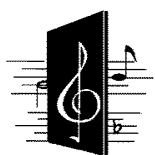


ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, March 15, 2015
Fourth Sunday of Lent

4:00 PM
7:30 AM
11:00 AM

Gathering: Hold Us In Your Mercy

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 51)

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned. (2x)

Preparation O Breathe On Me, O Breath Of God BB 659

Mass Parts Mass of Christ the Savior BB 923

Communion: Christ, Be Our Light BB 606
Gift Of Finest Wheat BB 328

Recessional: ***We depart in silence during Lent***

9:00 AM

Gathering: Hold Us In Your Mercy

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 51)

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned. (2x)

Preparation Loving And Forgiving BB 674

Mass Parts Mass of Christ the Savior BB 923

Communion: You Are Mine BB 460

Recessional: ***We depart in silence during Lent***

**Visit our website to view our
Weekly Church Bulletin and
Upcoming Parish Events:**

<http://stlukenh.org>

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

If you would like an "end of year" financial statement of your contributions to the parish for 2014, please call the Parish Office at 382-8324. **Financial Statements are issued on a request only basis.**

CHRISM MASS

All are invited to the annual blessing of the oils at the Chrism Mass on **Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at 6:00 PM** at St. Joseph Cathedral in Manchester. These oils will be distributed among the parishes and institutions of the Diocese of Manchester for use during the next year. General seating is available to those who would like to attend. For more information, and to register, visit catholicnh.org/chrism.

EASTER FLOWERS

Donations are gratefully accepted to help defray the cost of Easter Flowers. One can make a donation or memorial offering by using the envelopes you received in your monthly envelope package or by enclosing an envelope marked "EASTER FLOWERS" in the regular offering. A list of names of donors and memorials will be published in the bulletin a few weeks after Easter.

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

March 15, 2015	Fuel
March 22, 2015	Easter Flowers
March 29, 2015	No Second Collection
April 3, 2015	Good Friday – Holy Land

✠ PARISH TITHING ✠

March 8, 2015

Offertory	\$5,936.88
Catholic Relief Serv.	\$1,873.00

I thank you for your generosity to your parish. Your weekly contribution helps ensure that the parish remains a vibrant community. Please remember to submit your weekly gift even if you will be away. We depend upon your support!

✠ PARISH DIRECTORY ✠

Parish Office
Parish Prayer Line
St. Vincent de Paul Society
St. Luke's Food Pantry
Preschool
Presentation of Mary Convent

382-8324
382-8324 x 314
382-8324 x 315
819-4949
382-9783
382-2744

Fr. Albert Tremblay
Cathy Smith
Joyce Szczapa
Jackie Tremblay
Thomas Kondel
Val Barczak
Robin Thompson
Parish Council

fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net
csmith@stluketheevangelist.net
jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net
jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net
tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net
mvmbarczak@comcast.net
rthompson@stluketheevangelist.net
parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net

✠ PARISH NEWS ✠

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE

The deadline for announcements to be included in the **April 5 (Easter) bulletin is Tuesday, March 24.**

In Loving Memory

Please pray for the repose of the souls of
Albert Francis Johnson, III
Mary Georgianna Sheehan
Ronald Gilbert



EASTER VIGIL RECEPTION

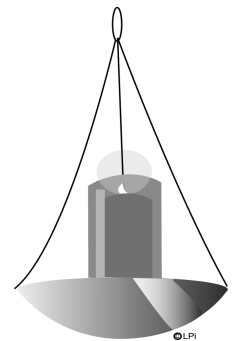
The Parish is planning to host a reception following the Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday night, **April 4th**. We are looking for helpers to set-up, serve, and clean up, for food donations (especially pastries – Lent will be over!), beverages, and other food donations. Please contact the Parish Office at 603-382-8324 for more information or email jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net.



EASTER CANDLES

Donations to defray the cost of the new Paschal Candles and Initiation Candles for the Easter Season are welcome. Contact the Parish Office at 382-8324 for details.

The Sanctuary Candle in Holy Angels Church will burn this week in loving memory of **Benjamin Zakiewicz** requested by Louise Waters

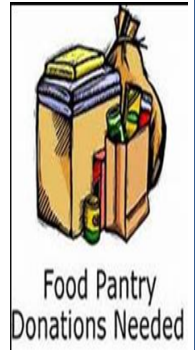


HOLY MONDAY RECONCILIATION

You are invited to join other NH Catholics in a statewide day of Reconciliation. This is an opportunity for you to open your heart and allow the Lord to fill it with His grace. All parishes will open their doors to welcome you on **Monday of Holy Week, March 30**. We will offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation from **11:00 AM to 1:00 PM in Plaistow** and from **5:00 to 7:00 PM in Newton**. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is also available at St. Luke the Evangelist Parish every Saturday in Plaistow at 3:00 PM and on the Sundays of Lent in Newton at 6:30 PM.

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST FOOD PANTRY

Food or care items are always needed – donations can be dropped off at Church or are welcome at the Parish Office during regular business hours. Cash donations for food are always welcome – make checks payable to **St. Luke the Evangelist Food Pantry**. All donations to the Food Pantry go toward helping the needy of our communities.



From the Pastor's Desk



PARISH POLICY REGARDING INCLEMENT WEATHER

If Timberlane and/or Sanborn regional school districts close because of inclement weather, all Parish Offices and Parish programs will be closed or suspended for that day and evening, including daily Mass. Please note that weekend Liturgies cannot be cancelled, but all are advised to use prudence when deciding to travel to church during winter storms.

FOOD PANTRY HOURS

Wednesday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon
Thursday from 6:00 to 7:00 PM
Friday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

For more information call the St. Luke Food Pantry at **603-819-4949**.

WHILE AWAY THIS WINTER...

We appreciate all of you who remember to send in your Parish Offertory during the winter even when on vacation or visiting other parishes. Thank you for remembering that our expenses also continue through the winter months. We invite others to consider doing the same before or even after you return home.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, March 15

9:45 AM	Religious Ed, Levels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	<i>Plaistow</i>
12:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	<i>Plaistow</i>
6:00 PM	Confirmation I	<i>Plaistow</i>
6:00 PM	Vespers	<i>Newton</i>
6:30 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Newton</i>

Monday, March 16

4:00 PM	Religious Ed, Levels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	<i>Plaistow</i>
6:30 PM	Religious Ed, Levels 6, 7, 8	<i>Plaistow</i>

Tuesday, March 17

9:00 AM	Disciples On The Journey	<i>Plaistow</i>
6:00 PM	Finance Council Meeting	<i>Plaistow</i>

Wednesday, March 18

9:30 AM	Eucharistic Adoration Begins	<i>Plaistow</i>
4:15 PM	Intercessory Prayer Group	<i>Plaistow</i>
7:00 PM	Disciples On The Journey	<i>Plaistow</i>
7:00 PM	St. Vincent de Paul Society Meeting	<i>Plaistow</i>
9:30 PM	Eucharistic Adoration Ends	<i>Plaistow</i>

Thursday, March 19

8:30 AM	Eucharistic Adoration Begins	<i>Newton</i>
1:30 PM	Disciples On The Journey	<i>Plaistow</i>
7:00 PM	RCIA	<i>Plaistow</i>
8:30 PM	Eucharistic Adoration Ends	<i>Newton</i>

Friday, March 20

6:30 PM	Stations of the Cross & Soup Supper	<i>Plaistow</i>
7:00 PM	Teen Dance	<i>Plaistow</i>

Saturday, March 21

3:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Plaistow</i>
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Sunday, March 22

9:45 AM	Religious Ed, Levels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	<i>Plaistow</i>
12:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	<i>Plaistow</i>
4:00 PM	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting	<i>Plaistow</i>
6:00 PM	Confirmation I	<i>Plaistow</i>
6:00 PM	Vespers	<i>Newton</i>
6:30 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Newton</i>

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, March 14 ~ Vigil / Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41
4:00 PM Clara, Leo, & Edward McCusker
 by Elaine Kelcourse
Plaistow

Sunday, March 15 ~ Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41
7:30 AM Tracy Wood by Grace Bukowski
Newton
9:00 AM Mary Masterson (Birthday Remembrance)
 by her daughter
Newton
11:00 AM Antonia Stanley & Irene Zakiewicz
 by Pat Zakiewicz
Plaistow

Monday, March 16 ~ Lenten Weekday

Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54
8:00 AM Chet Bogdan by Cathy Smith
Newton

Tuesday, March 17 ~ St. Patrick

Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16
8:00 AM Marilyn Paradis by the Laferriere family
Plaistow

Wednesday, March 18 ~ St. Cyril of Jerusalem

Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30
6:30 PM Sr. Regina Howard by the Women's Guild
Plaistow

Thursday, March 19 ~ St. Joseph, Spouse of Virgin Mary

2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21 or Lk 2:41-51a
8:00 AM Jeannette Halko by Janice Bettencourt
Newton

Friday, March 20 ~ Lenten Weekday

Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
No Mass

Saturday, March 21 ~ Lenten Weekday

Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53 (Daytime)
Ez 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 (Vigil)
4:00 PM Eileen Messina by Verna Carbone
Plaistow

Sunday, March 22 ~ Fifth Sunday of Lent

Ez 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45
7:30 AM Verne & Irene Duclos by the Parish
Newton
9:00 AM Intentions of Dick Campbell
 by Mark and Colleen Hammond
Newton
11:00 AM Madelyn Pelletier by Ed & Gayle Wencis
Plaistow

THE CREIGHTON MODEL FERTILITY CARE SYSTEM

The Creighton Model System is scientifically sound, accurate and precise. It is healthy, great for marriage, and can be used effectively during a woman's entire procreative life to achieve or avoid pregnancy. It is the only natural method that works hand in hand with NaProTechnology for the further evaluation of infertility, repetitive miscarriage, PMS or other reproductive disorders. Please join St. Michael's Parish in Exeter on **Thursday March 19th at 7:00 pm** for an introductory session to learn more. To register, contact Mary Menendez at 642-8050.

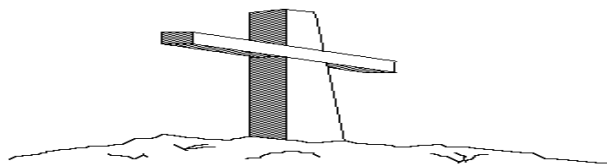
*The St. Vincent de Paul Society is
 Hosting a Day After St. Patrick's Day
 Open House!!*

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 - 7:00 pm

It takes more than the luck of the Irish to complete our mission of helping the poor and forgotten in our community. Please plan to come to the Open House and hear our stories and plan to join this busy group of dedicated volunteers. Light refreshments will be served!



✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will take place each Friday evening during Lent at 6:30 PM in Plaistow. A soup supper will follow Stations on Friday, March 20.

LENTEEN EVENING PRAYER

Evening Prayer is sung at Newton at 6:00 PM on all Sundays of Lent. Join us for a quiet time of prayer and reflection. The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is available immediately after Evening Prayer each Sunday of the Lenten Season.



RICE BOWLS AVAILABLE

Operation Rice Bowl is the official Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services. Each Lent, parishes, schools and other faith communities participate in Operation Rice Bowl to learn more about the work of CRS and put their faith into action. As a Lenten solidarity program, Operation Rice Bowl calls Catholics to reach out to assist our brothers and sisters around the world through the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving while learning about their lives overseas. This year, join over 15,400 groups in the United States participating in Operation Rice Bowl and foster solidarity between your community and those who struggle with hunger and poverty around the world. Rice Bowls are available at the entrance of the Church.



Come join us on Friday, April 10, 2015 at 7:00 PM in the Church Hall for Ultreya.

The format of the Ultreya is designed to create an atmosphere of sharing with each other our life as a Christian and witnessing to each other how Christ is working through us in our families, neighborhood, and other environments. The Ultreya provides the ongoing conversion process that started in the three-day Cursillo weekend. If you have any questions about Ultreya or Cursillo, please contact Cathy Smith at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net or call 382-8324.

ADORATION

We are truly blessed to have times for perpetual Adoration of Our Lord in our Parish. This time of prayer and intercession is not only a source of great grace for the individual, but it is a great source of grace for us as a parish family, as well. We have many who have made the commitment to spend an hour each week with our Eucharistic Lord. If you can commit to one hour a week in Adoration of our Lord, please contact Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

Are you an adult who has been Baptized and received Eucharist, but has not celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation? The adult Confirmation process is an opportunity to complete the Sacraments of Initiation. If you would like to prepare for Confirmation, or if you have any questions, contact Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

RCIA

The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** is the process by which people become members of the Roman Catholic Church. **RCIA** is intended to serve:

- Those not Baptized who would like to learn more about the Catholic religion.
- Those Baptized in another religion who think they might like to become Catholic.
- Those Baptized Catholic but have not been raised in the Faith.

If you or someone you know is interested in inquiring about becoming a member of the Roman Catholic Church, please call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324 or email: csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

PARENTS BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION

The monthly preparation session for infant Baptism will be held after the 11:00 AM Liturgy on **Sunday, April 12** in the Parish Office living room. All parents planning to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism are welcome.

Families wishing to celebrate Baptism in the Church must be registered (according to Church Canon Law) and practicing (attending Sunday Mass) for 3 full months before a Baptism can be scheduled. The use of the envelope system is always optional; however, it does guarantee a manner of accountability. For most families, the Pastor or staff can easily verify attendance during these three months.

Baptismal sponsors (godparents) are also regulated by Church Canon Law. Sponsors must be at least 16, fully initiated (having received Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation), and be practicing Catholics living Christian lives consistent with the Church's teaching. Please see Fr. Albert with questions.

✠ Youth And Parish News ✠

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
YOUTH DANCE (GRADES 6-8)**

The Knights of Columbus are hosting their 7th Youth Dance of the school year on **Friday, March 20th from 7:00 to 9:30 PM**. The dance will be held at St. Luke the Evangelist's Parish Center on the Rte 121 Plaistow/Atkinson line. This is a chance for the kids to have a great time in a safe social setting. There will be over 20 adult chaperones at the dance and a policeman on duty inside the dance. The Knights have been running these dances for well over 20 years. Admission is \$5.00. Tickets will be sold inside the Parish Hall starting at 6:30 PM. There will be prizes given away and there will also be a concession stand. If you have any questions concerning the dance, they should be directed to Peter Richards of the Knights at pmprips6@hotmail.com or at 603-382-4315.

HOLY ANGELS PRE-SCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

Holy Angels Preschool and Kindergarten is now accepting registrations for the 2015-2016 school year. There are openings in the Three-Year-Old Program, Four-Year-Old Afternoon Program, and half-day or full-day Kindergarten Programs. We have flexible hours and we offer Kindergarten Enrichment after the public Kindergarten day ends. All teachers are licensed and certified and we offer a welcoming environment. We are based upon a "hands-on learning" approach which promises a well-rounded beginning education for your child. We are located in the Parish Center of Saint Luke The Evangelist Parish in Plaistow, NH. Please call Jeannie at 382-9783.

Youth Group



**St Luke the Evangelist Youth Ministry
SATURDAY FUN NIGHT**

Youth Grades 6 thru 12 are invited to come hang out, share a meal, have some fun, meet new friends and get a little closer to God.

We meet the second Saturday of every month (September-May), starting at 5:00 in the Holy Angels Church Gym.

We ask that you bring a non-perishable food item to help support the food pantry

DIOCESAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

The Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Manchester are currently registering students for the 2015-2016 academic year. Parishioners who are planning to register at Catholic Schools should contact the school directly for information. A subsidized tuition rate is available for qualified parishioners for elementary and middle schools. In order to be eligible for the tuition subsidy, a family must be (a) registered in a Parish for at least a year prior to the school year; (b) be contributing members of the Parish; and (c) be involved in the Parish Community. Each school has information about this reduced rate; you can also contact the Parish Office for more information. Visit the Diocesan website at www.catholicnh.org for more information.

THE KNIGHTS CORNER

**Activities and upcoming events from your
St Jude Council #6617**

The Knights have had a number of activities over the last few months including:

- Providing food baskets at Christmas through St. Luke's Food Pantry
- Running Middle School Dances in January and February – The Youth Ministry and the St. Vincent DePaul Society benefitted from these dances
- Providing financial support to the Youth Ministry to run the Children's Christmas Party
- Assisting 3 seminarians with financial support and continuing prayer
- Donation to St. Luke's Food Pantry
- Hosting a Christmas party for Council members and their wives/girlfriends

Upcoming events include:

- Middle School Dance in March
- A fundraising meal at the Parish Center
- A Blood Drive
- Welcome Back Mass and Meal

During the 2013-14 school year, the Knights held 9 Middle School dances. Average attendance for each dance was about 300 students. A total of approximately \$10,000 was raised. The monies raised helped the St Vincent de Paul Society, St. Luke's Youth Ministry, Pack 118 in Plaistow, Troop 9 in Atkinson, and the Knights with our charitable activities.

If you would like more information, contact Dennis Gearty at 603-560-1616 or dengearty2@gmail.com or any one of the Knights of Columbus.



Out of respect, please remember to silence or turn off your cell phones during Mass. Thank you!

Scrutinies

Every time we celebrate the sacrament of Baptism, we ask the questions, "Do you renounce Satan? And all his works? And all his empty promises?" These are serious questions. We should consider them carefully before answering. And that is what the Elect, those preparing to be baptized at the Easter Vigil, spend much of Lent doing.

For those who are making their final preparation for Baptism, Lent is a time of purification and enlightenment. They examine their lives in the light of God's word and ask the entire Christian community to pray that whatever is weak and sinful within them may be eliminated, and that whatever is good and holy may be affirmed. And we do. After the homily, in a litany of intercession, we proclaim the power of Jesus over all sin. Then we pray over the elect for their deliverance and strengthening. The Presider, catechists, sponsors and other members of the community also may lay their hands on the heads of the elect in an ancient sign of forgiveness, healing and empowerment.

Because the entire community will renew its baptismal promises at Easter, we too examine our lives in light of God's word. Of course, this is something we should be doing throughout the year, but we focus on this self-

examination in a special way during Lent. In every community that will baptize adults or older children at the Easter Vigil, special rites known as the "scrutinies" are celebrated at liturgy on the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent.

On these Sundays, the Gospel readings are from the Gospel of John; they are the stories of the Samaritan woman whom Jesus meets at Jacob's well, the healing and coming to faith of the man born blind, and the raising of Lazarus from the dead. These readings have been used for centuries to prepare the elect and the church for Baptism. The readings focus on sin and redemption using the images of thirst and water, darkness and light, death and life. By examining ourselves through these readings, we come to know how we have become parched, how we have been blinded, how we have become deadened through sin. When we and the elect are asked at Easter to renounce Satan, evil works and empty promises, our answer can be a thoughtful, strong and heartfelt "I do."

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PRAY FOR OUR ELECT

chosen by Bishop Peter for the Easter Sacraments!

On **Saturday, April 4** at the **Great Vigil of Easter**, the most holy day of the Christian year, our Elect will celebrate with us as fully initiated Catholics...please pray for them.

CATECHUMENS

Lauren Parson
Hann Williams
Marissa Wise
Skyla Wise

Candidates for Full Communion with the Church, Confirmation and Eucharist

Catherine O'Brien

Candidate for Eucharist and Confirmation

Zakkary Castellano

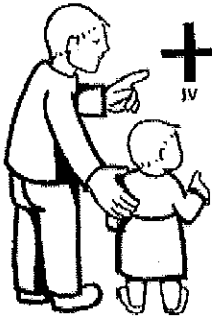
Please consider writing a note or sending a card of support to any of our Elect. You can drop cards into the collection baskets, or drop them off at the Parish Office.

Lenten Prayer and Liturgy

The Church invites all people to special moments of prayer during the season of Lent. It is a common custom for people to make room in their schedule for daily Eucharist, which we celebrate as follows during the Lenten season:

Monday	8 am	Newton
Tuesday	8 am	Plaistow
Wednesday	6:30 PM	Plaistow
Thursday	8 am	Newton

Another Lenten custom involves taking a journey... to the Holy Land! Going on pilgrimage has always been an important part of our Christian tradition. By visiting a place where a religious event occurred, a pilgrim hoped to share in the experience associated with that place. The desire to visit Jerusalem and the Holy Land was very important to Christians long ago, but because of the danger and expense of travel, and the political climate of Palestine, such a journey was not always feasible. When the Friars of the Franciscan Order took over the care of the Holy Places in Jerusalem in 1342, they began to erect "Stations" in Churches back home in Europe. It was a way to "go" to the Holy Land without ever leaving home. The custom of the Stations quickly spread to parish Churches, and the devotion of the Stations of the Cross was born.

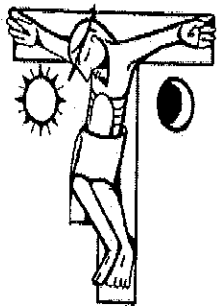


Praying the Stations of the cross

We walk the Stations of the Cross each Friday of Lent at 6:30 at Plaistow. Using various versions and forms of the Stations, and led by various groups in the Parish, we make Jesus' journey to the Cross our own. On March 20, we will conclude our evening Stations with a Lenten Soup Supper.

Baptismal Font and Holy Water Font

During Lent, we pray and prepare to renew our own Baptismal promises even as we pray as a community for those to be Baptized. Following ancient custom, the Sacrament of Baptism is not ordinarily celebrated during Lent, and the Baptismal Font itself is sealed. We also "fast" from the Baptismal water usually present at the doors of the Church. The entire Church waits with Jesus in the desert, praying for the Living Waters of Easter.

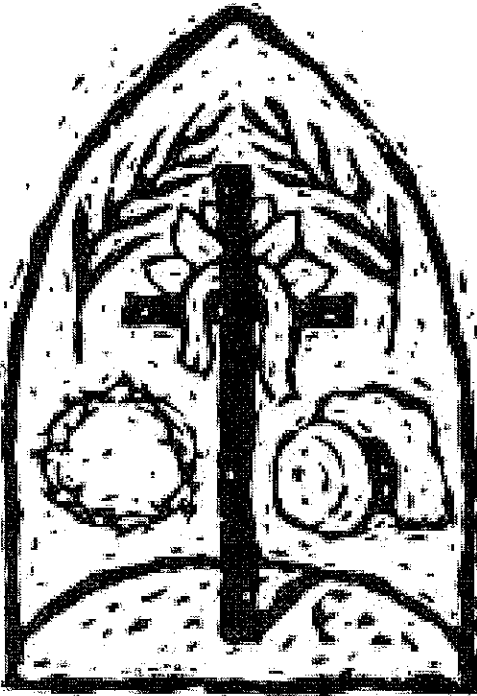


Lenten Space, Silence, & Music

During Lent, the Church's lighting is dimmed so as to encourage an atmosphere of prayer and introspection. Our Assembly's music is more meditative and somber. **We leave at the end of Mass in silence,** reflecting on our mission as Disciples to pray, fast, and to give of ourselves in the coming week.

LENTEN REGULATIONS

FASTING



Fasting for anyone between 21 and 59 years of age means having only one full meal to maintain one's strength. Two smaller meatless and penitential meals are permitted according to one's needs, but should not equal the one full meal. One may, however, enter more into the spiritual element of fasting and not partake of any of the above-mentioned meals. Eating between meals is not permitted; but liquids, including milk and juices are allowed. **Days of fasting are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Wednesdays and Fridays are also traditional fast days; however, one may fast on any day of the week.**

ABSTINENCE

Abstinence is the observance for all those 14 years of age or older to forego the eating of meat on: Ash Wednesday; all Fridays in Lent and on Good Friday. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, this discipline does not apply.

EASTER PRECEPT

The Easter Precept – or Easter Duty is the decree for all the faithful to **receive Holy Communion at least during the Easter Season** (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2042). The faithful must celebrate the **Sacrament of Penance at least once a year in preparation for the reception of Holy Eucharist.** Traditionally, the Church has marked the time in which one may fulfill the Easter Duty between the First Sunday of Lent and Trinity Sunday. A monthly celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is encouraged for all.

PRAYER AND ALMSGIVING

All of the faithful are encouraged to spend additional time in prayer during the Lenten season, and to participate in the devotional practices of the Parish. It is also praise worthy for the faithful to give generously to charities and to their Church during this Season of Sacrifice.

Holy Week + 2015

Tenebrae

Tenebrae (a Latin word meaning “darkness fell”) is a service of readings and song that is celebrated as part of the Church’s Liturgy of the Hours during Holy Week. It is a service of somber reflection as we enter into the Sacred Triduum. *Tenebrae*’s distinctive feature is the gradual extinguishing of all the lights in the Church as we contemplate the temporary triumph of the prince of darkness over the world.

Join us on **HOLY WEDNESDAY, April 1 at 7:30 PM** in Plaistow as we enter the holiest days of the year. Liturgy is celebrated on that same evening at 6:30 PM

April 2 Holy Thursday



*If I do not wash you
you can have no share
in my heritage*

The Church enters into the Sacred Paschal Triduum (“Three Days”) on Holy Thursday. Lent ends quietly and without ceremony during that day, and in the twilight of the evening the Church gathers to celebrate the Liturgy of the Lord’s Supper, where we commemorate Jesus’ institution of the Eucharist as the great pledge of our salvation. Our Liturgy is at Newton at 6:30 PM. At the beginning of the Liturgy, the Holy Oils, blessed by the Bishop and the Priests of the Diocese earlier in Holy Week, are presented to the community by parishioners. As part of a “living homily” parishioners

have their feet washed by the Pastor, reminding us all to live as servants, imitating the love of the Lord. We end by carrying the Eucharist in procession to a special place of prayer and reflection. All are invited to remain in prayerful adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10PM when we pray Night Prayer together.

At Newton:

Morning Prayer 8 am
Mid-Day Prayer Noon

Mass of the Lord’s
Supper

6:30 PM

Night Prayer 10:00 PM

Did you know about....?

The Church has a long and venerable tradition of calling Catholics to keep the “Paschal Fast.” While not a mandatory part of the Lenten fasting regulations, it is a worthwhile discipline to undertake as Easter draws near. The Paschal Fast calls us to literally put our ordinary lives “on hold” as we begin the Triduum, and to focus intensely on the Passion of the Lord and the coming Easter proclamation. The Paschal Fast begins with the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday, and continues through Saturday evening to the Easter Proclamation at the Great Vigil. Those who keep the Paschal Fast often refrain from all distractions such as television or radio, and devote themselves to prayer and reflection on the Passion Gospel. Some do not eat anything during any daylight hours, and take only the simplest of foods after the sun has gone down. Others take moments out of their work or family schedules to pause and to recognize that the whole Christian Church is in prayer and waiting as these great three days progress.

At Plaistow:

Morning Prayer 8 am
Mid-day Prayer Noon

At Newton:

Stations of the Cross
3 PM

At Plaistow:

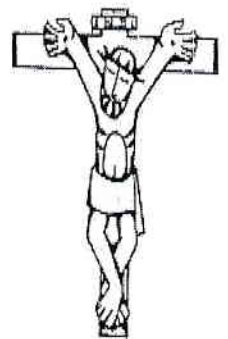
Veneration of the Cross
and Holy Communion
6:30 PM

Good Friday April 3

On Good Friday everything is different. No Masses are celebrated; nobody may receive communion at home, unless they are in danger of dying.

We gather for prayer throughout the day; at morning, noon, and at mid-afternoon to pray the Psalms and the Stations of the Cross. Our principal celebration is at 6:30 PM in Plaistow, when we gather to hear the Passion of John proclaimed, to adore the cross as the instrument of our salvation, and to receive “left-over” communion to sustain us until Easter.

Good Friday is a day of complete fasting and abstinence. Our Liturgy ends in total silence as the Church begins the wait for Easter.



At Plaistow:

Morning
Prayer 8 am
Mid-day Prayer
Noon

Holy Saturday April 4.....a time of waiting

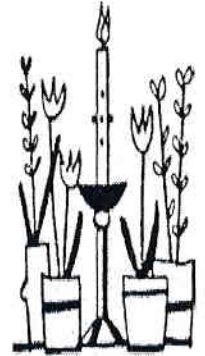
On Holy Saturday the Church waits in prayer by the tomb of the Lord. We gather at 8 am for morning prayer, and again at 12 Noon to sing praise to the one who is risen from the dead. Our RCIA Elect spend the day in preparatory prayer, preparations for the Easter Feast are well underway in the Hall, Readers and Servers gather to prepare for the Great Vigil and the Resurrection's Good News. Families may bring Easter food and Easter candy for a special blessing at Mid-Day prayer, 12 noon.

The Great Vigil of Easter

What's so great about the Great Vigil? It is the high point of the whole Christian Liturgical year, and the Liturgy that welcomes new Catholics through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. It is also the sights, smells, songs, and community spirit of the evening that makes this liturgy memorable for all who participate.

The Great Vigil has 4 parts: the Blessing of the Fire and procession with the Paschal Candle into the Church, the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of Baptism and Confirmation, and finally, the Eucharist of the Resurrection of the Lord.

Consider joining us... and if you come, know that the Vigil is lengthy... but breaks are allowed! And join us after for an Easter Party in the Hall, with all of the good things you probably gave up all during Lent! If you are planning on coming to the Vigil, consider bringing a baked item or other goodie for the party; call the Parish Office at 382-8324 for more information.



Christ our Light

**The Great Vigil of Easter..... Plaistow.... 8:00 PM.....April 4, 2015
Come and celebrate the Resurrection of your Lord**

Easter Sunday – April 5

Our Lenten Fasting over, Christians celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord with feasting, joy, and family. Our Easter Eucharist focuses on the great Gospel of Easter and on the renewal of our Baptismal Promises. At the 7:30, 9 and 11 am Liturgies on Easter morning, we renew our Baptismal Promises. We end our Easter day with Paschal Evening Prayer and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at Newton at 6:00 PM

As the day closes, we sing the joyful "*Regina Coeli*" at the font of our salvation.

But Easter continues! "Easter Sunday" in the Church actually is 8 days long! Throughout Easter week we continue to celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord... and for 50 days until the Solemnity of Pentecost, the Church sings and feasts and celebrates the marvels God has accomplished in our lives!

Easter Liturgy

**At Newton:
7:30 and 9:00 am**

**At Plaistow:
11:00 am**

**At Newton:
Paschal Vespers
and Benediction of
the Blessed
Sacrament
6 PM**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR A



Prayer for Sight

God of Wisdom,
you gave sight to the man born blind,
who came to faith because of what you did
for him.

Increase our sight so that we may see
more readily
your works in our lives.

You are present in our difficulties and in
our joys;
but sometimes we refuse to see you in our
midst.

Lift us from the darkness that plagues us
so that we might be aware of the signs
that you are among us.

At Baptism, you entrusted us with
your light.

May we share that light
so that others might see you in the world.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus
Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday, March 15, 2015

Providing Sight to Our Blind Spots



Today's Readings: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6–7, 10–13a; Psalm 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6 (1); Ephesians 5:8–14, John 9:1–41. During a homily soon after Easter 2014, Pope Francis noted that many prefer darkness to light. “There are ‘bat Christians’ who prefer darkness over the light of the Lord’s presence,” the Catholic News Service quoted the pope as saying. These Christians, Pope Francis said, are afraid of believing that Christ is near. The pope explained that “Jesus is always with us, he is always near our problems, our difficulties, and our good works.”

This seems to be the case in today’s Gospel. Those who refused to believe that Jesus healed the man born blind are unable to see Jesus in their midst, even though sight has

been given to the blind man. This group believes that someone who has worked a miracle on the Sabbath cannot be from God. In effect, they have decided that they know how God should make himself present. Is it sometimes hard for you to see Jesus working within you or among those you know? Have you sometimes been unable to see signs of Christ because you have decided how God works?

Just as Lent is a preparation time for those who are to be baptized at the Easter Vigil, it is a time for us to consider our Baptism. Our Baptism brought us from darkness to light, making us a priestly people. It is up to us to open our eyes to the signs of God around us. You can live in the light or you can be a “bat Christian.” Which do you choose?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 16, 2015 Bringing Others to Belief

The official in today's Gospel places his faith in Jesus even before he meets him. Because of that faith, Jesus healed the man's son. With that healing, others came to believe. Those new believers in Jesus came about because of the official's faith. In *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis says that we are all to be missionary disciples. In other words, the joy of our faith should attract others to Christ. Could you be accused of bringing others to faith? Today's Readings: Isaiah 65:17–21; Psalm 30:2 and 4, 5–6, 11–12a and 13b (2a); John 4:43–54.

Tuesday, March 17, 2015 St. Patrick, Bishop

The many legends of St. Patrick are widely known. It cannot be confirmed, though, that this fifth-century saint either taught with a shamrock or drove out snakes. What can be known about his life is what he wrote in his old age in his *Confession*. There, he tells of his dependence on God in prayer and the faith that sustained him while in captivity. Though happy when he was able to return to his homeland, he followed God's call to evangelize in Ireland. Today's Readings: Ezekiel 47:1–9, 12; Psalm 46:2–3, 5–6, 8–9 (8); John 5:1–16.

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

St. Cyril's *Catechetical Instructions* are still studied today. In those sermons, the bishop explained Church doctrine to catechumens preparing for Baptism at the Easter Vigil and the mysteries of the sacraments to the neophytes during the period after the initiation sacraments were received. This fourth-century saint also was known for the mercy he showed. When a famine struck, he sold church goods so that the poor could eat. Today's Readings: Isaiah 49:8–15; Psalm 145:8–9, 13cd–14, 17–18 (8a); John 5:17–30.

Thursday, March 19, 2015 St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The few details about St. Joseph in the Gospel accounts provide a picture of a man of faith. Because of his faith, Joseph believed the angels who appeared to him, first telling him to take Mary as his wife and then to flee to Egypt with his family. Joseph was willing to follow God's lead, to go where God needed him to go. How willing are we to put our desires aside to follow God's path? Today's Readings: 2 Samuel 7:4–5a, 12–14a, 16; Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27 and 29 (37); Romans 4:13, 16–18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18–21, 24a or Luke 2:41–51a.

Friday, March 20, 2015 Lenten Weekday

During this Lent, you might want to spend some time becoming more acquainted with the psalms. You may find that they speak to your needs, fears, joys, and sorrows. Today's Psalm 34 tells of how God tends to those who are faithful. He hears them when they cry out and rescues them from their troubles. Perhaps you would like to meditate on a psalm that speaks to how you are feeling this Lent. Today's Readings: Wisdom 2:1a, 12–22; Psalm 34:17–18, 19–20, 21 and 23 (19a); John 7:1–2, 10, 25–30.

Saturday, March 21, 2015 Lenten Weekday

In today's Gospel, we hear that some regarded Jesus as a prophet and others as the Messiah, while still others had contempt for him. It is tempting to consider this reading as a record of the past. But you can use this retreat time during Lent to ask yourself how you think Jesus is. Has the time that you have spent this Lent with the daily readings provided you with an intimacy with Christ? Are you willing to continue daily practices after Lent to nurture your relationship with Christ? Today's Readings: Jeremiah 11:18–20; Psalm 7:2–3, 9bc–10, 11–12 (2a); John 7:40–53.





Bringing Home the Word



Fourth Sunday of Lent March 15, 2015

Have Mercy

By Janel Esker

*“Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy,
Lord have mercy.”*

We proclaim those words at most liturgies, but how often do we really *pray* them? During Lent at our parish, we sing the Greek translation—“*Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.*” We’re literally begging our God to be merciful to us; unfortunately, I’m uncertain how much intention and purpose we place behind those words. Do we really know

Sunday Readings

2 Chronicles 36:14–16, 19–23

Because Israel was unfaithful to the covenant and rejected God’s messengers, Jerusalem was destroyed, and they were exiled to Babylon until King Cyrus of Persia called them back.

Ephesians 2:4–10

Our life and salvation comes from the grace, love, and mercy of Christ alone. It doesn’t come from our worthiness or any of our works.

John 3:14–21

Jesus, the light, came into the world to expose and conquer sin. Though the wicked hate the truth, Christ, in God’s love, does not condemn but saves.

what we’re asking God and what God asks in return?

Today’s readings describe the richness of God’s mercy and compassion. We’re reminded that God’s sending Jesus and his promise of eternal life are merciful gifts to us sinners. Do any of us deserve the gift of Jesus or the gift of resurrection? Certainly not—but God gives to us anyway. Mercy is given to the undeserving—those who deserve justice but instead are given compassion.

Our earthly lives are sustained by God’s mercy, but how merciful are we in return? How many of us vehemently support the death penalty? Do we celebrate when a terrorist is maimed or killed? God’s mercy extends to all—we sinners *and* those we consider to be even worse sinners. Sometimes it’s a simpler matter: When someone cuts us off in traffic, perhaps we feel entitled to speed past and cut him off in return. Sure, the driver “deserves” justice, but mercy is what we’re expected to give. How can we beg God for mercy on us each week at Mass if we’re not willing to extend that same mercy to all God’s children—both close to home and far away?

Be the mercy of God this week—and experience God’s mercy poured out on you. †

REFLECTION
QUESTIONS

ONE? TWO?
REFLECTION

- How do I live a compassionate life?
- How do I convince others of the love of God?

PRAYER

Lord, you are the
source of love, peace,
and justice in the
world. Help me to
live in communion
with you and all
people.

—*Mindful Meditations for Every Day
of Lent and Easter*, Rev. Warren J. Savage
and Mary Ann McSweeney

Mercy: Ask and You Shall Receive

By Fr. Rick Potts, CSsR

Our Lord, Jesus, preaches about a God of love and mercy. Jesus tells us about a God who seeks out the lost and offers forgiveness to even the gravest sinner, a God with such a deep desire to be reconciled with humanity that he sent his only Son to take the place of all sacrifices.

This revolutionary concept draws millions to profess faith in the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. And yet, why do we live as if we don't need mercy? And why are we so reluctant to accept forgiveness where it's offered?

The sacrament of reconciliation offers mercy and forgiveness to each of us, but we have plenty of excuses for neglecting it. Many people say they're too scared or that the experience would be too painful. Others claim they can go directly to God. This is the only sacrament about which people argue that they don't need a priest's participation.

Many of us find it hard to name what a sin is and to identify our own sins. I can't tell you how many people begin by saying that they really don't have anything to confess. (Of course, after a guided examination of conscience, all that changes.) It's not that they say they're sinless; it's that they can't name any specific serious sin. Reconciliation calls us to become more self-aware and to examine the motives for our actions so we can come before God honestly.



We also like our sins. They're comfortable. We're perhaps more afraid of giving them up than of confessing them. What if we *can't* or *won't* give them up? What does that say about our true character and discipleship? We must at least strive to do so.

Mercy seems wonderful and simple, but we must be willing to admit our faults to ourselves, to God, and to a priest. And we must be willing to walk a narrower path, to leave behind what is not of God. Only then will we truly desire to celebrate the mercy of our loving God. †

Why do we live as if we don't need mercy?

The Treasure of the Trinity

By Fr. Rick Potts, CSsR

They say everyone is Irish at least one day a year. Saint Patrick is one of those saints who would be mighty indeed even if only 25 percent of his legend is true. The story goes that he used a shamrock—a simple three-leaf clover—to explain the Trinity. From the Giver of gifts to the One who asks us to take up our cross to the One who gives us the strength to accomplish the task, the Trinity encompasses our entire faith.

So why do we keep looking for a *four*-leaf clover? Isn't the Trinity sufficient to see us through *any* trial? We so often spend our days searching for that little extra leaf: the guarantee, the sign that our future is secure.

We can easily fall into the trap of thinking more about what our faith can do for us rather than what we need to do for our faith. We profess faith in a loving Savior, yet we keep an eye out for a good-luck charm. The Spirit dwells within us, yet we cling to a little green plant that withers and dies.

What does it mean for Catholics to place our complete trust in God? Do we have the faith to let go of everything? Can we allow the Spirit sufficient room to be a wellspring within us? Can we look inward for the Source of our life and strength?

Where does your faith fit into all of this? As we realize that the future always has been and always will be uncertain, I hope you're content to cling to the everyday threesome: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. †

WEEKDAY READINGS March 16–21

Mon. *Isaiah 65:17–21 / John 4:43–54*
Tue. *St. Patrick:
Ezekiel 47:1–9, 12 / John 5:1–16*
Wed. *St. Cyril of Jerusalem:
Isaiah 49:8–15 / John 5:17–30*

Thu. *St. Joseph: 2 Samuel 7:4–5, 12–14, 16 /
Romans 4:13, 16–18, 22 / Matthew 1:16,
18–21, 24 or Luke 2:41–51*
Fri. *Wisdom 2:1, 12–22 / John 7:1–2, 10,
25–30*
Sat. *Jeremiah 11:18–20 / John 7:40–53*