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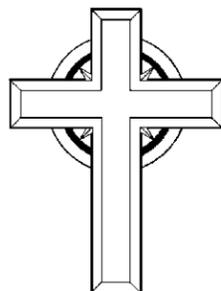
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April 07, 2019
Fifth Sunday of Lent

John 11:43
Lazarus, come out!

Gospel of the Week
John 11:1-45



Whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live (John 11: 26)

What is the saddest funeral you ever experienced? When a friend, family member or national figure was taken suddenly or unexpectedly, how did you feel at that time?

In every culture, people have tried to solve the enigma of death without success. You can try to ignore death with every kind of 'cover-ups', but it will pretty soon knocking at your door. We suffer doubt, loss, and pain. These emotions are felt vividly in the story of the two sisters, Martha and Mary. Jesus is also caught in the intensity of emotions as he sheds tears.

Death in truth is our last enemy. It is not shy to remind us that our human experience is limited. We are fragile and fragile. We end ('for we all know that creation groans...' Romans 8: 22). Nothing you hold on to here on earth shall help you in any way whatsoever. 'There is a time for everything' (Ecclesiastes 3).

The raising of Lazarus in this Sunday's Gospel (the third and last scrutiny) however breaks a new ground and turns everything upside down for Death. For those who believe and are in Christ, death with all its power does not have the last word. The power of life overcomes death. The belief in Jesus unties us from the limits of the human experience and sets us free for eternal life. There is life after death. Jesus demonstrates that divine power can give us hope. We need God's intervention if we are not to live in vain.

The haters of Jesus will from now on have no choice to eliminate him. If he can raise someone from the dead what next? He is indeed from God, for only God can do this. This miracle is the last and greatest in Jesus' public life and performing it, he knows it will cost him his life.

What are the lessons for our Christian living? First, to believe and trust in Christ is to find life and attain the promise of eternal life. There is hope with Christ. Second, the promise of eternal life can be attained right now. We do not have to wait for heaven or death. How? By choosing to live and lead lives like Christ, that selflessly. The spirit of God dwelling in us will move us away from self-serving activity and ego centeredness to live lives for more than ourselves. To be like Christ is to put others first and mind the transformation of others. Our world needs this today.

Let us watch closely, watch Jesus as he enters the last week of his life (Holy Week). Let us journey with him through the events of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil, and ask what this all means for us and for our daily living. (Finding God means finding Life and life's meaning!)

A blessed week in the Lord,
Fr. Anthony

Palm Sunday is the final Sunday of Lent, the beginning of Holy Week, and commemorates the triumphant arrival of Christ in Jerusalem, days before he was crucified. Palm Sunday is known as such because the faithful will often receive palm fronds which they use to participate in the reenactment of Christ's arrival in Jerusalem. In the Gospels, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a young donkey, and to the lavish praise of the townspeople who threw clothes, or possibly palms or small branches, in front of him as a sign of homage. This was a customary practice for people of great respect. Palm branches are widely recognized symbol of peace and victory, hence their preferred use on Palm Sunday. The use of a donkey instead of a horse is highly symbolic, it represents the humble arrival of someone in peace, as opposed to arriving on a steed in war. A week later, Christ would rise from the dead on the first Easter.



PASTOR: Rev. Anthony Mpagi 978-582-4008

stbonifaceparish@verizon.net

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- 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

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 April 4, 2019

Sunday Ordinary:	\$2,274.00
Maintenance	55.00
Easter Offering	15.00
Flowers	30.00
Total Contributions:	\$2,374.00

Thank you for your continued support!



To date: 42 donors have pledged \$11,448. towards our goal of \$22,500.

With your support, faith in action is visible every day in the compassionate outreach of Catholic Charities, to the least among us; in the prayerful witness of our retired priests and the joy of new priestly vocations; to the many diocesan ministries and programs that heal, teach and care for others.

TEXT GIVING: This is an easy and most secure way to give. If you know how to send a text message, you can make a gift to *Partners in Charity* in seconds on your phone. Best yet, **St. Boniface will receive credit!** Text the word **donate** to **84576**. You can also make your gift online at partners-charity.net. Thank you for your continued support!

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- **Palm Sunday** April 14th
4pm vigil Mass, 8am & 10.30am
- **Holy Thursday** April 18th: 7pm
Mass followed by Visiting of 7 Churches
- **Good Friday** April 19th
4:30pm Ecumenical Stations of the Cross @ Gazebo
7pm Liturgy Service
- **Easter Vigil Mass** April 20th: 7.30pm
- **Easter Sunday Masses** April 21st: 8am and 10:30am



MASS INTENTION

Sat	Apr 6	4pm	Robert Nadeau, (5 th Anniv), by his wife, Louise
Sun	Apr 7	10:30am	Patricia Alario, by Judy Alario
Sun	Apr 28	8am	Howard & Ella May Crane, by the Laford Family
Sun	Apr 28	10:30am	Joseph Billota, by the family

PANCAKE BREAKFAST ON PALM SUNDAY

The social justice committee will be hosting a pancake breakfast after each of our Sunday Masses. Mass times are 8 AM and 10:30 AM.

Donations are accepted and proceeds will support our work with the family shelter, Montachusett Interfaith Hospitality Network in Leominster, MA.

Visit our website to learn more about MIHN. Donations can also be made online.



LENTEN FISH-FRY DINNER

All are welcome to join us on Friday, April 12th, 2019 at 5 pm for a delicious and freshly prepared fried fish dinner. The dinner will

consist of deep fried haddock, French fried potatoes, coleslaw, bread and butter and dessert. Tickets are \$10. There will be macaroni and cheese available for purchase at \$3 per bowl, and soda and water for \$1.



Stations of the Cross
6:30pm - Fridays during Lent

A PARISH PENANCE SERVICE

All are welcome to join us on Sunday, April 7th, 2019 at 2 PM for a Parish Penance service. Deacon Tim Cross from St. Mary's Church in Jefferson, MA will be a guest preacher who will be discussing the important role that the Sacrament of Reconciliation has during Lent and preparation for Holy Week. There will be an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation from local area priests during the Penance service.



AS A REMINDER, our parish follows the guidelines of the National Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People approved by the US Bishops and policies of the Diocese of Worcester in screening those who work with children in our care and in helping victims of abuse find healing. If you or someone you know has been sexually abused by a church employee or volunteer in the past. Please contact Victim Services Coordinator for our diocese at 508-929-4363 (direct line & confidential voicemail). If you are concerned about a current case of abuse, please contact the local civil authorities immediately.

COMPASSIONATE COMPANIONS BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP



Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Leominster –
Wednesdays, May 1 - June 5
7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Family Rm. –
Parish Center

The group is a faith based support group for those grieving the loss of a loved one. This group will provide a safe and confidential environment for sharing thoughts and feelings expressing sadness and learning ways to cope while grieving.

Pre registration is required for group participation and registration is limited. Please call Elaine Hackett (978-345-6826) by April 17, 2019 to register or email Elaine at: mhackett1@verizon.net.

- 5/1/19 What is Grief, and how long does it last?
- 5/8/19 What are the emotions of Grief?
- 5/15/19 Dealing with changes in relationships after loss
- 5/22/19 The loneliness of Grief and anticipating special occasions
- 5/29/19 Sensing the presence of your deceased loved one: Stories and messages from beyond
- 6/5/19 Empowering your healing

BABY SHOWER FOR CARENET

Sunday, April 28th, 2:00 PM
St. Boniface Parish Hall

Join us for an afternoon tea, games, and fellowship as we come together to donate items to CareNet.

Items needed:

- Clothes size birth to three years for boys and girls
- Digital thermometers for babies
- Nail clippers for babies
- Toys
- Books that infants can touch
- Shampoo
- Baby Wash
- Hooded Bath Towels
- 1-2 Baby Baths
- Rattles, teethers, No scratch mittens,
- Pacifiers 0-3 mons & 0-6 months
- Diapers (Especially Newborn and size 4)
- Baby shoes up to toddler size



RSVP to carlacappucci@hotmail.com so that we may plan accordingly.



Sponsored by the St. Boniface Women's Guild

I Will Raise You Up

Liturgical Day

Fifth Sunday of Lent (A), April 2, 2017

Readings

Ez 37:12-14, Ps 130, Rom 8:8-11, Jn 11:1-45

Prayer

How did Christ visit you with new life? From what tomb did he call you forth?

Who in your life needs to hear Christ's commandment, "Come forth!"

Early Christians realized that something made them distinct from their neighbors. They attributed this distinction to the risen Christ present among them. They gave his presence different names: Holy Spirit and fire, grace, salt and light, Paraclete, Spirit of Truth, new life. With each of these expressions, early Christians tried to give a name to the spiritual dynamism that had transformed their own lives and that continued to build up the community.

You will not abandon my soul among the dead, or let your beloved know decay. (Ps 16:10)

John's Gospel speaks of this presence as new life. This fits into John's wider theology, which understands Jesus to be the herald of a new creation. John's Gospel emphasizes this new creation in its very first words, "In the beginning..." which echo the opening words of Genesis. The first 11 chapters of John's Gospel chronicle the signs by which Jesus revealed this new creation to his disciples. Several of these signs represent triumphs over death's agents—want, hunger, sickness and chaos. In today's Gospel passage, Jesus reveals that the new life he bears gives him authority over death itself.

Many Jews of Jesus' day believed in the resurrection of the dead. This is clear from statements about resurrection in Jewish texts like 2 Maccabees or 1 Enoch. It is also clear from Martha's statement in today's Gospel, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Martha's belief reflected Ezekiel's vision of the dry bones (Ez 37:1-14), the last verses of which we hear in our first reading. This resurrection was an eschatological event expected to occur just before the final judgment.

When Jesus calls himself "the resurrection and the life," he transforms this belief. The resurrection was not an event in time, but rather a core reality of his ministry. In Jesus Christ, the universe received a second chance at creation. Anyone who believed in his death and resurrection, and followed his teaching and example, could participate in this new creation. "I am the resurrection and the life...everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." During his earthly ministry, Jesus embodied this new creation with such fullness that, in his presence, death retained no dominion over the living.

The victory is won, but the battle is not yet complete. Death's agents are still at work in the world, gnawing at every human heart and threatening every human community. Many of us entomb ourselves—often with a significant investment of time and energy—in materialism, vanity, pride and lust. Many of us can also remember the day we first heard Christ's command, "Come forth!" Leaving our tombs, we can encounter the same new life that gave such dynamism to the first disciples. We might not embody this new life with such Christ-like perfection that we can raise the dead, but we can reveal the new creation in other ways. As Jesus raised up Lazarus, so we must raise each other. Filled with his new life and with a heart like his—both broken and loving—we seek out those in the tombs and cry out to them, "Come forth!"



Michael R. Simone, S.J., is an assistant professor of Scripture at Boston College School of Theology and Ministry.