



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, March 11, 2018
Fourth Sunday Of Lent

4:00 PM
8:00 AM

Gathering: Hold Us In Your Mercy

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 91)

Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble; be with me, Lord, I pray.

Preparation You Are Mine BB 457

Mass Parts Mass of Christ the Savior

Communion: Remember Your Love BB 662
Come To Me And Drink BB 358

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

10:00 AM

Gathering: Hold Us In Your Mercy

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 91)

Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble; be with me, Lord, I pray.

Preparation We Have Been Told BB 498
Christ Be Our Light BB 596

Mass Parts Mass of Christ the Savior

Communion: Shepherd Me, O God BB 459
Only This I Want BB 499

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



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!

March 4, 2018

Offertory	\$8,039.66
Property Management	\$2,362.90

PARISH GIVING

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

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

March 11, 2018	Easter Flowers
March 18, 2018	Fuel
March 25, 2018	Catholic Relief Services
March 30, 2018	Good Friday – Holy Land
April 1, 2018	Easter



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

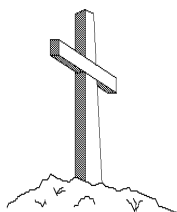
✠ PARISH NEWS ✠

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.**

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.



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.

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 every **Tuesday night at 7:00 PM** through Holy Week. This is a short-term commitment and a great way to experience a new ministry. For more information, contact Val Barczak, Parish Music Director, at mvmbarczak@comcast.net.

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?

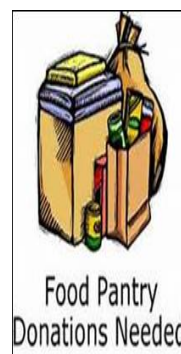
Any contribution is welcome.

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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, March 11

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>

Wednesday, March 14 **HOLY ANGELS CHURCH**

OPEN ALL DAY FOR PRAYER

7:00 PM	Disciples On The Journey	<i>Plaistow</i>
7:00 PM	Reader Scripture Share	<i>Plaistow</i>

Thursday, March 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, March 16

6:30 PM	Stations of the Cross	<i>Newton</i>
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Saturday, March 17

3:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Plaistow</i>
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Sunday, March 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>

**St. Vincent
de Paul
Society**



Our Society is available if you need a “hand up” when you “fall” because the unexpected happened or any other crisis has occurred. We are a confidential yet friendly ear, ready to listen to you.

Our next meeting on **Wednesday, March 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.**

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, March 10 ~ Vigil / Fourth Sunday of Lent

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

4:00 PM Irene Lee by Nancy and Jerry Lee
Plaistow

Sunday, March 11 ~ Fourth Sunday of Lent

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

8:00 AM The Intentions of the Daniels Family
Newton

10:00 AM Mary Reynolds by her family
Plaistow

Monday, March 12 ~ Lenten Weekday

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

8:00 AM Paul Cote (Month's Mind)
Newton

Tuesday, March 13 ~ Lenten Weekday

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

8:00 AM For Michael and his recovery
Plaistow

Wednesday, March 14 ~ Lenten Weekday

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

6:30 PM Paul O'Leary by Colleen and Mark Hammond
Plaistow

Thursday, March 15 ~ Lenten Weekday

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

8:00 AM Betty Shea by Marjorie Knowles
Newton

Friday, March 16 ~ Lenten Weekday

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

No Mass

Saturday, March 17 ~ Patrick, Bishop

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

Jer 31:31-34; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33 (Vigil)

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

Sunday, March 18 ~ Fifth Sunday of Lent

Jer 31:31-34; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33

8:00 AM Joseph Thompson by Grace Bukowski
Newton

10:00 AM Joyce Valli by the Brotz family
Plaistow

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.

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

MARCH 11, 2018

✠ 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.

EASTER VIGIL RECEPTION



The Parish is planning to host a reception following the Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday night, **March 31**. We are looking for helpers to set-up, serve, and clean up, for food donations (especially pastries – Lent will be over!), beverages, and other food donations. For more information please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324 or email jtremlay@stluketheevangelist.net.

RICE BOWLS AVAILABLE

Operation Rice Bowl is the official Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services. Each Lent, parishes, schools and other faith communities participate in Operation Rice Bowl to learn more about the work of CRS and put their faith into action. Operation Rice Bowl provides funding to CRS for many third world projects that promote agricultural, nutritional and educational sufficiency. Additionally, Operation Rice Bowl supports local anti-poverty programs. Rice Bowls are available at the entrances of both Churches and are **due back by Holy Thursday, March 29**.

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
Cathy Smith
Joyce Szczapa
Jackie Tremblay
Thomas Kondel
Val Barczak
Youth Ministry
Parish Council

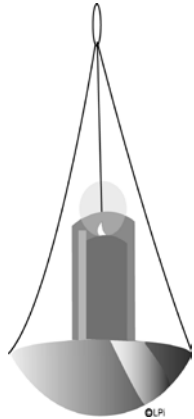
fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net
csmith@stluketheevangelist.net
jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net
jtremlay@stluketheevangelist.net
tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net
mvmbarczak@comcast.net
youth@stluketheevangelist.net
parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net

✠ Parish News ~ Youth News ~ Around The Diocese ✠



In Loving Memory

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:
Corinne Tozier



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 loving memory of
Rev. William L. Butler
by his sister Helen Gibbs and family

JESUS ACROSS THE BORDER

JESUS aCROSS the Border's Monthly Gathering will take place on **Friday, March 16, 2018** at St. Rita Parish, Lowell, MA from 7:30 PM to 12:00 AM. Join JESUS aCROSS the Border, the umbrella organization which unites over 20 different young adult Catholic groups, for this prime time event beginning at 7:30 PM with an evening of Eucharistic Adoration and acoustic Praise and Worship. A young adult Mass will follow at 9:00. Mass will be followed by guided tours of the NEW Pregnancy Care Center in Lowell and our signature networking pizza social. This is a fantastic opportunity for over 20 Catholic young adult groups to network with one another and for YOU to get to know the many groups out there that are ready to support you in your faith journey! For more information, contact Billy Beauchesne at IESUSaCROSStheBorder@gmail.com.

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.

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE

The Easter bulletin must be submitted early. The deadline for items to be included in the Easter (April 1) bulletin is **12:00 Noon on Tuesday, March 20**.

DIOCESAN DAY OF RECONCILIATION

You are invited to join NH Catholics in a statewide day of reconciliation. This is an opportunity for you to open your heart and allow the Lord to fill it with His Grace. All parishes will open their doors to welcome you on **Monday of Holy Week, March 26, 2018**. At St. Luke's, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered in **Plaistow from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM** and in **Newton from 5:00 to 7:00 PM**.

AMAZON SMILE

St. Luke the Evangelist Parish received a donation of **\$80.62** from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between October 1 and December 31, 2017.

AmazonSmile.com is the same market platform as Amazon.com, but with the added benefit of allowing customers to donate 0.5% of the price of items purchased to a charitable organization. Please register today to start shopping and donating at www.amazonsmile.com. For questions, please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. Be sure to choose:

St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.

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.**

**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

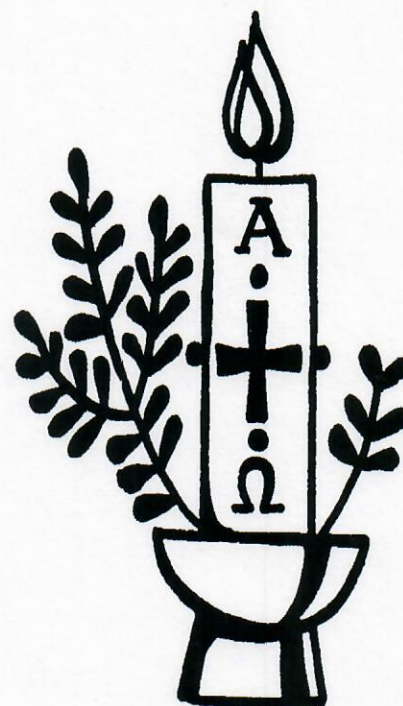
**LENTEN SEASON
DAILY LITURGIES:**

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

4th Sunday of Lent • March 11, 2018 • Jesus Gives Us Light

Sunday Readings: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23; Ephesians 2:4-10; John 3:14-21

Weekly Discussion Questions

For the Parish Bulletin

Life Question: What are you in the dark about?

Gospel Question: What light does Jesus give our world?

LIFE AND GOSPEL QUESTIONS BY AGE LEVEL

Exploring the Sunday Readings (Adults)

When have you heard something that changed your way of seeing? Visit exploringthesundayreadings.com

Visions (Grades 7-8)

Life Question: What makes a terrific kid in Father G's estimation?

Gospel Question: What does God want for the world?

Venture (Grades 4-6)

Life Question: Have you ever been caught in a lie?

Gospel Question: How is Jesus like light?

Good News (Grades 2-3)

Life Question: Is it harder to forgive someone or ask someone to forgive you?

Gospel Question: What does Jesus say about light?

Promise (Grades K-1)

Life Question: Has there been a time in your life when you needed to ask someone to forgive you?

Gospel Question: Why does Jesus forgive us?

Seeds (Preschool)

Life Question: When are you afraid?

Gospel Question: Discuss Jesus' words, "I am the light of the world."

Family Corner

About the Gospel

We often see this Gospel verse on banners at sporting events: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son..." (John 3:16). Jesus tells us he is the light and he comes to save us. This is a passage of hope and salvation.

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

In Church

Find the sanctuary lamp (often a lit red candle). It is a reminder that Christ is present in the tabernacle. Genuflect or bow to show Jesus your love and respect.

Question of the Week

How can you reflect the light of Christ to others?

Family Prayer

Lord, keep us close to the light of Christ and help us avoid the darkness of sin.

Rincón de la Familia

Acerca del Evangelio

A menudo vemos el versículo de este Evangelio en carteles en eventos deportivos: "¡Así amó Dios al mundo! Le dio al Hijo Único..." (Juan 3,16). Jesús nos dice que es la luz y viene a salvarnos. Este es un pasaje de esperanza y salvación.

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

En la Iglesia

Encuentra la luz del sagrario (por lo general una vela roja encendida). Nos recuerda que Cristo está presente en el sagrario. Arrodíllate o inclínate para mostrar a Jesús tu amor y respeto.

Pregunta de la semana

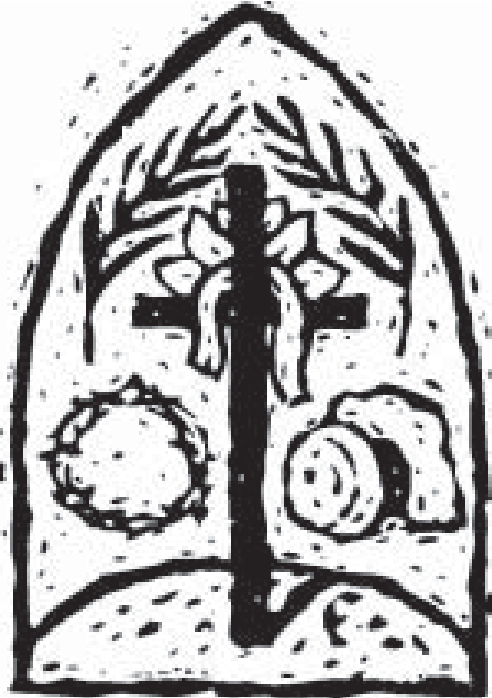
¿Cómo puedes reflejar la luz de Cristo a los demás?

Oración en familia

Señor, manténnos cercanos a la luz de Cristo y ayúdanos a evitar la tiniebla del pecado.

LENTEN REGULATIONS

FASTING



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

ABSTINENCE

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

EASTER PRECEPT

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

PRAYER AND ALMSGIVING

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

Lenten Prayer and Liturgy

The Church invites all people to special moments of prayer during the season of Lent. It is a common custom for people to make room in their schedule for daily Eucharist, which we celebrate as follows during the Lenten season:

Monday	8 am	Newton
Tuesday	8 am	Plaistow
Wednesday	6:30 PM	Plaistow
Thursday	8 am	Newton

Another Lenten custom involves taking a journey... to the Holy Land! Going on pilgrimage has always been an important part of our Christian tradition. By visiting a place where a religious event occurred, a pilgrim hoped to share in the experience associated with that place. The

desire to visit Jerusalem and the Holy Land was very important to Christians long ago, but because of the danger and expense of travel, and the political climate of Palestine, such a journey was not always feasible. When the Friars of the Franciscan Order took over the care of the Holy Places in Jerusalem in 1342, they began to erect "Stations" in Churches back home in Europe. It was a way to "go" to the Holy Land without ever leaving home. The custom of the Stations quickly spread to parish Churches, and the devotion of the Stations of the Cross was born.

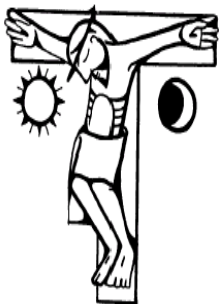


Praying the Stations of the cross

We walk the **Stations of the Cross** each Friday of Lent at 6:30 at **NEWTON**. 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 23, 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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Raise Us Up

O God,
you are rich in mercy and full
of compassion.
From generation to generation,
you poured forth your abundant love upon
your people.
Liberate us from the darkness of sin
and raise us up with Christ,
so that, renewed by the Cross,
we may be strengthened for ministry.

Watch over us when we go astray
and keep us close to the heart of
your Son.
Give us prophetic voices
that joyfully announce your mercy
and love
to all those who are exiled by sin
so that all may find a place at the
heavenly banquet.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 11, 2018

Mercy



Today's Readings: 2 Chronicles 36:14–16, 19–23; Psalm 137:1–2, 3, 4–5, 6; Ephesians 2:4–10; John 3:14–21. The readings today tell of the merciful love of God. Carey Landry emphasizes this aspect of God in the song “God is Rich in Mercy” in which he wrote, “God is rich in mercy, full of compassion.” Today’s Gospel points out that God’s love for us is so profound that he offered his only Son on the Cross so that we might have eternal life. When we consider our ancestors in the faith, we learn they wrestled to follow the Commandments and remain faithful to God just as we do today.

In the Book of Chronicles, the Israelites were taken into captivity as punishment for their infidelity, but even here,

God’s mercy prevails when King Cyrus, inspired by the Lord, freed the people. Sin causes us to turn away from God, but instead of punishment, God gives us the gift of his Son who has redeemed us; he has brought us out of the darkness into his light. No matter the circumstances in which we find ourselves, God is present and mercy overflows.

In this season of mercy, it is important to name those sins that keep us from God and seek forgiveness. It is also important to show mercy to others, especially those whom we may have harmed in any way. As you ponder God’s mercy, consider celebrating the Sacrament of Penance this week.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 12 Healed

When we reflect on Scripture, we consider not only physical healing but spiritual transformations. The first thing you might notice in the Gospel is that the official's son is healed, but that is not the end of the story. When the son is healed, the man "came to believe." The Psalm provides a prayer of thanksgiving for the times we have been rescued/healed by God. Make a list of those times God has been with you and healed you. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 65:17–21; Psalm 30:2 and 4, 5–6, 11–12a and 13b; John 4:43–54.*

Tuesday, March 13 Living Water

As you reflect on today's readings, keep Baptism in mind. Water is a mighty force of nature. It can nourish our bodies and the ground or destroy everything in its path. In Baptism, everything unclean in us is destroyed and we are nourished with the Living Water. Ezekiel's vision tells of the abundance where the river flows. Christ is the Living Water that brings us life. *Today's Readings: Ezekiel 47:1–9, 12; Psalm 46:2–3, 5–6, 8–9; John 5:1–16.*

Wednesday, March 14 Jesus, the Son of God

In the Gospel, Jesus tells the people that he is the Son of God and that the time will come when all will be raised to new life. As in the First Reading, where Isaiah prophesies about the day of the Lord, Jesus too promises that the dead who have done good will hear and have life. How well have you responded to God's voice this Lenten season? God is truly gracious and merciful. Open your hearts to his Word. Write about or draw the images that come to mind after reading the Gospel. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 49:8–15; Psalm 145:8–9, 13cd–14, 17–18; John 5:17–30.*

Thursday, March 15 Golden Calf

The First Reading once again highlights God's profound mercy for his loved ones. The Israelites have crafted a golden calf to worship. They have lost faith in God and turned away from him. We too struggle to remain faithful, especially when we feel lost, alone, or afraid. Moses helped the people see God's presence. Who helps you see God's presence? Know that no matter the sin, God will not shower wrath upon you but will call you home and wait patiently for your loving gaze. Make a list of the "golden calves" in your life and offer them up in prayer. *Today's Readings: Exodus 32:7–14; Psalm 106:19–20, 21–22, 23; John 5:31–47.*

Friday, March 16 The Wisdom of God

Though written long before the time of Christ, the First Reading describes how those who reject Jesus' wisdom plotted to kill him. Wickedness blinds our hearts to see what is good and righteous. It sets us on a path of destruction. By his death and Resurrection, Jesus confronts sin and death so that we might have life. Do we have ears to hear and hearts to learn the wisdom of God? Invite a wisdom figure from your life to coffee or tea. *Today's Readings: Wisdom 2:1a, 12–22; Psalm 34:17–18, 19–20, 21 and 23; John 7:1–2, 10, 25–30.*

Saturday, March 17 Refuge

During these final days of Lent, listen carefully to the refrain of the Psalm. In times of pain and weakness, God is truly our refuge. This Lenten season may have revealed the blind spots within our hearts, but all should know that sin cannot take hold when we seek refuge in God. Allow God's mercy to wash over you and ask for God's justice. Pray today for all those who seek refuge and safety. *Today's Readings: Jeremiah 11:18–20, Psalm 7:2–3, 9bc–10, 11–12; John 7:40–53.*





Bringing Home the Word

Fourth Sunday of Lent | March 11, 2018

We Are God's Handiwork

By Mary Katharine Deeley

My husband likes to photograph the beauty of creation. He has gotten very good at it, sometimes zooming in to focus on the details of individual flowers or butterflies, other times zooming out to capture the glory of a waterfall, a mountain lake, or the fiery clouds billowing from one of Hawaii's volcanoes into a night sky full of stars.

Several of his photos decorate my office walls. He's justifiably proud of each. They're the work of his artist's eye and hand, so he signs them and takes care to frame them just right.

In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul calls us God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus—not because we are so amazing (we are, in fact, sinners), but because he loved us.

John's Gospel echoes the sentiment: "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son." If a human being like my husband can take pleasure in and be justifiably proud of the work of his own hands, then how much more can God love his own handiwork? The answer, of course, is immeasurably more. God loved us enough to give us himself in Christ Jesus, who laid down his life for us though we had done nothing to deserve it.

The photos my husband creates can't thank him or give anything back to him, but it is in our power to thank our Creator, who filled us with life and redeemed us through Jesus' death and resurrection.

Today, try to love someone else a little more out of sheer gratitude that God so loves you. +

A Word From Pope Francis

Jesus shows a particular predilection for those who are wounded in body and in spirit: the poor, the sinners, the possessed, the sick, the marginalized. Thus, he reveals himself as a doctor both of souls and of bodies, the Good Samaritan of man. He is the true Savior: Jesus saves, Jesus cures, Jesus heals.

—Angelus, February 8, 2015



Sunday Readings

2 Chronicles 36:14–16, 19–23

Early and often the LORD...sent his messengers to them, for he had compassion on his people.

Ephesians 2:4–10

For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus.

John 3:14–21

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

ONE QUESTION FOR REFLECTION

- Do I need to repent from whatever attitudes or actions distance me from that love?
- Do I have any unspoken belief that, in some way, I am unlovable?



Imitating God's Powerful Mercy

By Kathy Coffey

"Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy."

—Matthew 5:7

When words aren't accompanied by actions, they lose power. If we hear someone talking endlessly about mercy but never practicing it, we yawn and turn away. "Don't just tell me; show me!" we protest.

To establish credibility, it is important to note how Jesus shows mercy before he ever mentions it. When we think of how he practiced mercy throughout his life, we remember dramatic cures of desperate people: the centurion's servant, paralytic, or hemorrhaging woman.

But we should also remember the ordinary, daily mercies he practiced as easily as breathing. This resembles the kind of mercy God showers on us. By all accounts, the disciples could be dense. Yet Jesus tolerated their stupid questions, petty feuds, and shameful disloyalty. Rarely did he show annoyance. He never said, "I've been with you this long and you still don't get it?"

Even more mercifully, he calls them his friends and asks them to continue his work on earth. He empowers them to preach the good news, cherish the poor, and cure the sick. Without a word about their miserable failings, he sends them on

a mission to be his witness throughout the earth. That is copious mercy.

Perhaps the last beatitude should be, "Blessed are those who live the beatitudes, for they bring the teaching alive." How do we learn to be merciful? Most agree that with charity, they'd rather be on the giving end. It's painful to receive, perhaps because humans often mix condescension with charity.

But mercy—ah, that's a different story. When we know we've goofed and squirm with tension awaiting the penalty, mercy comes like a cool breeze in the heat. Our self-defenses and excuses crumble with relief. In a burst of goodwill, we vow never to do that again or be so stupid.

Holding Back

And what of those who act mercifully? Here it's harder to be on the giving end. It's so tempting to "teach 'em a lesson they'll never forget," to assess the full payment. Just once, we have our coworkers, our opponent, our spouse, or our child in a position where we could demonstrate our power to pulverize. One who has made a mistake is—quite literally—"at our mercy."

And yet the merciful hold back. They relax into the image of a compassionate God, saying, "Let God take care of the punishment." Or they remember how often they've been in a jam, when others have shown mercy.

For centuries Christians have prayed, "Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy."

And God has given us mercy that far surpasses what we deserve.

God's Unending Mercy

Each morning, we receive the gift of twenty-four new, unexplored hours. We are given health, breath, and energy. God calls us to nurture the next generation, to make the world more beautiful through art, music, and literature. Furthermore, he gives us remarkable gifts: abilities to compute, meditate, inspire, heal, and teach. In a continuous flow of grace, God overlooks our worst errors and failures.

We may recognize God's mercy in a disaster narrowly averted, a diagnosis of "benign" instead of "malignant," events that come together to save our necks. After years of praying "Kyrie eleison," we can respond to this divine outpouring with a mercy that mirrors God's.

If God showers us daily with his mercies, we can be more tolerant of the slow coworker, resist the urge to lambaste a careless child, and show restraint when we discover the mistake of a friend. Then we all become richer in mercy. +



Lord, you are the source of love,
peace, and justice in the world.
Help me to live in communion
with you and all people.

From *Mindful Meditations for
Every Day of Lent and Easter*,
Rev. Warren J. Savage
and Mary Ann McSweeney

Jesus rarely showed annoyance.

WEEKDAY READINGS

March 12–17, 2018

Mon. Lenten Weekday:
Is 65:17–21 / Jn 4:43–54


Tue. Lenten Weekday:
Ez 47:1–9, 12 / Jn 5:1–16

Wed. Lenten Weekday:
Is 49:8–15 / Jn 5:17–30

Thu. Lenten Weekday:
Ex 32:7–14 / Jn 5:31–47

Fri. Lenten Weekday:
Wis 2:1a, 12–22 / Jn 7:1–2, 10, 25–30

Sat. Lenten Weekday:
Jer 11:18–20 / Jn 7:40–53

Bringing Home
the **Word** 
March 11, 2018

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