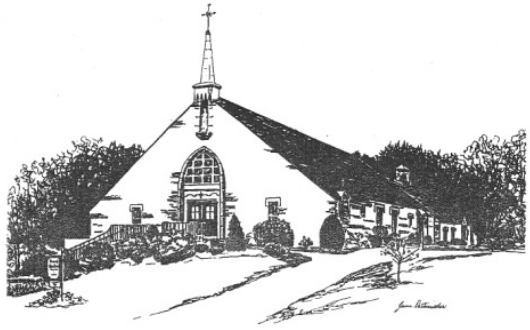
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817 Massachusetts Avenue, Lunenburg, MA 01462

Parish Office: 978-582-4008

Email: [stbonifaceparish@verizon.net](mailto:stbonifaceparish@verizon.net)



**May 12, 2019**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

*"My sheep hear my voice and they follow me...No one can take them out of my hand."* John 10: 27-28

Matthew 14: 22-33 tells the story of Jesus taking a boat with his disciples out to sea. They stop somewhere and Jesus goes off to the mountain to pray by himself. As it was getting dark, the sea was stirred up in a powerful violent storm. The disciples are panicked and afraid for their lives. Then they see Jesus coming toward them, *walking on water*. Peter jumps out of the boat, to go meet Jesus and for a while he too walks on water. He then however turns his gaze away from Jesus and begins to look around at the powerful storm, the strong winds, and the raging waters, immediately he begins to sink. He cries out to Jesus, 'Lord save me', Jesus lifts him up and says to him, 'Oh you of little faith, why do you doubt'.

The message of this Sunday's readings might be, 'fix your eyes on Christ, learn to transcend 'noises', listen to his voice, follow Him, no one (nothing) can take you out of his hand'.

From the Acts of the Apostles we listen to the mission of Paul and Barnabas who broke ground in preaching the good news in Perga and Antioch. It wasn't easy. They had success but more failures. Today they get a 'divided' response. Many Jews reject them. The Jews resent the fact that, more and more of the 'Gentiles' accept them. They suffer violent abuse. Notwithstanding this they continue to speak boldly. If the word of God is rejected by those for whom it was preached first (the Jews), others will welcome it. The Jealousy and opposition they suffer will in fact become the fertile ground for the numbers to grow. Rejection is not the end. They must keep their eyes fixed on Christ and the gospel.

Who are those who wear the robes of victory in the Second reading (people of every nation, people and race), gathered around the throne of a Shepherd Lamb? (Who was himself *slain*?). They are the ones who suffered a time of great distress. They washed their clothes white, in blood. Distress, persecutions and suffering are part of being a Christian, but are not the end. So, fix your eyes on Christ.

Jesus says in the gospel, "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand". Those who listen NOT to the 'noises' (however powerful they are) are assured of his protection and life.

We pray for courage and serenity as we all try to live what it means to be a Christian today. It can be a very difficult endeavor. Know that Jesus is the 'anchor in the storm'. What storms are present today as one tries to live the Christian life? Ridicule, public disdain for anything God or spiritual; a secular way of life that values what I want, like or feel over norms and ethics; 'As long as you are happy' (people pleasing); 'There is no truth, it is all according to you'; The Anarchy of personal opinion. This environment is hostile and you will suffer for faith, even being tempted to compromise for mediocrity.

Fix your eyes on Christ!  
Fr. Anthony

## Crowning of Mary (as we end the Month of May)

**Saturday May 25 at 4pm 'The Singing Stars'** (St Andrew's African Catholic Ministry Children's Choir ) will join us at Mass.

Come listen to the young voices of the Church of tomorrow.  
(beautiful music, dance and praise)





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

**STAFF:**

- Administrative Asst.: Nancy Wessells 978-582-4008  
[stbonifaceparish@verizon.net](mailto:stbonifaceparish@verizon.net)
- Religious Education Office: Coordinator: Lucy Marci  
978-696-5230 [lmarci419@gmail.com](mailto:lmarci419@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 Director: 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:stbonifaceparish@comcast.net) or Nancy Cieri 978-582-6983 [nancycieri@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto: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**

**SUMMER MASS SCHEDULE begins on Memorial Day weekend May 26: Saturday 4pm, Sundays 9am only. The Daily Mass schedule will be Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays at 8AM.**



**Vigil Mass for the Feast of the Ascension May 29 at 6:30pm.**

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**  
**Weekend May 5, 2019**

Sunday Ordinary:	\$2,628.00
Religious Ed:	5.00
Maintenance	618.00
Fuel	85.00
Holy Day	5.00
<b>Total Contributions:</b>	<b>\$3,341.00</b>

Thank you for your continued support!



**PIC update:** We are \$3,982.00 away from reaching our goal of \$22,500.

There will be a second collection this weekend and next weekend in order to meet our goal.

**MASS INTENTION**

Sun	May 19	10:30am	Patricia Alario, by Judy Alario
Sun	May 26	9am	Patricia Alario, by Joan Pena & Jeff Resnick
Sun	June 2	9am	Richard & Frances Hebert, by the Laford family
Sun	June 9	9am	Antoinette Grasso, by Joan Pena & Jeff Resnick



**CONFIRMATION DAY**

On Monday May 13th, 2019 at 7 PM, the Confirmation Class will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation at Saint Cecilia's Church, 168 Mechanic Street, Leominster, MA.

All families and friends of the

Confirmation students are welcome to attend.

**Confirmation Students must be at Saint Cecilia's Church by 6:30 PM.**



**OKTOBERFEST:** our second meeting will be held on Thursday, May 23, at 6:30 pm, in the Parish Hall. We invite anyone who would like

to join our team to help organize this annual parish fundraiser. This event has become a fun time as we plan, pray together, and get to know some of the "characters" who participate every year. This will be our third Oktoberfest and we look forward to another successful year. Remember, we can't do it without our parishioners. That's YOU! (I promise meetings will be 1 hour or less!)

**White Elephant Again This Year:** we will have a White Elephant Sale in the parish hall. We will be collecting donations for this sale beginning Sunday, July 21 after each Mass, enter from the lower side parking lot door. Please place items on the stage. So.... clean out those attics, basements, and closets! Items must be clean, new or gently used, and ready to sell. Some of the items we are looking for (though not limited to) are small furniture, sports equipment, bikes, hanging pictures, kitchen items, blankets, tools, holiday items, etc. No clothing, pillows, mattresses, electronics, large appliances or large furniture will be accepted.



**BACCALAUREATE SERVICE**  
**CLASS OF 2019**

Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at 7:00 PM, for the 2019 Lunenburg High School Graduates. The service will be held at the United Parish Church, located at 39 Main St.,



Lunenburg, MA. Family and friends of the 2019 High School Graduates are all welcome to celebrate.



**Montachusett Interfaith Hospitality Network (MIHN)**

**RED SOX TICKET RAFFLE TO**

**BENEFIT MIHN** Raffle Drawing will be held on May 20th, 2019 for **4 Red Sox Seats** for the May 27, 2019 game vs the Cleveland Indians.

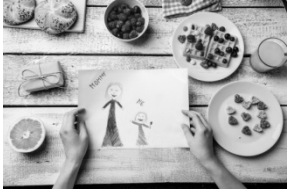
**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED DURING THE WEEK OF MAY 26, 2019** to prepare and deliver meals to the Montachusett Interfaith Hospitality Network (MIHN) located in Leominster.

Also, prior to May 26th look for donation tags in the church for volunteers to generously purchase food goods for MIHN. Please, return any donated goods to the back of the church next to John the Baptist carving by May 26th. You will see a MIHN sign. Thank you. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**FIRST COMMUNION**  
**CLASS of 2019!**

# What your mom wants (and doesn't want) this Mother's Day



The perfect Mother's Day is possibly an illusion, sponsored by Hallmark. Mother's Day can be like the scene of an accident, where speeding expectations have crashed into reality. My mother wanted eggs Benedict every Mother's Day, and I remember the many failed attempts to make her the perfect hollandaise sauce. When my sisters and I became mothers, our husbands used to get together with my father and make us brunch. They would shop at Costco and buy gallons of orange juice, pounds of bacon, dozens of eggs and mountains of breakfast pastry for the occasion, as though they were feeding the Green Bay Packers instead of us. The clean-up afterward was epic.

As mothers we treasure the handmade cards, the heartfelt poetry, the traced little hands turned into bouquets of flowers, the lopsided ceramics, the colored macaroni necklaces, the sunflower growing up out of the paper cup of dirt. But might there be more to the perfect Mother's Day? And has any mother ever actually had one?

I asked some friends who are mothers to describe the perfect Mother's Day. Mothers ought to be the experts, after all. But it is often difficult for them to consider their own desires because one of the rites of motherhood is realizing that a mother's wants come last. Maybe the perfect Mother's Day scenario eludes us because we are uncomfortable or out of practice at putting ourselves first. We understand that we have to take care of ourselves in order to care for others, but it can still be hard to articulate a yearning for the things that have become such luxuries.

Maybe the perfect Mother's Day scenario eludes us because we are uncomfortable or out-of-practice at putting ourselves first.

Some mothers of young children, those brave women still in the trenches, put forth tentative images of the perfect Mother's Day as a day off from children: hours of sleeping in, or a visit to a spa, or a glass of wine with some girlfriends. Then the guilt kicks in, and they hastily add that of course they want to spend the day with their little darlings, because they are the ones who made them a mother.

Mother's Day is a different experience for those of us whose children are adults. We never stop being mothers, but our children do stop being children. When we no longer see our children every day, when they are in another state or on another continent, Mother's Day perfection translates simply to their physical presence. We don't care about breakfast in bed or any other meal catering. Just being with them would be enough.

Like any holiday, Mother's Day can also be a painful reminder. This is my second Mother's Day without my mother, and so it is still odd not to feel the obligation to find a better recipe for hollandaise sauce. Or to be able to call her, or take her out for decent eggs Benedict, or give her a hug. The mothers that came before me in the generations of mothers are all gone to God, a thought that casts the sobering shade of mortality on this annual celebration.

We don't care about breakfast in bed or any other meal catering. Just being with our children would be enough.

Throughout the month of May, I think of Mary, mothering Jesus all those centuries ago. I think of the verse from Luke's Gospel that made complete sense to me as my children grew and astonished me: "Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart" (Lk 2:19). For mothers, these moments of treasuring and pondering are profound and universal: how we treasure in our hearts the love and confusion and hurt and hope that our children engender in us; how we hold close to our breast so much that they will never know.

(over)

I must report that in my unofficial survey of mothers, not a single mother I know mentioned any gifts as part of a perfect Mother's Day. As I tell my daughters, having such delightful children makes every day Mother's Day, and all I want on this particular Sunday in May is a nice card. We are suckers for Mother's Day cards. A well-chosen card can dispel our feelings of motherly inadequacy. Most of us mothers can point out things we wish we had done differently while our children were young and impressionable. Most of us hold onto embarrassing memories of losing our cool. It is lovely to know that our children think we did all right by them. A little appreciation feels good. It is better than any gift. "Thank you for everything you do for me, and for being the biggest nerd bomb I know!" one of my daughters wrote in her card last year, one of many sentiments I treasure in my heart.

Maybe the perfect Mother's Day is really a state of mind: the warm comfort of knowing that all of your little ones, however old they are and wherever they may be, are safe and healthy and happy and productive and loving and loved. The rest is icing on the cake. Speaking of which: Cake is always welcome.



**Valerie Schultz** is a freelance writer, a columnist for The Bakersfield Californian and the author of [\*Closer: Musings on Intimacy, Marriage, and God\*](#). She and her husband Randy have four daughters.