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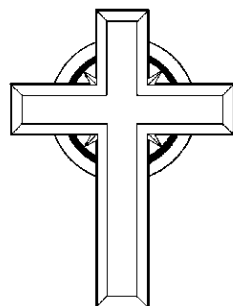
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# SAINT BONIFACE

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817 Massachusetts Avenue, Lunenburg, MA 01462

Parish Office: 978-582-4008

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



**May 19, 2019**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

*Behold, I will make things new (Rev 21, 5)*

Last fall a few Fitchburg State campus ministry students decided to hike Mt. Watatic and celebrate Mass at one of the summits. It is not a very challenging hike except if you grew up in the savannah like me. The views at the summits are spectacular. On a clear day one could even see Boston. There is a landmark however that no one can miss, one whose spires soar up the sky, this is Saint Cecilia's Church. A family of one of the students had tagged along and they were coincidentally French Canadian. He went on and on telling me the whole story of who these people were and how they built this majestic church. After being hosted at St. Leo's church in the 1930s they longed to hear sermons and the word of God in their native language. They wanted to celebrate baptisms, weddings, to keep their rituals, culture and faith intact. The church was built in the Depression. Nothing would stop them, even those hard times. The masses were packed and alive.

Today, sadly, the days of soaring spires and grand cathedrals are over. A recent study of churches in Canada revealed they need to close 9000 churches because of poor mass attendance and high maintenance costs. What has been lost? What kind of spirit or fervor of the people then did they have that we have lost? What have we gained? Why have we failed to keep their legacy?

The readings this weekend are about building the kingdom of God. Paul and Barnabas are tireless and resolute despite persecutions to build the Christian community. The church is built through perseverance. "It is necessary to go through hardships to enter the kingdom of God" (Acts 14, 22). how often do you take yourself to task about this? Do you see yourself as part of building the church today and how? What hardships will you face?

For Jesus the mission of doing God's will (glorifying God, building the kingdom) begins with a radical decision to renounce the pursuit of self-interest. "This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." The task of the Christian is to exorcise disinterested 'love'. Love unfortunately is so confused today. In the Gospel sense it is not an emotion or sentiments or personal attraction but practical, dynamic and demanding. How do we witness to justice, fairness, mercy, compassion, truth, in the way we live our lives? We build the kingdom by the way we live.

The challenge of the readings is to 'rise up', make things new, live your life beyond just you and self-satisfaction. Live a life that 'bears fruit' beyond you.

**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
- Religious Education Office: Coordinator: Lucy Marcil  
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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](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**

**NEXT WEEKEND May 26 - 27**

**Saturday 4pm, Sundays 9am only.**

**The Daily Mass schedule will be Monday,  
Tuesday and Wednesday at 8AM.**



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

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

**Weekend May 12, 2019**

Sunday Ordinary:	\$1,897.00
Maintenance	237.00
Easter Offering:	10.00
Fuel	10.00
Holy Day	25.00
<b>Total Contributions:</b>	<b>\$2,179.00</b>

Thank you for your continued support!



**PIC update: We are \$3,541.00  
away from reaching our goal  
of \$22,500.**

**Montachusett Interfaith Hospitality  
Network (MIHN)**

Please take an umbrella from the back of the church to help us gather supplies and food for our next rotation at MIHN. This is a family shelter in Leominster that makes it possible for families to stay together when homeless. Our next week begins May 26th.



**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
Sat	June 22	4pm	Joseph McBride, by Shirley & Kathleen McBride



**SAINT BONIFACE'S  
STORY**

Boniface, known as the apostle of the Germans, was an English Benedictine monk who gave up being elected abbot to devote his life to the conversion of the Germanic tribes. Two characteristics stand out: his Christian orthodoxy and his fidelity to the pope of Rome.

How absolutely necessary this orthodoxy and fidelity were is borne out by the conditions Boniface found on his first missionary journey in 719 at the request of Pope Gregory II. Paganism was a way of life. What Christianity he did find had either lapsed into paganism or was mixed with error. The clergy were mainly responsible for these latter conditions since they were in many instances uneducated, lax and questionably obedient to their bishops. In particular instances their very ordinations were questionable.

These are the conditions that Boniface was to report in 722 on his first return visit to Rome. The Holy Father instructed him to reform the German Church. The pope sent letters of recommendation to religious and civil leaders. Boniface later admitted that his work would have been unsuccessful, from a human viewpoint, without a letter of safe-conduct from Charles Martel, the powerful Frankish ruler, grandfather of Charlemagne. Boniface was finally made a regional bishop and authorized to organize the whole German Church. He was eminently successful.

In the Frankish kingdom, he met great problems because of lay interference in bishops' elections, the worldliness of the clergy and lack of papal control. During a final mission to the Frisians, Boniface and 53 companions were massacred while he was preparing converts for confirmation.

In order to restore the Germanic Church to its fidelity to Rome and to convert the pagans, Boniface had been guided by two principles. The first was to restore the obedience of the clergy to their bishops in union with the pope of Rome. The second was the establishment of many houses of prayer which took the form of Benedictine monasteries. A great number of Anglo-Saxon monks and nuns followed him to the continent, where he introduced the Benedictine nuns to the active apostolate of education.



**BACCALAUREATE  
SERVICE  
CLASS OF 2019**

Tuesday, May 28th, 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 Street, Lunenburg, MA. Family and friends of

the High School Graduates are all welcome to celebrate.



**CONGRATULATIONS  
CONFIRMATION  
CLASS OF 2019**



**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.



# “See, I am making all things new”

[John W. Martens](#) April 30, 2010

The readings for the Fifth Sunday of Easter wake us up, once again, to the perennial truth and current application of Scripture. Acts 14: 21-27 takes place just after Paul and Barnabas had left Lystra and Derbe, if “left” is the proper description of how Paul was escorted out of Lystra: “then they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead” (14:19). Paul and Barnabas moved on to Derbe after that and then “they returned to Lystra, then on to Iconium and Antioch” (14:21). Returning to Lystra, in light of events experienced there, seems awfully bold (or foolish), but going to Iconium and Antioch seems to double down on the boldness (or foolishness), since in v.20 we learn that the people who stoned Paul in Lystra ad come “there from Antioch and Iconium and won over the crowds.” They had a reason for going back, however, and it was always first on Paul’s list of “Things to Do”: “There they strengthened the souls of the disciples and encouraged them to continue in the faith, saying, “It is through many persecutions that we must enter the kingdom of God.” And after they had appointed elders for them in each church, with prayer and fasting they entrusted them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.” (14:23-24)

When Paul and Barnabas came back to strengthen the persecuted apostles, as noted above, they set elders over them, leaders and authorities within the Church, but “with prayer and fasting they entrusted them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.” It is the Lord to whom we are entrusted and who will be our strength in times of suffering and hardship and the reason Paul and Barnabas could with boldness (for it is not ultimately foolishness) return to the place of their persecution. In times of persecution, we must fight to retain the faith, as easy as it can be to run away and as hard as it can be to stay. I take it that Paul and Barnabas encouraged the new converts to “continue in the faith” because many were considering leaving. They stayed because this is the way “we must enter the kingdom of God.” Yet, we also have to keep in mind what is genuine persecution of the Church, such as that described in Acts 14 and events current in Nigeria and other places of the world, for instance, and challenges to the Church based on events for which members of the body of Christ were guilty and which were hidden away and which caused great suffering for fellow Christians. Sometimes the chastisements of those who oppose the Church hurt precisely because they are correct, but this is not the same as persecution. The innocent are persecuted in Acts 14 and they retained the faith; it is important that we, too, especially when we are not being persecuted, retain the faith so that we can more boldly pronounce the Kingdom of God by persevering in the faith and living it in a manner more befitting of Jesus Christ and the kingdom to which he calls us. How can we pronounce if we cannot live it?

Whatever comes our way, whether genuine persecution or the harsh stings of deserved reproach, the path is not easy. It is worth it, though, for the promise of the world to come, yes, but also for our life in this world, even in the face of persecution or suffering. If it is God to whom and for whom we were created and ordered, then God’s way must be the way of joy in this world too, if we pay attention to the ways of Jesus. John 13:31-35 tells us to “love one another,” that the world will know we are disciples of Jesus “if,” Jesus says, “you have love for one another.” “If” renders the sentence conditional, dependent upon our behavior, but there is nothing conditional about God’s promises to us.

Revelation 21: 3-5 states, that God “will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.”

This is a promise to those who were and are persecuted, to those who suffer and wonder whether they can ever be whole again, to those for whom love has too seldom been experienced: “mourning and crying and pain will be no more” for God will make all things new.