

**Sunday, March 29, 2020
Fifth Sunday of Lent**

During these anxious and challenging days, I want to thank you for your prayers and ongoing support of the ministries of our Parish. Even though you are not physically present at the celebration of the Liturgy, you and your family are in our hearts as we pray for you and with you. I also thank you for your concern for the poor and forgotten through your support of our Saint Luke the Evangelist Food Pantry.

In the coming days and weeks, we will be severely challenged as a Parish community in terms of finances. We do not have any cash reserves on which to fall, and salaries, supplies and utilities continue to be a part of the operations of our Parish.

I have already consulted with members of our Finance Council and have put in place various cost saving strategies to help us ride out the Corona storm. I am deeply grateful for your continuing support of the work of our Parish, even in your absence. Your ongoing support will mean that the Parish can continue the work of ministry for the present and will help us look toward a future when we are all together again.

If you would like assistance in making electronic contributions, please see the Parish Giving section in the right-hand column of this page.

May God console us, heal us and bless us in the days to come.

Father Albert, obl. SB

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!

**THERE WAS NO PUBLIC MASS
OR COLLECTION ON
MARCH 22, 2020**

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 29, 2020	Easter Flowers
April 5, 2020	Property Management
April 10, 2020	Good Friday – Holy Land
April 12, 2020	Easter AND Needs of Parish

**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!

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.

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.



In Loving Memory

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:
Edward Murphy

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. For questions, please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. Be sure to choose:

St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.

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>

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.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Saturday, March 28
3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, March 29
CHURCHES IN NEWTON AND PLAISTOW
OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER
UNTIL 12:00 NOON

Monday, March 30
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN FOR
PRIVATE PRAYER FROM
8:30 AM TO 4:00 PM

Tuesday, March 31
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN FOR
PRIVATE PRAYER FROM
8:30 AM TO 4:00 PM

Wednesday, April 1
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN FOR
PRIVATE PRAYER FROM
8:30 AM TO 4:00 PM

Thursday, April 2
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN FOR
PRIVATE PRAYER FROM
8:30 AM TO 4:00 PM

8:30 AM Adoration Begins *Newton*
8:30 PM Adoration Ends *Newton*

Saturday, April 4
3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, April 5
CHURCHES IN NEWTON AND PLAISTOW
OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER
UNTIL 12:00 NOON IF NO PUBLIC MASS IS ALLOWED

**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 28 ~ Vigil / Fifth Sunday of Lent
Ez 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45

Lucy, Joe, and Patrick Zakiewicz
 by Pat Zakiewicz
No Public Mass

Sunday, March 29 ~ Fifth Sunday of Lent
Ez 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45

Robert Giallongo by his family
No Public Mass
 Sean Breen (11th Anniversary) and
 Carol Flaherty (9th Anniversary) by their family
No Public Mass

Monday, March 30 ~ Lenten Weekday
Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; Jn 8:1-11
 John and Katie Cotter by Cathy Smith
No Public Mass

Tuesday, March 31 ~ Lenten Weekday
Nm 21:4-9; Jn 8:21-30
 In Thanksgiving for Favors Received
 by Elaine Kelcourse
No Public Mass

Wednesday, April 1 ~ Lenten Weekday
Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Jn 8:31-42
 Raymond & Anna Lynch and son Vincent
 by their family
No Public Mass

Thursday, April 2 ~ Francis of Paola, Hermit
Gn 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59
 People of the Parish
No Public Mass

Friday April 3 ~ Lenten Weekday
Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42
No Mass

Saturday, April 4 ~ Isidore, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Ez 37:21-28; Jn 11:45-56 (Day)
Mt 21:1-11; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14—27:66 (Vigil)
4:00 Kevin Gallant (27th Anniversary)
 by Patricia Gallant
Plaistow (IF public Mass allowed)

Sunday, April 5 ~ Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Mt 21:1-11; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14—27:66
8:00 AM Ron Metcalf by his family
Newton (IF public Mass is allowed)
10:00 AM Jesselyn Driscoll by her family
Plaistow (IF public Mass is allowed)



The Sanctuary Candle in
 Holy Angels Church
 will burn this week
 in loving memory of
Robert Giallongo
 by his family

MARCH 29, 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.

**Rockingham VNA & Hospice
BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUPS
Spring 2020**

Morning:

Tuesdays from 10:30 AM to 12:00 Noon
April 14 to May 19
Epping Regional Health Center
212 Calef Highway (Rte 125), Epping, NH

Evening:

Thursdays from 6:00 to 7:30 PM
April 16 to May 21
4 Alumni Drive
Exeter, NH (on the campus of Exeter Hospital)

These six-week interactive support groups provide an opportunity for members to meet in a safe, supportive environment to explore the grieving process and share with others who are coping with the loss of a loved one.

Monthly Drop-In Grief Support Groups are also available on the 3rd Monday of every month from 3:00 to 4:30 PM in Epping and on the 2nd Tuesday of every month from 6:30 to 8:00 PM in Exeter.

All groups are free and open to the public.

To register, please call 603-772-2981

**ALL ABOARD FOR FUN AT
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**Rocky Railway
Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through**

Make your Reservations early.

Sign up NOW.

The train will depart daily from 9:00 AM to Noon

June 22 to June 26

St. Luke the Evangelist Parish

Call 603-382-8324 x 305 for more information.

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.

TIPS FOR AVOIDING ILLNESS

Get vaccinated against the flu

Wash your hands often

Limit exposure to infected people

Keep stress in check

Eat right

Sleep right

Exercise

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>.

ST. GIANNA'S PLACE BANQUET

You are invited to the 2nd Annual St. Gianna's Place Fundraising Banquet on **April 22** at the Event Center in Nashua, NH. Appetizers and cash bar begin at 5:45 PM and dinner will be served at 6:45 PM. There is no fee to attend, but reservations are required. Please call 247-8654 or 770-9288 to reserve your seat.

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. 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, 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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Unbind Us

Father of life, Lord of the living,
just as your Son called Lazarus forth from
the tomb,
so he commands us to step away from all
that binds us.
Revive our sense of evil
so that we will confess the ways
we are wrapped up in sin.

Liberate us from ignorance and apathy,
and enliven our desire for justice, healing,
and peace.

Send us forth to proclaim your saving power
to all who are entombed.

Free us from the death-dealing power of sin
so that we may bear witness to your Spirit
dwelling within us.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 29, 2020

From the Grave



Today's Readings: Ezekiel 37:12–14; Psalm 130:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 7–8; Romans 8:8–11; John 11:1–45. At the time of Ezekiel, God's people did not believe in an afterlife. Ezekiel's prophecy would have given some people hope in a future beyond the grave, but others would have struggled to believe. At the time of Jesus, even those who had come to believe in the resurrection of the dead thought God would raise the just all at once and as part of completing his reign.

By raising Lazarus, Jesus reveals God's life-saving presence had already become active in a new, though unexpected way. The spirit of God that sustains all creation, that gave life to the first human being and filled prophets like Ezekiel, flowed outward from Jesus to free people from sin

and death. All who embrace Jesus as the resurrection and the life encounter God's life-saving and life-changing Spirit.

The gift of God's Spirit, however, is not only a promise that God will one day open our graves and breathe life into us again. Our new lives in the Spirit begin now. We participate in the life-giving power of God whenever we work to free those who are trapped, bound, entombed: victims of domestic violence, refugees, the chronically ill, the homebound, the unborn. By standing with them, by standing for life, we reveal the continuing action of the Spirit. God opens graves and raises people to new life, not only in the future but today.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 30 In Our Hands

In the reading from Daniel, Susanna's life is at risk when all are tricked into turning against her. An injustice is almost committed. The woman in the Gospel passage who is caught by the religious elders seems guilty, but we sense another injustice: the woman seems more like a pawn to be used against Jesus than someone deserving of deadly punishment. Both passages warn us against making hasty judgments. The next time you disagree with someone, ask questions that help you understand that person's point of view. *Today's Readings: Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62; Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; John 8:1-11.*

Tuesday, March 31 From Above

God does not merely oppose sin and death, he subverts it. When the Israelites repent of their ingratitude, God turns the object of their punishment into an instrument of healing. Centuries later, Jesus turns the cross, an instrument of death and a symbol of Roman power, into the means of salvation and freedom. Most of all, by dying, Jesus turns death into life. Spend some time today reverencing a crucifix. *Today's Readings: Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21; John 8:21-30.*

Wednesday, April 1 The Living Truth

When the king orders the three men thrown into the furnace, the men enter the fire knowing that their allegiance is to the God of Israel and no one else. By embracing that truth, the men are saved from a fiery death. Because Jesus is the Son of God, those who believe in him, who embrace who he is, will be saved from death forever. Pray with Daniel 3:52-90 or write your own hymn of praise. *Today's Readings: Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56; John 8:31-42.*

Thursday, April 2 Unlikely as It Sounds

God's extraordinary promises to Abraham seemed laughable. When Sarah gave birth to Isaac, however, Abraham and Sarah would have laughed for joy. In the Gospel reading, the response is far more serious when Jesus speaks of what God will do. In both cases, people struggle to believe God's word. What God says frequently astounds and challenges us. How has God astounded or challenged you this Lenten season? *Today's Readings: Genesis 17:3-9; Psalm 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; John 8:51-59.*

Friday, April 3 Blasphemous Works

Although we think of Jesus as an innocent victim, his opponents followed the law when charging him with blasphemy: Jesus claimed a relationship with God that surpassed all others. In response to his opponents, Jesus asks that they examine his ministry to see if his works conform to the will of God. Jeremiah, likewise, expressed his confidence that he had faithfully answered God's call. What do your works say about you? *Today's Readings: Jeremiah 20:10-13; Psalm 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7; John 10:31-42.*

Saturday, April 4 Dwelling

In Ezekiel's prophecy, God declares that he will gather all his people displaced by war, ensure their security, and dwell with them forever. In Jesus, however, God comes to his people before they and the land are ready. The people are divided and a foreign nation occupies their land. God often comes to us when we are unprepared, but perhaps that is the very reason God arrives. Without God's guidance, we would never be ready for God to dwell with us. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, confess the ways you are unprepared for God. *Today's Readings: Ezekiel 37:21-28; Jeremiah 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13; John 11:45-56.*



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 11:1-45

Sunday's Gospel describes Jesus raising of his friend Lazarus from the dead. The story hints at Jesus' own Resurrection, which we will celebrate at Easter. The raising of Lazarus puts Jesus in danger from his enemies, but he risks his life to be with and to help his friends.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Young children learn about friendship from parents, siblings, playmates, teachers, and classmates. Friendship involves caring, helping, communicating, and sharing experiences. Remind your child that Jesus had friends whom he cared for, and Jesus' friends cared for him. Talk to your child about friendship and caring.

Promise (Grades K-1): Your child learned about the sadness Jesus felt when he found out that his friend Lazarus had died. Your child also learned that feelings are important. Ask your child to tell you what makes him or her sad, happy, lonely, afraid, or angry. Ask your child, too, to tell the story about how Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.

Good News (Grades 2-3): Ask your child to share with the family the story "A Sad Time for Peter." Talk about the sad feelings Peter had when his dog died. Then talk about the meaning of Resurrection—going from death to life. Perhaps the family can visit the cemetery and pray for all the people who have died. In your regular or daily prayers, pray for family members who have died.

Venture (Grades 4-6): Your child's class learned about compassion and caring for others. Ask your child to share with the family the story "Remember the Children" about the Holocaust. Talk about the lessons of the Gospel story of Martha, Mary, and Lazarus. Make and post a list of ways your family can show compassion and caring for others during the last weeks of Lent. Have your child tell the family about Saint Marguerite d'Youville.

Visions (Grades 7-8): Your child's class explored the meaning of friendship and the feelings associated with friendship. Ask your son or daughter to tell you about the "saint" who played video games. Talk about the steps to sainthood. Talk about Martha, Mary, and Lazarus and their friendship with Jesus. Does your family have a strong belief in Jesus, and do you experience Jesus' friendship? Do you seek Jesus' help when your family experiences sorrow or loss? What does the promise of Resurrection mean to each member of your family? Have your youngster tell the family about Megan Gannon.

Pray Together

After dinner one evening, join in a "Lazarus Prayer." Each member of the family can tell the story of a family member, a friend, or even a well-known person who has died recently. After each story, say the following prayer. "Jesus, you promised that if we live and believe in you we will have life everlasting. Please come and grant him/her life forever with you."

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

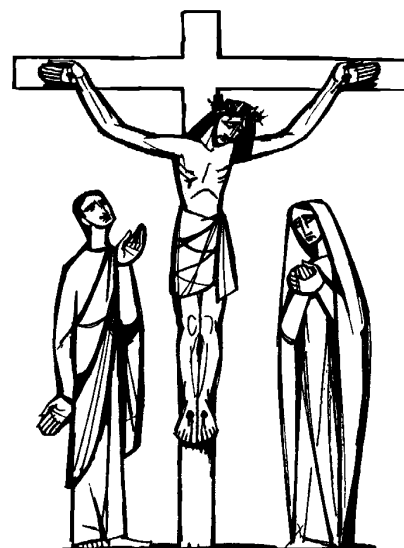
EASTER GREAT VIGIL AT 8 PM - Plaistow
(Reception in Hall to follow)

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

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(603) 382-8324

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.

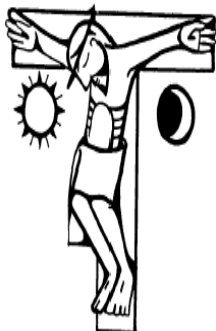


Praying the Stations of the cross

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.



Fasting Together

Christians who have done any study of Paul know that “flesh” for Paul is not the same as “body.” “Flesh” is what keeps us centered upon ourselves. When we are caught in old habits of self-centeredness we often know how helpless we are, how dead to the Spirit moving within us. Especially when such self-centeredness becomes or even borders on addiction we feel trapped, imprisoned, entombed. In that state of need we cry out for someone to set us free.

We are past the halfway mark of that time of year when we declare in each Sunday’s rite of scrutiny that God has given us one another as the Spirit-empowered instruments of liberation for one another. No one does this work of freedom alone. Fasting is a privileged kind of communion. It is a shar-

ing of need, a celebration of absence. This aspect of Catholic spirituality is as necessary to our common life of faith as rests are in music, as voids in sculpture, as silence in prayer.

Prayer is always joined to fasting. Fasting triggers in this season a remembrance to pray for those being brought to the font, to full communion or to reconciliation. Only after we have shared the absence can we come with full hearts to the paschal banquet.

What can I do to fast in communion with others?

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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.



Bringing Home the Word

Fifth Sunday of Lent (A)

March 29, 2020

Our Resurrection

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The raising of Lazarus is a decisive miracle in Christ's public ministry. It leads to increased hostility and gives the Jewish leaders both an excuse and a motivation to actively seek the death of Jesus. This Gospel episode is so important that John dedicates an entire chapter to the story.

What is the most important message of this miracle? Without faith in Jesus, there is no resurrection: a fitting message for a Pietro Annigoni painting in Europe

right after World War II. In Annigoni's *The Resurrection of Lazarus*, Mary is at the feet of Jesus while Martha is on her feet pouring out her heart. The artist evokes a landscape of death and destruction, one too often observed in postwar Europe. Colors of decay abound. Stones are piled up like rubble. The trees are burnt, scrawny, and twisted as if after an air raid. It is ugly, rugged, barren, and dry. A small group of people have gathered to weep at the tomb.

Jesus is the only source of color and life. After Martha affirms her faith in Jesus and the resurrection, he lifts up his hand and calls out. The onlookers peer inside, perhaps having heard the sounds of rustling coming from the cave.

The message of this artwork is clear to anyone struggling with the bondage of a destructive past. Jesus wants to speak words of life and raise us from the grips of death, war, and despair. Believe in Jesus and he will raise you up! +

Jesus wants to speak words of life and raise us from the grips of death, war, and despair.

A Word from Pope Francis

I invite you to think for a moment, in silence, here: Where is my interior necrosis? Where is the dead part of my soul? Where is my tomb? ...And to remove the stone, to take away the stone of shame and allow the Lord to say to us, as he said to Lazarus: "Come out!"

—Homily, April 6, 2014



Sunday Readings

Ezekiel 37:12-14

You shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and make you come up out of them, my people!

Romans 8:8-11

The one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit that dwells in you.

John 11:1-45 or John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

Jesus told [Martha], "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- How is your Lenten journey bringing you deeper in faith and closer to new life in Jesus?
- Has Jesus raised you from destruction or despair? How?

Healing After Divorce

By Susan K. Rowland

I was divorced six years ago. There was no funeral, even though divorce is one of the cruelest deaths there is: the death of a marriage. Most members of my ex-husband's family, with whom I had been close for thirty years, disappeared from my life. Some were puzzled, embarrassed, or even angry. Fortunately, I had friends who called to see how I was doing and who gave me the hugs I so badly needed. But I wept alone, ate alone, and struggled with finances. Suddenly, I had nowhere to go for holidays. There were times when I felt like an outcast, like one of the lepers of Jesus' time.

Divorce is a death, worse than physical death in some ways. There is no outpouring of support and sympathy that physical death brings. Instead, the divorced person often feels alone and disgraced, especially in the parish community, which rightfully champions marriage. Also, the former spouse is still around. The initial pain of divorce is often aggravated by disputes over child support and visitation, adult children's marriages, holidays, and remarriage.

There are few people in the Church who will not experience divorce personally or through a family member, friend, or coworker. What do divorced Catholics need? What attitude should the



rest of us adopt? Here are some thoughts about the care of those who have experienced the "death" of a divorce.

In the Parish

Every parish should offer some sort of support program for the divorced and separated. Programs such as Beginning Experience

(beginningexperience.org) and DivorceCare (divorcecare.org) can be helpful to the newly divorced. In addition, many dioceses offer divorced/separated support. Check your diocesan website for information. Ideally, such a program should combine practical instruction about finances, child support, legalities, and Church annulments with informal time for people to share their stories and support one another.

Healing is the Goal

For the individual who has divorced and for his or her family, healing is the first priority—not judgment, blame, or explanations. Healing cannot happen completely until forgiveness happens. Since forgiveness will take time, the divorced person needs to be ready to forgive. He or she needs to say to God, "I want to forgive. I can't now, but I want to try. Please, Jesus, love him/her for me."

Forgiveness has two components:

1) letting go of the person who wronged

you, trusting that you can leave matters in God's capable hands and 2) praying for the one who has wronged you. No one can intercede for someone the way an ex-spouse can.

Decisions, Decisions

Newly divorced people must make many decisions. Some are internal: "Who am I now?" Others are external: moving, changing jobs, returning to college, volunteering. As painful as it is, divorce is an open door for people who have suffered through a bad marriage. They have agonized and struggled, hoped and pretended, lived in denial and then faced the painful truth.

The divorced need to get on with their lives. If you are a friend or family member, encourage them to do so. Let them talk about whatever they are taking on. We do this for the widowed. The divorced, too, need encouragement and support for their plans and new identity.

Saint Paul's first letter to the Corinthians contains what is known as the "love chapter." Usually read at weddings, it's just as appropriate when a marriage ends: "Love is patient, love is kind....It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things" (13:4-8). +



*Lord, your life-giving spirit
fills me with hope and joy.
In times of trouble, help me
place all my trust in you.*

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

March 30–April 4

Monday, Lenten Weekday:
Dn 13:1–9, 15–17, 19–30, 33–62
or 13:41c–62 / Jn 8:1–11


Tuesday, Lenten Weekday:
Nm 21:4–9 / Jn 8:21–30

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

Thursday, Lenten Weekday:
Gn 17:3–9 / Jn 8:51–59

Friday, Lenten Weekday:
Jer 20:10–13 / Jn 10:31–42

Saturday, Lenten Weekday:
Ez 37:21–28 / Jn 11:45–56

Bringing Home
the Word 

March 29, 2020

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