



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, March 26, 2017
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.

Preparation Loving And Forgiving BB 663

Mass Parts Mass Of Christ The Savior

Communion: Come To Me And Drink BB 358
Remember Your Love BB 660

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 Jesus, Come To Us BB 392

Mass Parts Mass Of Christ The Savior

Communion: Shepherd Me O God BB 457

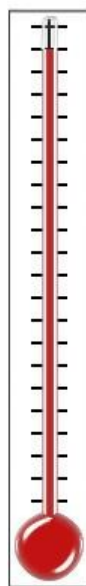
Recessional: ***We depart in silence during Lent***

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 ✠



266,000.00
260,805.33

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 19, 2017

Offertory \$6,201.57
Fuel \$2,057.92

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 26, 2017	Catholic Relief Services & Catholic Home Missions
April 2, 2017	Property Management
April 9, 2017	No Second Collection

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 ✠

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE

12:00 NOON on Tuesday, April 4 is the deadline for announcements to be included in the **April 16 (Easter) bulletin**.

CLEANING PERSON WANTED

An Atkinson couple is looking for a person to clean their condo. If you can help, please contact the Parish Office at 603-382-8324.



VIGIL LIGHT

The Vigil Light in front of the Blessed Mother Icon at Mary Mother of the Church will burn in loving memory of **Joseph D. Gibbs** by his wife Hellen Gibbs



The Sanctuary Candle in Holy Angels Church will burn this week in memory of **Ronald R. Guilbert** by his 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.

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.

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.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

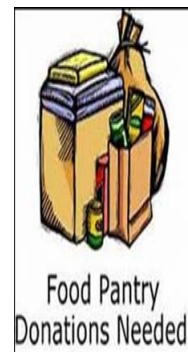
Stations of the Cross will take place each Friday evening during Lent at 6:30 PM in Plaistow. A soup supper will follow Stations on Friday, March 31.

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.

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**.

PRAYER LINE

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

WHILE AWAY THIS SPRING...

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

<u>Sunday, March 26</u>		
9:45 AM	Religious Ed – 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	<i>Plaistow</i>
4:00 PM	Pastoral Council Meeting	<i>Newton</i>
6:00 PM	Vespers	<i>Newton</i>
6:30 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Newton</i>
<u>Monday, March 27</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>
<u>Tuesday, March 28</u>		
9:00 AM	Disciples on the Journey	<i>Plaistow</i>
<u>Wednesday, March 29</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 30</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 31</u>		
6:30 PM	Stations of the Cross & Soup Supper	<i>Plaistow</i>
<u>Saturday, April 1</u>		
3:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Plaistow</i>
<u>Sunday, April 2</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>

St. Vincent de Paul Society



Your "Dropped Dollar" Hard At Work

Thank you for your continued support of the St. Vincent de Paul Society! During the cold winter season, our resources are be put to the test as we try to assist those in need. Please know that your "dropped dollars" are being used wisely to help the poor in our area. Your generosity does not go unnoticed.

Drop-a-Dollar in the St. Vincent de Paul box
on your way out of church.

Remember ~ 100% of your donation is used to help those
who need a hand up, not a hand out.

Our next meeting on **Wednesday, April 19 at 7:00 PM.** We meet downstairs in the Church Hall in Plaistow. **New members are always welcome!**

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 25 ~ Vigil / Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 1-41

4:00 PM Frank Szczapa by Jeannette Wuerdemann
Plaistow

Sunday, March 26 ~ Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 1-41

7:30 AM Eddie Thurnquist by the Lumnah family
Newton

9:00 AM Charles DiPerri by Pam Mierop
Newton

11:00 AM Eleanor Barczak by Jackie Tremblay
Plaistow

Monday, March 27 ~ Lenten Weekday

Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

Tuesday, March 28 ~ Lenten Weekday

Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Plaistow

Wednesday, March 29 ~ Lenten Weekday

Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30

6:30 PM Vicki McEvoy by Ed & Susan Martin
Plaistow

Thursday, March 30 ~ Lenten Weekday

Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

Friday, March 31 ~ Lenten Weekday

Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

No Mass

Saturday, April 1 ~ Lenten Weekday

Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53 (Day)

Ez 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Kevin Gallant (24th Anniversary)
by Patricia Gallant & family
Plaistow

Sunday, April 2 ~ Fifth Sunday of Lent

Ez 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45

7:30 AM People of the Parish
Newton

9:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

11:00 AM Ramon Reyes by Verna Carbone
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.

ANNUAL PRO-LIFE SEMINAR

The annual seminar will be held **Sunday, April 9, from 12:00 NOON – 4:00 PM** at St. Joseph's Cathedral church hall. A free-will offering luncheon will be supplied by the Daughters of Isabella. The deadline to register for this event is Wednesday, April 5, 2017. Please contact Ron DiStasio at 603-595-7837 or rddistasio@comcast.net.

✠ 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** ✠



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. Thank you for your support!

DIOCESAN DAY OF RECONCILIATION

You are invited to join 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, April 10, 2017**. At St. Luke's, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered in **Plaistow from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM** and in **Newton from 5:00 to 7:00 PM**.

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.

**OPEN INVITATION TO JOIN THE
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

The St Jude Council invites the men of the parish to join the Knights of Columbus. We are united in our service to our local communities and our Parish of St Luke's. Our activities are varied and we have a great group of Knights and their families who enjoy being part of our Knights' family. We only ask our Brother Knights to do what they can within the comfort of their own schedule. Our activities include support of St. Luke's Food Pantry, St Jude Golf Open to help families in need, Tootsie Roll Drive to help the mentally and physically challenged, Pro-Life events, Financial Support of three Seminarians, Boy Scouting, Blood Drives, Fundraising Meals, Golf League, Family BBQ, Christmas Party, and many more activities. If you would like more information on the Knights, please contact any of the Knights listed below:

Jeff Lozeau 661-8285
Dan Sullivan 378-0458
Peter Richards 382-4315
Gene Gaudreau 382-4342
Mike Rosa 458-5520
Gordie Lewis 382-8424
Jack Ronan 580-2444
Don Richardson 362-4520
Bernie Gosselin 642-401
Greg Taillon 382-7239
Ed Wencis 362-5783
Joe Klimaszewski 362-9962
Roland Richardson 443-848-3328
Bob Nadeau 617-335-1257



LOOKING FOR A UNIQUE HELPER

The general organization of the Fair requires attention to detail and someone with a friendly manner of reminding people of what they said they would do. Elaine Kindler has been heading the fair 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.

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. Go to www.AmazonSmile.com today and register to start shopping and donating! For questions, please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. Be sure to choose: **St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow**.

SPRING JOB FAIR

Valley Works Career Center is holding their annual spring job fair on **Wednesday, April 12, 2017 from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM** at 96 Milk Street, Methuen, MA. Please check their website for more details at www.valleyworks.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.



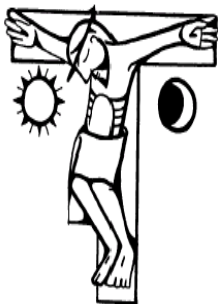
When the Friars of the Franciscan Order took over the care of the Holy Places in Jerusalem in 1342, they began to erect "Stations" in Churches back home in Europe. It was a way to "go" to the Holy Land without ever leaving home. The custom of the Stations quickly spread to parish Churches, and the devotion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

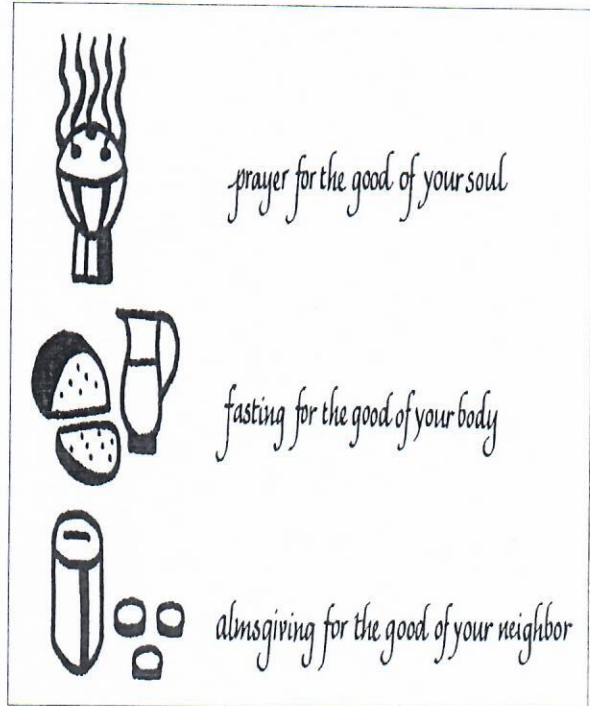


Lenten Space, Silence, & Music

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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



See into Our Hearts

Father Almighty,
you who have blessed our ancestors
and anointed them with the oil of
your Spirit;
who have given your grace and light to
those in need
and guided the hands of our leaders in faith.
See into our hearts today,
and find us ready to receive you,
as you guided Samuel to recognize the
Lord's chosen.
May we open our eyes to see you, and our
hearts to accept you,
and may we find Christ in others as you
guide us.
Teach us to know your ways,
to follow your path,
and to trust in your guidance.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

March 26, 2017

Healing Our Blindness



Today's Readings: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6–7, 10–13a; Psalm 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6; Ephesians 5:8–14; John 9:1–41. The Gospel passage for today tells the story of a man being healed of his blindness. However, the exchanges between the man and Jesus and those among onlookers all reveal the many deeper meanings of this account. To be relieved of blindness in our lives is challenging for us. It is so much easier to continue in blindness than to allow ourselves to be healed. Even at the end of the Gospel passage, some of the Pharisees ask, “Surely we are not also blind, are we?” They may well be revealing our thoughts.

This is the day and the season to ask that question about our blindness, and to find a way to “see.” Find where you are blind, and seek a way to wash away the blindness. Take some time to find where Jesus is pointing out the path to healing for you. Go to the same prayerful space each day,

as did the blind man, and pray and wait. Name your blindness, and in naming, perhaps find ways you can wash it clean. Find another person, as did the witnesses in the Gospel, to discuss this blind spot of yours and do not blame another for your loss of sight.

We are reminded that being blind leaves us in the dark, both literally and figuratively, but also that Jesus is our Light. Jesus tells the blind man to wash in the pool at that moment. It is Jesus who points out that his path is where our blindness might be washed away so that we may see. Often we are not completely healed in one moment, but the revealing light is gradually revealed to us. Lent provides an opportunity to focus more intently on healing our blindness, and seeing more of the Light. As we proceed through Lent, we should pray that our eyes are opened.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 27

Remember When

In today's Gospel passage, John reminds us that we often recognize the truth, the Christ, or God's grace, only after the fact. Jesus leaves Galilee only to return, and yet many are still skeptical. Today, spend time in prayer not only looking forward, but remembering when God's grace was given without notification. Learn to slow down and appreciate the presence of Christ in the things of beauty that you see daily. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 65:17-21; Psalm 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a, 13b; John 4:43-54.*

Tuesday, March 28

Life-Giving Water

Both readings today speak of an abundance of water that is both fruitful and healing. Such is our baptismal water, giving us life again and again, and cleansing us. Throughout Lent, we are reminded that our Baptism continues to be our source of life, health, faith, and spiritual nourishment. In your Lenten prayer space, include a small bowl of baptismal water as a reminder of what your Lenten practices are renewing within you. *Today's Readings: Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; Psalm 46:2-3, 4-5, 8-9; John 5:1-16.*

Wednesday, March 29

Mercy to the Afflicted

Isaiah proclaims a day of salvation that is one of compassion, mercy, pity, and comfort. These are the signs of the Lord's favor. As we proceed through Lent, we should consider the place that compassion and mercy have in our lives. The Lord comforts his people and so must we. Perhaps today you might be more intentional about recognizing the needs of another and responding appropriately. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 49:8-15; Psalm 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; John 5:17-30.*

Thursday, March 30

The Faith of Moses

Today, in all three readings, Exodus, Psalm 106, and John, we hear about the faith and strong belief of Moses. His belief in God saved the people from destruction on more than one occasion. He pleads with the Lord to relent in punishing his stiff-necked people. If only our faith could be that firm, that secure. *Today's Readings: Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 106:19-20, 21-22, 23; John 5:31-47.*

Friday, March 31

A Recompense of Holiness

In today's readings, we hear that the wicked not only are blinded by their evil ways but that they do not know how to recognize God's holiness in their midst. In our fast-paced world, we often miss holiness as well. Consider how holiness has been apparent in, perhaps, a kind word from a store clerk, a gentle hand holding you back from oncoming traffic, or a child putting away the dishes without being asked. How have you let your holiness shine forth to others? *Today's Readings: Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; Psalm 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30.*

Saturday, April 1

Opening Ourselves to Others

In today's Gospel, some are not open to Christ because they have a preconceived idea of who the Messiah will be. Lent is a time for penitence and introspection. We need to consider how often we jump to conclusions about someone without first discovering who they are. The readings today remind us to hear people's stories and consider their situations and experiences. Doing so will open us to their goodness. *Today's Readings: Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12; John 7:40-53.*





Bringing Home the Word



Fourth Sunday of Lent | March 26, 2017

Seeing as God Sees

By Mary Katharine Deeley

“Do you see what I’m saying?” The question came at the end of a difficult conversation about a hurtful remark I’d made. I hadn’t intended it to hurt—I was going for a cheap laugh in a group of people, and I got it. But, as my colleague made clear to me, the laugh came at the expense of her comfort and, to some extent, her dignity.

The very fact that she had to call it to my attention meant that I had not been paying attention. I didn’t “see” her—I saw only myself scoring laugh points with the

seven or eight people we were with. Let’s face it: I was blind to her and to the effect of my words.

In today’s Scriptures, Samuel is chastised for his narrow vision because he believes a king must surely look like Eliab, someone of stature and importance. He saw only what impressed him. He couldn’t look into the heart as God did, so he didn’t see as God did.

The Pharisees, too, are called to account for their own constricted sight, which couldn’t accept that a man born blind might know the presence of God more surely than they ever could. When we’re convinced of our own righteousness and consider ourselves more important than anyone else, we become blind to others and to God.

Today our prayers ask God for holy sight—the grace to see the world and all in it as God sees. Many things can make us blind, but God can open the eyes of our heart if we simply come to him and ask him to help us see. †

Sunday Readings

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6–7, 10–13a

“Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand, anointed [David] in the midst of his brothers.”

Ephesians 5:8–14

“Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth.”

John 9:1–41

“Jesus said to them, ‘If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, “We see,” so your sin remains.’”

*Sometimes we
are blind to the effect
of our words.*

A Word From Pope Francis

We all have within us some areas, some parts of our heart that are not alive, that are a little dead...a true spiritual necrosis! And when we are in this situation, we know it, we want to get out but we can’t. Only the power of Jesus...can help us come out of these atrophied zones of the heart, these tombs of sin, which we all have. We are all sinners...all of us, who are sinners, do not end up attached to sin, but... hear what Jesus said to Lazarus: “He cried out with a loud voice: ‘Lazarus, come out’” (John 11:43).

—Homily,
April 6, 2014



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

ONE QUESTION REFLECTION

- What have I been blind to this Lent?
- How can I begin to see through God’s eyes this Lent?



Just Jesus?

By Kathleen M. Basi

At first blush, the catch phrase “just Jesus” makes a lot of sense. Christianity is, after all, a lifelong pursuit of a relationship with a person—Jesus. That’s the critical thing, and yet it’s easy to get stuck on rules and regulations instead of relationship. As the saying goes, it’s one thing to know about Christ; to actually know him—that’s something different.

On the other hand, relationships walk hand in hand with responsibility. Parents must put their convenience second to

their children’s needs. Spouses must count each other’s well-being as equal to their own. Coworkers must treat each other with respect.

The trouble with the phrase “just Jesus” is that it seems to suggest our actions aren’t really important. But Jesus didn’t just sit on a mountainside telling nice stories. He spent his days healing the sick and offering acceptance, forgiveness, and a new start to people who thought they were beyond salvation. He chose a simple life and the pursuit of God in all things, to the point where he didn’t really have a home or a job or any of the security

human beings crave. He put God’s will first, even when that meant giving up his very life. That was how he built relationships.

Jesus lives within every person, and that means our relationship with every other person is our relationship with Jesus. It’s a whole lot more than a profession of faith or a pious feeling. It’s expressed through what we do. It must shape our words. It must direct every action and decision, from the small (like what to see at the movies) to the life-changing (like natural family planning).†

Source: *Liguorian*,

© March 2014, Liguori Publications

Be More Like the Divine

By Fr. Bruce Lewandowski, CSsR

On news and information services, reporters often refer to terrorists as radicals. This automatically puts *radical* on the list of bad words—but it’s not bad. The difference between extremists and radicals is simple. Radical means to return to the root or origin of something. So a radical Christian would seem very similar to Jesus or a radical Muslim would appear very much like Muhammad. An extremist is one who holds ideas or beliefs that can result in action that is beyond the norm of what is normally expected or acceptable.

Pope Benedict XVI wrote in *Deus*

Caritas Est (2005) that “the Christian who prays does not claim to be able to change God’s plans or correct what he has foreseen. Rather he seeks an encounter with the Father of Jesus Christ.” And still further, “A personal relationship with God and an abandonment to his will can prevent man from being demeaned and save him from falling prey to the teaching of fanaticism and terrorism.” Prayer seeks an encounter. Relationship is the key.

The disciples spent a lot of time with Jesus, and in doing so they began to speak as he spoke and act as he acted. They became Christlike simply by spending time with him. Something of Jesus rubbed off on his followers. People could see Jesus in them. Radical prayer calls us back to this kind of relationship: spending time with Jesus; lingering before the Lord; passing time in the

presence of the Holy One; and staying with him long enough to have something of Jesus rub off on us. Through radical prayer, we start to look, think, and act like the Divine, and others can see something of Jesus in us. †

Source: *Liguorian*,

© March 2015, Liguori Publications



Lord, you are the Word of God that shows me what is good, right, and true. Make me a faithful witness to your Word.


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

WEEKDAY READINGS

March 27–April 1

Mon. Lenten Weekday:
Is 65:17–21 / Jn 4:43–54
Tue. Lenten Weekday:
Ez 47:1–9, 12 / Jn 5:1–16
Wed. Lenten Weekday:
Is 49:8–15 / Jn 5:17–30

Thu. Lenten Weekday:
Ex 32:7–14 / Jn 5:31–47
Fri. Lenten Weekday:
Wis 2:1a, 12–22 / Jn 7:1–2, 10, 25–30
Sat. Lenten Weekday:
Jer 11:18–20 / Jn 7:40–53

Bringing Home
the Word 

March 26, 2017

© 2017 Liguori Publications, One Liguori Drive, Liguori, MO 63057. 1-800-325-9521. Liguori.org.
Scripture quotations in this publication are from *New American Bible*, revised edition,
© 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, DC.
Pope Francis quotation is used with permission and copyright © 2017 *Libreria Editrice Vaticana*.
All rights reserved.