



## RESURRECTION UNIVERSITY PARISH Land Stewardship Committee

### HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY "Send Me The Pillow That You Dream On!"

We have so much to see and be thankful for in the time we spend outdoors. In April and May we see the birthing of animals. This month let's look at one animal birthing that we see much of in Yellowstone Park— the bison.

Bison are the largest mammal in North America. Male bison can weigh up to 2,000 pounds and stand as much as 6 feet tall. Female bison are smaller weighing about 1,000 pounds and stand as 4-5 feet tall. The average lifespan for a bison is 10–20 years, but some live to be older. Cows begin breeding at the age of two and only have one baby at a time. For males, the prime breeding age is six to 10 years.



Yellowstone National Park is the only place in America that bison have lived since prehistoric times—and that is what makes them special. In 2021 the Yellowstone bison population was estimated at 5,450 and in the last three years the number has increased so dramatically that stewardship steps were implemented to bring the population in line with the land's ability to support the bison numbers. First Nation tribes from the state exercised their rights for a controlled hunt in 2023. Additionally, many bison were live trapped and sent out to Tribes in Montana. These *iinniwa*, as known to the Blackfeet Tribe, are the first free roaming bison ever to be released onto the North American prairie by a sovereign Tribal government.

The National Park, the First Nation people, the residents of Montana, the people of Montana State University, and the parish of Resurrection University Catholic Parish, all striving to reach the goals of land stewardship.

#### "HOW WE HEAL"

The Blackfeet Nation's effort to restore bison reached a milestone ..in 2023..with the release of a free roaming herd onto sacred lands adjacent to Glacier National Park. Tribal Councilman Lauren Monroe Jr., spoke for the People. "We no longer have to ask permission to be Blackfeet. We will live it, and we will live it without fear."

RESURRECTION



As we spend time enjoying God's creation displayed in Montana, Bozeman, Yellowstone National Park, Gallatin Valley, let us remember to give thanks for the beautiful area we live in and the blessing of the animals.

Creator God,  
We acknowledge that as your handiwork,  
we stand alongside all that you have made.  
Trees and rivers, mountains and valleys,  
soaring birds and scuttling creatures,  
all are held within your care.  
May we grow in our love and appreciation  
for the fabulous variety around us;  
and may our awe and wonder draw us closer  
to the natural world, and through it to you,  
the God of all things.  
We pray in Jesus name,  
Amen

Revd Cate Williams  
Environment Officer, Diocese of Gloucester

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## Critters of Resurrection Parish



As always, commentary on Green Leaf is gratefully accepted and will receive replies. The web address is [hoechoka.com](http://hoechoka.com) (ending period omitted to avoid confusion) All lower case. The site can also be reached under the ministry contact on the Parish web page at [www.resurrectionbozeman.org](http://www.resurrectionbozeman.org). Drop in, say "howdy".