



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, March 12, 2017
Second 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 Save Your People BB 129

Mass Parts Mass Of Christ The Savior

Communion: In These Days Of Lenten Journey
BB 127

One Bread, One Body BB 339

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 This Alone BB 401

Mass Parts Mass Of Christ The Savior

Communion: Be Not Afraid BB 430

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

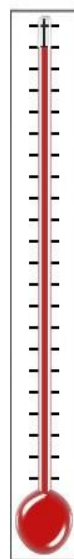
Out of respect, please
remember to silence or turn
off your cell phones during
Mass. Thank you!



ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST WEBSITE:

<http://stlukenh.org>

✠ PARISH TITHING ✠



252,000.00
248,244.91

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!

March 5, 2017

Ash Wednesday \$1,347.77
Offertory \$7,250.50
Property Management \$2,198.15

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 12, 2017 Easter Flowers
March 19, 2017 Fuel
March 26, 2017 Catholic Relief Services & Catholic Home Missions

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.

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.

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.**



The Sanctuary Candle in Holy Angels Church will burn this week in loving memory of **Kathleen White** by the Szczapa family



EASTER VIGIL RECEPTION

The Parish is planning to host a reception following the Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday night, **April 15th**. 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. For more information please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324 or email jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net.

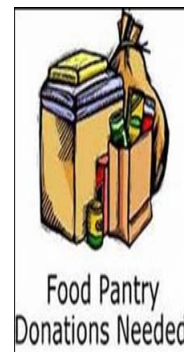
LENTEN EVENING PRAYER

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.



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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, March 12

9:45 AM	Religious Ed – 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Plaistow
6:00 PM	Vespers	Newton
6:30 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Newton

Monday, March 13

4:00 PM	Religious Ed – 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Plaistow
6:30 PM	Religious Ed – 6, 7, 8	Plaistow

Tuesday, March 14

9:00 AM	Disciples on the Journey	Plaistow
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Wednesday, March 15

9:30 AM	Eucharistic Adoration Begins	Plaistow
6:30 PM	Eucharistic Adoration Ends	Plaistow
7:00 PM	Disciples on the Journey	Plaistow
7:00 PM	St. Vincent de Paul Society Meeting	Plaistow

Thursday, March 16

8:30 AM	Eucharistic Adoration Begins	Newton
9:00 AM	Intercessory Prayer	Plaistow
1:30 PM	Disciples on the Journey	Plaistow
8:30 PM	Eucharistic Adoration Ends	Newton

Friday, March 17

6:30 PM	Stations of the Cross	Plaistow
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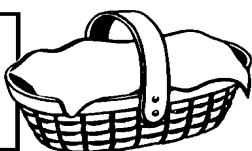
Saturday, March 18

3:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Plaistow
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Sunday, March 19

9:45 AM	Religious Ed – 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Plaistow
6:00 PM	Vespers	Newton
6:30 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Newton

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.

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

**Hear, OH LORD, and answer me
for I am poor and needy.**

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, March 11 ~ Vigil / Second Sunday of Lent
Gn 12:1-4a; 2 Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9

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

Monday, March 13 ~ Lenten Weekday
Dn 9:4b-10; Lk 6:36-38

8:00 AM Michael and his recovery by Father Albert
Newton

Tuesday, March 14 ~ Lenten Weekday
Is 1:10, 16-20; Mt 23:1-12

8:00 AM Pano Constantine by Mary Herlihy
Plaistow

Wednesday, March 15 ~ Lenten Weekday
Jer 18:18-20; Mt 20:17-28

6:30 PM Nancy A. Povlovski (Month's Mind)
Plaistow

Thursday, March 16 ~ Lenten Weekday
Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31

8:00 AM Ralph Durling by Bonnie & Roy Lajoie
Newton

Friday, March 17 ~ Patrick, Bishop

Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
No Mass

**Saturday, March 18 ~ Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop
and Doctor of the Church**

Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32 (Day)
Ex 17:3-7; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Frank Szczapa by Jackie Tremblay
Plaistow

Sunday, March 19 ~ Third Sunday of Lent
Ex 17:3-7; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42

7:30 AM Jeannette Halko by Janice Bettencourt
Newton

9:00 AM Everett Burke by his family
Newton

11:00 AM Eleanor Barczak by Cathy Smith
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, April 2, 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.



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!

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, however organizing and planning has already begun. Please contact Elaine Kindler at stlukenhfair@gmail.com or at 603-819-8691 for more information.



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.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

If you would like an "end of year" financial statement of your contributions to the parish for 2016, please call Jackie at 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.



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 Judy Nelson at 603-893-1971 or jnelson@nh-cc.org for more information.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

The Young Adult Ministry of St. Lucy & St. Monica Parishes invite you to their first Theology On Tap session on **Wednesday, March 22 at 7:00 PM** at The Claddagh Pub in Lawrence, MA. The topic of discussion will be "Living Lent with St. Patrick". For more information please call Isabela Peixoto at 978-686-3311 ext. 29 or methuencatholicnews@gmail.com.



MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND OF DISCOVERY

Couples who have a good marriage but want to make it better are invited to come to a Marriage Encounter Weekend on **April 22-23, 2017** at Our Lady of The Cape Parish in Brewster, MA. Contact Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 1-800-710-9963 or www.wmwma.org for questions or to register.

STRUGGLING IN YOUR MARRIAGE?
YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

Is your marriage tearing the two of you apart? Is there little or no meaningful communication? Are you considering separation or divorce? Retrouvaille can help. Rediscover a loving marriage at the next Retrouvaille marriage renewal the weekend of **March 31–April 2** in Tewksbury. To register or for more information, please call 1-800-470-2230.

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.



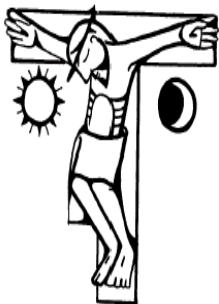
When the Friars of the Franciscan Order took over the care of the Holy Places in Jerusalem in 1342, they began to erect "Stations" in Churches back home in Europe. It was a way to "go" to the Holy Land without ever leaving home. The custom of the Stations quickly spread to parish Churches, and the devotion 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.

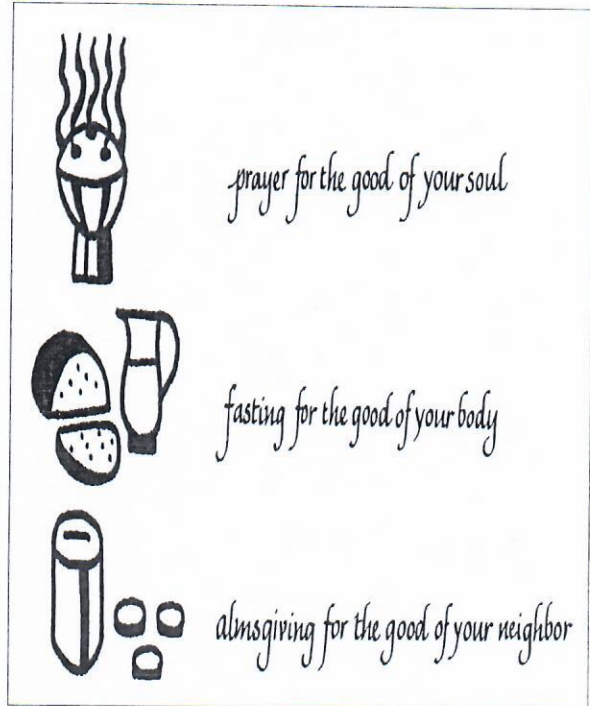


Lenten Space, Silence, & Music

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.

The Church asks us to give ourselves to prayer and to the reading of Scripture, to fasting and to giving of alms during the Lenten season. The fasting that all do together on Fridays is but a sign of the daily Lenten discipline of individuals and households: fasting for certain periods of time, fasting from certain foods, but also fasting from other things and activities. Likewise, the giving of alms is some effort to share this world equally not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and possessions and through work of many kinds for a just world.

FASTING means that anyone between the ages of 18 and 59 may eat only one full meal (with the other 2 meals being distinctly smaller). One may, however, enter more into the spiritual element of fasting and not partake of any meals at all. One fasts for a spiritual reason - (an end to sin, a reconciliation in one's life or family, an end to war or other disturbance, or for the spread of the Gospel or personal/corporate conversion) than for a personal dietary goal. **The Church requires all between the ages of 18 and 59 to observe the fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fridays and Wednesdays are also traditional fast days, but are not mandatory.**



ABSTINENCE is the discipline for those age 14 or older to forego the eating of any meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all Fridays of Lent.

The **EASTER DUTY** is the obligation to receive Holy Eucharist between the First Sunday of Lent and Trinity Sunday. The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is an obligation for all those who are conscious of grave sin. A frequent celebration of Reconciliation is encouraged for all, especially during the Lenten Season.

Reconciliation is also celebrated at Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish on Saturdays at 3:00 at Plaistow, and on the Sundays of Lent following 6:00 PM Evening Prayer at Newton.

Watch the Bulletin for announcements about local area communal Penance Services.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



The Light of the World

Lord of all the nations,
you gather us into your arms
and bless us with your love and mercy.
Give us your eyes, so we may see you
in all peoples,
and respond to the needs of the
most desperate.
Give us your hands to reach across barriers
and repair the wounds wrought by closed
hearts and minds.

Give us your loving heart,
so in our lives we may, as Abram,
do your will
and work to become one community
of the earth.
May the blessings you instill in us
become blessings for all;
and may Christ, the Light of the World
shine on all peoples.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

March 12, 2017

Transfixed or Transfigured



Today's Readings: Genesis 12:1–4; 2 Timothy 1:8b–10; Matthew 17:1–9. Moses, Elijah, and Jesus are transfigured on the mountaintop. Peter, James, and John are transfixed on the same mountaintop. On this Second Sunday of Lent, we are in awe of all six figures, for we seek to be transfigured, to be changed and enlightened, as are these three giants of the Scriptures. Today's Gospel also is read at the Feast of the Transfiguration on August 6. Each person transfigured on the mountaintop is significant for the season. Moses spent forty days on Sinai, twice, and led the Israelites for forty years through the desert. Elijah spent forty days in the wilderness, in a cave, and is also here with Jesus. The Law, the prophets, and the Messiah did not gain the Light of being transfigured without time in the wilderness, desert, or moun-

tain. They did not gain the Light of being transfigured without being tempted and without being supported through prayer for those days and years.

We are in the early days of our forty days. Are we supporting ourselves with prayer? Are we taking time finding our mountaintop, cave, or wilderness spot? Now is a crucial time for this Lent. If we hope to find the light and find a bit of our transfiguration, we cannot remain simply transfixed and in awe of others on the mountaintop. We need to work at our prayer, our fasting, our wilderness. No longer afraid, as Jesus tells us, we can return to our daily lives knowing that our ancestors in faith sustain us through whatever our wilderness times and places may be.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 13

Give in Good Measure

Today's Gospel reading calls us to forgive and to give generously without judgment. Forgiveness and generosity are constant Lenten themes. Our sinfulness can be outdone by our loving service to others. That is the measure by which God's love is poured out. *Today's Readings: Daniel 9:4b–10; Psalm 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Luke 6:36–38.*

Tuesday, March 14

Cleanse Us and We Shall Be White as Snow

Where is my Lenten almsgiving leading me? Am I putting away my misdeeds, as Isaiah directs? Only when the misdeeds are put away will my sins be washed away. Find a center for service and justice in your community and contribute without personal attention or reward. You might devote time to a homeless shelter or soup kitchen or work with a St. Vincent de Paul organization of a local parish. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 1:10, 16–20; Psalm 50:8–9, 16bc–17, 21, and 23; Matthew 23:1–12.*

Wednesday, March 15

To Serve or Be Served

The readings today challenge us to a life of service. Humility is to accompany that service, for we are not to seek reward for our service. We need to keep in mind that, as followers of Christ, we have come to “serve not to be served” (Matthew 20:28). Even as we live out our baptismal calling, how much can we give without recognition? Jesus reminds us that our place in the Kingdom is of our doing. We might reflect today on how we can serve someone with prayer and compassion. *Today's Readings: Jeremiah 18:18–20; Psalm 31:5–6, 14, 15–16; Matthew 20:17–28.*

Thursday, March 16

Simplicity

Abraham and Lazarus remind us even today that societal trappings can blur our priorities. In your home this Lent, set up a simple prayer space, with a cross, a candle, and a Bible or Lenten reflection booklet. When life's daily demands seem to overwhelm you, take time in this sacred space to center your life on God. *Today's Readings: Jeremiah 17:5–10; Psalm 1:1–2, 3, 4, 6; Luke 16:19–31.*

Friday, March 17

St. Patrick, Bishop

The first bishop of Ireland, St. Patrick is celebrated today with green, shamrocks, and parties. As is well known, Patrick converted the nation by using a shamrock to tell of the Three Persons in one God. The significance for using a simple shamrock as a teaching tool for the Trinity is a brilliant reminder that God is revealed through nature, a given community's experiences, and in personal responses to our encounters with God. *Today's Readings: Genesis 37:3–4, 12–13a, 17b–28a; Psalm 105:16–17, 18–19, 20–21; Matthew 21:33–43, 45–46.*

Saturday, March 18

St. Cyril of Jerusalem

Bishop of Jerusalem in the fourth century, Cyril was known for his catechesis to catechumens at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. He shepherded his flock with love and care and was diligent in handing on the faith. Be mindful of the catechumens and candidates in your parish, and support them as they prepare to join you in living and celebrating the Catholic faith through worship and service. Welcome them along their journey. *Today's Readings: Micah 7:14–15, 18–20; Psalm 103:1–2, 3–4, 9–10, 11–12; Luke 15:1–3, 11–32.*





Bringing Home the Word



Second Sunday of Lent | March 12, 2017

A Faith So Strong

By Mary Katharine Deeley

Some people get excited about moving. I'm not one of them. I don't like the boxes and the mess, and I find it hard to get settled in a new place. So I can't imagine what seventy-five-year-old Abram thought when God told him to leave his homeland and set out for a place he had never seen.

I stand in wonder of faith so strong that it finds the word of God compelling with no evidence that the promises will come true. But in our long history as a people of God, God is forever waking

people up or giving them a vision of a different life, usually far from where they are.

So it is with our spiritual life as well. In today's Gospel, Jesus leads Peter, James, and John up a high mountain and into a vision of Jesus as the glorious Son of God. Wherever they had been in their faith, this was a radical call to move, to grow deeper, and to embrace the identity of the man they called Jesus. Until that moment, Jesus was a compelling preacher and healer. On top of that mountain, he became the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets (Moses and Elijah represent those parts of the Old Testament canon).

When Peter, James, and John heard "Listen to him" coming from the cloud, they could no longer pretend this was an ordinary religious figure. They would never be the same, and the journey would lead them to the cross and beyond. Are you being asked to move in your spiritual life? Where will that take you? †

Sunday Readings

Genesis 12:1-4a

"I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing."

2 Timothy 1:8b-10

"Bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God."

Matthew 17:1-9

"But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Rise, and do not be afraid.'"

*Atop the mountain,
Jesus became the
fulfillment of the
Law and the Prophets.*

A Word From Pope Francis

The first duty of the Christian is to listen to the Word of God, to listen to Jesus, because he speaks to us and he saves us by his word. And by this word he makes our faith even stronger and more robust. Listen to Jesus! "But, Father, I do listen to Jesus, I listen a lot!" "Yes? What do you listen to?" "I listen to the radio, I listen to the television, I listen to people gossip." We listen to so many things throughout the day, so many things....But I ask you a question: do we take a little time each day to listen to Jesus?

—Homily,
March 16, 2014



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Where is your Lenten journey leading you?
- Do you believe in God's promises without question? Or have you struggled to believe this Lent?



Mountaintop Moments

By Kathleen M. Basi

Every year the story of the transfiguration comes around on the second Sunday of Lent. The poor disciples don't quite know what to do during this experience. Peter wants to build altars to try and capture the moment. He catches a lot of flak for it, but maybe he was on to something. After all, sometimes you need a beautiful vision to hang on to when the going gets tough.

After leaving the mountain, Jesus and the disciples journey to Jerusalem. Jesus

goes from being proclaimed the Messiah to hanging on a cross, tortured and murdered, his band of followers broken by betrayal and scattered by fear.

We all experience transcendent moments when life seems picture perfect and our dreams seem to be taking tangible form. But all too often these moments of glory are followed in short order by some excruciatingly difficult experience—doubt, loss, devastating illness. Sometimes life spins us around

and sets us back down in the same place and we discover the life we once found so full of joy is now crowded with suffering.

Perhaps those “mountaintop” experiences are a free gift of grace, a glimpse of what is real, of what is pure, lovely, and gracious. They give us something to cling to when life seems to be falling to pieces around us.

Jesus probably needed that moment to fortify himself for the passion—but his human companions needed it more. The disciples were about to have their faith shaken to its foundation. They were about to question whether everything they had come to believe about this man was wrong. Up on that mountain, God gave the disciples a preview of the glory that lies beyond the valley of the shadow.†

Source: *Liguorian*,
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God Behind the Scenes

By Kathleen M. Basi

Several times over the past few years, I've made major life shifts on the spur of the moment. For instance, starting a weight-loss program or potty training a toddler. One day, without any discussion or preparation, I said, “That's it, I'm doing this now.” And I did.

As time passes, though, I'm beginning to realize that these “abrupt” direction changes aren't sudden at all. Always, in the weeks or months before the turning point, there's an undercurrent of awareness buried deep down. Questions form in unguarded moments but go unanswered.

Weight loss and toilet training may

seem like trivial examples, but they illustrate a deeper truth. God is always working in the background, and God will eventually punch through our distractions and nudge us in a new direction.

That's not to say we can just sit by and wait for God to beat through the tangled web of busyness we build around our consciousness. It's our job to navigate the “undercurrent” until it melds into smoother waters. We have to nurture the spiritual life and be open to God's guidance—on his timeline, not ours. The most important insights and decisions cannot be rushed. God works through processes, and there just aren't any shortcuts.

Embrace these times, even when they make life uncomfortable. There's a purity of mind in discerning and pursuing new directions that automatically brings our focus toward God. In these moments,

when we become aware of that deep, quiet current running beneath the clutter and static of life, we can feel that God abides within us. And that is a great blessing. †

Source: *Liguorian*,
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PRAYER

Lord, open my ears to hear your invitation to listen to your Son in the word of God and my heart to discern what it means to be your humble servant.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

March 13–18

Mon. Lenten Weekday:

Dn 9:4b–10 / Lk 6:36–38

Tue. Lenten Weekday:

Is 1:10, 16–20 / Mt 23:1–12

Wed. Lenten Weekday:

Jer 18:18–20 / Mt 20:17–28

Thu. Lenten Weekday:


Jer 17:5–10 / Lk 16:19–31

Fri. Lenten Weekday:

Gn 37:3–4, 12–13a, 17b–28a /
Mt 21:33–43, 45–46

Sat. Lenten Weekday:

Mi 7:14–15, 18–20 / Lk 15:1–3, 11–32

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