



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

**Sunday, March 22, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**4:00 PM
8:00 AM**

Gathering: Hold Us In Your Mercy

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 51)

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

Preparation As The Deer Longs BB 497

Mass Parts Mass of Christ the Savior

Communion Take And Eat BB 359

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

10:00 AM

Gathering: Hold Us In Your Mercy

Dismissal Rite: You Have Called Us BB 636

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 51)

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

Preparation Shepherd Me, O God BB 457
The Lord Is My Light BB 751

Mass Parts Mass of Christ The Savior

Communion Because The Lord Is My Shepherd BB 465
Behold The Lamb BB 337

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

RESTROOM BREAKS DURING MASS

Attention Parents

Please be sure to accompany your young children when they need to use the restroom during Mass. This is for their safety and your peace of mind. Thank you for your assistance.

✠ 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 15, 2020

Offertory	\$6,595.97
Fuel	\$1,570.30

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 22, 2020	CRS and Home Missions
March 29, 2020	Easter Flowers
April 5, 2020	Property Management
April 10, 2020	Good Friday – Holy Land

**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.

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.



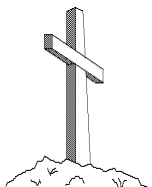
FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

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.**

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

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 27.



AMAZON SMILE

St. Luke the Evangelist Parish received **\$82.08** from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of activity between October 1 and December 31, 2019.

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.

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 SPRING...

We appreciate all of you who remember to send in your Parish Offertory during the Spring even when on vacation or visiting other parishes. Thank you for remembering that our expenses also continue through the Spring months. We invite others to consider doing the same before or even after you return home.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, March 22

9:00 AM	Choir Rehearsal	<i>Newton</i>
10:00 AM	Religious Ed – PreK to 8	<i>Plaistow</i>
11:00 AM	Confirmation Class (Gr. 3, 4, 5, 6)	<i>Plaistow</i>
11:00 AM	RCIA	<i>Plaistow</i>
12:00 PM	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting	<i>Plaistow</i>
6:00 PM	Vespers	<i>Newton</i>
6:30 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Newton</i>

Monday, March 23

7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	<i>Plaistow</i>
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Wednesday, March 25 **HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN ALL DAY FOR PRAYER**

7:00 PM	Disciples on the Journey	<i>Plaistow</i>
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Thursday, March 26

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 27

6:30 PM	Stations of the Cross & Soup Supper	<i>Newton</i>
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Saturday, March 28

3:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Plaistow</i>
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Sunday, March 29

9:00 AM	Choir Rehearsal	<i>Newton</i>
10:00 AM	Religious Ed – PreK to 8	<i>Plaistow</i>
11:00 AM	RCIA	<i>Plaistow</i>
6:00 PM	Vespers	<i>Newton</i>
6:30 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Newton</i>

**St. Vincent
de Paul
Society**



We're looking for new members! Have you ever wondered just what the St. Vincent de Paul Society is all about? Plan to join us on **Wednesday, April 15 at 7:00 PM** in the Holy Angels Church Hall for some light refreshments and information on how you can become a member of this vibrant, caring group of people. We look forward to meeting you and answering any questions you may have. See you on April 15!

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 21 ~ Vigil / Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41

4:00 PM	John Brooks Knowles by Stacia & John Boudah <i>Plaistow</i>
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Sunday, March 22 ~ Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41

8:00 AM	Mildred Healey by her family <i>Newton</i>
10:00 AM	In Thanksgiving to St. Michael the Archangel <i>Plaistow</i>

Monday, March 23 ~ Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop

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

8:00 AM	Barbara Tremblay by the Tucker family <i>Newton</i>
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Tuesday, March 24 ~ Oscar Romero, Bishop and Martyr

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

8:00 AM	Barbara Tremblay by Janice Bettencourt <i>Plaistow</i>
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Wednesday, March 25 ~ The Annunciation of the Lord

Is 7:10-14, 8-10; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38

6:30 PM	Sarah Katherine McCarthy by the Parish <i>Plaistow</i>
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Thursday, March 26 ~ Lenten Weekday

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

8:00 AM	Frank Bukowski (15 th Anniversary) by his wife, Grace Bukowski <i>Newton</i>
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Friday March 27 ~ Lenten Weekday

Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
No Mass

Saturday, March 28 ~ Lenten Weekday

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

Ez 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 (Vigil)

4:00 PM	Lucy, Joe, and Patrick Zakiewicz by Pat Zakiewicz <i>Plaistow</i>
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Sunday, March 29 ~ Fifth Sunday of Lent

Ez 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45

8:00 AM	Robert Giallongo by his family <i>Newton</i>
10:00 AM	Sean Breen (11 th Anniversary) and Carol Flaherty (9 th Anniversary) by their family <i>Plaistow</i>

SANCTUARY CANDLES

The Sanctuary Candles in both Newton and Plaistow may be offered in memory or honor of a loved one. The suggested offering for each is \$10.00. Please call the Parish Office at 382-8324.

VIGIL LIGHT

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

MARCH 22, 2020

✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠

RICE BOWLS AVAILABLE

Operation Rice Bowl is the official Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services. Operation Rice Bowl provides funding to Catholic Relief Services 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, April 9.**

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.

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.

PARENTS BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION

The monthly preparation session for infant Baptism will be held after the 10:00 AM Liturgy on **Sunday, April 5, 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.

CHRISM MASS

Bishop Peter Libasci invites the faithful of the Diocese of Manchester to the Chrism Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral, Manchester on **Holy Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 6:00 PM.** The Chrism Mass, celebrated by the Bishop and concelebrated with the priests working in the diocese, is the Mass when the bishop consecrates the holy chrism and blesses the oil of catechumens and the oil of the sick. Priests concelebrate this Mass as witnesses and cooperators with the diocesan bishop because they share in the grace of the Sacrament of Holy Orders to build up, sanctify and serve the people of God. All are welcome. Visit www.catholicnh.org for more information and to register to attend.

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.



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 Szapa
Jackie Tremblay
Thomas Kondel
Val Barczak
Parish Council

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

✠ Parish News ~ Youth News ~ Around The Diocese ✠

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE

The Easter bulletin must be submitted early. Announcements to be included in the Easter (April 12, 2020 bulletin) must be submitted to the office **no later than 12:00 Noon on Monday, March 30**. Thank you for your understanding.



EASTER VIGIL RECEPTION

The Parish will host a reception following the Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday night, **April 11**. 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 382-8324 or email csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

THANKS FROM MIKE MERCIER

Thank you to the Pastoral Council and the Saint Luke the Evangelist Community for the efforts to help our street ministry. We were blown away by the amount and the quality of the donations, and everything has been handed out on the street. We went out on a Saturday for nearly 6 hours and on the following Sunday. So many of homeless were commenting on the quality of the hats, mittens, gloves, and socks as well as the selection. Your efforts are much appreciated.

L'ARCHE "AS I AM" LENTEN EVENT

Exploring the Dignity of People with Developmental Disabilities

Friday, March 27 at 6:00 PM

Church of the Nativity Hall, Merrimac, MA

Join our neighbors and fellow parishioners in the L'Arche Boston North community for a simple soup and bread dinner, followed by a video presentation and discussion about the dignity and gifts of people with developmental disabilities. *L'Arche (French for "the Ark") Boston North is a member of an international community of people with and without developmental disabilities growing through mutually transformative relationship. Based out of Haverhill and with a home in Merrimac, L'Arche Boston North is ecumenical, faith based and with roots in the Catholic faith.*

BECOME A CASA VOLUNTEER

CASA volunteers make a life-changing difference for children who have experienced abuse or neglect. Every year, more than 1,400 children in New Hampshire depend on their CASA volunteer advocate. You can help change a child's story. New advocate training begins in Nashua on **Tuesday, March 31**. For more information, call 1-800-626-0622 or go to www.CASANH.org.

IS IT THE FLU OR A COLD?

Symptom: Fever

Cold: rare

Flu: usually present

Symptom: Chills

Cold: uncommon

Flu: fairly uncommon

Symptom: Tiredness

Cold: mild

Flu: moderate to severe

Symptom: Coughing

Cold: common

Flu: common

Symptom: Sneezing

Cold: common

Flu: uncommon

Symptom: Stuffy Nose

Cold: common

Flu: uncommon

Symptom: Runny Nose

Cold: sometimes

Flu: common

Symptom: Sore Throat

Cold: common

Flu: uncommon

Symptom: Headache

Cold: mild

Flu: common

Symptom: Chest Discomfort

Cold: mild to moderate

Flu: often severe

Symptom: General Aches and Pains

Cold: slight

Flu: common – often severe

Symptom: Onset of Symptoms

Cold: appear gradually

Flu: can appear within 3-6 hours

FOR OUR RECORDS

We need your help to keep our records current. If there are any births, deaths, marriages, moves, or address changes in your family, please notify the Parish Office at 603-382-8324 or at jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net. If you are new to our parish, registration forms are available at the entrances of both churches. You can also find a registration form on our website at <http://stlukenh.org>.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
BLOOD DRIVE**

The St Jude Council #6617 from our parish is sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive on **Friday, March 27 from 1:00 to 6:00 PM** at the Atkinson Community Center. The Knights are strongly encouraging anyone who would like to donate to please register ahead of time for an appointment, but walk ins are welcome. To register for an appointment, you can call the Red Cross at 1-800-REDCROSS (733-2767) or go to www.RedCrossBlood.org. The Knights are dedicated to serving our local community and helping those in need. If you would like more information on the St Jude Council and our service programs in the local community, please contact Dan Sullivan at 603-770-4803 or email him at dans49@comcast.net.

A Prayer Amid an Epidemic

By Kerry Weber

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

Jesus Christ, heal us.

*Kerry Weber is an executive editor of **America**.*

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



That All Might Be Light

Lord of light,
God of our salvation,
we walk by the light of your Son,
whom you sent that all might see and know
your love.
Manifest yourself to all who seek your face,
and be merciful when we persist
in blindness.

Expose injustice,
and illuminate the way to peace.
Reveal the darkness within and around us.
Cast that darkness out of us
so that we will walk more boldly by
your light.
With your Son as our guide,
bring us into your everlasting radiance.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 22, 2020

Into the Light



Today's Readings: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6–7, 10–13a; Psalm 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6 (1); Ephesians 5:8–14; John 9:1–41. When Samuel goes to Jesse to anoint a new king, no one, including Samuel, recognizes God's chosen one. Only God is able to look within David and see that this shepherd boy will be a capable and faithful king.

The people in the Gospel passage also struggle to see as God sees, and so do we. Jesus' words and actions provoke everyone to decide whether he is God's chosen one, whether God truly sent him into the world to save it. The challenge then, as now, is to examine the testimony without making assumptions, such as assuming Jesus was wrong to heal on the Sabbath or that blindness is a punishment for sin.

As we scrutinize Jesus, asking ourselves who he is, we face the ultimate challenge of moving toward or away from him, of moving toward or away from God's light. We want to stand within this light, but sometimes the brightness frightens us. God's light exposes our darkness, and it can hurt when God's light burns the darkness out of us. Sometimes it is easier to close our eyes and pretend that we already see everything clearly.

But we cannot escape God's light. It has come into the world, and it remains in our midst. It remains in us. This light will make us radiate with joy and goodness and enable us to illuminate the way for others if we are humble and brave enough to let it.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 23

Making Everything New

Passages such as the one from Isaiah in the First Reading remind us how invested God is in this earth. Having created the world, God will not abandon it but will refashion it, casting out suffering and sorrow. By healing a child, Jesus reveals that God's work of re-creation has already begun. God invites us to participate in it. Reflect on how the work you do—or could do—is part of God's work of remaking the world. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 65:17–21; Psalm 30:2 and 4, 5–6, 11–12a and 13b; John 4:43–54.*

Tuesday, March 24

Replenishing

The prophet Ezekiel tells of a glorious future in which fresh water flows in abundance. The water brings life to parched ground, transforms salty water, and allows fish and fruit trees to thrive. In the Gospel, Jesus surpasses this life-giving water. He ignores the pool and heals the man through the power of his word alone. The man represents all creation transformed and replenished by the power of Christ. Each time you use water today, thank God for the ways he has helped and replenished you. *Today's Readings: Ezekiel 47:1–9, 12; Psalm 46:2–3, 5–6, 8–9; John 5:1–16.*

Wednesday, March 25

Solemnity of the Annunciation

In the Old Testament, sacrifices are offerings set apart for God. Such gifts remind the people that they themselves are set apart for God. We give things up during Lent in order to make ourselves a sacrifice, to set ourselves apart from the things of this world and to put ourselves at the service of God and his kingdom. King Ahaz did not want to become such an offering, whereas Mary offered herself with barely a moment's thought. Offer yourself to God by praying St. Ignatius of Loyola's *Suscipe*. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 7:10–14; 8:10; Psalm 40:7–8a, 8b–9, 10, 11; Hebrews 10:4–10; Luke 1:26–38.*

Thursday, March 26

The Faces of God

The Israelites in the reading from Exodus wanted to relate to God in ways that were familiar to them, so they made an image of God. They struggled to accept that God is both beyond images and represented by them, his people. Centuries later God again presented himself in a way that was hard for people to accept: in Jesus, his Son. Make a list of titles for Jesus. Choose one you do not normally use and reflect on what it reveals about God. *Today's Readings: Exodus 32:7–14; Psalm 106:19–20, 21–22, 23; John 5:31–47.*

Friday, March 27

The Just Ones

People in the temple area question whether Jesus is the Messiah because they know he is from Galilee. They struggle to accept that he is somehow from God, “from above.” Others flatly refuse to believe that Jesus has a unique relationship with God. Jesus is the just man, the one who obeys God in everything, yet who is attacked for precisely that reason. Take a moment to pray for those who are ridiculed or endangered because they are doing what is right. *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 28

Rejections

As Jesus continues to provoke division, the religious authorities take an ever more rigid stance against him. They so insist that they know the law, that they know the Scriptures, that they demean everyone who doesn't agree with them. God's prophet Jeremiah also experienced spite and dangerous rejection. In those moments we reject someone, it may turn out that we have misunderstood what God is telling us. Choose a psalm and listen for how God might be challenging you. *Today's Readings: Jeremiah 11:18–20; Psalm 7:2–3, 9bc–10, 11–12; John 7:40–53.*





Experiencing Hunger

In fasting we voluntarily accept a state of hunger which millions of our brothers and sisters are forced to accept every day of their often all too brief lives. Fasting is thus a privileged entry into the experience of a vast portion of the human family with whom we seldom associate. In sharing their experience we come to an understanding of their plight unavailable to those who simply think about the sufferings of the poor. We might even say that this experiential knowledge makes all other knowledge seem like blindness about their world.

The season of Lent is a time of coming to fresh clarity about the responsibilities which we accept at baptism. The man born blind and given vision by Jesus almost

immediately found himself in trouble as a result of his new sight and its source. Those who willingly accept the hungers of the poor will undoubtedly be led to address the needs of their brothers and sisters. Thus the connection between fasting and alms.

Fasting, however, is not just a way to raise social consciousness. It is a trigger which brings us to new thankfulness for the gifts God has given us and which Christ asks us to share that we might embody our communion with all God's children.

What does it feel like to be truly hungry and thirsty?

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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 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 praiseworthy 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.

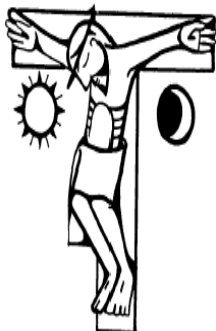


Praying the Stations of the cross

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 27, 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.

SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST

Lent - Easter Liturgical Schedule 2020

THE BEGINNING OF THE LENTEN FAST FEBRUARY 26
ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY 8 am Newton
6:30 PM Plaistow

RECONCILIATION

Plaistow: Saturdays 3:00 PM (except Holy Saturday)
Newton: Sundays of Lent following 6 PM evening prayer

Sunday March 22: Penance Service at Exeter 4:00 PM

Monday of Holy Week: Plaistow 11:00am – 1:00 PM; Newton 5:00-7:00 PM

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS Fridays of Lent - 6:30 pm – Newton Lenten Soup Supper Friday March 27

HOLY WEEK

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

PASCHAL TRIDUUM

HOLY THURSDAY APRIL 9 – 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 APRIL 10 - 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 APRIL 11– Morning Prayer 8 am - Plaistow
Mid-day Prayer 12 noon - Plaistow

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

EASTER SUNDAY LITURGIES APRIL 12

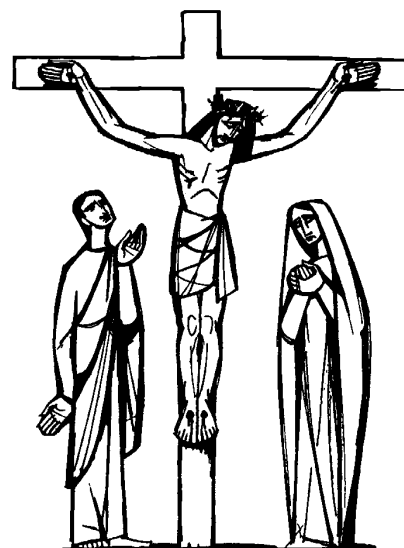
8 AM – Newton

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 Paschal Triduum

The Church's holiest days begin with the **Liturgy of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, April 9 at 6:30 PM in Newton.** At Mass that evening, the holy oils blessed earlier that week by Bishop Peter will be presented to the Parish, Jesus' call to service and humility is remembered through washing of feet, and the institution of the Eucharist by Jesus at the Last supper is celebrated. Adoration and prayer with the Eucharist will go on that night in church until Night Prayer at 10:00 PM.

Throughout the Triduum, the Church is in almost constant prayer. The **Liturgy of the Hours** will be celebrated beginning on Holy Thursday at 8 am and Noon at Newton. Night prayer will be at 10 PM. The same schedule for Morning and Mid-Day prayer will be kept on Good Friday and Holy Saturday at Plaistow.



The Passion and death of Jesus on the cross is celebrated on **Good Friday, April 10.** Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 3:00 PM in Newton, and **the principal celebration of the day, the Reading of John's Passion, the Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion will be celebrated at 6:30 PM at Plaistow.**

On Holy Saturday, the Church waits in prayer at the Lord's tomb. No Masses are allowed, no sacraments other than communion for the dying are celebrated. We wait for announcement of Easter victory. Morning prayer will be celebrated at Plaistow at 8 am, and Mid-Day prayer at Noon.



The ***Great Vigil of Easter*** will begin at **8 PM on Saturday, April 11** with the blessing of new fire and the lighting of the Paschal Candle, the principle symbol of the Easter Season. We will then listen to our story of salvation, proclaimed through readings and song. We will proclaim the Easter Gospel, and renew our Baptismal Promises. We will then celebrate the solemn Eucharist of Easter, followed by a festive reception in the Hall.

The ***Great Vigil of Easter*** begins from the **Parish Hall**, where we'll process to the blessing of the new fire, burning just outside the doors of the Church. ***If you plan on attending the Great Vigil on April 11, plan on gathering in the Hall for 7:50 PM on Holy Saturday evening.***

Easter Sunday

Easter Liturgies will be celebrated at 8:00 am in Newton and at 10:00 am in Plaistow on April 21, with renewal of Baptismal Promises and blessing with Easter Water.

Easter Evening Prayer with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will conclude our Easter Sunday at 6:00 PM at Newton.

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: John 9:1-41

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus opens the eyes of a man blind from birth. It is the man born blind who sees Jesus for who he really is. The man's neighbors, parents, and teachers have sight but are blind to who Jesus is. In many parishes, those preparing for Baptism receive the Creed this week, and many of this week's lessons help young people know the Creed.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Young children are proud of their ability to recognize objects and call them by name. Ask your child to name different colors and shapes in your house. Teaching them the names of the different flowers, birds, and animals around them is a concrete way to help children see the wonders of God's Creation.

Promise (Grades K-1): This week your child learned to appreciate the sense of sight. Ask your child to share with the family the story of the man who was born blind. Talk about what a gift it is to see the wonders of God's world. Consider taking a walk around your neighborhood or area and notice all the things we can see and believe. Then talk about the many things we can't see, but we still believe, such as love.

Good News (Grades 2-3): Ask your child to show you the puppets he or she made in class. You may want to use the puppets to act out the Gospel story of the man born blind. Ask your child what a creed is. Talk together about what it means to believe and why it is important that we say the Creed at every Sunday Mass. Consider going outside to find signs of Spring like the story the class read this week.

Venture (Grades 4-6): In class, your child read a comic telling the story of the blind man whose sight was healed by Jesus. Have your child point out the part of the story that they find most comforting or challenging. Ask your child to share something they learned about either the Nicene or the Apostle's Creed with your family. As a family, discuss how your faith has grown with each of you, and how you hope your faith will keep growing.

Visions (Grades 7-8): The Gospel of the man born blind gave your child's class an opportunity to learn what it means to really see. Ask your child to tell the whole family about Louie—a legally blind teenager who works to help other people see. Talk about all the different ways of "seeing." Although we often say, "Seeing is believing," talk together about how "believing is seeing." You might want to end your family chat by reciting the Apostles' Creed (found on the last page of your child's lesson).

Pray Together

Have each member of the family write a "Prayer Tweet." That means that the prayer can be only 140 characters or less. The prayer should be about how important it is to really see or to ask God to help you overcome your blindness. Younger children will need some help with their prayers. After all the prayers are written, let each person share his or her prayer with the family. If members of your family use Twitter, you may want to share these prayers with your followers, too.



Bringing Home the Word

Fourth Sunday of Lent (A)

March 22, 2020

To Live By Faith

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Our Lenten practices are transforming our hearts to receive the love of Jesus in his passion, death, and resurrection. Today's Gospel revolves around this theme of learning to live by faith. The apostles take for granted that the man's blindness is due to someone's sin. The Pharisees call the man a sinner, born in sin. In their self-righteousness they judge both the blind man and Jesus.

Jesus sees and judges differently. He asserts that the man's blindness was not due to a sin of his own or that of his parents and restores his sight.

He challenges the wise, educated, and insightful Pharisees by saying, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, 'We see,' so your sin remains" (John 9:41).

While they can see physically, they cannot see the simple truth that Jesus is the Son of God and has the authority to heal, even on the Sabbath. They are so blinded by their "fidelity to God"—which is really fidelity to their distorted interpretation of the traditions and regulations God gave them—that they cannot see his spirit of mercy. They fail to see with eyes of faith.

Being merciful like Jesus doesn't mean merely condemning blind legalism, it means showing God's love to those in need. First we need to see as God sees. Then we need to love others and to enlighten them with the truth. Jesus heals one man's blindness in the hope of opening the minds and hearts of the Pharisees—and us today. +

Sunday Readings

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6–7, 10–13a

God does not see as a mortal, who sees the appearance. The LORD looks into the heart.

Ephesians 5:8–14

Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness; rather expose them.

John 9:1–41 or

John 9:1, 6–9, 13–17, 34–38

Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind."

***While the Pharisees
can see physically,
they cannot see
the simple truth
that Jesus is
the Son of God.***

A Word from Pope Francis

We can imagine what Joseph must have been thinking. How is it that the Son of God has no home? ...And those of us who do have a home, a roof over our heads, would also do well to ask: Why do these, our brothers and sisters, have no place to live?

—Meeting with the homeless,
September 24, 2015



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Are there people or groups I blindly judge? What is at the root of these judgments?
- To what truths am I blind? How can I work to open my heart to these truths this Lent?

Ways the Gospels Make Us Uncomfortable

By Kathy Coffey

It may be a shift to read the Gospels and feel discomfort. While the words and actions of Jesus enlighten, they're no escape hatch. Conflict, tension, and frustration still plague believers.

But we read the Gospels for one purpose: to know Jesus better—not for warm fuzzies, easy answers, or reinforcement of prejudices. Nor will we always encounter “Jesus, meek and mild.”

He who threatened the cozy assumptions of his contemporaries may have the same effect on us. If we rely on the wrong supports, like wealth (Luke 6:20, 24), prestige (Matthew 23:1–12), or religious rituals (Mark 2:27–28), he'll challenge us, too.

Jesus questioned many of the customs of his time—such as the subservient role of women and the authority of the Pharisees. “It is hard to believe [Jesus] was simply an early flower child who traipsed through the sunlit fields talking about lilies and love!” Nathan Mitchell writes in *Real Presence: The Work of Eucharist*. “Who would seek to arrest and execute such a sap?”

The Perils of Storytelling

We may be uncomfortable with the Gospels' storytelling if we want just the



facts. We might prefer a precise blueprint or spreadsheet to rambling, inconsistent stories. But if we compare the Bible to our own complex, difficult life stories, we grow more comfortable with its mixed genres. We find links where the larger story of God intersects with our personal lives.

So we reflect not only on Jesus' and the Hebrews' experience in the desert, but also on our own desert times. Wandering in the wilderness brings valuable insights we don't learn in secure kitchens.

As much as we enjoy the intriguing connections, storytelling has its shortcomings. It's unscientific, subject to interpretation, and sometimes wildly inaccurate. Two people who attended the same party might tell radically different accounts.

So, too, each Gospel writer has a different emphasis. Even within the Gospel of John, there are inconsistencies: “Jesus was deeply *troubled*” (13:21), but in the next chapter Jesus says, “Do not let your hearts be *troubled*” (14:1).

Those who enjoy stories listen beneath the words. Their primary interest is the meaning stories give our experiences. We don't read the Gospels primarily for scientific accuracy or historical fact but to follow Jesus better.

We read through the lens of a human

author who will sometimes shade, condense, or exaggerate. Sometimes we may also need to read biblical interpretation, but most important is our response. There's an old saying: the Gospel gives the chapter headings; we write the texts in our lives.

Too Good to Be True?

The Gospels have been misused to incite guilt. Some people may need that stern correction to luxuriating while others starve. But many hard-working people are simply trying to survive, raise families, and do their jobs while being as generous as possible with their time and treasure. They certainly don't need another guilt trip!

What we may find harder than guilt is the Gospels' insistence on how splendid we are. Jesus walked among the diseased, smelly, and sweaty, and assured them that even in poverty, mourning, or persecution, they were blessed. Mired in our own problems, do we struggle with *good* news?

Admittedly, the central message is hard to absorb. We, limited and flawed, are made in his divine image. Throughout the Gospels, the message recurs: You are not a slave. You are a friend and adopted child with an eternal inheritance—not condemned to futility or the finality of death. +



Lord, you are the Word of God that shows me what is good, right, and true. Make me a faithful witness to your Word.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

March 23–28

Monday, Lenten Weekday:
Is 65:17–21 / Jn 4:43–54

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

Wednesday, The Annunciation
of the Lord: Is 7:10–14; 8:10 /
Heb 10:4–10 / Lk 1:26–38

Thursday, Lenten Weekday:
Ex 32:7–14 / Jn 5:31–47

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

Saturday, Lenten Weekday:
Jer 11:18–20 / Jn 7:40–53

Bringing Home
the Word 

March 22, 2020

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