



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, February 2, 2020  
The Presentation Of The Lord

4:00 PM  
8:00 AM

Gathering: God, We Praise You BB 209  
 Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 24)  
*Who is this King of Glory? It is the Lord.*  
 Preparation In His Temple Now Behold Him BB 208  
 Mass Parts Mass of Creation  
 Communion I Want To Walk As A Child Of The Light BB 589  
 Christ, Be Our Light BB 587  
 Recessional: Praise The Lord, Ye Heavens BB 533

10:00 AM

Gathering: Glory And Praise To Our God BB 547  
 Dismissal Rite: You Have Called Us BB 636  
 Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 146)  
*Bless the Lord, my soul, who heals the broken hearted.*  
 Preparation Beyond The Moon And Stars BB 46  
 We Are The Light Of The World BB 591  
 Mass Parts Mass of Creation  
 Communion Mary's Song BB 682  
 My Soul Rejoices BB 819  
 Recessional: Sing Out Earth And Skies BB 554



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 & 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!

**January 19, 2020**  
 Offertory \$5,379.08  
 Fuel \$2,398.64

**January 26, 2020**  
 Offertory \$7,677.27

**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 2, 2020 Property Management  
 February 9, 2020 Catholic Schools

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 ✠

## PAINT THE TOWN!

## THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH

Our Parish community continues with our Capital Campaign. Our next projects include exterior painting for the church and Parish house in Newton. We'd also like to paint the interior sanctuary of the church in Newton and complete some electrical upgrades to the church.

Other possible projects include work on our Plaistow and Newton parking lots, and ramp access to the church in Plaistow.

### *Can you help?*

Any contribution is welcome. Make checks payable to  
*Saint Luke the Evangelist – Capital Campaign.*

### FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

If you would like an "end of year" financial statement of your contributions to the parish for 2019, please call Jackie at the Parish Office at 382-8324. Financial Statements are issued on a request only basis.



### BLESSING OF COUPLES

There will be a special blessing of couples at the conclusion of all Liturgies on the weekend of **February 11-12**. Please pray for those married among us and remember those preparing to be married as well.

### VIGIL LIGHT

The Vigil Light in front of the Blessed Mother Icon in Newton may be offered in memory or honor of a loved one. The suggested offering for each is \$10.00.

### AMAZON SMILE

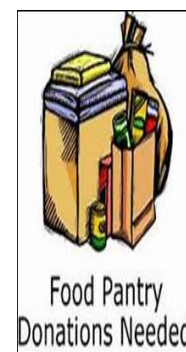
**AmazonSmile.com** is the same market platform as Amazon.com, but with the added benefit of allowing customers to donate 0.5% of the price of items purchased to a charitable organization. Please register today to start shopping and donating at [www.amazonsmile.com](http://www.amazonsmile.com). For questions,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

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

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

### 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.

## THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

### ✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

**Sunday, February 2**

10:00 AM	Religious Ed – PreK to 8	<i>Plaistow</i>
11:00 AM	RCIA	<i>Plaistow</i>
11:00 AM	Baptism Catechesis	<i>Plaistow</i>
6:00 PM	Vespers	<i>Newton</i>

**Monday, February 3**

7:00 PM	Knights of Columbus	<i>Plaistow</i>
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**Wednesday, February 5**  
**HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN**  
**ALL DAY FOR PRAYER**

**Thursday, February 6**

8:30 AM	Adoration Begins	<i>Newton</i>
9:00 AM	Intercessory Prayer	<i>Plaistow</i>
10:00 AM	Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting	<i>Plaistow</i>
8:30 PM	Adoration Ends	<i>Newton</i>

**Saturday, February 8**

3:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Plaistow</i>
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**Sunday, February 9**

10:00 AM	Religious Ed – PreK to 8	<i>Plaistow</i>
11:00 AM	RCIA	<i>Plaistow</i>
11:00 AM	Meeting for Grades 4, 5, 6 Parents and Students	<i>Plaistow</i>

### ✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

**Saturday, February 1 ~ Vigil / The Presentation of the Lord**  
*Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40*

4:00 PM	John Brooks Knowles, Jr. by the Parish	<i>Plaistow</i>
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**Sunday, February 2 ~ The Presentation of the Lord**  
*Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40*

8:00 AM	Michael and Mary Edward by their family	<i>Newton</i>
10:00 AM	Louis Peterson by Janice Bettencourt	<i>Plaistow</i>

**Monday, February 3 ~ Blaise, Bishop and Martyr:**  
**Ansgar, Bishop**  
*2 Sm 15:13-14, 30, 16:5-13; Mk 5:1-20*

8:00 AM	In Thanksgiving for Blessings Received	<i>Newton</i>
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**Tuesday, February 4 ~ Weekday**  
*2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30—19:3; Mk 5:21-43*

8:00 AM	For The Intentions of Edward Duhamel	<i>Plaistow</i>
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**Wednesday, February 5 ~ Agatha, Virgin and Martyr**  
*2 Sm 24:2, 9-17; Mk 6:1-6*

6:30 PM	Lena Dionne (30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary) by her family	<i>Plaistow</i>
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**Thursday, February 6 ~ Paul Miki and Companions,**  
**Martyrs**  
*2 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12; Mk 6:7-13*

8:00 AM	Albert and Barbara Tremblay	<i>Newton</i>
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**Friday February 7 ~ Weekday**  
*Sir 47:2-11; Mk 6:14-29*  
*No Mass*

**Saturday, February 8 ~ Jerome Emiliani:**  
**Josephine Bakhita, Virgin**  
*1 Kgs 3:4-13; Mk 6:30-34 (Day)*  
*Is 58:7-10; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16 (Vigil)*

4:00 PM	Ben and Irene Zakiewicz by Pat Zakiewicz	<i>Plaistow</i>
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**Sunday, February 9 ~ 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
*Is 58:7-10; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16*

8:00 AM	Dolly Greene and Beryl Wright by the Madore family	<i>Newton</i>
10:00 AM	Jesselyn Driscoll by her family	<i>Plaistow</i>



Don't forget to "Drop Your Dollar" the next time you're at Mass. It may not seem like much to you, but to those we help, it makes a huge difference in their lives.

Keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we head into the colder months and food and fuel may become an issue with neighbors and friends.

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

If you seek assistance or need information about the St. Vincent de Paul Society, call 603-382-8324 x315.

**Hear, OH LORD, and answer me  
 for I am poor and needy.**

#### 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).

✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠

**ST. ANDREW DINNERS**

Men who are considering a vocation to the priesthood or who would simply like some help hearing the Lord's call for their life, are invited to an evening of prayer, conversation with the Vocation Team, and Dinner. Please RSVP to Becky Vinson at [rvinson@rcbm.org](mailto:rvinson@rcbm.org) if you would like to attend.

**February 21 – Young Men ages 13-18**  
**February 28 – Men Ages 19-60**

**RCIA**

The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** is the process by which people become members of the Roman Catholic Church. 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).

**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).

**PARENTS BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION**

The monthly preparation session for infant Baptism will be held after the 10:00 AM Liturgy on **Sunday, February 2, 2020** 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 Schedules for March through May. (This includes the Easter Liturgies from Palm Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, to Easter Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, for which Father will do sign ups after Masses.)

If there are any times at which you cannot serve or when you would really like to serve, please let me (Jeanne Sullivan) know by **February 14<sup>th</sup>**. Contact me at 382-4760 or [jmsul@myfairpoint.net](mailto:jmsul@myfairpoint.net). Please remember to **include your ministry and Mass time in your message**.

Please let me know your availability and desires for the Easter Liturgies (even though there will be sign-ups at Church) so I won't needlessly bother you if I need to make phone calls to fill in empty slots.

Thanks, as always, for your help.

*Jeanne*

**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 [fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net)  
Cathy Smith [csmith@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net)  
Joyce Szapa [jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net)  
Jackie Tremblay [jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net)  
Thomas Kondel [tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net)  
Val Barczak [mvmbarczak@comcast.net](mailto:mvmbarczak@comcast.net)  
Parish Council [parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net)



✠ **Parish News ~ Youth News ~ Around The Diocese** ✠

**VITA NOVA WOMEN'S RETREAT 2020**

**March 13-15, 2020**

As Catholics, we believe in the communion of saints, a spiritual solidarity binding together the faithful on earth, the souls in purgatory, and the saints in Heaven. Join us as we journey "the little way" of St. Thérèse of Lisieux and reflect on the examples of other great saints who devoted their lives to Jesus. The retreat will be held at the Barbara C. Harris Center in Greenfield, NH and will be led by Fr. Rick St. Louis on Friday evening through Sunday morning (**March 13-15, 2020**). Register early! Prices will increase by \$25 on February 21, 2020. Financial Aid is available. To register, go to [www.vitanova.org](http://www.vitanova.org).

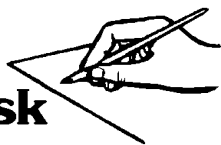
**MIRIAM DINNER**

Are you looking to follow the Lord and ready to say "yes" when he calls? We would like to invite women ages 14-40 who are considering a vocation to the religious life, or who would simply like some help hearing the Lord's call in their life, to an evening of prayer, conversation, and dinner at the Joseph House (279 Cartier Street in Manchester) on **Friday, February 7 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM**. Sister Mary Thomas Lesniak, a native of New Hampshire and a member of the Felician Sisters, will be sharing her inspiring vocation story. **Please RSVP** to Becky Vinson at [rvinson@rcbm.org](mailto:rvinson@rcbm.org) or 663-0153 if you would like to attend.

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUPS**

The Rockingham VNA & Hopsice is offering six-week interactive support groups in Epping and Exeter which provides an opportunity for members to meet in a safe, supportive environment in order to explore the grieving process and share with others who are coping with the loss of a loved one. All groups are free and open to the public. To register, or for more information, call Jane Oldfield-Spearman or Martha Carlson at 603-772-2981.

**From the  
Pastor's Desk**



**HOLY ANGELS CEMETERY CLOSED**

**Holy Angels Cemetery in Plaistow is closed until Spring 2020.** 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.

**HELP WANTED TO PUT AWAY TREES**

With Lent fast approaching, volunteers are welcome to help prepare the churches on **Sunday, February 16 following the 8:00 AM Liturgy in Newton and the 10:00 AM Liturgy in Plaistow.** Our tasks include taking down our green trees 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!

**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.**

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

**ST JUDE COUNCIL # 6617**

**GIVE YOUR PARISH COMMUNITY**

**1 HOUR A MONTH**

The Knights of Columbus are a vital and vibrant part of the St Luke the Evangelist Parish. We welcome any practicing Catholic man 18 or older to join the Knights, whose main purpose is charitable works in support of our parish and community. Joining is simple – talk to a brother Knight or you can now join on-line. Go to [www.kofc.org/joinus](http://www.kofc.org/joinus). Your Council is involved in many activities from collecting money for people with intellectual disabilities through the Tootsie Roll Drive to the annual St Jude Golf Open which raises money for parish families in need. The list is as long as you want it to be. Do you have a certain passion you would like to get involved in? Come join us and make it a reality! We are Catholic men. We live by principles informed by faith. We are sons, fathers, husbands, and grandfathers. Join us on life's greatest adventure to discover the man God calls you to be. Feel free to call Dan Sullivan at 603-770-4803, email him at [dans49@comcast.net](mailto:dans49@comcast.net), or catch him at the 8:00 AM Sunday Mass in Newton. For more information about the Knights, go to [www.kofc.org/un/en/todays-knights/what-we-do.html](http://www.kofc.org/un/en/todays-knights/what-we-do.html)

## The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord - February 2 -



At the end of the fourth century, a woman named Etheria made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Her journal, discovered in 1887, gives an unprecedented glimpse of liturgical life there. Among the celebrations she describes is the Epiphany, the observance of Christ's birth, and the gala procession in honor of his Presentation in the Temple 40 days later. Under the Mosaic Law, a woman was ritually "unclean" for 40 days after childbirth, when she was to present herself to the priests and offer sacrifice—her "purification." Contact with anyone who had brushed against mystery—birth or death—excluded a person from Jewish worship. This feast emphasizes Jesus' first appearance in the Temple more than Mary's purification.

The observance spread throughout the Western Church in the fifth and sixth centuries. Because the Church in the West celebrated Jesus' birth on December 25, the Presentation was moved to February 2, 40 days after Christmas.

At the beginning of the eighth century, Pope Sergius inaugurated a candlelight procession on this feast; at the end of the same century the blessing and distribution of candles which continues to this day became part of the celebration, giving the feast its popular name: Candlemas.

### Reflection

In Luke's account, Jesus was welcomed in the temple by two elderly people, Simeon and the widow Anna. They embody Israel in their patient expectation; they acknowledge the infant Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah. Early references to the Roman feast dub it the feast of Saint Simeon, the old man who burst into a song of joy which the Church still sings at each day's end. Read Luke 2: 22-40.

## ✠ AROUND THE PARISH & DIOCESE ✠



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

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

### **STAY INFORMED WITH FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP NEWS**

The Diocese of Manchester wants to inform Catholics about important public policy matters facing our elected officials. Faithful Citizenship News provides briefs on legislation as well as information about Catholic social teaching on some of today's pressing issues. To read the current issue of Faithful Citizenship News and to subscribe, visit [www.catholicnh.org/fcnews](http://www.catholicnh.org/fcnews).



Altar Flowers are a special opportunity for remembering a departed loved one or offering thanksgiving for a blessing or family event. A floral arrangement placed in front of the altar for the Sunday Liturgy can be purchased for an offering of \$85 (*increase is due to change in size of arrangement and deliver charge*), with an accompanying announcement in the weekly bulletin. Availability is limited according to the Liturgical Calendar. Offerings can be reserved on a first-come basis by contacting the Parish Office at 382-8324.

### **SANCTUARY CANDLES**

The Sanctuary Candles in both Newton and Plaistow may be offered in memory or honor of a loved one. The suggested offering is \$10.00.



### **HOW TO MAKE A REPORT OF SEXUAL ABUSE**

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

### **PLEASE HELP US!**

As you leave church, kindly take your Bulletin with you – or return it to the basket at the entrance of the Church, return your music book and Mass card to their proper place, and pick up after yourself as you leave. Our Ushers are wonderful and diligent, but they should not have to face a Foxboro aftermath as each Mass ends! Thanks for being attentive and respectful!

F. Albert.



### **MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER**

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

### **NH COUPLE ENRICHMENT CIRCLE**

Have you attended a Marriage Encounter Weekend? If your answer is yes, you are invited to participate in the NH Couple Enrichment Circle to continue to strengthen your marriage relationship. For more information, contact David and Karen Demers at 617-480-9989 or [ddemers@aviconpartners.com](mailto:ddemers@aviconpartners.com).

### **RETRouvaille...A Lifeline**

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



### **SUPPORT FOR DIVORCED AND SEPARATED**

Divorce and separation can be painful experiences. Support groups are available to those who are seeking healing, comfort, and empowerment. Visit [www.catholicnh.org/support](http://www.catholicnh.org/support) for a listing of groups.





# 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 of discipleship. 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.

## **The Lenten Journey is about PRAYER.**

Prayer is conversation with God. Make a good habit of daily prayer. Read the Psalms; and each Lent try and learn one or two by heart. Try to sing your prayer at home, and make every effort to sing well when you worship with others.

**The Lenten Journey is about FASTING.** To prepare himself for his life’s work, Jesus fasted in the wilderness. As Christians grow up, they need to learn traditional, healthy ways to fast. When we fast, we deny ourselves some food or other good things. We remind ourselves of how dependent we are on God’s gifts, which always must be shared fairly and never taken for granted.

**The Lenten Journey is about GIVING.** Almsgiving means “sharing compassion.” Almsgiving means more than giving away the things we don’t need. It means giving away some of the things we do need because someone else also needs them. It means giving of ourselves.



Our **Lenten Journey** is about faith sharing during the Lenten season. It is a way to learn more about your faith and grow as a disciple of the Lord; it is a way to meet fellow parishioners, and to contribute to the life of our Parish.

*All are welcome!*



# What to do?

Today we invite sign-ups for small group Scripture sharing during Lent. We continue to pray together as our 2020 **Lenten Journey** gets underway. Ask for the Spirit's guidance as you consider your involvement; pray that our Parish's **Lenten Journey** be blessed.

***Join a small group!*** Groups meet six times during the Lenten season to discuss the upcoming 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.

**You will have the opportunity to sign-up by filling out the registration form in this bulletin today and in the coming weeks, or call the Parish Office at 382-8324.**

***What else?*** During Lent, special *Paschal Mission* inserts in the weekly bulletin will focus on the Lenten Scriptures and on discipleship in the real world. Sunday Homilies will touch on living Jesus' Gospel and on the questions discussed at Group meetings.

***Evangelization – spreading the “Good News” is something everyone can do!***

## **WE ARE SEEKING SMALL GROUP LEADERS ON OUR** **LENTEN JOURNEY**

As a leader, you'll have the responsibility of opening and closing each small group session with a prayer, and helping people feel at ease with each other during the session. With your fellow group members, you will learn more about Scripture, participate in interesting discussions, meet some wonderful people, and have the opportunity to build up the Body of Christ.

Couples are welcome to share the group leader task!

***Indicate a “leader preference” on the registration form.  
For more information call 382-8324.***

***Family and Teen Downloads: [www.disciplesonthejourney.org](http://www.disciplesonthejourney.org)***

# **DISCIPLES ON THE JOURNEY REGISTRATION FORM**



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check the time and day you prefer**

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_  
(February 26 – April 1)

Thursday Afternoons at 1:30 p.m. \_\_\_\_  
(February 27 – April 2)

Check if you are willing to be a group leader \_\_\_\_\_

**GROUP MEETINGS BEGIN  
THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 23**

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

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



# The Gospel at Home

## This Week's Gospel: Luke 2:22-32

In the Gospel, Mary and Joseph honor Jewish tradition by bringing their firstborn son to the Temple. Simeon, a holy prophet, recognizes Jesus and reveals him as the Messiah who will fulfill God's promises to Israel and will be a light to all nations. Anna, a prophetess, is also at the Temple. She has been praying and fasting in expectation of the Messiah. The Feast of the Presentation is also called Candlemas because it is the day on which the Church customarily blesses and distributes candles used in worship and in the home. The blessed candle is a reminder to all that the light of Christ is present always and everywhere.

## Exploring the Gospel Message

**Seeds (Preschool):** Children need to know that Jesus was once a child with a family, too. Families help children to meet God. Talk with your child about the differences and likenesses between your family members and Jesus.

**Promise (Grades K-1):** This week's class helped your child appreciate the gift of light and its importance for life. The class also discussed how Jesus lights the way for everyone. Ask your child to share with the family the story of Simeon and Anna at the Temple. Talk, too, about ways your family can light the way for others.

**Good News (Grades 2-3):** Your child has learned that Jesus is the Messiah God promised to send and that Jesus is the Light of the World. Ask your child about the Feast of the Presentation and how the feast helps us all recognize the light of Christ who invites us to spread the light of love to others. Ask your child to define the word salvation from the lesson. He or she can also show you the candle from the Candlemas Procession.

**Venture (Grades 4-6):** On this feast day, the Church celebrates how Jesus is recognized as the Light of the World. In class, your child learned that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Harriet Tubman were lights for the world, too. Invite your child to share a bit of Harriet's story with the family. The class also learned about the Liturgy of the Word and how that first half of Mass feeds our minds with Scripture teachings. Consider reflecting on the previous week's or the upcoming week's readings. Ask your child to tell you about Saint Paul Miki and the Martyrs of Nagasaki.

**Visions (Grades 7-8):** This Sunday's feast is a celebration of light. It shows Jesus as a light for the nations. In class, your youngster recognized light as a symbol, not just of Jesus himself, but also of all his followers. Invite your young person to share why light is an important symbol of Jesus. Discuss how your family can share Christ's light with all whom you meet. Since we won't hear the reading on the Beatitudes this year, the lesson this week covered them. Have a discussion about what each Beatitude means.

## Pray Together

Gather the family at the kitchen table. In the center of the table, place the family Bible and a lighted candle. Let each person in the family ask for God's help in spreading the light of Christ to all they meet. After each person has a say, all can respond with the words, "Jesus you are the Light of the World. Shine on our family and on all whom we meet."





# Bringing Home the Word

The Presentation of the Lord (A)  
February 2, 2020

## The Fulfillment of Our Hopes

By Mary Katharine Deeley

Parents who bring a new baby home bring also their hopes and dreams for the child. At the very least, we hope the child will be happy and healthy and will have a life that is better than ours. From there, we may harbor a secret hope that the child might create the cure for some disease, write a prize-winning novel, or bring peace to the world.

I did all of those things, and I also prayed I wouldn't mess things up too badly. That was a secret hope I didn't share with our children until they were much older and it already seemed I hadn't done too much damage.

### Sunday Readings

#### Malachi 3:1-4

And the lord whom you seek will come suddenly to his temple; The messenger of the covenant whom you desire.

#### Hebrews 2:14-18

Because he himself was tested through what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

#### Luke 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

[Simeon said,] "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation."

I can only imagine what Mary and Joseph thought when they brought Jesus to the Temple. Even though the angel Gabriel had revealed their son's identity, did they look at him and see the refiner's fire of Malachi's prophecy?

It's possible, but I think they saw him more as their beloved child. The angel Gabriel told Mary that her son would "be great...[and] the Son of the Most High" (Luke 1:32), but did she know everything that meant? That's hard to see when your child is an infant in your arms.

What we know is this: Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple, and two people who had been waiting all their lives for a sign from God took that child into their arms and into their hearts and saw in him the answer to their prayers and the fulfillment of their hopes.

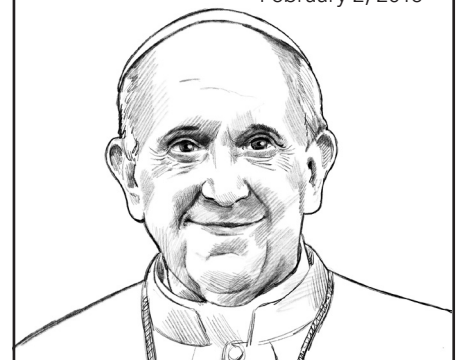
In that moment, Mary and Joseph could simply hold their breath and pray for the grace and strength to raise this child of God—and to hold their own hope out to him. +

*The angel Gabriel told Mary her son would "be great," but did she know everything that meant?*

### A Word from Pope Francis

In the Temple...Mary and Joseph find the roots of their faith, for faith is not something learned from a book, but the art of living with God, learned from the experience of those who have gone before us. The two young people, in meeting two older people [Simeon and Anna], thus find themselves.

—Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, February 2, 2018



### REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Do you cherish every child as belonging to God?
- How have you made your world better?

# Honoring Our Parents

By Kathy Coffey

God's Fourth Commandment reads, "Honor your father and your mother..." (Exodus 20:12). What nugget of wisdom does this commandment teach us? Today some parents and children are estranged; others wish their parents were alive so they could honor them. But the following story shows how delightfully some children still honor their parents.

Jan celebrated her sixtieth birthday with friends, far from her children living in five different states. "No gifts," she had told her kids. "All I need are memories of you." Then the postal service delivered a special box. Within it were sixty slips of paper on which Jan's children had written sixty special memories. She read and cherished each one, mixing laughter and tears.

Why honor our parents? In the world of the Bible and in good homes today, parents provide images of trust, hope, and serenity that enable the young to face formidable obstacles. To their children they convey the message, spoken or unspoken, "You are loved. You are wonderful."

All humans are constantly making the passage from the known to the unknown. Parents who have endured disappointment, even tragedy, can help their offspring travel that passage with dignity. "We've made mistakes," they say,

"We've lost jobs, health, or our dearest loves. But it didn't kill us. Something in people endures, continues to trust, and moves forward in confidence."

## Related Roles

Furthermore, parents are memory keepers. When their children hit snags, they remind them what glorious people they are. And if humor, perspective, or packages of goodies can lighten the load, they contribute those, too.

The wisest parents honor their children in turn. They count on their children's good sense to pilot them through difficulties, so they

restrain the "free advice." They clarify the boundaries of their role: providing safe harbors, but holding the ropes loosely. They encourage children to explore God's beautiful world, not burdening them with unnecessary anxiety. They recognize the arenas where the young have more expertise, inviting them to shine there.

Many parents struggle with handing on their faith to a generation that seems unenthusiastic at best. There, too, honor comes in. Realizing that the gift of faith, no matter how important, cannot be coerced or controlled, parents can follow the advice of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Agonizing over her sons' shenanigans, she once said, "What's a mother to do but pray and dote, pray and dote?"

If the roles of parent and child seem too idealized, we need only look to Jesus

and his mother and behold them as our role models. (Unfortunately, Scripture records little of Jesus' relationship with Joseph.)

## Learning from Jesus and Mary

The wedding at Cana (John 2:1-12) provides the perfect example of their honoring each other. Mary wisely tells Jesus of the need: "They have no wine." Then she backs off. She trusts his instincts to resolve the crisis.

Despite his reservations ("My hour has not yet come"), Jesus in turn honors his mother. Whether he was responding to her, or to the couple's dire need, we may never know. Despite the exhaustion and pain of his passion, Jesus continues to honor Mary, making sure even from the cross that his beloved disciple would continue to care for her (John 19:26-27).

In Jesus' day, women with no son or husband for protection often became desperate beggars. Knowing that sad reality, Jesus makes sure that John will take her into his own home. Saint Ignatius imagined that the first appearance of Jesus after the resurrection, although not recorded in Scripture, must surely have been to Mary.

As parents and children who follow Jesus, we are called to do likewise. +



## PRAYER

*Lord, you dwell in the depth of my being. May your Spirit help me to seek and to know you with all my heart, mind, soul, and strength.*

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

## WEEKDAY READINGS

February 3-8

**Monday, Weekday:**  
2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13 / Mk 5:1-20  
**Tuesday, Weekday:** 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30—19:3 / Mk 5:21-43  
**Wednesday, St. Agatha:**  
2 Sm 24:2, 9-17 / Mk 6:1-6

**Thursday, St. Paul Miki and Companions:**  
1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12 / Mk 6:7-13  
**Friday, Weekday:**  
Sir 47:2-11 / Mk 6:14-29  
**Saturday, Weekday:**  
1 Kgs 3:4-13 / Mk 6:30-34