

St. Veronica Parish, a publication of
St. Malachy & St. Margaret Churches
September 27, 2026

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Photo: Fr. Lawrence Lew, O.P.

At the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Philippians 2:10-11

"As a Roman Catholic faith community, we seek to follow the example of St. Veronica who carried the image of Christ always with her. Through fellowship, service and acts of mercy we walk as disciples in Christ's mission together seeking an ever-deeper relationship with God through prayer, education, sacraments, and the celebration of the Eucharist."

Dear St. Veronica Parishioners,

In today's Gospel Jesus gives the parable of the two sons. Both are told to work in the vineyard. One of them, at first, says "no," but then has a change of heart, and goes to work. The second son, at first, says "yes," but then also has a change of heart, and does not work. The first is praised for doing the Father's will, while the second is not, regardless of his words. "Actions speak louder than words," is a saying that we all understand and it sums up the message of our Gospel. We cannot be Christians in word only. It is not enough to have good thoughts, to have good inspirations, to have plans for doing good, or amending our lives for the better. It is necessary to put these into action. Maybe I have been feeling pulled to pray more, to read some spiritual reading, go to confession more regularly, to be more generous with the poor, or more patient with the people in my life, to work harder for our Parish. These thoughts are great, but they only do us real good when we carry them through. It is when we put these things into action that we do the will of the Father. We have put into action our faith as a two church parish when we become St. Veronica Parish 6 years ago this week on October 1st. Our working together is what the New Evangelization is all about. We are bringing the message of Jesus to our families, friends, and neighbors. We pray that they become intentional disciples as we have become. And we pray that our personal witness and our own commitment to being intentional disciples will not only be a "yes" but also a "yes" put-into-practice.

This Sunday, September 27, 2026, is the 2026 World Day of Migrants and Refugees, which focuses on the need for pastoral care for minors on the move. "Even just one of these children" is the theme that Pope Leo XIV has chosen for the 112th edition of the day. The title is a reference to Matthew 18:5: "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me."

"With this choice, the Holy Father intends to express the Church's concern for minors directly involved in migration, recalling the duty to welcome each one of them as the Gospel teaches us," the statement says. The Dicastery also notes that this "is not the first time that the Popes have spoken authoritatively on this issue, but the current migration situation presents new challenges that seriously threaten the rights and

dignity of the youngest among us and require urgent and effective responses. Therefore, this is not a matter of discussing numbers or percentages, because 'even just one' has the highest value." Pope Leo said: "Even just one of these children, in the context of civil institutions calls us to reaffirm the principle of the best interests of the child." Calling on public and private institutions, which "are bound to prioritize the protection and dignity of every single child and adolescent", the Pope said, "This requires the adoption of effective legal instruments of protection, the promotion of family reunification, and the prevention of the trauma caused by separation." "An urgent change of perspective is needed," he said: "The focus of the debate must shift from the mere management of migration to the full and immediate protection of human rights, adopting 'a coordinated, supportive and effective response, capable of guaranteeing protection, welcome and genuine opportunities for integration to those who migrate.'" So this Sunday we pray for all migrants and refugees not only throughout the world, but especially in our own country and neighborhood.

Respect Life Month | October

Each October the Church in the United States celebrates Respect Life Month, and the first Sunday of October (October 4) is observed as Respect Life Sunday. As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of life to its end, and at every point in between. During the month of October, the Church asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life.

Please find a message in today's bulletin from all four diocesan bishops in Massachusetts. As you will see by its content, it concerns recent and very troubling legislation which passed one of the most expansive and permissive abortion laws in the nation and the Church's witness to the core truth of human dignity and the sanctity of life. Please see the letter so that we can do our part in reversing this recent legislation. All four dioceses will be publishing this message across all the parishes in the Commonwealth this weekend.

Let us pray for each other. God bless,
Father Mahoney

MASS Intentions

Saturday, September 26

- 9:00 am **St. Margaret**
Zita Nacinovich 11th Anniversary
- 4:00 pm **St. Malachy**
Francesco & Paul Viola
and Angelina Gulino Memorial
- 4:30 pm **St. Margaret**
Anna, Peter, Dom & Joan DiRienzo
and Bill & Jon Glynn Memorial

Sunday, September 27

- 8:00 am **St. Margaret**
Cindy Sullivan 1st Anniversary
- 10:00 am **St. Malachy**
Richard & Ann Connolly Memorial
- 12:00 pm **St. Margaret**
Paul Groulx 7th Anniversary

Monday, September 28

- 9:00 am **St. Malachy**
Christopher Capralski Memorial

Tuesday, September 29

- 9:00 am **St. Margaret**
Dr. Louis F. LaNoce Birthday Memorial

Wednesday, September 30

- 9:00 am **St. Malachy**
Ted Hartling & Catherine Napoli Memorial

Thursday, October 1

- 9:00 am **St. Margaret Church**
Kyle Dietz Memorial

Friday, October 2

- 9:00 am **St. Malachy Church**
For all of The Souls in Purgatory

Saturday, October 3

- 9:00 am **St. Margaret**
Virginia Conway Mass for The Living
- 4:00 pm **St. Malachy**
Barbara Mulligan 17th Anniversary
The Myatt & Sweeney Family Memorial
- 4:30 pm **St. Margaret**
Michael Richards Memorial
Brian J. Holland 4th Anniversary

Sunday, October 4

- 8:00 am **St. Margaret**
Living & Deceased Members
of the Dignan Family Memorial
- 10:00 am **St. Malachy**
Marian Marrocco Anniversary
- 12:00 pm **St. Margaret**
Claire Putnicki 6th Anniversary

"Welcome to St Veronica Parish. Here we are all invited to grow in our relationship with God and to know God's presence through faith, hope, love and ministry."

THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Blessing of Animals In honor of the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi we will have the Blessing of Pets and Animals **NEXT Sunday, October 4th at 2:00 p.m.** on the front lawn of St. Malachy Rectory. This year marks the 800th Anniversary of his passage to Heaven. An animal blessing is an opportunity to pray for the health and safety of the animal and to offer our thanks to God for the gift of these amazing creatures. For the safety of all concerned, please bring your pet in a carrying case or leash to the front lawn of St. Malachy Rectory next Sunday, October 4th at 2:00 p.m. Bring your cats, dogs, birds, fish, hippopotamuses, stuffed animals, husbands, whatever you have, and we'll ask God's blessing on them. Our two Permanent Deacons – Deacon Dick and Deacon Jack - will lead us in this prayer of blessing. *"Good St. Francis, you loved all of God's creatures. To you they were your brothers and sisters. Help us to follow your example of treating every living thing with kindness. St. Francis, Patron Saint of animals, watch over my pet and keep my companion safe and healthy. Amen."*

Women of Faith

To all who joined us for our September gathering—thank you. It has been wonderful to see new faces continuing to join our community. Our next gathering will take place on **Thursday, October 15th at 6:30pm** in the **St. Malachy's church hall**. This meeting will be open to **women and men**, and we're delighted to welcome back **Kent Niebuhr** as our guest speaker. We'll begin promptly at 6:30pm with the **Rosary**, followed by Kent's presentation on the **topic of Prayer**. His insight and clarity always make for a thoughtful and engaging evening. Please enter through the Chapel and proceed downstairs via the stairs or elevator. Mark your calendars for our remaining 2026 WOF gatherings: **November 19** and **December 17**. All are welcomed—no sign-up is ever needed. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Laurie at 617-680-4448.

Funeral Masses were celebrated recently for
**Vincent Pascale, John Reale
& Pedro Rey**

Kindly include them and their families
in your prayers. Thank you.

ST VERONICA PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Weekend of September 20, 2026

Envelopes & In Church: \$7,976

Online: \$3,992

TOTAL: \$11,968

Weekly Budget \$16,153

Income \$11,968

Deficit -\$4,185

Month to Date: \$41,767.50

Building Fund

Envelopes & In Church: \$125

Online: \$613

TOTAL: \$738

Clergy Trust

Envelopes & In Church: \$5,912

Online: \$1,445

TOTAL: \$7,357

Save the date for the Ham & Bean Supper October 17th!!

Tickets will be sold at both churches on the weekends of October 3/4 and 10/11. The tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

*The Pro-Life Network is collecting for some of the current needs for the clients at Heartbeat Pregnancy Help Center in Burlington. They are in need of **FLEECE sleepers and FLEECE sleeper bags - SIZES 3 month and 6 month and WINTER OUTFITS - SIZES 3 month and 6 month** - for both boy and girl. They can also use **Gift Cards** to Target, Walmart, TJ Maxx and Marshalls.*

*Your gifts mean the world to Heartbeat's clients and we are beyond grateful with what you so generously provide for families expecting a child soon. We anticipate through the fall and into the new year, will be helping approx. 300 more newborns. **We are collecting from October 1st through October 31st, for RESPECT LIFE MONTH.** If you would like to donate any of these items please contact Kathy Parsons @ 781-910-7682 to make arrangements to drop your item off or for one of their team members to come and pick it up. **Thank you so very much in advance for your generosity ~ it is greatly appreciated !***

CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING

All adult volunteers are required to complete Protecting God's Children (PGC), the child protection training program utilized by the Archdiocese of Boston.

Go to www.VIRTUSonline.org.

NEW TRAINING SCHEDULED AT ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

All parish clergy, staff and volunteers are required to be trained. New volunteers in any ministry must complete the training before they begin their new ministry.

Sunday, Oct 18 (1pm - 4pm)

Light refreshments will be served

Location: St. Margaret School Building (Hall)

To register parishioners should visit www.VIRTUSonline.org and search for these programs by date. Call Carly Reidy with any questions at 781-272-3111.

THE PRAYER HOPE LINE: 781-273-HOPE (4673)

Are you or someone you know in need of a prayer? Do you know someone who is ill or perhaps suffering with an emotional problem? Give a call to the **Prayer Hope Line at 781-273-4673.**

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION OCTOBER 8th

Eucharistic Adoration will take place on Thursday, October 8th in the chapel at St. Malachy Church from 2:00 pm – 8:00 pm. No advance sign up will be necessary; spend as little or as much time as you want. Please park in the back parking lot and access the chapel by the rear door of the church.

BACK TO SCHOOL BBQ

Please join us on **Sunday, October 4th** at 12:30pm at St. Margaret's Upper Parking Lot for our **ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL BBQ**. All religious education families are invited. We will have food, a bouncy house and fun! This is a great opportunity to meet other Catholic Families participating in our Religious Education Program!



A Message from Archbishop Henning, Bishop McManus, Bishop da Cunha, and Bishop Byrne for the Clergy, Religious, and Lay Faithful of Massachusetts

In June during his Apostolic Visit to Spain, our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV delivered an appeal to defend human dignity and protect life from conception to its natural end. “Every legislative task,” he said, “ultimately confronts a decisive question: what conception of the human person inspires laws, and what kind of society do those laws build?”

Just two months after the Holy Father’s address, Massachusetts passed one of the most expansive and permissive abortion laws in the nation, telling us what kind of society they desire for Massachusetts: one which leaves its most vulnerable citizens—children in the womb and their pregnant mothers—at perilous risk. This law is a tragedy, and the Catholic legislators who helped to enact it have caused grave scandal.

The Prioritizing Patient Access to Care Act permits abortion throughout pregnancy for any reason, and it allows these grisly procedures—dangerous to mothers and cruel to their unborn children—to be performed in non-hospital settings. Laws function as teachers. This new law falsely teaches that human beings who are ill or inconvenient are not worthy of life; that motherhood can be incompatible with women’s freedom, well-being, and flourishing; and that no viable alternatives to abortion exist in the face of difficult diagnoses.

Alternatives do exist. A 2023 peer-reviewed article published in the *Cureus Journal of Medical Science* found that 60% of women considering an abortion would choose life if they had more material and emotional support. We want to help women and families to choose life! We invite every expectant mother in distress to ask us for help. We ask that elected officials and healthcare providers—especially those whose consciences are rightly troubled by the new law—work to ensure that life-sustaining care for vulnerable children in utero and that mothers and fathers who feel alone and overwhelmed have all they need to welcome and raise their children with confidence.

The Lord Jesus Christ saw the forgotten and reached out to the neglected. As Bishops, we call upon all to see the dignity of the poor, the unborn, the sick and the elderly. No one is expendable, no one is a burden. All have a sacred God-given dignity. The foundation of social justice is this inviolable dignity of the human person. The Prioritizing Patient Access to Care Act unjustly condemns to death our most vulnerable children and pits a mother against her own child.

In his Encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas*, Pope Leo teaches: “Human dignity does not depend on a person’s abilities, wealth or position in life, nor on the right or wrong choices made; instead, it is a gift that precedes and transcends each person, endowed by God as an expression of his unfailing love,” There is no stage of development or characteristic which would render a child unworthy of life—even if that life will be short or require palliative care.

May Our Lord Jesus Christ protect us all from harm, may He inspire us with self-giving love, and may He guide our civil leaders to enact laws which protect and promote the dignity of every person from conception to natural death. What Can We Do?

Each year, Respect Life Month offers the opportunity to renew our reverence for life and take concrete actions to witness to the beauty and sanctity of this foundational gift of the Lord. Here are some of the concrete actions you might consider this year:

We Pray. First and foremost, we pray. With the passage of this bill our leaders and our Common wealth have failed in the duty to uphold the sacred dignity of every human life. In prayer, we seek the mercy of a loving God for our failures and for this sin against His Law of Love. We pray for our civil leaders that the Lord will give them wisdom and strength to do their duty to protect life and uphold the common good. ***We Witness.*** As disciples, we are also called to give witness. We urge you to contact your representatives and make known your desire for just laws which protect every person in this state.

We speak up There is also an effort underway to pause and even possibly overturn this immoral law. We encourage you to take part in this effort and raise your own voice in opposition to the law and in favor of life. ***We walk with families*** Scripture commands us “Choose life that you may live” (Deut. 30:19) A culture of life requires families, parishes, and schools to live that reverence for life. We need families who form their sons and daughters in the summons to promote and defend life. We need ministries that accompany and support women and families in crisis. In our state with such a radical law, It is more important than ever for us to make clear our desire to welcome and nurture the gift of life.

For Free and Confidential pregnancy support visit: Pregnancyhelpboston.org

To learn more about the Suspend and Repeal Effort, including finding a petition signing location, visit: Repeal188.com



Religious Education Programs

Camille Mainardi: Director of Religious Education
 cmainardi@stveronicaparish.org,
 Lauren Lambert: Grade 2 Coordinator
 grade2@stveronicaparish.org
 Joanne Mackey: Grades 9-12 Coordinator
 11-12reled@stveronicaparish.org

Classes begin in
 October!! Register
 online at
 stveronicama.org!

Grades 1, 3-5

♦ Family Style program “A Family of Faith”

- * The family program is designed to facilitate the family faith life, giving you the tools you need to pass the faith on to your children and journey with them towards Christ. This program offers flexibility to fit everyone’s schedules, as well as the ability to tailor the learning to each child’s strengths, interests, and learning styles.
- * Each family can choose to either:
 - Create or join a small group of families that come together to work on the activities and lessons 1-2x/month at a time that is mutually agreeable to the group.
 - Complete the activities and lessons with your own child(ren) at a time that best fits into your family schedule.

♦ Join us for Sunday Mass every week!

- * Students are expected to attend Mass every weekend.
- * Join us after the 10:00am Mass at St. Malachy’s every week for delicious donuts!
- * Each time you attend Mass, scan your personal QR code and get stamps on your “Massport”.

♦ Family of Faith Gathering once a month!

- * Families will come together once a month for the 10am Mass, donuts, and an event or teaching.

♦ Important Dates:

- * **Parent Meeting: September 28th at 6pm St. Malachy Church Hall**
- * **Back to School BBQ: October 4th at 12:30pm at St. Margaret’s Upper Parking Lot**

Grade 2: Sacrament Prep for Reconciliation and Eucharist

♦ Sacrament Preparation *(If your child is older than Grade 2, but needs these Sacraments, please contact Camille Mainardi)

- * Students will prepare by learning specifically about each Sacrament in order to prepare for Reconciliation (Jan-Feb) and First Eucharist (May).
 - Lessons will be done by individual families at home or in a small group setting.
 - Two in-person mini retreats prior to reception of each Sacrament to wrap up lessons and ensure your child is fully prepared to receive each Sacrament.

♦ Join us for Sunday Mass every week!

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- * Join us after the 10:00am Mass at St. Malachy’s every week for delicious donuts!
- * Each time you attend Mass, scan your personal QR code and get stamps on your “Massport,”

♦ Parent Meeting: September 27th at 4pm at St. Margaret’s School Building

Middle School – Grades 6 & 7

Middle Schoolers can choose from the following options:

♦ Middle School After-School Program

- * Grades 6-7 classes bi-weekly at the school at St. Margaret's after school on Wednesdays from 2:00 - 3:30pm.

♦ Middle School Evening Program (Monday nights, roughly bi-weekly)

- * Classes offered from 7-8pm

♦ Join us for Sunday Mass every week!

- * Students are expected to attend Mass every weekend.
- * Join us after the 10:00am Mass at St. Malachy's every week for delicious donuts!
- * Each time you attend Mass, scan your personal QR code.

Sacrament Prep For Confirmation - Grade 8

♦ Sacrament Preparation

- * Students in grade 8 will prepare for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation in the spring by discussing the Faith and learning how to maturely live out the Christian life.
- * Confirmation Students can choose to attend either on Monday nights from 7-8:15pm or Wednesday Afternoon from 2:00-3:30pm at St. Margaret's School.
 - Students will be asked to attend a day retreat.
 - Students will be asked to complete 10 Practical Formation Hours.

♦ Join us for Sunday Mass every week!

- * Students are expected to attend Mass every weekend.
- * Join us after the 10:00am Mass at St. Malachy's every week for delicious donuts!
- * Each time you attend Mass, scan your personal QR code.

♦ Parent Meeting: September 28th at 7:30pm at St. Malachy Church Hall

Grades 9-12

♦ An opportunity for those already confirmed to grow in the faith and in the Christian Life

- * Classes will meet once a month on Sunday evenings from 5-6:00pm at the St. Margaret's School. There is no registration fee for this program.
 - There will be group discussions reflecting on key questions of meaning and truth such as the origins of life, life after death, good and evil, beliefs about God and values such as justice, honesty, and truth.
 - We will discuss lessons taught by Jesus and how the students can use those lessons today.

PARISH CLERGY

Rev. James M Mahoney	Pastor
Rev Thomas J. Stanton	Parochial Vicar
Deacon Dick Bilotta	Senior Deacon
Deacon Jack Minch	Deacon
Rev. Kingsley Chima Mbam	Weekend Assistant
Rev. Paul Sullivan	Weekend Assistant
Rev. John Rowan	Weekend Assistant
Father Stan Ogu	Priest in Residence

(The Catholic Diocese of Okigwe in Imo State, Nigeria)

PARISH COUNCIL

Bernard Arokiaraj	Peter Dutton
Andrea Lamb	Rose Hackett
Cynthia McNamara	Diane Reale
Jim Shannon	

FINANCE COUNCIL

Marcia Aulenback	Joanne Mackey
William Corrigan	Scott Morency

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Daniel Mainardi	Director of Music (St. Malachy Church) dmainardi@stveronicaparish.org
Gary Dew	Facilities Manager 781-221-0335

OCIA CLASSES contact Deacon Dick Bilotta at:
deaconbilotta@stveronicaparish.org

Saint Malachy Church

99 Bedford Street, Burlington, MA 01803
Tel: 781-272-5111

www.stveronicama.org
stveronica@stveronicaparish.org

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:30 am - 2:30 pm

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm
Sunday 10:00 am

Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 9:00 am

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
(CONFESSIONS)**

Friday: 6:00 - 7:00 pm (chapel)

Saint Margaret Church

111 Winn Street, Burlington, MA 01803
Tel: 781-272-3111

www.stveronicama.org
stveronica@stveronicaparish.org

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 pm
Sunday: 8:00 am; and 12:00 pm

Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday: 9:00 am

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
(CONFESSIONS)**

Saturday: 2:30 - 3:30 pm (lower church)

THE PRAYER HOPE LINE:
781-273-HOPE (4673)



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St. Veronica Parish!

EMAIL LIST

If would like to receive St. Veronica emails please
send your name and email address to:
stveronica@stveronicaparish.org