

## SAINT BONIFACE NEWS

### ***How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land (Psalm 137:4)***



As staying healthy has required us to stay at home, each rector across the nation has worked to design virtual liturgies that best meet the pastoral needs of their congregations. The results were many including Morning Prayer, and the Holy Eucharist (with a spiritual communion.) There was even "drive-up" communion. I decided that we would continue celebrating the Holy Eucharist each Sunday while inviting your individual offerings of bread and wine at home. Some call this "virtual communion."

The Diocesan clergy has been meeting regularly with Bishop Smith through Zoom calls about the issues now facing our parishes, including worship. It has been decided that Morning Prayer and The Holy Eucharist (with a spiritual communion) will be the only Sunday liturgies offered in the diocese during this time.

Spiritual Communion finds its understanding in the Book of Common Prayer which states on page 457 that, *"If a person desires to receive the Sacrament, but, by reason of extreme sickness or physical disability, is unable to eat and drink the Bread and Wine, the Celebrant is to assure that person of all the benefits of Communion are received, even though the Sacrament is not received with the mouth."*

So now you are invited to offer your own "Prayer for Spiritual Communion" (printed in the service bulletin) each Sunday while the clergy receive the bread and wine during the Holy Communion.

This pandemic has created an opportunity and necessity for many discussions. We at St. Boniface have always welcomed the new and big questions facing the Church. I invite you to stay tuned as new pastoral responses in our digital world develop.

We love you, we miss you, and we are counting the days until we can re-gather for worship.

God bless you,

*Wayne+*

### ***Choose from several opportunities to stay connected in worship and other activities:***

**Sunday morning Eucharist** at 10:00, via our [website](#), or on your Roku device or Apple TV (to view on our website, click the "Watch Live" button on the bottom of our webpage. To view on your Roku or Apple TV, after starting Roku or Apple TV, download the Boxcast app. Once you've downloaded the app, search for "Boniface." You'll recognize our channel by our familiar color cross logo).

**Morning meditation** at 9:30 am, Monday - Friday, on our [Facebook](#) page.

**Evening Prayer** at 5:00 pm, Monday-Friday, on our [Facebook](#) page.

Visit our **Courtyard chapel and labyrinth**, which are open for individual prayer and meditation.

**Wednesday music** offered weekly at 7:30 p.m. on our [website](#).

**Prayer requests** are welcome, for yourself or on behalf of others. Please email Fr. Wayne Farrell at [rector@bonifacechurch.org](mailto:rector@bonifacechurch.org) (we ask only the person's first name; no last name or circumstance is necessary).

**Healing ministers** are available by phone to offer a mini-session of healing prayer: lifting of intentions, Lord's Prayer, few minutes of silent meditation and final grace. Call (941)349-5616 x335 and leave a message at the Healing Mission. They will quickly respond.

Many of our **parish groups** are continuing to meet through Zoom or other digital means. Please contact the clergy or your group's leader to learn how to join.

Clergy look forward to meeting with you for **front yard fellowship**. We can set up lawn chairs in your front yard or driveway and share good company - safely out-of-doors and 6 feet apart, of course. To set up a visit, contact Lisa Wolf, 941-349-5616 x320 or [email](#).

**Prayer Shawls** are available, contact Connie Mereness, 941-346-1844 to arrange a time for one to be dropped off at your doorstep.

Your **financial gifts** are especially welcome at this time. While our church doors may not be open, clergy and staff continue to work, plan worship, and minister to parishioners and neighbors. Please [give here](#) or mail a check to support our ministries.

**MOTHERS' DAY FLOWERS at the ALTAR** Your special gift for May provides for especially resplendent altar flowers on Mothers' Day, celebrating mothers everywhere. It also helps adorn our altar throughout the year with linens and other decoration that dignify and beautify our worship. Your gift may be given in tribute or memorial. Donations can be given securely on our [website](#) (choose "Flowers-Altar") or you may mail your check, payable to St. Boniface Church and note "Mothers' Day Flowers and Altar" on the memo line. All gifts received by May 7 will be noted in the leaflet on Mother's Day, May 10.



**JOE MASTER** has accepted the Business Manager position here at St. Boniface Church, and is a wonderful addition to the staff. Joe works and serves in church ministry in both finance and music, as he has for many years. A native of Bethlehem, PA, at age 13, he began playing the organ in his home parish church. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Management from Moravian College, where he also studied music and was a member of the college choir.

Joe entered the accounting and finance world at 19, and has held management positions with Giant Foods, Dun and Bradstreet, and Modern Business Associates, Inc. He feels most called to sharing his talent and skills within the church, though. During his career he has served at Our Lady of Angels, Lakewood Ranch; St. Thomas Episcopal Church, St. Petersburg; and now St. Boniface.

Joe also currently serves as organist and Director of Finance at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in St. Petersburg, where he and his husband, John, were married in 2017. Joe notes, "I have been so blessed my entire life and continue to be blessed serving the good people of St. Boniface."

**A MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN** Thank you for your swift outpouring of generosity to the Vestry's All Faiths Food Bank appeal. Parishioners donated more than \$14,000, and when the final tally is in, you and your vestry will have gifted more than \$29,000 to help our neighbors with the basic essential of food. And this will be matched by All Faiths donors to reach \$58,000. What a joyful expression of Christ's light in the world!

It is a strange time we are in where love is also displayed by being apart and wearing face masks! I am sure I am not the only one who misses hugs! It is heartening that our St. Boniface community and fellowship continue, just in different ways. The Vestry is grateful for our remarkable clergy and staff in their creative diligence to keep us lovingly connected as a community in Christ. We can connect via phone calls, driveway chats, online services, twice daily prayer on Facebook, Zoom groups, Wednesday concerts, and Thursday virtual coffee hour. St. Boniface is open and thriving, and we look forward to re-gathering physically for worship, soon.

It is the Vestry's duty to take care of the parish finances and buildings. Please be assured that we are watching expenses and income closely. We know that pledges and gifts tend to decrease during times of crisis, and many businesses and nonprofits have seen the need to furlough staff. The Vestry is committed to keeping our staff whole and cared for. We must keep our income stream flowing in order to sustain operations. This is a very practical matter. Please continue to make your pledge or send a gift. Pledges and gifts may be made online or through the mail. Thank you for being part of the St. Boniface family. Thank you for shining Christ's light in the world.

In peace and hope,  
*Suzanne Gregory, Senior Warden*

**FROM DEACON ELISA HANSEN** During this difficult we need to remember we are not alone. We have discovered the importance of gathering virtually and in spirit to worship communally. It is also essential we have contact with one another outside of worship. For this reason, micro-communities---small communities within a larger community to nourish and care for each other---may be helpful to many of us at St. Boniface. You may already be a member of one of St. Boniface's existing micro-communities which provide fellowship. If you have any interest in being part of another small community of parishioners who check in with each other, and which affords care and companionship, please email me [rygaardemh@hotmail.com](mailto:rygaardemh@hotmail.com).

The local **Episcopal Church Thrift Shop** (ETH) is accepting donations of clothes, housewares, items of interest to collectors, etc. at the shop 1503 2nd Ave (across from

SCAT bus station between Orange and Lemon Ave.) Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday May 6-8, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. It is not open for business yet, just accepting donations. For more information call Melliss Swenson 941-951-6319.

And also set aside jewelry, handbags, books and other collectibles to donate to our **St. Nicholas Fair** coming up in December (collection details later to come).

Some **B.E.S.T.** (Boniface Eco-Stewardship Team) **Green Tips:** Cooped up in the house for what seems like forever? Utilize some natural air fresheners: Baking soda or vinegar with lemon juice in small bowls. Fresh coffee grounds on the kitchen counter. Simmer water and cinnamon or other spices on the stove. Place bowls of fragrant dried herbs and flowers (gardenias are blooming) in rooms. Bring in a potted plant from the patio, they reduce odors and toxins. - *Grace Riker and Katherine Johnson*

Saint Boniface Church, 5615 Midnight Pass Rd., Sarasota, FL 34242

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#).

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [publications@bonifacechurch.org](mailto:publications@bonifacechurch.org) in collaboration with



Try email marketing for free today!