

## MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, March 18, 2018  
Fifth 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 Lord Of All Hopefulness BB 403

Mass Parts Mass of Christ the Savior

Communion: Unless A Grain Of Wheat BB 507  
Eye Has Not Seen BB 462

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 You Are Mine BB 457  
Now We Remain BB 508

Mass Parts Mass of Christ the Savior

Communion: I Have Loved You BB 603  
Eye Has Not Seen BB 462

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/](http://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 11, 2018**

<b>Offertory</b>	<b>\$6,399.63</b>
<b>Easter Flowers</b>	<b>\$3,059.77</b>

### 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 18, 2018	Fuel
March 25, 2018	Catholic Relief Services
March 30, 2018	Good Friday – Holy Land
April 1, 2018	Easter
April 8, 2018	Property Management



**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

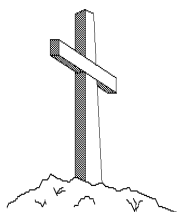
## ✠ PARISH NEWS ✠

### 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](mailto: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?***

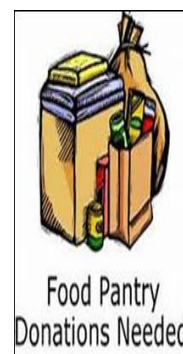
Any contribution is welcome.

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.

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

### ✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

#### 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>

#### Tuesday, March 20

6:00 PM	Finance Council Meeting	<i>Plaistow</i>
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#### Wednesday, March 21

#### 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>
7:00 PM	St. Vincent de Paul Society Meeting	<i>Plaistow</i>

#### Thursday, March 22

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 23

6:30 PM	Stations of the Cross & Soup Supper	<i>Newton</i>
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#### Saturday, March 24

3:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Plaistow</i>
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#### Sunday, March 25

10:00 AM	<b>NO</b> 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	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting	<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 17 ~ Vigil / Fifth Sunday of Lent

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

4:00 PM	Clara, Leo, and Edward McCusker by Elaine Kelcourse <i>Plaistow</i>
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#### 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 <i>Newton</i>
10:00 AM	Joyce Valli by the Brotz family <i>Plaistow</i>

#### Monday, March 19 ~ Joseph, Spouse of Bl. Virgin Mary

*2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Rom 4:13, 16-18; Lk 2:41-51a*

8:00 AM	Joseph Thompson (Month's Mind) <i>Newton</i>
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#### Tuesday, March 20 ~ Lenten Weekday

*Nm 21:4-9; Jn 8:21-30*

8:00 AM	Mary Stevens by her sister, Marjorie Knowles <i>Plaistow</i>
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#### Wednesday, March 21 ~ Lenten Weekday

*Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Jn 8:31-42*

6:30 PM	Andy Cohen by Jack and Barbara Brotz <i>Plaistow</i>
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#### Thursday, March 22 ~ Lenten Weekday

*Gn 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59*

8:00 AM	For Michael and his recovery <i>Newton</i>
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#### Friday, March 23 ~ Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop

*Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42*

*No Mass*

#### Saturday, March 24 ~ Oscar Romero, Bishop and Martyr

*Ez 37:21-28; Jn 11:45-56 (Day)*

*Mk 11:1-10; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1—15:47 (Vigil)*

4:00 PM	Antonia & Stanley Zakiewicz by Pat Zakiewicz <i>Plaistow</i>
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#### Sunday, March 25 ~ Palm Sunday / Passion of the Lord

*Mk 11:1-10; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1—15:47*

8:00 AM	Patricia Huygen by Patricia Spina <i>Newton</i>
10:00 AM	Angela Iannalfo by the Parish <i>Plaistow</i>

### 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](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net).

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

MARCH 18, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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, April 8, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net)  
[csmith@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net)  
[jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net)  
[jtremlay@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:jtremlay@stluketheevangelist.net)  
[tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net)  
[mvmbarczak@comcast.net](mailto:mvmbarczak@comcast.net)  
[youth@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:youth@stluketheevangelist.net)  
[parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net)

✠ Parish News ~ Youth News ~ Around The Diocese ✠



*In Loving Memory*

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

**Corinne Tozier**

**June Mullin**

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**

The Parish Office will close at **12:00 Noon on Wednesday, March 28** and will reopen on **Tuesday, April 3 at 8:30 AM**.

**CRAFTERS AND ARTISTS WANTED FOR POPULAR CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR**

It's that time of year again when each of us starts making plans for the crafting season ... which fairs?? which weekends??

If you – or someone you know – would like to be considered as a vendor for this year's St. Luke the Evangelist Christmas Craft Fair, **the first jury period ends on May 7<sup>th</sup>**. We expect to be oversubscribed, so don't delay!

Work must be original and executed by the applicants, and may include food and/or beverages (no baked goods).

1<sup>st</sup> – Please save the date of our Parish Fair: **Saturday November 10, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**.

2<sup>nd</sup> – To apply, please contact the Craft Fair at: [stlukenhfair@gmail.com](mailto:stlukenhfair@gmail.com). Applications are also available at <http://stlukenh.org> under "News and Events" or call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324.

We are always looking for new vendors to keep our Fair exciting for our visitors!

Don't miss out on participating in this fun and well-attended event!

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PLEDGE TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN**

The St. Jude Council #6617 of the Knights of Columbus is very pleased to announce a \$2,500 pledge to the Capital Campaign Fund for our Parish. The Knights are planning to honor the entire pledge this calendar year. Last year the St. Jude Council donated \$1,550 to the Capital Campaign Fund. The parish's St. Jude Council invites all Catholic men over the age of 18 to join the Knights. The Knights, in addition to serving our parish, also help people and change people's lives. There are over 7,500 Knights in NH and over 2 million worldwide "doing good" to quote another Knight, our own Fr. Albert. If you would like more information on the St. Jude Council, please contact Dan Sullivan at 603-770-4803 or [dans49@comcast.net](mailto:dans49@comcast.net).

**EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE**

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**.

**BLOOD DRIVE**

The Knights of Columbus, St. Jude Council #6617 will be sponsoring an American Red Cross Blood Drive on **Friday, March 30, 2018 from 1:00 to 6:00 PM** at the Atkinson Community Center, 4 Main Street, Atkinson NH 03811. To schedule an appointment, please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code NHATKINSONCOMMUNITY. Walk-ins are also welcome. Come and join us to give the gift of life!

**AMAZON SMILE**

**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](http://www.amazonsmile.com). For questions, please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. Be sure to choose:

**St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.**

**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

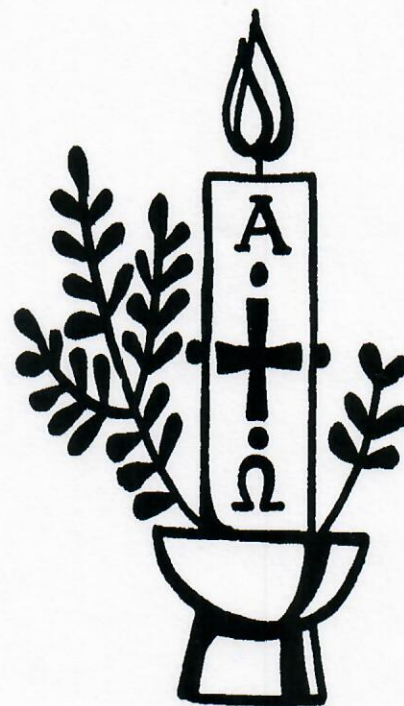
**LENTEN SEASON  
DAILY LITURGIES:**

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

**5th Sunday of Lent • March 18, 2018 • Jesus Is Like a Grain of Wheat**

**Sunday Readings:** Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:7-9; John 12:20-33

## Weekly Discussion Questions

**For the Parish Bulletin**

**Life Question:** What is one way you have lifted someone up?

**Gospel Question:** How is Jesus like a grain of wheat?

## LIFE AND GOSPEL QUESTIONS BY AGE LEVEL

### Exploring the Sunday Readings (Adults)

When has death exerted authority over you? What do you do to retain attentive to the voice of life?

Visit [exploringthesundayreadings.com](http://exploringthesundayreadings.com)

### Visions (Grades 7-8)

**Life Question:** What is your best experience of Mass?

**Gospel Question:** How is the life cycle of a grain of wheat like Jesus' life?

### Venture (Grades 4-6)

**Life Question:** Can you grow a plant with seeds?

**Gospel Question:** How is Jesus' life like the life of a grain of wheat?

### Good News (Grades 2-3)

**Life Question:** What happens to seeds when you plant them?

**Gospel Question:** How is Jesus' Death like planting a seed?

### Promise (Grades K-1)

**Life Question:** How does a seed grow?

**Gospel Question:** What are some ways you can grow in love?

### Seeds (Preschool)

**Life Question:** What loving actions does your family do when sharing a meal together?

**Gospel Question:** Discuss how God makes food for us.

## Family Corner

### About the Gospel

Jesus explains how God will bring glory from everything that is done according to his will—even Jesus' upcoming Death. Christ compares his Death to a plant that dies, leaving seeds to grow. He wants us to love God, follow his will, and grow seeds of faith.

Visit [www.usccb.org/bible/readings](http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings) to read this Sunday's Scripture.

### In Church

Look at the crucifix and notice that Jesus' arms are spread wide as a sign of how very much he loves us.

### Question of the Week

How can you be like a seed and help grow faith?



### Family Prayer

Help us to put you first, Lord—to seek your will and help grow faith in others.

## Rincón de la Familia

### Acerca del Evangelio

Jesús explica que Dios glorificará todo lo que se hace conforme a su voluntad, inclusive la inminente muerte de Jesús. Cristo compara su muerte con una planta que muere, y que deja semillas para cultivar. Quiere que amemos a Dios, cumplamos su voluntad, y cultivemos semillas de fe.

Visita [www.usccb.org/bible/readings](http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings) para leer las lecturas de este domingo.

### En la Iglesia

Mira el crucifijo y observa que los brazos de Jesús están bien abiertos como signo de cuánto nos ama.

### Pregunta de la semana

¿De qué manera puedes ser como una semilla y ayudar a aumentar la fe?



### Oración en familia

Señor, ayúdanos a ponerte primero, a buscar tu voluntad y ayudar a aumentar la fe en los demás.

# FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



## Pure Hearts

Good and loving God,  
you have written your law within  
our hearts.  
In these final Lenten days,  
examine our hearts and purge them of  
all that keeps us from you.  
Grant us, who were baptized into  
Christ Jesus,  
the strength of the Holy Spirit to release  
our selfish desires  
and through this dying to self, rise to  
new life.  
Grow within our hearts a deep desire to  
live in union with you  
and aid our journey as we follow  
your will.  
Give us pure hearts that remain  
obedient to your promises  
so that, filled with the grace of  
your covenant,  
we may imitate your Son  
and proclaim your goodness throughout  
the earth.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 18, 2018

Covenant



*Today's Readings: Jeremiah 31:31–34; Psalm 51:3–4, 12–13, 14–15; Hebrews 5:7–9; John 12:20–33.* During the past few weeks, the theme of the Scriptures focused on God's covenant. In the reading from Jeremiah, God's covenant takes center stage once again. Jeremiah tells the people that God will make a new covenant with them and it will not be the covenant of their fathers. We learn that this covenant will be written on hearts and that all will know the Lord. It is clear that God deeply loves his people. No matter how many times before they have disobeyed the Law and turned away from God's love, God continues to reach out to them in love.

This new covenant is revealed in Christ, and in Baptism, the new law, the law of love, was written in our

hearts. Yet, we still submit to sin and often turn away from God. Psalm 51 is a helpful prayer when our hearts have gone astray. The deep emotion of the petitioner can be sensed as this text is sung. When have you needed to seek God's mercy? We know that God will not abandon us; God wishes to share abundantly his mercy. The law that God has placed within us demands that we die to self and learn to follow the Lord. As the Second Reading states, Jesus learned obedience from his suffering on the Cross. His death brought about a new creation. The suffering we undergo as part of dying to self will strengthen us and lead us to produce much fruit. For prayer this week, meditate upon your favorite hymn about God's love or mercy.



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

**Monday, March 19**

### Solemnity of St. Joseph

Only a few passages in Scripture provide a glimpse into the person of St. Joseph. His care for Jesus and the Blessed Virgin speaks volumes about his character and devotion to God. As you reflect on the Gospel today, pay attention to the words or images that stir within you. What do they invite you to understand about Joseph? Consider taking part in a St. Joseph table in your community. *Today's Readings: 2 Samuel 7:4–5a, 12–14a, 16; Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27 and 29; Romans 4:13, 16–18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18–21, 24a or Luke 2:41–51a.*

**Tuesday, March 20**

### Son of Man

The desert of the Lenten season might find us complaining as did the children of Israel. Our parched hearts yearn for drink. In the desolation of the desert our hearts and minds can be free to seek God. The First Reading foreshadows the life-giving event of Christ's death and Resurrection. Just as the serpent was raised and healed the Israelites, so too was the Son of Man raised so that whoever believes in him will be saved. What have you learned in the desert this season? Plant some seedlings, nurture them in the coming days, and watch your desert bloom. *Today's Readings: Numbers 21:4–9; Psalm 102:2–3, 16–18, 19–21; John 8:21–30.*

**Wednesday, March 21**

### Fiery Furnace

The three men in the First Reading refuse to worship the idol. They had faith that God would protect them from death in the furnace. Even the king is transformed when he learns of the angel of the Lord walking among them and protecting them. The Psalm response, "Glory and praise for ever," is a portion of the song of praise the men sing. Pray the Psalm at mealtime and name something for which you would like to praise God. *Today's Readings: Daniel 3:14–20, 91–92, 95; Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56; John 8:31–42.*

**Thursday, March 22**

### I AM

Today's Gospel presents another encounter between Jesus and the Jews. The passage helps to affirm the divinity of Jesus once again, even though his audience struggles to understand. For the third time in John's Gospel Jesus says, "I AM." By saying this, Jesus equates himself with God. This was radical and not well-received. Jesus truly reveals God to us. Place yourself in the story. What do you hear? What do you see? *Today's Readings: Genesis 17:3–9; Psalm 105:4–5, 6–7, 8–9; John 8:51–59.*

**Friday, March 23**

### Son of God

Jesus' adversaries question whether he is truly the Messiah. Jesus skillfully explains that he is the Son of God. He wonders why the works he performed are not proof enough that he reveals the one true God. The Jews in John's Gospel account think this is blasphemous and try to arrest him once again. The end of the Gospel reminds us that Jesus' ministry reveals God's power and so many come to know God. At the Stations of the Cross this evening, meditate on how Jesus did the work of the Father as he carried the cross. *Today's Readings: Jeremiah 20:10–13; Psalm 18:2–3a, 3bc–4, 5–6, 7; John 10:31–42.*

**Saturday, March 24**

### One Nation

Ezekiel paints a great picture of what life will be when all heed God's voice. In Christ, God will gather all peoples unto himself. God will heal them and restore them to life. They will flourish and God will dwell among them. This is a hopeful image. No matter how far away we are, God promises to bring us home and make us holy. As the week ends, think about how you will observe Holy Week. *Today's Readings: Ezekiel 37:21–28; Jeremiah 31:10, 11–12abcd, 13; John 11:45–56.*



# 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.

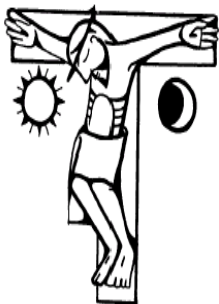


*Praying the Stations of the cross*

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.

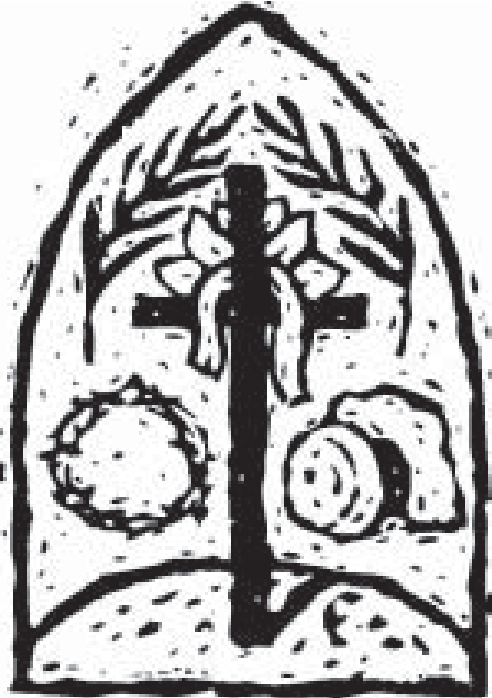


## Lenten Space, Silence, & Music

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.

## 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.



# Bringing Home the Word

Fifth Sunday of Lent | March 18, 2018

## Jesus' Light in Our Darkness

By Mary Katharine Deeley

**I've lived in the Midwest** most of my life. In the last few years, I've found myself appreciating why some of my senior friends enjoy spending time in warmer climates during the winter months. As I've gotten older, the range of temperatures that feel comfortable to me has grown increasingly narrow—and while I'm not yet ready to pull up stakes, the thought of it crosses my mind more frequently.

But as the Graeme Miles folk song "Dark December" reminds us, we shouldn't dislike winter. We celebrate the birth of Jesus—the light in our darkness—in the winter. In a four-season climate like that of the Midwest, we're particularly attuned to dark and light, death and life. We sense the days growing shorter and longer; we see leaves fall and plants sleep, only to reawaken when the weather turns warm. We know what lamps to light so we can see in those dark times and what clothes to wear until the warming sun brings the world to life once more.

The prophets knew God was stirring in the world, and they knew God's promise of light and salvation. For Jeremiah, light and life came in the promise of a new covenant—a new relationship with the Lord.

The Greeks of John's Gospel sensed that Jesus was the key to the light they longed for, and so they wanted to see him. John also says that to truly live, we must be like grain and die to ourselves.

Light into darkness, death into life—maybe the experience of winter helps us understand that just a little more. +

## A Word From Pope Francis

If God could weep, then I too can weep, in the knowledge that he understands me. The tears of Jesus serve as an antidote to my indifference before the suffering of my brothers and sisters. His tears teach me to make my own the pain of others.

—Prayer Vigil to "Dry the Tears,"  
May 5, 2016



## Sunday Readings

### Jeremiah 31:31–34

I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts.

### Hebrews 5:7–9

[Christ Jesus]...became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

### John 12:20–33

[Jesus said,] "Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me."

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- How can I more deeply receive Jesus' self-giving love for me?
- How should I imitate Jesus' self-giving love in my relationships?



# God Comforts His People

By Donald Senior, CP

"Blessed are they who mourn,  
for they will be comforted."

—Matthew 5:4

**O**nly those who have not lived long enough do not know what it means to mourn. The death of a parent or spouse. The end of a marriage or friendship. The loss of a job. All of these cut into our hearts and make us weep.

Jesus' words in this beatitude touch on this painful, profound human experience. The Scriptures are not abstract or the result of a first-century theological seminar. The words and passions of the Bible resonate with the down-to-earth weeping of genuine human beings.

The Bible knows all about loss and mourning: the grief of Abraham at the death of Sarah; the profound sadness of Moses as he gazed at the Promised Land he would never enter; Rachel weeping for her lost children; the tears of Jesus as he laments over his beloved city of Jerusalem and its impending fate.

The Greek word *penthountes*—to weep or mourn—is used in the passage of Isaiah 61:1–3, a text that interpreters of Matthew's Gospel believe had a strong influence on the formulation of the beatitudes:

***Penthountes, a Greek word meaning  
"to weep or mourn," may have influenced  
the formulation of the beatitudes.***

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; He has sent me to bring good news to the afflicted, to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, release to the prisoners...to comfort all who mourn."

In this text, those who mourn are those who are "afflicted," "brokenhearted," "captives," "prisoners." This is the grief of those who feel they have lost everything: their hope, freedom, and reason for living.

## Lingering Images

It is hard to hear about mourning and not think about the recent losses and violent deaths that have occurred in our own country and around the world. Images of people weeping over the violently broken bodies of loved ones are burned into our hearts. So, too, are the dazed and haggard faces of refugees created by war—people without hope, in desperate need of food and shelter, wailing in anguish.

In calling those who mourn "blessed," Jesus does not suggest that there is anything pleasant or beneficial in mourning. People mourn because of tragedy and suffering. Some suffering is the result of sin, such as violence inflicted on the innocent or abject poverty imposed on people without means. There is nothing blessed about that. No, the only reason people who mourn are blessed is because God hears their cries and will comfort them.

## Our Responsive God

A fundamental belief of our Christian faith appears in the second half of this beatitude. No cry of the poor and suffering will go unanswered. Early in the biblical saga, God made that clear when he said to Moses, "I have heard the cries of my people and have come to rescue them." Jesus' prophetic words echo that same sentiment. God is not indifferent to human suffering and will comfort those who mourn. This is the intent of the reign of God for which Jesus has come.

Now Jesus' words give direction to our lives. It is understandable that we lament the sufferings we witness or experience. Jesus, too, lamented the sufferings of his people and cried out in anguish at the prospect of his own death on the cross.

At the same time, we take heart in knowing that God still holds all those who suffer in the palm of his hand. Comforting those who mourn and alleviating their suffering are divine, noble works that we are called to as Jesus' followers. +

## PRAYER

Lord, your love is written on my heart. May your love inspire and empower me to love people from all walks of life.

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

## WEEKDAY READINGS

March 19–24, 2018

Mon. St. Joseph: 2 Sm 7:4–5a, 12–14a, 16 /  
Rom 4:13, 16–18, 22 / Mt 1:16, 18–21, 24a  
or Lk 2:41–51a


Tue. Lenten Weekday: Nm 21:4–9 /  
Jn 8:21–30

Wed. Lenten Weekday: Dn 3:14–20, 91–92, 95 /  
Jn 8:31–42

Thu. Lenten Weekday: Gn 17:3–9 /  
Jn 8:51–59

Fri. Lenten Weekday: Jer 20:10–13 /  
Jn 10:31–42

Sat. Lenten Weekday: Ez 37:21–28 /  
Jn 11:45–56

Bringing Home  
the Word   
March 18, 2018

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