MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY
Sunday, March 1, 2015
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. (2x)

Preparation: From The Depths We Cry To Thee BB 128
Mass Parts: Mass of Christ the Savior BB 923
Communion: Our Blessing Cup BB 323

Recessional: We depart in silence during Lent

9:00 AM

Gathering: Hold Us In Your Mercy
Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 51)

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

Preparation: All My Days BB 597
Mass Parts: Mass of Christ the Savior BB 923
Communion: Our Blessing Cup BB 323

Recessional: We depart in silence during Lent

Visit our website to view our Weekly Church Bulletin and Upcoming Parish Events: http://stlukenh.org

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

WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES
PILGRIMAGE AND PAPAL MASS

The Diocese of Manchester is sponsoring a pilgrimage to the World Meeting of Families to be held in Philadelphia, PA from September 22-27, 2015. Pope Francis will visit Philadelphia and celebrate a public Mass on Sunday, September 27. For information and pilgrimage details, go to the diocesan website at www.catholicnh.org/wmof.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 8th. Remember to turn your clocks ahead 1 hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 7th!

PRAYER LINE

St. Luke’s offers a prayer line as a resource for those seeking prayer assistance. Submit your prayer request to csmith@stluketheevangelist.net or call 382-8324, ext. 314.

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Collection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 1, 2015</td>
<td>Property Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 8, 2015</td>
<td>Catholic Relief Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 15, 2015</td>
<td>Fuel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 22, 2015</td>
<td>Easter Flowers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

PARISH DIRECTORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fr. Albert Tremblay</td>
<td><a href="mailto:fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net">fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cathy Smith</td>
<td><a href="mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net">csmith@stluketheevangelist.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joyce Szczapa</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net">jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackie Tremblay</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jtremlay@stluketheevangelist.net">jtremlay@stluketheevangelist.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Kondel</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net">tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Val Barczak</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mvmbarczak@comcast.net">mvmbarczak@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robin Thompson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rthompson@stluketheevangelist.net">rthompson@stluketheevangelist.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish Council</td>
<td><a href="mailto:parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net">parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
PARISH NEWS

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

ATTENTION ALL EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS, LECTORS, AND ALTAR SERVERS:
It is time to prepare Schedules for March 28 through May 24. (This time period includes Easter services from March 28 to April 5.) If there will be any times at which you cannot serve or when you would really like to serve, Jeanne needs to be notified by March 1st. Contact Jeanne Sullivan at 382-4760 or jmsul@myfairpoint.net. Please remember to include your ministry and Mass time in your message. There will be sign-ups at Church for Holy Week and Easter Liturgies on the weekends of March 7-8 and 14-15. Please let Jeanne know your availability for these services also in case she needs to make phone calls. Thanks, as always.

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

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

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, at St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, invites you to join our Prayer Shawl Ministry! Shawls can be made with yarn, quilt fabric, or fleece. They are filled with prayer, care, and love. They will be given to anyone in need of comfort or solace. If you are interested in prayerful camaraderie and in joining the group, or if you or someone you know is in need of the comfort of one of our shawls, scarves, or crochet crosses contact Barbara Metcalf at 603-642-8334 or cmbklb@yahoo.com.

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 1**
- 9:45 AM Religious Ed, Levels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- 12:00 PM Choir Rehearsal
- 12:00 PM Baptism Catechesis
- 6:00 PM Confirmation I
- 6:00 PM Vespers
- 6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation

**Monday, March 2**
- 4:00 PM Religious Ed, Levels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- 6:30 PM Religious Ed, Levels 6, 7, 8
- 7:30 PM Knights of Columbus

**Tuesday, March 3**
- 9:00 AM Disciples On The Journey
- 7:00 PM Disciples On The Journey

**Wednesday, March 4**
- 9:30 AM Eucharistic Adoration Begins
- 4:15 PM Intercessory Prayer Group
- 7:00 PM Disciples On The Journey
- 9:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration Ends

**Thursday, March 5**
- 8:30 AM Eucharistic Adoration Begins
- 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting
- 1:30 PM Disciples On The Journey
- 7:00 PM Eucharistic Adoration Ends
- 10:30 PM Stations of the Cross
- 7:00 PM Ultreya
- 3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation

**Friday, March 6**
- 9:45 AM Religious Ed, Levels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- 12:00 PM Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 PM Confirmation I
- 6:00 PM Vespers
- 6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation

**Saturday, March 7**
- 9:45 AM Religious Ed, Levels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- 12:00 PM Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 PM Confirmation I
- 6:00 PM Vespers
- 6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation

**Sunday, March 8**
- 9:45 AM Religious Ed, Levels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- 12:00 PM Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 PM Confirmation I
- 6:00 PM Vespers
- 6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation

---

### MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, February 28 ~ Vigil / Second Sunday of Lent**
- Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10
- 4:00 PM Sr. Regina Howard by Joan & Howard Foster

**Sunday, March 1 ~ Second Sunday of Lent**
- Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10
- 4:00 PM Raymond Viles (5th Anniversary) by Tom & Sandra Krajewski
- 9:00 AM Jean Cash by her family
- 11:00 AM Kay Conway by Laurie Herlihy and Eleanor Hanlon

**Monday, March 2 ~ Lenten Weekday**
- Dn 9:4b-10; Lk 6:36-38
- 8:00 AM People of the Parish

**Tuesday, March 3 ~ St. Katharine Drexel**
- Is 1:10, 16-20; Mt 23:1-12
- 8:00 AM Benjamin Zakiewicz (Month’s Mind) by Cathy Smith

**Wednesday, March 4 ~ St. Casimir**
- Jer 18:18-20; Mt 20:17-28
- 6:30 PM Normand Ducharme by Cathy Smith

**Thursday, March 5 ~ Lenten Weekday**
- Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31
- 8:30 AM Sr. Elizabeth Anne Lee, osf by Bonnie & Roy Lajoie

**Friday, March 6 ~ Lenten Weekday**
- Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
- No Mass

**Saturday, March 7 ~ Sts. Perpetua and Felicity**
- Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32 (Daytime)
- Ex 17:3-7; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42 (Vigil)
- 4:00 PM Mary Denman by Joan Lannon

**Sunday, March 8 ~ Third Sunday of Lent**
- Ex 17:3-7; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42
- 7:30 AM David Ham by Mick and Susan Swanwick
- 9:00 AM People of the Parish
- 11:00 AM Susan Bouchard by her husband and family

---

**In Loving Memory**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

**Sister Elizabeth Anne Lee, osf**

---

**St. Vincent de Paul Society**

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.

If you’d like to join the St. Vincent de Paul Society and help us help the poor and needy, please come to our next meeting on **Wednesday, March 18th at 7:00 PM**. We meet downstairs in the Holy Angels 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.
**FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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 is available immediately after Evening Prayer each Sunday of the Lenten Season.

**PARENTS BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION**
The monthly preparation session for infant Baptism will be held after the 11:00 AM Liturgy on Sunday, March 1st in the Parish Office living room. All parents planning to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism are welcome.

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

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

**ULTREYA**
Come join us on Friday, March 6, 2015 at 7:00 PM in the Church Hall for Ultreya. The format of the Ultreya is designed to create an atmosphere of sharing with each other our life as a Christian and witnessing to each other how Christ is working through us in our families, neighborhood, and other environments. The Ultreya provides the ongoing conversion process that started in the three-day Cursillo weekend. If you have any questions about Ultreya or Cursillo, please contact Cathy Smith at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net or call 382-8324.

**ADULT CONFIRMATION**
Are you an adult who has been Baptized and received Eucharist, but has not celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation? The adult Confirmation process is an opportunity to complete the Sacraments of Initiation. If you would like to prepare for Confirmation, or if you have any questions, contact Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.
OUT OF RESPECT, PLEASE REMEMBER TO SILENCE OR TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONES DURING MASS. THANK YOU!

YOUTH AND PARISH NEWS

COLD AND FLU SEASON
Feeling a little sniffle coming on? Everyone should have a sense of prudence about safe health practices at all times of the year. If someone is truly ill, the obligation to participate in Sunday Liturgy does not apply. Those who are sick should refrain from receiving from the cup at communion—remembering that the Risen Lord is truly and completely present in both the host and cup. While precautions and practices are a necessary part of the cold and flu season, it’s always important to be reasonable and prudent when we are ill. Our care for each other also extends to making sure everyone is attended to in the best way possible.

And remember… bed rest and chicken soup can sometimes be a “sacramental” experience!

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

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE
On March 18 at 7:00 PM, St. Thomas Aquinas High School welcomes prospective students and their families to visit its center of educational excellence. The curriculum at St. Thomas Aquinas is rich and deep, preparing students for life beyond high school. With high expectations, students are challenged to become the best version of themselves. They are inspired to think independently, to debate confidently, and to communicate effectively. They are provided support and encouragement to meet these expectations and are nurtured in an environment that will transform their lives spiritually, academically, and socially. By challenging, supporting and transforming each student, St. Thomas Aquinas prepares each student for success both in school and in life. During Open House, families will have an opportunity to tour the campus, meet with current students, interact with faculty members and dialogue with members of the greater St. Thomas Aquinas community. For more information, visit STA at www.stalux.org or call (603) 742-3206.

ST. LUCY THE EVANGELIST YOUTH MINISTRY SATURDAY FUN NIGHT
Youth Grades 6 thru 12 are invited to come hang out, share a meal, have some fun, meet new friends and get a little closer to God.
We meet the second Saturday of every month (September-May), starting at 5:00 in the Holy Angels Church Gym.
We ask that you bring a non-perishable food item to help support the food pantry.

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

STEUBENVILLE EAST YOUTH CONFERENCE
It's time to register for the Steubenville East Youth Conference. The dynamic Steubenville East weekend is full of opportunities to strengthen teens’ relationship with God, bond as a group, and exalt our Savior. This year's Steubenville Youth Conference will take place at the Tsongas Center at UMASS Lowell on the weekend of July 17 – 19, 2015 and is available to youth entering grades 9 -12. To learn more about the conference, please visit: http://lifeteen.com/events/steubenville-east/. Registration forms are available at the back of the church.

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
As people we hunger to mark our passages into new realms in ways that celebrate and reclaim true identity.

The process of initiation, the journey of conversion, has its own markers and milestones... memory maps of the sacramental tradition found in Catholicism.

Election and welcome speaks loud and clear, “You are embraced in love!”  
- Carol Gura

PRAY FOR OUR ELECT

Lauren Parson  
Hanna Williams  
Marissa Wise  
Skyla Wise

PRAY FOR OUR CANDIDATES

Catherine O’Brien

PRAY FOR OUR CANDIDATE FOR CONFIRMATION AND EUCHARIST

Zakkary Castellano
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>8 am</td>
<td>Newton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>8 am</td>
<td>Plaistow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Plaistow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>8 am</td>
<td>Newton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Praying the Stations of the Cross

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

Baptismal Font and Holy Water Font

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

Lenten Space, Silence, & Music

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

FASTING

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

ABSTINENCE

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

EASTER PRECEPT

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

PRAYER AND ALMSGIVING

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

MARRIAGE IN THE CHURCH
Did you know that ALL Catholics are required to be married in the Church as a condition of the validity of their marriage?

Any Catholic married in a civil ceremony (JP) or in any religious ceremony other than a Catholic one (unless specifically excepted by the Bishop) is not living out the Sacrament of Marriage in its fullness according to the teaching of the Church. Contact Father Albert at the parish office for more information.

The Pregnancy Care Center
The Pregnancy Care Center is a non-profit organization that offers its confidential services at no cost to its clients. We are committed to promoting the culture of life by assisting expectant parents in the birth and subsequent development of their child during his or her first year of life. We are also committed to helping young people embrace the virtues of chastity and continence as a sign of their Christian dignity.

Main Center
496 Main St., Haverhill, MA (978-373-5700)
www.pccnortheast.org
Helpline: 866-254-4440

STAY INFORMED WITH
FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP NEWS
The Diocese of Manchester wants to inform Catholics about important public policy matters facing our elected officials. Faithful Citizenship News provides briefs on legislation as well as information about Catholic social teaching on some of today’s pressing issues. To read the current issue of Faithful Citizenship News and to subscribe, visit www.catholicnh.org/fcnews.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELING
New Hampshire Catholic Charities provides individual, marital, family, and couples' counseling, helping people with a variety of personal difficulties, including: Depression, Stress, Family Conflicts, Relationship Problems, Anxiety, Substance Abuse, Life Adjustment Issues, Grief and Loss. Counseling also helps individuals and families strengthen communication skills in order to build and sustain healthy relationships and live more satisfying lives. A sliding scale fee is offered. Contact Arlene Dody, LCMHC in Salem at 603-893-1971 for more information.

HOW TO MAKE A REPORT OF SEXUAL ABUSE
Child sexual abuse is a crime in the State of New Hampshire and the Church. New Hampshire law requires that anyone who has reason to suspect that a child is being or has been abused or neglected must make a report to the Division for Children, Youth & Families (“DCYF”) of the State of New Hampshire, 1-800-894-5533. Any person who suspects or alleges child abuse on the part of a priest, deacon, employee, or volunteer of a parish, school, or institution of the diocese of Manchester is also encouraged to make a report to the Office for Ministerial Conduct, 603-669-3100. Church personnel – clergy, paid employees, and volunteers – have additional reporting requirements if they believe that Church personnel have sexually abused a child. You can learn more about these reporting requirements on the diocesan website at www.catholicnh.org or by speaking with our Parish Safe Environment Coordinator, Cathy Smith at 382-8324.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER
Don’t you and your spouse deserve a beautiful, romantic weekend away together? Get away from all those worldly anxieties and take time to just focus on each other by making a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. Deepen your communication, strengthen your relationship, rekindle your romance, and renew your sacrament by attending the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend in New England. For more information, call Ralph & Jane Becker at 1-800-710-9963 or visit www.wwme.org.

RETROUVAILLE…A Lifeline
Rediscover a loving marriage with a Retrouvaille weekend. If your marriage is tearing the two of you apart, if there is little or no meaningful communication, if you are considering separation or divorce, we believe Retrouvaille can help you. For more information, call 1-800-470-2230 or visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com.

SUPPORT FOR DIVORCED AND SEPARATED
Divorce and separation can be painful experiences. Support groups are available to those who are seeking healing, comfort, and empowerment. Visit www.catholicnh.org/support for a listing of groups.

STAY INFORMED WITH
FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP NEWS
The Diocese of Manchester wants to inform Catholics about important public policy matters facing our elected officials. Faithful Citizenship News provides briefs on legislation as well as information about Catholic social teaching on some of today’s pressing issues. To read the current issue of Faithful Citizenship News and to subscribe, visit www.catholicnh.org/fcnews.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELING
New Hampshire Catholic Charities provides individual, marital, family, and couples' counseling, helping people with a variety of personal difficulties, including: Depression, Stress, Family Conflicts, Relationship Problems, Anxiety, Substance Abuse, Life Adjustment Issues, Grief and Loss. Counseling also helps individuals and families strengthen communication skills in order to build and sustain healthy relationships and live more satisfying lives. A sliding scale fee is offered. Contact Arlene Dody, LCMHC in Salem at 603-893-1971 for more information.

HOW TO MAKE A REPORT OF SEXUAL ABUSE
Child sexual abuse is a crime in the State of New Hampshire and the Church. New Hampshire law requires that anyone who has reason to suspect that a child is being or has been abused or neglected must make a report to the Division for Children, Youth & Families (“DCYF”) of the State of New Hampshire, 1-800-894-5533. Any person who suspects or alleges child abuse on the part of a priest, deacon, employee, or volunteer of a parish, school, or institution of the diocese of Manchester is also encouraged to make a report to the Office for Ministerial Conduct, 603-669-3100. Church personnel – clergy, paid employees, and volunteers – have additional reporting requirements if they believe that Church personnel have sexually abused a child. You can learn more about these reporting requirements on the diocesan website at www.catholicnh.org or by speaking with our Parish Safe Environment Coordinator, Cathy Smith at 382-8324.
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Today’s Readings: Genesis 22:1–2, 9a, 10–13, 15–18; Psalm 116:10, 15, 16–17, 18–19 (116:9); Romans 8:31b–34; Mark 9:2–10. We see in the reading from Genesis that Abraham is directed to offer Isaac as a holocaust, but as he is about to slaughter his son, an angel stops him. God is pleased that Abraham trusts in the Lord enough that he would put to death his only son. God’s love is such that he does not demand that Abraham make such a sacrifice.

In the Second Reading, we hear again of God’s love and of trust in that love. Paul tells the Romans, “If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else?” Paul relates the trustworthiness of God, who sacrificed his Son for us. Why would we not trust the one who gave so much for us? Are you acquainted with anyone who is more worthy of your trust?

The reaction of Apostles Peter, James, and John to the Transfiguration is similar to how we respond to great events in our lives. They have seen a vision of Elijah, who represents the prophets; of Moses, who represents the Law; and Jesus, who is the fulfillment of the Law and the prophets. In awe of this vision, they want to build tents and stay on the mountain. We, too, desire to stay with our mountaintop experiences. However, we need to move on and tend to our responsibilities in our work and family lives. But it is in those places that we can ponder the dying and the risings throughout our life.

Prayer for Increased Faith
Lord our God,
because Abraham acted in faith and obedience
you blessed him abundantly with descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore.
Stir our faith in you, so that we will not shirk when obedience to your call is difficult.

May we be transformed through faith, and be willing to acclaim your glory and majesty, even when we suffer trials and it seems you are putting us to the test.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.
THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 2, 2015
Mercy and Forgiveness

“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” Again in today’s Gospel we see that we are to act as God acts. We are not to show the kind of mercy that a secular judge would. Our model is the One to whom the reading from Daniel acclaims “mercy and forgiveness” belong. Make a mental note this week whenever you are inclined to judge another. Remind yourself of this Gospel passage and seek to dispel the judgment. As you continue this practice, you may find yourself becoming more merciful. Today’s Readings: Daniel 9:4b–10; Psalm 79:8, 9, 11 and 13 (103:10a); Luke 6:36–38.

Tuesday, March 3, 2015
St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin

Katharine Drexel (1858–1955), the patroness of racial justice, was brought up in an upper-class family that opened their home to the poor. As a young woman interested in the needs of Native Americans, she was encouraged by her bishop and Pope Leo XIII to form a missionary order of nuns. The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament established twelve schools for Native Americans and fifty for African Americans, among them the teachers’ college that became Xavier University of Louisiana. Today’s Readings: Isaiah 1:10, 16–20; Psalm 50:8–9, 16bc–17, 21 and 23 (23b); Matthew 23:1–12.

Wednesday, March 4, 2015
St. Casimir

St. Casimir (1458–1483) is the patron of Poland and Lithuania. This son of the king of Poland was called “the Peacemaker” and “Defender of the Poor” during his young life. Uninterested in life as a prince, he lived modestly, devoting much of his day to prayer. He gave away much of his wealth to the poor and also interceded on their behalf with his father. Casimir seemed to understand the phrase in today’s Gospel, “whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant.” Today’s Readings: Jeremiah 18:18–20; Psalm 31:5–6, 14, 15–16 (17b); Matthew 20:17–28.

Thursday, March 5, 2015
Dependence on God

Upon hearing the story of Lazarus and the rich man that Jesus tells in today’s Gospel, we might initially think that the main focus is on compassion for the poor. While that is part of the story, there is more to it. The rich man has ignored the beggar’s cries, but he also has ignored God until he is left suffering in hell. Had the rich man depended on God while alive, he would have paid attention to the poor man. How does your life suffer when you refuse to bring God into it? Today’s Readings: Jeremiah 17:5–10; Psalm 1:1–2, 3, 4 and 6 (40:5a); Luke 16:19–31.

Friday, March 6, 2015
Coworkers in the Vineyard

In today’s parable, we may be overwhelmed that the wicked tenants killed the servants and then the landowner’s son; however, this parable is about more than murderous tenants. As disciples, we have been called to labor in the Lord’s vineyard. As the 2005 US bishops’ document states, “The Risen Lord calls everyone to labor in his vineyard, that is, in a world that must be transformed in view of the final coming of the Reign of God” (p. 1). Each of us must be mindful to do God’s work in the world. Today’s Readings: Genesis 37:3–4, 12–13a, 17b–28a; Psalm 105:16–17, 18–19, 20–21 (5a); Matthew 21:33–43, 45–46.

Saturday, March 7, 2015
Sts. Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs

Perpetua, a mother of an infant son and chronicler of the persecution of Christians, and Felicity, a slave woman and expectant mother, were both killed by beasts in a public arena with a crowd watching. These holy women, who died around the year 203, heeded the Lord’s call and stood firm in the faith. That they would be killed for their faith did not deter their resolve to live as Christians. What challenges do you face as a Christian? Today’s Readings: Micah 7:14–15, 18–20; Psalm 103:1–2, 3–4, 9–10, 11–12 (8a); Luke 15:1–3, 11–32.
God Is “For” Us

By Janel Esker

What does it mean to be “for” someone? We’re often “for” a particular sports team (mine happens to be the St. Louis Cardinals—go Redbirds!), declaring our allegiance by wearing team jerseys, sporting logo-embroidered hats or even painting our faces or bodies. We can be “for” a specific political candidate, displaying signs in our yard. Usually when we’re “for” someone or something, we’re against someone or something else.

Yet when a pregnant woman monitors everything she eats, drinks, or takes into her body because it will affect her unborn child, isn’t she “for” this baby? When an after-school tutor spends extra time ensuring a student understands his math homework, isn’t he “for” this young man? There’s no competition, no race to the finish. It’s simply someone pouring forth and living selflessly for someone else.

So when we hear Saint Paul claim in today’s second reading that “God is for us,” we should take pause and recognize the power of this truth. The almighty God, Lord of all the universe, is for us. Us sinners. Us frail, broken humans. God wants to give selflessly to us and to unceasingly pour out love to us. God’s most profound gift is revealed in today’s Gospel through Jesus’ transfiguration. We, like the disciples, are awed at Jesus’ glorious nature, and we are given a glimpse of our own transfiguration in eternal life. Our God is so “for” us that he has transformed our death and given us the precious gift of eternal life.

With this vision of glory always before us, our Lenten journey can be one of deep trust in God. Saint Paul said it best: “If God is for us, who can be against us?” We truly have nothing to fear.

Sunday Readings

Genesis 22:1–2, 9–13, 15–18
Accepting God’s “test,” Abraham offers Isaac’s life. But before any harm is done, God relents, provides a ram for the sacrifice, and blesses Abraham with a nation of descendants.

Romans 8:31–34
Paul reminds us that in the incarnation, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God shows his unconditional love for us and confirms his promise to provide for our salvation.

Mark 9:2–10
On a mountain with Peter, James, and John, Jesus is transfigured and appears in glory with Elijah and Moses. A voice declares, “This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.”

A competition often is occurring. Yet when a pregnant woman monitors everything she eats, drinks, or takes into her body because it will affect her unborn child, isn’t she “for” this baby? When an after-school tutor spends extra time ensuring a student understands his math homework, isn’t he “for” this young man? There’s no competition, no race to the finish. It’s simply someone pouring forth and living selflessly for someone else.

So when we hear Saint Paul claim in today’s second reading that “God is for us,” we should take pause and recognize the power of this truth. The almighty God, Lord of all the universe, is for us. Us sinners. Us frail, broken humans. God wants to give selflessly to us and to unceasingly pour out love to us. God’s most profound gift is revealed in today’s Gospel through Jesus’ transfiguration. We, like the disciples, are awed at Jesus’ glorious nature, and we are given a glimpse of our own transfiguration in eternal life. Our God is so “for” us that he has transformed our death and given us the precious gift of eternal life.

With this vision of glory always before us, our Lenten journey can be one of deep trust in God. Saint Paul said it best: “If God is for us, who can be against us?” We truly have nothing to fear.

Reflection Questions

• Which individuals, groups, causes, and values am I “for”?

• Is my faith founded on the freedom that springs from Christ’s resurrection?

Prayer

Lord, you watch over me and love me as your child. Help me to see all people as your children and treat them with gentleness, love, and respect.

—Mindful Meditations for Every Day of Lent and Easter, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney
The Redeemer, Mary, and You
By Fr. Matthew Allman, CSsR

The month of March will be spent settling into Lent, this season of conversion. Our parishes will be accompanying our RCIA candidates and catechumens, the elect, as they ramp up their preparations for the Easter Vigil and full acceptance into the Church. In our homes, offices, and schools we’ll be attempting to live out whatever we have taken on as our particular Lenten discipline.

For some of us, that discipline might take a classic, penitential form as we fast and lay off the sweets; for others, it might take the shape of a newer practice of prayerful meditation, daily Mass-going, or help with a charity where we can engage in hands-on giving.

No matter what we do during Lent, we are not doing it alone. This season of preparation and conversion reassures us of company on our journey and a sense of companionship as our Christian community prepares for renewal and rebirth in the baptismal water of Easter.

If Lent is a privileged period of growth in discipleship, then Mary is an ideal Lenten companion. We do well to invite her into our lives and to recognize that she is already in our midst. This is particularly true as we celebrate the Marian feast of the Annunciation on March 25.

Mary’s willing “yes” to God’s plan and her openness to the confusion and adventure of discipleship set a tone for all of us brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, who follow after her. At the word of the angel, she makes room for Christ to take flesh and be borne within her. Perhaps it can be part of our Lenten prayer that the season will help us to do the same, becoming God-bearers for our world even as we approach the Easter font to be reborn ourselves.

The Marian feast of the Annunciation takes place this year on March 25.

Questions People Ask: Fish versus Meat
By Fr. Paul Borowski, CSsR

Who decided fish doesn’t constitute meat for Catholics? –Shirley

Dear Shirley,

Latin is the official language of the Catholic Church. Canon law as written in Latin says we must abstain from carne (“meat”), a word that refers to warm-blooded animals that walk on the ground. By that definition, fish are allowed.

As we enter the season of Lent, we must remember that our acts of penance should be more than thinking about just giving something up—like meat. Our fasting needs to lead us to a closer relationship with God than just being a time of sacrifice.

The Committee on Pastoral Practices of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops published a wonderful pamphlet titled Penitential Practices for Today’s Catholics. It says, “By fasting and self-denial, by living lives of moderation, we have more energy to devote to God’s purposes and a better self-esteem that helps us to be more concerned with the well-being of others. Voluntary fasting from food creates in us a greater openness to God’s Spirit and deepens our compassion for those who are forced to go without food. The discomfort brought about by fasting unites us to the sufferings of Christ. Fasting should bring to mind the sufferings of all those for whom Christ suffered.”

Tue. St. Katharine Drexel:
Isaiah 1:10, 16–20 / Matthew 23:1–12
Wed. St. Casimir:
Jeremiah 18:18–20 / Matthew 20:17–28
Fri. Genesis 37:3–4, 12–13, 17–28 /
Matthew 21:33–43, 45–46
Sat. Sts. Perpetua and Felicity:
Micah 7:14–15, 18–20 /