

MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, March 5, 2017
First 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.

Preparation You Have Called Us BB 644

Mass Parts Mass Of Christ The Savior

Communion: Ubi Caritas BB 327
Eat This Bread BB 336

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.

Preparation Ashes To Ashes BB 116

Mass Parts Mass Of Christ The Savior

Communion: On Eagles Wings BB 435

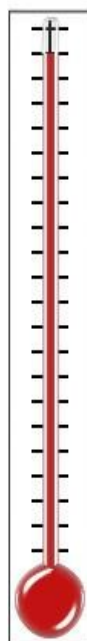
Recessional: ***We depart in silence during Lent***

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



ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST WEBSITE:
<http://stlukenh.org>

✠ PARISH TITHING ✠



245,000.00
239,646.64

Thank you for your generosity to our 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!

February 19, 2017

Offertory \$6,450.39
Fuel \$1,701.67

February 26, 2017

Offertory \$7,279.79

Based on a weekly budget need of \$7,000.00, the top amount indicates where the Parish should be as of the current week. The bottom amount indicates the total offertory given so far this year.

PARISH GIVING

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish has engaged *Parish Giving* to provide parishioners with an opportunity to make your offertory and other contributions through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). Parish Giving is a simple, secure, and convenient way to manage your stewardship without weekly envelopes and without worries. It allows you to select contribution amounts and special collections right from your own computer or smart phone. You can be a good steward for the Parish even when you are away from the area on a weekend. Parish Giving allows you to print out a report detailing your contributions for the year. This program is available to parishioners at no cost. Log on to the St. Luke the Evangelist Parish website at <http://stlukenh.org>, click on the Parish Giving logo, and follow the easy registration instructions.

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

March 5, 2017 Property Management
March 12, 2017 Easter Flowers

Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on Income

Annual Income	5% Commitment annually/weekly	3% Commitment annually/weekly
\$100,000	\$5,000/\$100	\$3,000/\$60
\$75,000	\$3,750/\$75	\$2,250/\$45
\$60,000	\$3,000/\$60	\$1,800/\$36
\$50,000	\$2,500/\$50	\$1,500/\$30
\$40,000	\$2,000/\$40	\$1,200/\$24
\$30,000	\$1,500/\$30	\$900/\$18
\$25,000	\$1,250/\$25	\$750/\$15
\$15,000	\$750/\$15	\$450/\$9

Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on a Percentage Increase

Your Current Offertory Contribution	25% Increase	30% Increase	40% Increase
\$75.00	\$93.75	\$97.50	\$105.00
\$50.00	\$62.50	\$65.00	\$70.00
\$40.00	\$50.00	\$52.00	\$56.00
\$35.00	\$43.75	\$45.50	\$49.00
\$30.00	\$37.50	\$39.00	\$42.00
\$25.00	\$31.25	\$32.50	\$35.00
\$20.00	\$25.00	\$26.00	\$28.00
\$15.00	\$18.75	\$19.50	\$21.00
\$10.00	\$12.50	\$13.00	\$14.00
\$5.00	\$6.25	\$6.50	\$7.00

✠ PARISH NEWS ✠



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 31.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPER

We are looking for set-up, soup & bread cooks, and clean-up crew members for our Lenten Soup Supper following Stations of the Cross on Friday March 31. Please call Joyce Szczapa in the Religious Education Office for more information.

LENTEN 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** will be available immediately after Evening Prayer each Sunday of the Lenten Season.



IT'S NOT TOO SOON!



The 2017 St. Luke's Christmas Craft Fair isn't until November 4, but...believe it or not...your help is needed now.

If you knit or crochet, please make a commitment to make at least one item for the Country Store. Things that sell really well are: Mittens, Hats, Scarves, for any age or gender.

Sets sell quickly, but individual items are more than welcome, too. The Country store could also use: Kid-size sweaters and clothes, American Girl clothes, as well as Baby sets of sweaters, hats and booties.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeanne Marcinkowski at 603-382-0378.

AmazonSmile.com is the same market platform as Amazon.com, but with the added benefit of allowing customers to donate 0.5% of the price of items purchased to a charitable organization. Please visit www.AmazonSmile.com today and register to start shopping – and donating! If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. Be sure to choose: **St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.**

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Daylight Savings Time begins on **Sunday, March 12**. Remember to turn your clocks ahead 1 hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 11!



PRAYER LINE

St. Luke's offers a prayer line as a resource for those seeking prayer assistance. Submit your prayer request via email to csmith@stluketheevangelist.net or call Cathy Smith directly at 603-382-8324, ext. 314.

ST. PATRICK'S DINNER

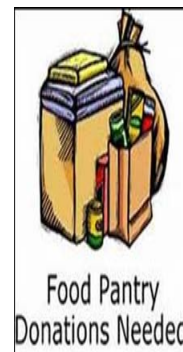
The Knights of Columbus will host a St. Patrick's Dinner on **Saturday, March 11 from 5:00 PM – 7:30 PM** in the Parish Center. The funds raised from the meal will be used by the Knights to help support our food pantry. The menu will consist of a traditional boiled dinner featuring corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots & turnips, desserts and beverages. Hot dogs will be available for the kids. There will be Irish Music and an Irish Step Dancing exhibition.

Raffles will be held for Irish theme baskets and a 50/50. Dinner tickets are \$9 for adults and \$4 for children, with a maximum of \$30 per family. Tickets will be on sale after Masses the weekends of February 25-26 and March 4-5, as well as at the door the evening of the event. For more information, please call Dave Meader at 603-974-3162.



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.



FOOD PANTRY HOURS

Wednesday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Thursday from 6:00 PM 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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

<u>Sunday, March 5</u>		
9:45 AM	Religious Ed – 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	<i>Plaistow</i>
12:00 PM	Baptism Catechesis	<i>Plaistow</i>
6:00 PM	Vespers	<i>Newton</i>
6:30 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Newton</i>
<u>Monday, March 6</u>		
4:00 PM	Religious Ed – 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	<i>Plaistow</i>
6:30 PM	Religious Ed – 6, 7, 8	<i>Plaistow</i>
7:00 PM	Knights of Columbus	<i>Plaistow</i>
<u>Tuesday, March 7</u>		
9:00 AM	Disciples on the Journey	<i>Plaistow</i>
<u>Wednesday, March 8</u>		
9:30 AM	Eucharistic Adoration Begins	<i>Plaistow</i>
6:30 PM	Eucharistic Adoration Ends	<i>Plaistow</i>
7:00 PM	Disciples on the Journey	<i>Plaistow</i>
<u>Thursday, March 9</u>		
8:30 AM	Eucharistic Adoration Begins	<i>Newton</i>
9:00 AM	Intercessory Prayer	<i>Plaistow</i>
1:30 PM	Disciples on the Journey	<i>Plaistow</i>
8:30 PM	Eucharistic Adoration Ends	<i>Newton</i>
<u>Friday, March 10</u>		
6:30 PM	Stations of the Cross	<i>Plaistow</i>
<u>Saturday, March 11</u>		
3:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Plaistow</i>
5:00 PM	St. Patrick's Day Dinner	<i>Plaistow</i>
<u>Sunday, March 12</u>		
9:45 AM	Religious Ed – 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	<i>Plaistow</i>
6:00 PM	Vespers	<i>Newton</i>
6:30 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Newton</i>

St. Vincent de Paul Society



Curious about The St. Vincent de Paul Society and what we do with your "dropped dollar"? Well, wonder no more! Plan to attend our Open House on **Wednesday, March 15 at 7:00 PM** and find out what we're all about. Maybe you'll even consider becoming a member? We'd welcome the opportunity to have you sit in on one of our meetings and discover how we accomplish our mission - to help the needy in our community however we can, be it financially, with rides or other assistance, and with our prayers.

Hope to see you on March 15th at St. Luke's Church Hall in Plaistow at 7:00 PM. Light refreshments will be served before the meeting. Need more information? Call 603-382-8324 x 315.

If you seek assistance or need information about the
St. Vincent de Paul Society,
Please call 603-382-8324 x315.

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, March 4 ~ Vigil / First Sunday of Lent

Gn 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Rom 5:12-19; Mt 4:1-11

4:00 PM Frank Szczapa by the Lajoie family
Plaistow

Sunday, March 5 ~ First Sunday of Lent

Gn 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Rom 5:12-19; Mt 4:1-11

7:30 AM Eddie Thurnquist by Grace Bukowski
Newton

9:00 AM Marisa Minichiello by the Stanely family
Newton

11:00 AM Eleanor Barczak by Ed & Gayle Wencis
Plaistow

Monday, March 6 ~ Lenten Weekday

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46

8:00 AM Constance Morin by J.S. Clark
Newton

Tuesday, March 7 ~ Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs

Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15

8:00 AM Marie & Denis Pelletier by George Pelletier
Plaistow

Wednesday, March 8 ~ John of God, Religious

Jon 3:1-10; Lk 1:29-32

6:30 PM Donald J. McKendry (Month's Mind)
Plaistow

Thursday, March 9 ~ Frances of Rome, Religious

Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7:7-12

8:00 AM Nancy A. Povlovski by Bonnie & Roy Lajoie
Newton

Friday, March 10 ~ Lenten Weekday

Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26

No Mass

Saturday, March 11 ~ Lenten Weekday

Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48 (Day)

Gn 12:1-4a; 2 Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Clara, Leo, & Edward McCusker
by Elaine Kelcourse
Plaistow

Sunday, March 12 ~ Second Sunday of Lent

Gn 12:1-4a; 2 Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9

7:30 AM Eddie Thurnquist by Bob & Alice Litwinovich
Newton

9:00 AM Irene Lee by her daughter
Newton

11:00 AM Eleanor Barczak by Grace Bukowski
Plaistow

PLEASE HELP US

As you leave church, kindly take your Bulletin with you or return it to the basket at the entrance of the Church, and return your music book and Mass card to their proper place at the end of the pew. Thank you for your cooperation.

✧ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✧



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. Operation Rice Bowl provides funding to CRS for many third world projects that promote agricultural, nutritional and educational sufficiency. Additionally, Operation Rice Bowl supports local anti-poverty programs. Rice Bowls are available at the entrances of both Churches and are due back by Holy Thursday, April 13.

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 questions, call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

ADORATION

We are truly blessed to have times for 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, *but* we need more people so there will be at least two people at each hour. We are also looking for people who would be able to substitute.

Plaistow – Wednesday

9:30 AM – 6:30 PM

Newton – Thursday

8:30 AM – 8:30 PM

If you can commit to one hour a week in Adoration of our Lord, or if you can be a substitute, please contact Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 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, call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at 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, March 5, 2017** 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. Church Canon Law also regulates baptismal sponsors (godparents). 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.

From the Pastor's Desk



HOLY ANGELS CEMETERY CLOSED

Holy Angels Cemetery in Plaistow is closed until Spring 2017 due to the real dangers of snow and ice in the Cemetery and the costs to Parishioners to inter during the winter months. Please contact the Parish Office with any questions. Fr. Albert

✧ PARISH DIRECTORY ✧

Parish Office	382-8324
Parish Prayer Line	382-8324 x 314
St. Vincent de Paul Society	382-8324 x 315
St. Luke's Food Pantry	819-4949
Preschool	382-9783
Presentation of Mary Convent	382-2744

Fr. Albert Tremblay	fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net
Cathy Smith	csmith@stluketheevangelist.net
Joyce Szczapa	jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net
Jackie Tremblay	jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net
Thomas Kondel	tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net
Val Barczak	mvmbarczak@comcast.net
Robin Thompson	rthompson@stluketheevangelist.net
Julie Lamere	jlamere@stluketheevangelist.net
Parish Council	parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net

✠ **Parish News ~ Youth News ~ Around The Diocese** ✠

ST. LUKE'S FOOD PANTRY – HELP!!!!

St. Luke's Food Pantry is in need of volunteers to help out in the pantry on Friday mornings from 9:30 AM to 12:00 Noon. If you can help out, please call the Food Pantry at 603-819-4949. If no one answers, please leave your name and phone number.

DIOCESAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

The Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Manchester are currently registering students for the 2017-2018 academic year. Parishioners who plan to register at Catholic Schools should contact the school directly for information. A subsidized rate is available for qualified parishioners for elementary and middle schools. In order to be eligible for the 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. You can contact the Parish Office or visit www.catholicnh.org for more information.

BAKE SALE!

Please visit the St. Luke Youth Ministry's Bake Sale following all Liturgies on the weekend of **March 25-26**. With your help, our youth can raise enough money to defray the cost of their trip to the Steubenville East Conference on July 14-16, 2017. Thank you for your support!

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

If you would like an "end of year" financial statement of your contributions to the parish for 2016, please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. Financial Statements are issued on a request only basis.

WINTER WEATHER CLOSINGS

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish Office, Holy Angels Cemetery Office, Saint Luke Food Pantry and the Parish Liturgical schedule complies with the long-standing inclement weather policy of Saint Luke Religious Education Program and Holy Angels Pre-School-Kindergarten: **If the Timberlane and/or Sanborn regional school districts close because of inclement weather, ALL Parish Offices and Parish programs will be closed or suspended. All activities by any Parish or non-Parish groups will be cancelled for that day/evening on both campuses.**

Sunday (or Saturday evening) liturgies can never be cancelled, but all are advised to use prudence when deciding to travel to Church during winter storms.



**LOOKING FOR A
UNIQUE HELPER**

The general organization of the Fair requires great attention to detail and someone with a friendly manner of reminding people of what they said they would do. Elaine Kindler has been doing this for the past five years and will continue for the 2017 Fair – BUT – this will be her last year as lead coordinator.

The Parish is looking for a unique individual who is interested in learning what goes on behind the scenes as soon as possible. The schedule varies, but expectations will be explained before you start. The 2017 St. Luke's Christmas Craft Fair isn't until November 4, but ... organizing and planning has already begun.

Please contact Elaine Kindler at stlukenhfair@gmail.com or at 603-819- 8691 for more information.



We welcome into our faith community

Sadie Ann Behan

and

John Donald Pomykato

who recently received the Sacrament of Baptism.



In Loving Memory

Please pray for the repose of the souls of

Donald J. McKendry

and

Nancy Povlovski

BEREAVEMENT PROGRAM

Catholic Charities New Hampshire and St. Ann Church are offering a bereavement program for those who have lost a loved one. The meetings are at St. Ann Church, 26 Emerson Road, Hampstead, NH. The group will meet every other Thursday from 1:30 to 3:00 PM. Registration is necessary. Contact Juidy Nelson at 893-1971 or jnelson@nh-cc.org for more information.

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

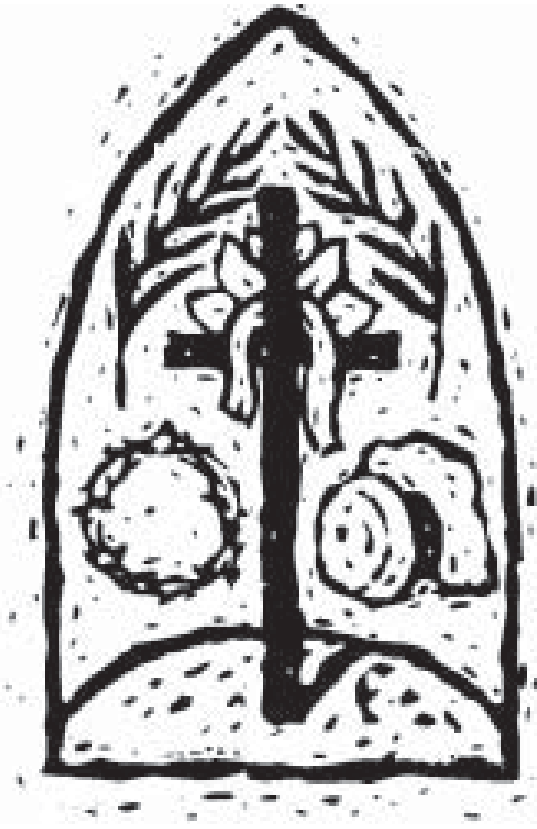
Abstinence is the observance for all those 14 years of age or older to forego the eating of meat on: Ash Wednesday; all Fridays in Lent and on Good Friday. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, this discipline does not apply.

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.



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.



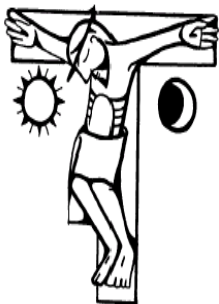
When the Friars of the Franciscan Order took over the care of the Holy Places in Jerusalem in 1342, they began to erect "Stations" in Churches back home in Europe. It was a way to "go" to the Holy Land without ever leaving home. The custom of the Stations quickly spread to parish Churches, and the devotion 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 31, we will conclude our evening Stations hosted by our Youth Ministry Program 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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



Lead Us from Temptation

Creator God,
you formed us in your image
and breathed your life into us,
filling us with your spirit;
Yet we turn our backs to you
and respond to the temptations of wisdom
beyond our grasp
and the possibilities of power and gain.
Be merciful to us, O Lord,
for we have sinned with open eyes and
selfish hearts.
Be merciful, O Lord,
for we know not what we do.
May your mercy fall on us, O Lord,
as we seek to do your will,
for you live and reign united as Father,
Son, and Spirit,
for ever and ever. Amen.

March 5, 2017

Forty Days and Forty Nights



Today's Readings: Genesis 2:7–9; 3:1–7; Psalm 51:3–4, 5–6, 12–13, 17; Romans 5:12–19; Matthew 4:1–11. As we sing the Lenten hymn “Forty Days and Forty Nights,” we are drawn into Christ’s time in the desert, his temptations, and his perseverance. Christ’s trial in the desert is captured in two short phrases of the second verse: “Shall not we your sorrow share” and “Fasting with unceasing prayer.”

Today’s Gospel brings to mind more than Christ’s time in the desert and the devil’s three temptations. We are challenged, on this First Sunday of Lent, to prepare for our forty days and nights of fasting and prayer. Or perhaps we should consider this time fasting *with* prayer.

We share with Christ our desert times, when worldly distractions and demands are set aside for us to focus on who we are as people of faith. Today’s Gospel is a reminder

that our temptations are best addressed when we refocus ourselves in a context of prayer and time apart from our usual distractions and demands. By retreating from all that busies us, we are better able to couch distractions in prayer and respond to demands with deepened faith. Throughout our forty days and forty nights, we share with Christ not only his sorrow, but his righteousness, as St. Paul reminds us in the Second Reading.

We have a share in the life of Christ, and at the beginning of the Lenten season, we know that our prayer is sustained and strengthened by our sharing in Christ’s Death and Resurrection. We are strengthened by our Baptism to combat the temptations we encounter, supported by the unceasing prayer that we share with Christ.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 6

Be Holy, for I Am Holy

Each Lent we are reminded that we who are baptized are called to be Christ-like. As we journey through the forty days, we reflect on what it means to be Christian. The readings during the season spell that out for us. Through our Lenten disciplines, our goal is holiness: to love one another as Christ did, in all he accomplished. Reflect this week on what it means to be holy. *Today's Readings: Leviticus 19:1–2, 11–18; Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 15; Matthew 25:31–46.*

Tuesday, March 7

Sts. Perpetua and Felicity

The witness of the earliest Christian martyrs is epitomized by these two women martyrs. Perpetua, and her servant Felicity, both imprisoned while pregnant, remained constant in their faith through childbirth, separation from their families, and watching as others were taken to the arena of martyrdom. May their witness, in life and death, remind us that we are never separated from the love of Christ (Romans 8:38–39). *Today's Readings: Isaiah 55:10–11; Psalm 34:4–5, 6–7, 16–17, 18–19; Matthew 6:7–15.*

Wednesday, March 8

St. John of God

St. John of God had a natural impulse to aid people who were in need. Whether buying clothes on the spot to help clothe a poor family or rushing into a burning hospital to carry out patients, John was the first to assist others. His works of mercy were profound, and an example to us of Christ's words: "Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." *Today's Readings: Jonah 3:1–10; Psalm 51:3–4, 12–13, 18–19; Luke 11:29–32.*

Thursday, March 9

Ask and It Will Be Given You

Queen Esther prayed from morning until evening for the Lord to help her, and her prayers were answered. In the Gospel reading, Jesus reminds us to continually ask, seek, knock, and our persistence will be rewarded as well. As we search and ask, and knock and plead, may our mourning be turned into gladness, and our sorrow into wholeness. *Today's Readings: Esther C:12, 14–16, 23–25; Psalm 138:1–2ab, 2cde–3, 7c–8; Matthew 7:7–12.*

Friday, March 10

Be Reconciled First

Today's Gospel places a priority on reconciliation. Against whom do you hold a grudge? To whom is your automatic response one of anger? Even before we turn to others to judge, to condemn, to lash out, Jesus calls us to leave our gifts at the altar and be reconciled to one another. Today is a good day to reach out to someone, without prejudice or malice, and pay it forward. *Today's Readings: Ezekiel 18:21–28; Psalm 130:1–2, 3–4, 5–7a, 7bc–8; Matthew 5:20–26.*

Saturday, March 11

Change Our Hearts

It is not enough to follow the Commandments. Discipleship is not only about doing the right thing. We are called to holiness, which entails more than correct actions. Lent challenges us to change our ways, to change our focus and redirect it so that we change our hearts. Select a Lenten hymn today and pray the text, taking to heart what it says to you. *Today's Readings: Deuteronomy 26:16–19; Psalm 119:1–2, 4–5, 7–8; Matthew 5:43–48.*





Bringing Home the Word



First Sunday of Lent | March 5, 2017

Framework for Conversion

By Mary Katharine Deeley

In the campus church where I work, more people show up on Ash Wednesday than on any other day. Practicing Catholics, Catholics who are a little or a lot out of practice, and non-Catholics who sense the need for a period of discipline stream through the doors to remember that they are dust and into dust they shall return.

With a cross smudged on their foreheads, they go out, sensing that this defined six-week block called Lent is a real chance to change course and renew

their lives. Many of them return each Sunday to hear ancient stories and try to live into the good intentions symbolized by the ashes.

Ash Wednesday creates a framework for conversion, and the first Sunday of Lent tells us why we need it. The Genesis story is an explanation for the brokenness of the world that comes not from God's error in creation but from our desire to be God and control our own destiny. The creature cannot be the creator. We cannot know fully what God knows. For Adam and Eve, such knowledge is power, and they aren't content with what God has given them.

In the desert, Jesus is also tempted to show his power and take control from his Father. He could refuse to subject himself to God's will. He could make bread and force God to care for him. Even more, he could give power over to one who is not God. Instead, Jesus gives his life over to God. With his grace, we can do the same. Where are you being tempted to push God aside and take control? †

Sunday Readings

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

"The LORD God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life."

Romans 5:12-19

"Through the obedience of the one, the many will be made righteous."

Matthew 4:1-11

"Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him."

*Lent gives us a chance
to change course
and renew our lives.*

A Word From Pope Francis

Only when the difficulties and suffering of others confront and question us may we begin our journey of conversion toward Easter. It is an itinerary which involves the Cross and self-denial....[The] elements of this spiritual journey: prayer, fasting and almsgiving (see Matthew 6:1-6; 16-18). All three exclude the need for appearances: what counts is not appearances; the value of life does not depend on the approval of others or on success, but on what we have inside us.

—Homily,
March 5, 2014



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- When have you been tempted to make something in your life more important than God?
- How can you give your life over to God this Lent?



Conversion as Dying/Rising

By Rev. James B. Dunning

Although conversion is no one-time born-again experience, each conversion is a new birth. All great moments of agony and ecstasy normally involve the trauma and triumph of birth. Especially at life's great turning points, we are like Abraham and Sarah setting out into the desert. Are we able to let go of control and journey in faith on uncharted paths?

Since Catholics are many times born again, we have sacraments and a liturgical year to celebrate and nourish this new creation. All of human life can be born

again. The ordinary is born again into the extraordinary; our faith vision helps us see this. Sunday after Sunday, Lent after Lent, year after year, we bring all this to liturgy so that all of life and all creation might be born again and again through God's Spirit who makes all creation new.

A second image of conversion is the paschal mystery, namely, our entering the dying/rising of Jesus. This image is grounded in the RCIA. There the Church offers a vision of conversion for new members. The RCIA states that this also holds true for all members,

since conversion is an ongoing journey. Again, the Catholic version of conversion is sacramental. Initiation is the first sharing in Christ's dying/rising. But all sacraments, especially the Eucharist, celebrate our experience of the death and resurrection of Christ.

For many people, dying often means a crisis. Dying can also mean the day-to-day dying of people who love, for example, in marriage, friendship, serving others. In Italian, *amore*, "love," has its roots in *morte*, "death." In the quiet dailiness of our relationships and vocations, we experience death to self and to our needs. This kind of dying is part of one's care, compassion, sensitivity, and love for others. We experience the new life that death brings. When we turn to God as the source of that life, conversion happens. †

Source: *Catholic Update*,
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The Way to Conversion

By Mary Carol Kendzia

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* tells us, "Jesus' call to conversion and penance, like that of the prophets before him, does not aim first at outward works, 'sackcloth and ashes,' fasting and mortification, but at the conversion of the heart, interior conversion. Without this, such penances remain sterile and false" (CCC 1430).

A heart can be changed in a moment with a thought, a prayer, an insight, the gift of grace. Conversion integrates that change into our lives, our work, our

practices, and our prayer. Conversion takes the divine spark that illuminates our very being and makes it real in the comings and goings of our days.

Few of us have that born-again, fall-off-the-horse conversion experience of St. Paul on the road to Damascus. Most of our conversion takes place slowly, daily, through the Spirit's more subtle action enfolded in people and events.

Lent after Lent, year after year, we turn our minds and our hearts to God in a deeper and more focused way through the practices of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. Repenting for the times and ways we turn from God, we seek to renew our lives, dying to our self in order to rise again on Easter. We also prepare to go into the baptismal water at the Easter

Vigil and emerge a new Christian, a believer more firmly grounded in faith and committed to discipleship.

This is the promise held out to us each Lent. †

Source: *Liguorian*, © March 2014, Liguori Publications



Lord, deepen my awareness of and respect for your presence in creation and in the people around me.


—From *Mindful Meditations
for Every Day in Ordinary Time*,
Rev. Warren J. Savage and
Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

March 6–11

Mon. Lenten Weekday:
Lv 19:1–2, 11–18 / Mt 25:31–46
Tue. Lenten Weekday:
Is 55:10–11 / Mt 6:7–15
Wed. Lenten Weekday:
Jon 3:1–10 / Lk 11:29–32

Thu. Lenten Weekday:
Est C:12, 14–16, 23–25 / Mt 7:7–12
Fri. Lenten Weekday:
Ez 18:21–28 / Mt 5:20–26
Sat. Lenten Weekday:
Dt 26:16–19 / Mt 5:43–48

Bringing Home
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