



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, February 11, 2018
Sixth Sunday In
Ordinary Time

4:00 PM
8:00 AM

Gathering: Gather Us In BB 303

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 63)

*I will lift up my eyes at the name of
the one who knows me well.*

Preparation 'Tis The Gift To Be Simple BB 517

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion: Our Love Released BB 360
Bread For The World BB 351

Recessional: Alleluia, Alleluia BB 166

10:00 AM

Gathering: All Are Welcome BB 415

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 103)

The Lord is kind and merciful. (2x)

Preparation Prayer Of St. Francis BB 523
We Are The Light Of The World
BB 597

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion: Spirit And Grace BB 347
The Cry Of The Poor BB 620

Recessional: Alleluia, Alleluia BB 166



Find us on:
facebook®

St. Luke the Evangelist is now on Facebook! Go to www.facebook.com/stlukenh.org/ or **St. Luke the Evangelist Parish – Newton/Plaistow** and give us a Like! Please invite fellow parishioners and friends to do the same.

✠ PARISH TITHING ✠

Our Parish needs to take in \$7,000.00 each week in order to make ends meet. Thank you for your generosity to our parish! Your weekly contribution helps ensure that the parish remains a vibrant community. Please remember to submit your weekly gift even if you will be away. We depend upon your support!

February 4, 2018

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Offertory | \$6,791.59 |
| Property Management | \$1,769.02 |
| Souper Bowl Collection | \$ 829.00 |

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

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| February 11, 2018 | Catholic Schools |
| February 14, 2018 | Aid to Churches in Central / Eastern Europe and Africa |



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

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 |

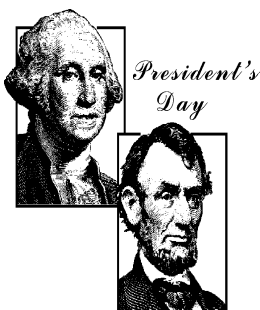
Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on a Percentage Increase

| 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 ✠

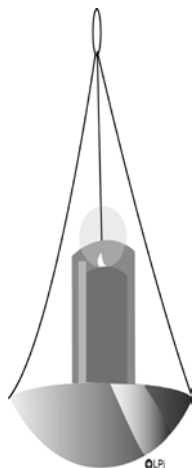
PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

In observance of the Presidents' Day Holiday, the **Parish Office will be closed on Monday, February 19.** The Office will reopen on Tuesday, February 20 at 8:30 AM.



FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

If you would like an "end of year" financial statement of your contributions to the parish for 2017, please call the Parish Office at 382-8324. **Financial Statements are issued on a request only basis.**



The Sanctuary Candle in Holy Angels Church will burn this week in loving memory of
Paul O'Leary
by Colleen and Mark Hammond

The Sanctuary Candle in Mary, Mother of the Church will burn this week
In Thanksgiving For Answered Prayer

From the Pastor's Desk



HOLY ANGELS CEMETERY CLOSED

Holy Angels Cemetery in Plaistow is now closed until Spring 2018. This decision comes as result of 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



THE ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT AND CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH

Our Parish community continues with our Capital Campaign to replace roofs on the Plaistow campus, and to raise funds to complete other projects in Newton and in Plaistow. Our three-year goal is to raise \$250,000.00. Besides the Plaistow roofs, we would like to accomplish the following projects: Plaistow church access ramp, Plaistow office building & convent window replacement, Newton rectory interior flooring, Newton church lighting and painting, Newton rectory painting as funds become available.

How can you help?

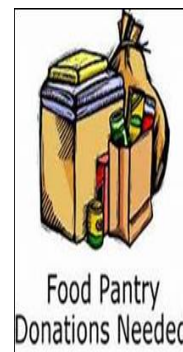
Any contribution is welcome.

Make checks payable to

Saint Luke the Evangelist - Capital Campaign.

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.

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, February 11

Prepare Churches for Lent after Masses

| | | |
|----------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 10:00 AM | Religious Education – Pre-K to 8 | <i>Plaistow</i> |
| 11:00 AM | NO Confirmation Session | <i>Plaistow</i> |
| 11:00 AM | RCIA | <i>Plaistow</i> |
| 11:00 AM | Disciples On The Journey | <i>Plaistow</i> |

Tuesday, February 13

| | | |
|---------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 9:00 AM | Disciples On The Journey | <i>Plaistow</i> |
|---------|--------------------------|-----------------|

Wednesday, February 14

HOLY ANGELS CHURCH

OPEN ALL DAY FOR PRAYER

| | | |
|---------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 7:00 PM | Disciples On The Journey | <i>Plaistow</i> |
|---------|--------------------------|-----------------|

Thursday, February 15

| | | |
|---------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 8:30 AM | 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 | Adoration Ends | <i>Newton</i> |

Friday, February 16

| | | |
|---------|-----------------------|---------------|
| 6:30 PM | Stations of the Cross | <i>Newton</i> |
|---------|-----------------------|---------------|

Saturday, February 17

| | | |
|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 3:00 PM | Sacrament of Reconciliation | <i>Plaistow</i> |
|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------|

Sunday, February 18

| | | |
|----------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 10:00 AM | Religious Education – Pre-K to 8 | <i>Plaistow</i> |
| 11:00 AM | Confirmation Session | <i>Plaistow</i> |
| 11:00 AM | RCIA | <i>Plaistow</i> |
| 11:00 AM | Disciples On The Journey | <i>Plaistow</i> |
| 6:00 PM | Vespers | <i>Newton</i> |
| 6:30 PM | Sacrament of Reconciliation | <i>Newton</i> |

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, February 10 ~ Vigil / 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lv 13:1-2, 44-46; 1 Cor 10:31—11:1; Mk 1:40-45

| | | |
|---------|--|-----------------|
| 4:00 PM | William Martin Lewis (10 th Anniversary) and Alicia Dinesco by the Lewis family | <i>Plaistow</i> |
|---------|--|-----------------|

Sunday, February 11 ~ Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lv 13:1-2, 44-46; 1 Cor 10:31—11:1; Mk 1:40-45

| | | |
|----------|--|-----------------|
| 8:00 AM | Ann Sullivan (1 st Anniversary) by her family | <i>Newton</i> |
| 10:00 AM | Kyle DiPerri by his family | <i>Plaistow</i> |

Monday, February 12 ~ Weekday

Jas 1:1-11; Mk 8:11-13

| | | |
|---------|--|---------------|
| 8:00 AM | Frank "Dick" Keefe by his wife, Sandra | <i>Newton</i> |
|---------|--|---------------|

Tuesday, February 13 ~ Weekday

Jas 1:12-18; Mk 8:14-21

| | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| 8:00 AM | Lorraine Laurin (Month's Mind) | <i>Plaistow</i> |
|---------|--------------------------------|-----------------|

Wednesday, February 14 ~ Ash Wednesday

Jl 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20—6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

| | | |
|---------|---|-----------------|
| 8:00 AM | People of the Parish | <i>Newton</i> |
| 6:30 PM | Edward Whittaker by Ed and Susan Martin | <i>Plaistow</i> |

Thursday, February 15 ~ Thursday after Ash Wednesday

Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25

| | | |
|---------|---|---------------|
| 8:00 AM | Sr. Elizabeth Anne Lee by her sister, Nancy | <i>Newton</i> |
|---------|---|---------------|

Friday, February 16 ~ Friday after Ash Wednesday

Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15

No Mass

Saturday, February 17 ~ The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

Is 58:9b-14; Lk 5:17-32 (Day)

Gn 9:8-15; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15 (Vigil)

| | | |
|---------|--|-----------------|
| 4:00 PM | Paul O'Leary by Colleen and Mark Hammond | <i>Plaistow</i> |
|---------|--|-----------------|

Sunday, February 18 ~ First Sunday of Lent

Gn 9:8-15; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15

| | | |
|----------|--|-----------------|
| 8:00 AM | Yvette Mayrand by Janice Bettencourt | <i>Newton</i> |
| 10:00 AM | Everett and Mark Burke by their family | <i>Plaistow</i> |

**St. Vincent
de Paul
Society**



The generosity of your contributions have allowed us to help out those in need with rent, medical, and heating oil assistance. The St. Vincent de Paul Society is so grateful and blessed.

Our next meeting on **Wednesday, February 21 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.**

PRAYER LINE

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

✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠

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.

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 10:00 AM Liturgy on **Sunday, March 4, 2018** 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.

ATTENTION ALL EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS, LECTORS, AND ALTAR SERVERS:

It is time to prepare Ministry Schedules for **March through May 2018** (this includes Easter liturgies from Palm Sunday, March 25 to Easter Sunday, April 1, for which there will be sign-up sheets).

If there are any times at which you cannot serve or when you would really like to serve, Jeanne needs to be notified by **February 12**.

Contact **Jeanne Sullivan** at 382-4760 or jmsul@myfairpoint.net.

Please remember to include your ministry and Mass time in your message. Please **contact Jeanne** and **NOT Jackie** because Jackie will just have to forward your email to Jeanne.

Please let Jeanne know your availability and desires for the Easter liturgies in case she needs to make phone calls.

Thanks, as always, for your help.

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.

**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.

The Church in Plaistow is open all day on Wednesdays for people to stop by and pray before the presence of Jesus in the tabernacle.

✠ 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 | music@stluketheevangelist.net |
| Youth Ministry | youth@stluketheevangelist.net |
| Parish Council | parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net |

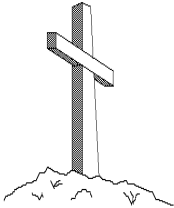
✠ Parish News ~ Youth News ~ Around The Diocese ✠



In Loving Memory

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

Elizabeth Shea



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will take place each Friday evening during Lent at 6:30 PM in Newton. A soup supper will follow Stations on Friday, March 23.

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.



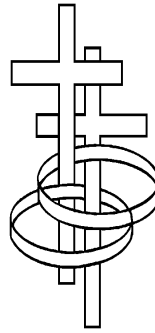
HELP WANTED TO PUT AWAY CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

With Lent fast approaching, volunteers are welcome to help prepare the churches on **Sunday, February 11 following the 8:00 AM Liturgy in Newton and the 10:00 AM Liturgy in Plaistow**. Our tasks include taking down our Christmas decorations and some light clean up of the churches in preparation for the Lenten season. All are welcome to lend a hand – our work usually lasts just over an hour if we have all the help we can muster! Please contact the Parish Office for more information – or just stay after Mass!

DIOCESAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

The Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Manchester are currently registering students for the 2018-2019 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.

ST. LUKE'S WEBSITE! <http://stlukenh.org>



WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

The Church celebrates World Marriage Day on the weekend of **February 10-11, 2018** and the faith commitment of countless couples living out the sacrament of Marriage. At the conclusion of all Liturgies that weekend, married couples will be invited to renew their own wedding vows. Please pray for those married among us, and remember those preparing to be married as well.



JOIN THE CHOIR FOR EASTER

Have you ever wanted to "lift your voice in song" to God, especially at Easter time? Can you spare a couple of hours on Tuesday nights? Why not join the adult choir for Easter this year? No previous experience or special skills are required! We will be rehearsing on **Tuesday nights at 7:00 PM, beginning on February 13** and continuing through Holy Week. This is a short-term commitment and is a great way to experience a new ministry. For more information, contact Val Barczak, Parish Music Director, at mvmbarczak@comcast.net.

DISCIPLES ON THE JOURNEY


Disciples On The Journey offers downloads for families and teens. For more information, go to www.disciplesonthejourney.org

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 longstanding 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.** In the event of a weather related closing, the scheduled weekday Liturgy will not be held and the intention (if any) will be moved to a conveniently available date. **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.**

Zeit 2018

Daily Mass Readings and
Reflections for the Sacred Season

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|---|
| <p>If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.</p> <p>— Luke 9:23</p> | | | <p>14 Reconciled to God</p> <p>God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself.</p> <p>2 Cor 5:20—6:2</p> | <p>15 Choose Life</p> <p>Love the Lord your God; obey his voice.</p> <p>Dt 30:15-20</p> | <p>16 Choose This Fast</p> <p>Share your bread; bring the homeless into shelter.</p> <p>Is 58:1-9</p> | <p>17 Answer Me, O Lord</p> <p>Be gracious to me and hear my prayer.</p> <p></p> <p>Ps 86:1-6</p> |
| <p>18 Repent and Believe</p> <p>The time is fulfilled; repent and believe the gospel.</p> <p>Mk 1:12-15</p> | <p>19 Inherit the Kingdom</p> <p>To serve the least of these is to serve the King.</p> <p>Mt 25:31-46</p> | <p>20 Forgive Our Debts</p> <p>Forgive us our debts as we have been forgiven.</p> <p>Mt 6:7-15</p> | <p>21 Receive Forgiveness</p> <p>Repent of your sins and receive Jesus' forgiveness.</p> <p>Lk 11:29-32</p> | <p>22 Who Is Jesus?</p> <p>Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.</p> <p>Mt 16:13-19</p> | <p>23 I Cry to You, Lord</p> <p>Lord, hear my cries for mercy and forgive my sins.</p> <p>Ps 130:1-8</p> | <p>24 The Lord's Treasure</p> <p>You are holy to the Lord, his treasured possession.</p> <p>Dt 26:16-19</p> |
| <p>25 God Is for Us</p> <p>Jesus intercedes for us at the right hand of God.</p> <p>Rom 8:31-34</p> | <p>26 Do Not Judge Others</p> <p>Judge not, and you will not be judged; forgive others.</p> <p>Lk 6:36-38</p> | <p>27 Christ, Our Teacher</p> <p>The exalted will be humbled, the humble exalted.</p> <p>Mt 23:1-12</p> | <p>28 In God's Hands</p> <p>Commit your spirit into the hands of your faithful Lord.</p> <p>Ps 31:5-6, 14-16</p> | <p>1 Christ Will Rise</p> <p>Moses and the prophets foretell Christ's resurrection.</p> <p>Lk 16:19-31</p> | <p>2 Raised to Lordship</p> <p>As Joseph was raised up to rule in Egypt, Jesus will be exalted.</p> <p>Ps 105:16-21</p> | <p>3 God Delights in Love</p> <p>God will cast our sins into the depths of the sea.</p> <p>Mi 7:14-15, 18-20</p> |
| <p>4 Christ Died for Us</p> <p>While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.</p> <p>Rom 5:1-2, 5-8</p> | <p>5 Made Clean</p> <p>God heals and restores; trust his promises.</p> <p>2 Kgs 5:1-15</p> | <p>6 Have Mercy</p> <p>Show mercy to others as God has shown mercy to you.</p> <p>Mt 18:21-35</p> | <p>7 God Is Near</p> <p>God is near to us and hears us when we call to him.</p> <p>Dt 4:1, 5-9</p> | <p>8 Sing to the Lord</p> <p>Let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker.</p> <p>Ps 95:1-2, 6-9</p> | <p>9 Love the Lord</p> <p>Love the Lord with all your soul, mind and strength.</p> <p>Mk 12:28-34</p> | <p>10 Return to the Lord</p> <p>God will heal us; on the third day, he will raise us up.</p> <p>Hos 6:1-6</p> |

SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST
LENT - EASTER LITURGICAL SCHEDULE
2018

THE BEGINNING OF THE LENTEN FAST **FEBRUARY 14**
ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY 8 am & 6:30 pm

LENTEN SEASON
DAILY LITURGIES:

M 8 am Newton
T 8 am Plaistow
W 6:30 pm Plaistow
Th 8 am Newton

RECONCILIATION: Plaistow: Saturdays 3:00 pm (except Holy Saturday); Newton: Sundays of Lent 6:30 pm
Monday of Holy Week - Plaistow 11:00am - 1:00 PM
Newton 5:00-7:00 PM

LENTEN EVENING PRAYER: Sunday evenings of Lent at Newton, 6 pm

STATIONS OF THE CROSS:

Fridays of Lent - 6:30 pm - Newton
Lenten Soup Supper Friday March 23 following Stations

HOLY WEEK

Monday of Holy Week - Liturgy at 8 am - Newton
Tuesday of Holy Week - Liturgy at 8 am - Plaistow
Wednesday of Holy Week - Liturgy at 6:30 pm - Plaistow
Tenebrae at 7:30 PM

PASCHAL TRIDUUM

HOLY THURSDAY MARCH 29 - Morning prayer 8 am - Newton
Mid-day prayer 12 noon - Newton
LITURGY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER 6:30 PM - Newton
- *Eucharistic Adoration follows*
Night Prayer 10:00 pm - Newton

GOOD FRIDAY MARCH 30 - Morning prayer 8 am - Plaistow
Mid-day prayer 12 noon - Plaistow
Stations of the Cross 3 pm - Newton

SERVICE OF THE LORD'S PASSION
& HOLY COMMUNION 6:30 PM - Plaistow

HOLY SATURDAY March 31 - Morning Prayer 8 am - Plaistow
Mid-day Prayer 12 noon - Plaistow

EASTER GREAT VIGIL AT 8 PM - Plaistow
(Reception in Hall to follow)

APRIL 1 EASTER SUNDAY LITURGIES
8 AM - Newton
10 AM - Plaistow
Easter Solemn Vespers with Benediction at 6 pm - Newton

8 Atkinson Depot Rd. Plaistow
12 Amesbury Rd. Newton
603 382-8324 www.stlukenh.org

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| 11 Saved by Grace By grace you have been saved through faith in Jesus. <i>Eph 2:4-10</i> | 12 Be Glad and Rejoice Rejoice, for God will make all things new. <i>Is 65:17-21</i> | 13 God Will Help Us Do not fear; God is in our midst, and he will help us. <i>Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9</i> | 14 God Remembers Us God has compassion; he will not forsake us. <i>Is 49:8-15</i> | 15 Receive Life The Scriptures bear witness to Jesus, the Son of God. <i>Jn 5:31-47</i> | 16 Is This the Christ? Jesus knows the Father and came from him. <i>Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30</i> | 17 Prophet from Galilee Jesus is the Christ, the Son of David, born in Bethlehem. <i>Jn 7:40-53</i> |
| 18 The New Covenant The new covenant is a covenant of forgiveness. <i>Jer 31:31-34</i> | 19 The Faith of Abraham Abraham's faith was counted to him as righteousness. <i>Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22</i> | 20 Lifted Up Jesus, the Son of Man, will be lifted up on the cross. <i>Jn 8:21-30</i> | 21 Freedom in the Son If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. <i>Jn 8:31-42</i> | 22 Keep His Word Who keeps Christ's word will never see death. <i>Jn 8:51-59</i> | 23 Praise the Lord God will deliver us from our enemies. <i>Jer 20:10-13</i> | 24 Everlasting Covenant God will establish an everlasting covenant of peace. <i>Ez 37:21-28</i> |
| 25 Sing Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. <i>Mk 11:1-10</i> | 26 The Lord Is My Light The Lord is my light, my salvation and my stronghold. <i>Ps 27:1-3, 13-14</i> | 27 Light for the Nations Jesus brings salvation and is a light for the nations. <i>Is 49:1-6</i> | 28 I Will Be Betrayed Jesus will be betrayed into the hands of his enemies. <i>Mt 26:14-25</i> | 29 HOLY THURSDAY Remember Me This is my body; this is the new covenant in my blood. <i>1 Cor 11:23-26</i> | 30 GOOD FRIDAY Healing Wounds He was pierced for our transgressions. <i>Is 52:13-53:12</i> | 31 HOLY SATURDAY Everlasting Love God's steadfast love will never depart from us. <i>Is 54:5-14</i> |

Traditional Lenten Disciplines

Fasting & Abstinence: Catholics aged 14 and older abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent. In addition, on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, Catholics from age 18-59 fast, limiting themselves to one full meal and two smaller meals each day.

Prayer: Catholics are encouraged to pray more during Lent, especially with Scripture. Lent is also an ideal time to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for the celebration of Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection.

Almsgiving: Moved by the sacrifice of Christ, many Christians combine almsgiving with fasting, giving to the poor the money they saved by eating, drinking or buying less as they rely more on God's abundant grace.

April 1
EASTER SUNDAY

Christ Is Risen!
Jesus, the crucified one, has risen from the dead!

Mk 16:1-7



Do Something for Lent. Renew your faith.

What is the **Lenten Journey** all about? Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are called the “three pillars” of the Christian way of life. They help support a full and healthy life. During Lent we try to repair and strengthen these three pillars, which also are called the “three disciplines” because they help people become better disciples of the Lord. Our **Lenten Journey** program helps Discipleship!

Lenten Journey is about SMALL GROUPS... IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN-UP! We continue to welcome sign-ups for small groups. **On the back of this flyer is a REGISTRATION FORM. Return the form today, or call the office at 382-8324.**

Meetings begin this week! Groups meet six times during the Lenten season to discuss the Lenten Sunday Lectionary readings. You will learn more about Scripture through the resource book provided, participate in interesting discussions, meet some wonderful people and have the opportunity to build up the Body of Christ.



**All group members will pick up their resource booklets
at the first meeting.**

Groups begin meeting THIS WEEK!

Sunday, February 11, at 11 a.m. in Room 8; downstairs in the Church Hall.

Wednesday, February 14, after the 6:30 p.m. Mass in Room 8; downstairs in the Church Hall.

Thursday, February 15, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 8; downstairs in the Church Hall.

FAMILY AND TEEN DOWNLOAD: www.disciplesonthejourney.org

Ash Wednesday is This Wednesday, February 14!

DISCIPLES ON THE JOURNEY REGISTRATION FORM



Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____ Cell Phone _____

Please check the time and day you prefer

Sunday Mornings at 11 a.m. ____ Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m. ____
(Feb. 11 – March 18) (Feb. 14 – March 21)

Thursday Afternoons at 1:30 p.m. ____
(Feb. 15 – March 22)

Check if you are willing to be a group leader _____

**GROUP MEETINGS BEGIN
THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 11**

**GROUPS WILL MEET IN ROOM 8 IN THE
CHURCH HALL**

**(Please return this form in the collection basket or bring
to the parish office)**

Attende, Domine

“Hear us, O Lord”

With Ash Wednesday upon us, it is a good time to think and pray about the Lenten Season - the “Springtime” of the Church. The word “Lent” means spring, and comes from the same root as the word “lengthen,” since the days do get longer as winter wanes. The whole northern hemisphere turns toward the sun, the source of life, and winter gives way to spring. In Hebrew, the language of the Old Testament, the word for “repentance” is “to turn.” As the earth turns to the sun, as the earth turns from winter cold to the new life of spring, so do we turn our lives towards our loving God and seek the Way of the Lord Jesus anew.



“Even now, return to me, says the Lord.” (Joel 2:12). The word “sin” means separation. We are called to turn from our separate selves, from our sins; and to come together in community. Self denial is another way we express our repentance. We turn away from sin and death and toward God as our source of life by disciplining our wills and desires.

Self-denial is three-fold, according to Matthew’s Gospel (chap. 6). We **PRAY**: “Go to your room, close your door and pray to your Father in private.” We **FAST**: “No one may see you are fasting but your Father in heaven.” We give **ALMS**: “Keep your deeds of mercy secret, and your Father, who sees in secret will repay you.” Self-denial is an exercise, a work-out, getting our lives and spirits into shape. Through the Lenten exercise of **PRAYER, FASTING and ALMSGIVING**, we spring clean our lives, sharpen our senses, put tomorrow in its place and treasure the day at hand.

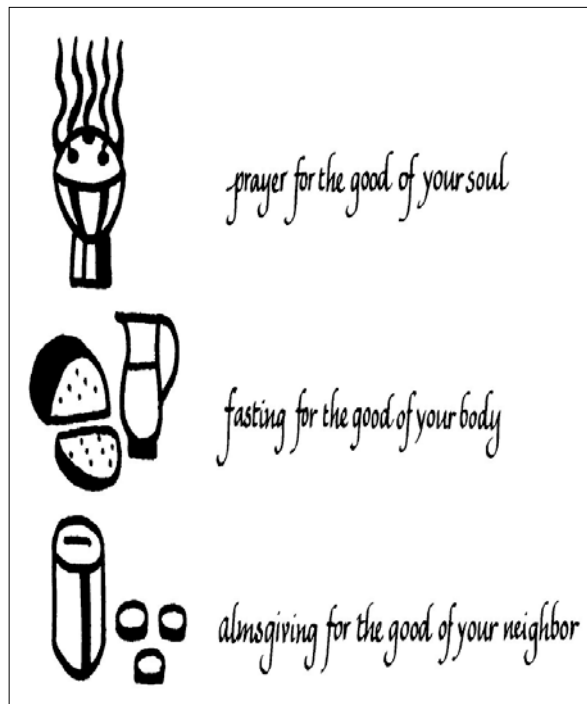
For Forty Days we are conscious of how we must sharpen our senses and focus mind and heart on the reign of God. We are, above all, aware of those waters in which we were baptized into Christ’s death. That is, death to sin and evil; it is life in Christ that we began in those waters of baptism. These waters wait at Lent’s end for the Catechumens of the Church. The entire Lenten season turns, it seems, on the preparation for Baptism and reception into the Church.

We, too, wait for the opportunity to renew our own Baptismal Promises, and to feel the splash of Easter water on our faces after the dryness of our Lenten desert journey.

From Father Albert
Lent, 2018

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 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.

**SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST
LENT- EASTER LITURGICAL SCHEDULE 2018**

THE BEGINNING OF THE LENTEN FAST FEBRUARY 14

**ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY 8 am Newton &
6:30 pm Plaistow**

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Plaistow: Saturdays 3:00 pm
(except Holy Saturday); Newton: Sundays of Lent 6:30 pm
Monday of Holy Week (March 26 - Plaistow 11:00am - 1:00
PM, Newton 5:00-7:00 PM

LENTEN EVENING PRAYER: Sunday evenings of Lent at Newton, 6 pm

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Fridays of Lent - 6:30 pm - at Newton Lenten Soup Supper Friday March
23 following Stations

HOLY WEEK

Monday of Holy Week March 26- Liturgy at 8 am - Newton

Tuesday of Holy Week March 27- Liturgy at 8 am - Plaistow

Wednesday of Holy Week March 28 - Liturgy at 6:30 pm - Plaistow
Tenebrae at 7:30 PM

PASCHAL TRIDUUM

HOLY THURSDAY MARCH 29 Morning prayer 8 am - Newton

Mid-day prayer 12 noon - Newton

LITURGY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER 6:30 PM - Newton

-Eucharistic Adoration follows-

Night Prayer 10:00 pm - Newton

GOOD FRIDAY MARCH 30 - Morning prayer 8 am - Plaistow

Mid-day prayer 12 noon - Plaistow

Stations of the Cross 3 pm - Newton

SERVICE OF THE LORD'S PASSION

& HOLY COMMUNION 6:30 PM - Plaistow

HOLY SATURDAY March 31- Morning Prayer 8 am - Plaistow

Mid-day Prayer 12 noon - Plaistow

EASTER GREAT VIGIL AT 8 PM - Plaistow

(Reception in Hall to follow)

APRIL 1 EASTER SUNDAY LITURGIES

8 AM - Newton

10 AM - Plaistow

Easter Solemn Vespers with Benediction at 6 pm - Newton

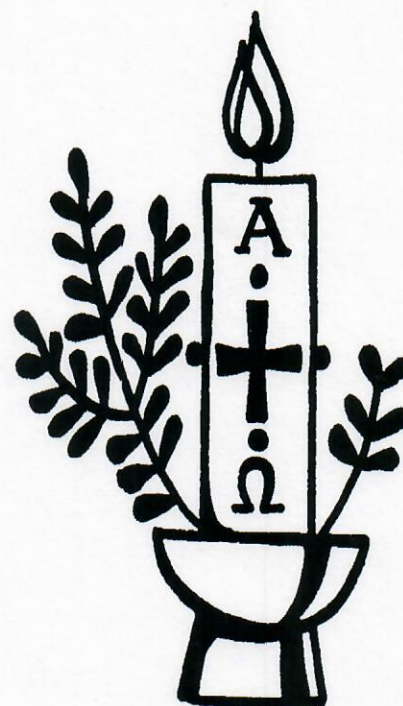
**LENTEN SEASON
DAILY LITURGIES:**

M 8 am Newton

T 8 am Plaistow

W 6:30 pm Plaistow

Th 8 am Newton



SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH

Newton: 12 Amesbury Road, Newton, NH
03858

Plaistow: 8 Atkinson Depot Road, Plaistow,
NH 03865

www. <http://stlukenh.org>
(603) 382-8324

The Gospel for All Ages

Family Catechesis

Gospel Weeklies
Pflaum
FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time • February 11, 2018 • Jesus Is Good News

Sunday Readings: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46; 1 Corinthians 10:31-11.1; Mark 1:40-45

Weekly Discussion Questions

For the Parish Bulletin

Life Question: When have you felt alone and isolated?

Gospel Question: How can you reach out to isolated people as Jesus does?

LIFE AND GOSPEL QUESTIONS BY AGE LEVEL

Exploring the Sunday Readings (Adults)

With whom might you build a bridge from isolation to participation in family life, parish life, or economic life?

Visit exploringthesundayreadings.com

Visions (Grades 7-8)

Life Question: What makes you jealous of someone else?

Gospel Question: What can you do to welcome outsiders as Jesus does?

Venture (Grades 4-6)

Life Question: How do you reach out to people in your area who need help?

Gospel Question: To whom does Jesus reach out? To whom can you reach out?

Good News (Grades 2-3)

Life Question: How do I reach out to other people?

Gospel Question: How does Jesus reach out to people?

Promise (Grades K-1)

Life Question: How does it feel to be left out?

Gospel Question: How does Jesus feel about those who are left out?

Seeds (Preschool)

Life Question: Who are Jesus' friends?

Gospel Question: What is Jesus' Good News?

Family Corner

About the Gospel

When people found out Jesus could heal, they constantly asked him to do so. He tried to find rest and quiet in the desert, but the people followed him there too. Still, he helped many people who needed healing.

Visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings to read this Sunday's Scripture.

In Church

Many priests work long hours to help people in need in their parish. Arrive a few minutes early to Mass. Ask your priest how you might help him get ready or if you can serve the parish in another way this week.

Question of the Week

How can you find the strength to help people?



Family Prayer

Jesus, teach us to see when people are in need and reach out to them.

Rincón de la Familia

Acerca del Evangelio

Quando la gente se enteró que Jesús podía sanar constantemente le pedían que lo hiciera. Trataba de encontrar descanso y silencio en el desierto, pero la gente lo seguía allí también. Sin embargo, ayudaba a muchas personas que necesitaban sanación.

Visita www.usccb.org/bible/readings para leer las lecturas de este domingo.

En la Iglesia

Muchos sacerdotes trabajan muchas horas para ayudar a la gente necesitada de su parroquia. Llega unos minutos antes a misa. Pregúntale a tu sacerdote cómo podrías ayudarlo a prepararse o si puedes servir a la parroquia de alguna otra manera esta semana.

Pregunta de la semana

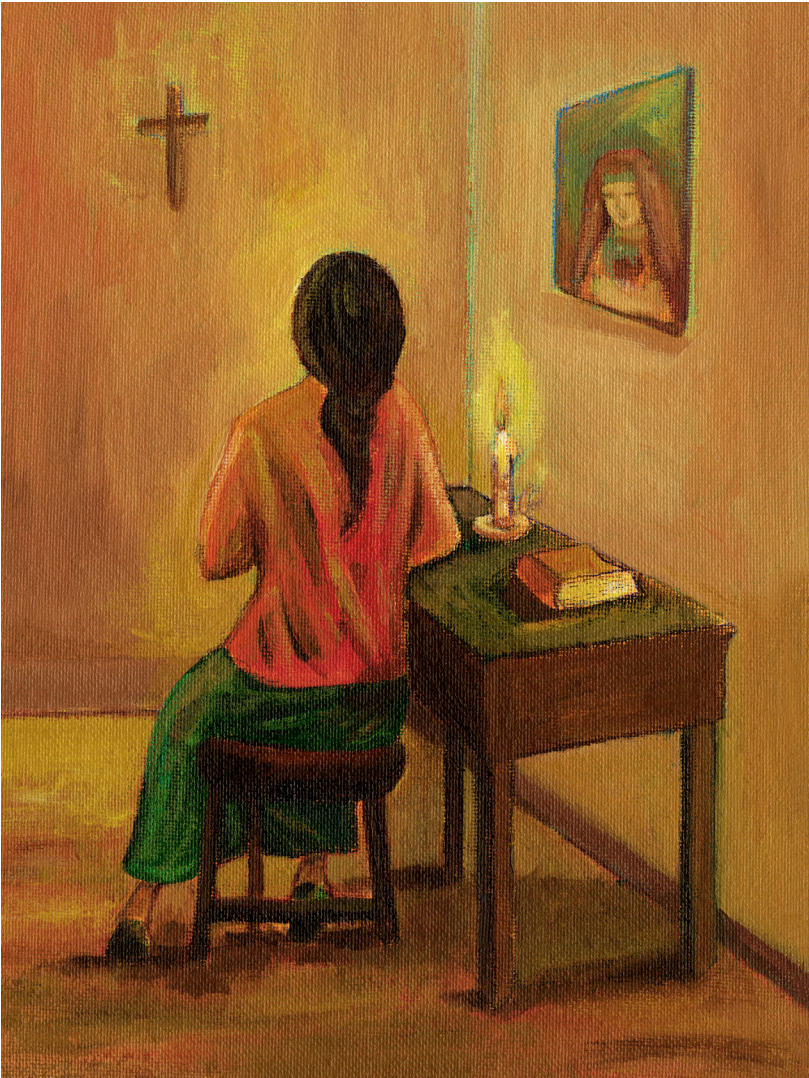
¿Cómo puedes encontrar la fortaleza para ayudar a la gente?



Oración en familia

Jesús, enséñanos a ver cuando la gente está necesitada y cómo llegar a ellos.

ASH WEDNESDAY



In this Time

O God of mercy,
who is slow to anger and rich
in kindness,
grant us, as we begin our Lenten journey,
contrite hearts that long
for reconciliation
and steadfast spirits that proclaim
your love.

In this acceptable time,
soften our calloused hearts,
watch over us, and keep us from all sin.
In this season of repentance,
help us turn toward the light of your
Son, Jesus Christ,
and away from selfish ambition.
In this period of renewal,
open our ears to hear your voice,
which calls us out of darkness,
so that with clean hearts we can forever
proclaim your praise.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Sin Is Tricky



Today's Readings: Joel 2:12–18; Psalm 51:3–4, 5–6ab, 12–13, 14 and 17; 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2; Matthew 6:1–6, 16–18. The Lenten season calls us to slow down and consider the areas in our life that need healing and transformation. This retreat-like time is an intense period for prayer and cleaning the “garbage” from our hearts. With the elect, those who are preparing for the sacraments of initiation, we take this time to discern what is sinful in our lives and name the good God is working within us. Sin is tricky and tends to grab hold of us and become habit. Sin begins to blind us from God’s love.

In this season, we must examine each area of our life to uncover the darkness of sin. Take heed of the prophet Joel’s words. He calls us to repent and return to the Lord.

Repentance leads to conversion, which requires discipline, perseverance, and practice. The three disciplines of the Lenten season—prayer, fasting, and almsgiving—help us open ourselves to God’s goodness and strengthen us for a mission united to Christ. During these forty days, allow these disciplines to become habits that replace sin, move you to reflect on your life in Christ, and immerse you in the Paschal Mystery.

In the Gospel, Jesus instructs us not to publicly flaunt how we pray, fast, or give alms. As you meditate on the words of the psalm, think about what you might give up (fast), how you might pray, and where or to what you might give alms as a way of deeply entering the season of Lent and purifying your heart.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, February 12

Perseverance

In the opening of his letter, St. James' describes himself as "servant of God" and his audience as the "twelve tribes in the Dispersion." From this greeting, we know that he is writing to a dispersed community. James tells us that the testing of faith produces perseverance. When has your faith been tested? It can be all too easy to grow weary with testing, but prayer can help strengthen us to live more faithfully. Approaching Lent, create a prayer plan to guide you this season. *Today's Readings: James 1:1–11; Psalm 119:67, 71, 72, 75, 76; Mark 8:11–13.*

Tuesday, February 13

Temptation

Have you ever blamed God for tempting you? James teaches us that it is not God who tempts us but that our desires lure us from the light. Once you identify the temptations in your life, offer them in prayer and allow them to be transformed for building up the Kingdom of God. The Eucharist and prayer will help us persevere in the faith and reject temptations. Today, make note of any temptations, even those you might present to another. *Today's Readings: James 1:12–18; Psalm 94:12–13a, 14–15, 18–19; Mark 8:14–21.*

Wednesday, February 14

Ash Wednesday

One way to pay attention to the spiritual life during Lent is to spend time with images found in the day's readings. Set aside time to read and be silent with today's psalm, paying particular attention to the first stanza. What images, questions, or thoughts arise? As you are signed with ashes today, commit yourself to spending more time with the day's readings and heeding Christ's call to conversion. *Today's Readings: Joel 2:12–18; Psalm 51:3–4, 5–6ab, 12–13, 14 and 17; 2 Corinthians 5:20–6:2; Matthew 6:1–6, 16–18.*

Thursday, February 15

Life and Death

Moses' words are a powerful reminder that God is life. Our readings invite us to deny ourselves, take up the cross, and follow. By doing this, we say yes to the law of God's love and therefore choose the path of life. When we give ourselves to Christ and strive to follow him in every way, life is radically different from what the world presents. As a family, make paper crosses and place them as a centerpiece for prayer during this season. Take time to talk about each day's Gospel. *Today's Readings: Deuteronomy 30:15–20; Psalm 1:1–2, 3, 4 and 6; Luke 9:22–25.*

Friday, February 16

Fasting

Do you fast only because the Church has told you to do so? Isaiah's words strongly urge us against empty fasting or ritual. For Isaiah, fasting is intimately connected to the good of the community, especially the poor and suffering. Does our fasting lead us to contemplate the mystery of Christ and our call to accompany the most vulnerable and ignored in our society? This practice is intended to purify and change us; it is intended to help strengthen us for the mission. Could your family unite in a practice of fasting as a prayer for the poor and suffering? *Today's Readings: Isaiah 58:1–9a; Psalm 51:3–4, 5–6ab, 18–19; Matthew 9:14–15.*

Saturday, February 17

Justice

The First Reading continues where the reading from Isaiah left off yesterday. Isaiah's message is one of justice. The community has a responsibility to care for the poor and suffering. When we walk in the ways of the Lord, our hearts yearn to serve our neighbors. When Jesus calls us to take up the cross, it's not just a burden, but the sign of hope and resurrection. Who in your community needs to be fed, clothed, and sheltered? At the end of this week, take a moment for an Ignatian examen. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 58:9b–14; Psalm 86:1–2, 3–4, 5–6; Luke 5:27–32.*





Bringing Home the Word

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time | February 11, 2018

Healing Our Wounds of Separation

By Mary Katharine Deeley

Teenagers fear an outbreak of acne before a major event. They're sure every eye will focus on a small blemish that seems enormous to them. Sometimes they even avoid going out at all until their faces return to normal.

They're fortunate not to be living in ancient Israel, where skin outbreaks and eruptions were likely viewed as leprosy. Public contact was forbidden. They'd have had to shout "unclean!" as they approached someone. Their exile would have been religiously regulated, and those they met would have avoided any touch.

The man with leprosy who approached Jesus wouldn't have touched Jesus—it was bold of him just to ask Jesus' mercy. In a move that surprised everyone, Jesus reached out to touch the one who was "unclean."

I can only imagine the man's shock and relief just at the touch of a person who didn't see him as less than human. The wound of separation was healed at that moment, and Jesus confirmed it by healing the man's body. Nor did Jesus stop there. He restored the man to his community by asking him to follow Mosaic Law (the Law of Moses) and be declared clean.

Teenagers often think their physical flaws are the worst things they can suffer. In truth, it's separation—whether it comes from within us or from others.

Jesus has the power to heal whatever separates us and restore us to community with God and others. +

Sunday Readings

Leviticus 13:1–2, 44–46

The Lord said... "[He] shall dwell apart, taking up residence outside the camp."

1 Corinthians 10:31–11:1

Do everything for the glory of God. Avoid giving offense.

Mark 1:40–45

"If you wish, you can make me clean."...[Jesus] said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean."

The best thing we can do to restore ourselves to community with God and others? Follow Jesus.

A Word From Pope Francis

[Jesus says] he is the real instrument of the Father's mercy, who goes to encounter everyone, bringing consolation and salvation, and, in doing so, he manifests God's justice. The blind, the lame, the lepers, the deaf regain their dignity and are no longer excluded because of their disease.

—General audience, September 7, 2016



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- How at peace am I with my own wounds, sins, and imperfections?
- Am I mature and free enough to ask for help and also reach out and help others in their moral or physical suffering?



"We should act as a balm for all wounds"

By Kathy Coffey

"Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:10).

In a poll for the least-favorite Beatitude, this one might win. Our culture worships movie stars, sports heroes, corporate moguls—not saints. So why does Jesus proclaim that the persecuted are indeed blessed?

Jesus' style is not to make rigid rules but to hold up inspiring models. He asks us to look with new eyes upon the celebrities we may have admired and find hidden virtues in people who are quiet, unpublicized, and principled. If we shift our sights, we may find them more courageous, uplifting, and creative than those who once received our adulation.

Relatively few North Americans have suffered the oppression that is known by those in Asia, Africa, South America, and Central America. In countries like Bosnia, Rwanda, or El Salvador, genocide is common, being a catechist is dangerous, and the mothers of the "disappeared" mourn their missing children.

You've had a glimmer of their experience if you've been the spokesperson for an unpopular, moral cause: the only ethical one in the department, the woman calling the Old Boys' Club (or the Church!) to equality,

or belonging to any group scorned by authorities. You'll quickly discover what it means to be "out." While it pales beside the pain endured elsewhere, it teaches something about being ostracized for the gospel.

Bone-Deep Beliefs

Those who have undergone persecution are sustained by solidarity, inner freedom, and the knowledge that it doesn't last forever. Standing with others who believe in the same cause, we at least are not alone.

The persecuted find intimacy with others that can surpass the idle conversations or superficial ties of secure relationships. Etty Hillesum, author of *An Interrupted Life*, died at Auschwitz at age twenty-nine. At the Nazi concentration camp she called herself "bread shared among the hungry." Her journal's last words resonate with compassion: "We should act as a balm for all wounds."

At a deep level, the persecuted are united: Their relationships are based on bone-deep beliefs. Members of the armed services cherish wartime buddies. They put their lives on the line together. So our deepest affinities may be to those with whom we share unpopular beliefs.

Resting in Hope

From the writing of people like Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Gandhi, or Óscar Romero emerges a sense of inner freedom. As the Gospel says, "Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and

body in hell" (Matthew 10:28). Like the early Christians, Archbishop Romero predicted he would outlive his own martyrdom: "If they kill me, I will rise again in the Salvadoran people."

We learn from the persecuted how much in our lives is superficial, how little is essential. Those who have been deprived of everything material still find joy and fulfillment.

Finally, Jesus directs us to place our sufferings in an eternal context. The problem that looms large now does not last forever. The persecuted teach us to carry burdens lightly and wear our chains loosely. They take God's mission on earth seriously but can laugh at themselves.

The persecutions we undergo may be less dramatic, but we can approach them with the same qualities. When we feel diminished by criticism, rejected by the "in" crowd, or demonized by those who disagree with us, there is hope. We can rest in Jesus' assurance that we aren't alone, the pain doesn't last forever, and the kingdom is ours. +

PRAYER

Lord, your love transcends the boundaries of the human condition. Open my eyes to see your face in all people.

From Peaceful Meditations for Every Day in Ordinary Time,

Rev. Warren J. Savage
and Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

February 12-17

Mon. Weekday:
Jas 1:1–11 / Mk 8:11–13


Tue. Weekday:
Jas 1:12–18 / Mk 8:14–21

Ash Wednesday: Jl 2:12–18 /
2 Cor 5:20—6:2 / Mt 6:1–6, 16–18

Thursday after Ash Wednesday:
Dt 30:15–20 / Lk 9:22–25

Friday after Ash Wednesday:
Is 58:1–9a / Mt 9:14–15

Saturday after Ash Wednesday:
Is 58:9b–14 / Lk 5:27–32

Bringing Home
the Word 
February 11, 2018

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