

COVID-19 IS STILL AROUND!

The obligation to attend Sunday Liturgy remains suspended in the Diocese of Manchester for all who are health compromised. No person who has been ill or exposed to someone who is ill should be attending Liturgy.

Anyone who has had recent symptoms of fever, any respiratory symptoms (runny nose, nasal congestion, sore throat, cough, shortness of breath), chills, severe fatigue or changes in sense of smell or taste may have been exposed to COVID-19. Testing is encouraged. Please refrain from attending any liturgical service.

Liturgy online or on TV...

Boston Catholic Television catholictv.org
 Sunday Mass from Notre Dame
catholictv.org/masses/notre-dame-mass
Salt & Light TV saltandlighttv.org
Eternal Word Television ewtn.com

✠ PARISH TITHING ✠

Our Parish needs to take in \$9700.00 each week in order to make ends meet. This amount represents an adjusted budget offertory of \$8500.00 per week plus the combination of budgeted Property and Fuel second collections (\$4800.00 per month divided into 4 weeks or \$1200.00 weekly). 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. Consider signing up for electronic giving (see below). Especially in these trying times, your Parish depends on your responsible stewardship and support!

March 7, 2021

Offertory **\$6,703.91**
Property Mgmt **\$1,590.05**

COVID VACCINE CONCERNS

Beware of fake news! There are reports that call into question the moral and ethical validity of Covid-19 vaccines. Do not be misled. **Right click** on the following tab and **open** the hyperlink to read what the Bishops of the United States are saying about the moral permissibility of the current Covid-19 vaccines:

[Click Here for the Memo](#)



Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish uses **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. 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.

From the Pastor's Desk



HOLY ANGELS CEMETERY CLOSED

Holy Angels Cemetery in Plaistow is closed until Spring 2021. 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.

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

March 14 CRS & Home Missions
 March 21 Fuel
 March 28 No Second Collection

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

If you would like an "end of year" financial statement of your contribution to the parish for 2020, please **call Jackie** at the Parish Office at 382-8324. **Financial Statements are issued on a request only basis.**



Out of respect for the Lord and in consideration of fellow parishioners, 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 ✠



The Sanctuary Candle in
Holy Angels Church
will burn this week in loving memory of
Marcia Gallant
by William Tucker

The Sanctuary Candle in
Mary, Mother of the Church
will burn this week in loving memory of
Jack Ronan
by St. Vincent de Paul Society



VIGIL LIGHT

The Vigil Light in front of the
Blessed Mother Icon
at Mary Mother of the Church
will burn in loving memory of
Deceased Knights
by a fellow Knight



LENTEN RICE BOWL PROGRAM

Each Lent, Catholic families across the country unite to put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. We are Called to join our faith community and more that 12,000 Catholic communities across the United States in a lifechanging Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl at the church entrance. During the 40 days of Lent, we reflect on how hunger and malnutrition affect our human family, and on the need to take action to end this global injustice. Visit www.crsricebowl.org to learn more. Did you know that 25% of Rice Bowl proceeds fund local Catholic food pantries, shelters, and other organizations, such as the St. Luke Food Pantry and the St. Vincent de Paul Society, to help alleviate poverty in New Hampshire?

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

A Men's AA Step Meeting is being held on Sunday mornings from 7:00 to 8:00 AM at the St. Luke the Evangelist Parish Hall (Holy Angels). Masks are required. Bring your own coffee. For more information, call Joe at 617-921-9899.



PARENTS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STUDENTS

You have received an email that has informed you that on **Sunday, March 7 and March 14**, the next packet of "Gospel Weeklies" will be available in the family folder downstairs in the Church. In addition to the packet there will be the corrected materials that your child(ren) did over the previous months. Please take everything out of the folder and put in the lessons that your child(ren) has completed recently; **do not take the folder**. If you have any questions, you may email Cathy Smith at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net or call 382-8324.

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.**

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 by email 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>.

WHILE AWAY THIS WINTER / SPRING...

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

<u>Sunday, March 14</u>		
6:00 PM	Vespers	<i>Newton</i>
6:30 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Newton</i>
<u>Tuesday, March 16</u>		
6:00 PM	Finance Council Meeting	<i>Plaistow</i>
<u>Wednesday, March 17</u>		
Holy Angels Church Plaistow open for private prayer all day		
7:00 PM	Disciples on the Journey	<i>Plaistow</i>
<u>Thursday, March 18</u>		
8:30 AM – 8:30 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	<i>Newton</i>
1:30 PM	Disciples on the Journey	<i>Plaistow</i>
<u>Friday, March 19</u>		
6:30 PM	Stations of the Cross	<i>Plaistow</i>
<u>Saturday, March 20</u>		
3:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Plaistow</i>
<u>Sunday, March 21</u>		
6:00 PM	Vespers	<i>Newton</i>
6:30 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Newton</i>

Because of COVID restrictions, many Parish events and groups are currently cancelled. We will begin more Parish programs, with all precautions, as restrictions ease.

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

<u>Saturday, March 13 ~ Vigil / Fourth Sunday of Lent</u>	
2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21 (Vigil)	
4:00 PM	Rosemary, Jack, and Mary Duhamel by Pat Zakiewicz <i>Plaistow</i>
<u>Sunday, March 14 ~ Fourth Sunday of Lent</u>	
2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21	
8:00 AM	Jack Ronan by the St. Vincent de Paul Society <i>Newton</i>
10:00 AM	Paul Antkowiak by his family <i>Plaistow</i>
<u>Monday, March 15 ~ Lenten Weekday</u>	
Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54	
8:00 AM	Intentions of Mary Walsh by Grace Bukowski <i>Newton</i>
<u>Tuesday, March 16 ~ Lenten Weekday</u>	
Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16	
8:00 AM	People of the Parish <i>Plaistow</i>
<u>Wednesday, March 17 ~ Patrick, Bishop</u>	
Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30	
6:30 PM	Verna Carbone by Joe and Ann Marie Sheehan <i>Plaistow</i>
<u>Thursday, March 18 ~ Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</u>	
Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47	
8:00 AM	People of the Parish <i>Newton</i>
<u>Friday, March 19 ~ Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary</u>	
2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a	
No Mass	
<u>Saturday, March 20 ~ Lenten Weekday</u>	
Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53 (Day)	
Jer 31:31-34; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33 (Vigil)	
4:00 PM	Clara, Leo, and Edward McCusker by Elaine Kelcourse <i>Plaistow</i>
<u>Sunday, March 21 ~ Fifth Sunday of Lent</u>	
Jer 31:31-34; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33	
8:00 AM	Gerald and Alice Lahue by Mary Ann Downs <i>Newton</i>
10:00 AM	Carl Jesionowski by his family <i>Plaistow</i>

PRAYER LINE

St. Luke's offers a prayer line as a resource for those seeking prayer assistance. To submit your prayer request please call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 314 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.



FEED THE HUNGRY

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST FOOD PANTRY

Thank you for your generosity towards the hungry of our area!

Non-perishable food or personal 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. **Call the Pantry at 819-4949 for more information.**



MARCH 14, 2021

✧ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✧



We're looking for new members! Have you ever wondered what the St. Vincent de Paul Society is all about? Our meetings are held on the **3rd Wednesday at 7 PM** of each month. New members are always welcome. We look forward

any questions you may have. **Please contact SVdP Secretary, Jim Edwards, at (603) 642-5236 or jimmy69180@hotmail.com to find out if our meeting is live at the church hall or virtual on ZOOM.** If you seek assistance or need information about the Society, call (603) 382-8324, ext.315. Visit us on our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pg/SVDPSL>

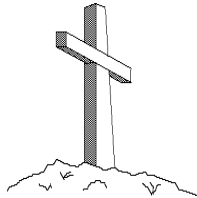


LENTEN EVENING PRAYER

Evening Prayer is sung at Newton at 6:00 PM on all Sundays of Lent. Join us for a quiet time of prayer and reflection. The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is available immediately after Evening Prayer each Sunday of the Lenten Season.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will take place each Friday evening during Lent at **6:30 PM in Plaistow**. There will be NO soup supper this year.



St. Luke the Evangelist is now on Facebook! Go to www.facebook.com/stlukenh.org/ or **St. Luke the Evangelist Parish – Newton/Plaistow** and give us a Like! Please invite fellow parishioners & friends to do the same.



The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** is the process by which people become members of the Roman Catholic Church. Be a good agent of welcome and evangelization! If you or someone you know is interested in inquiring about becoming a member of the Roman Catholic Church, contact Cathy Smith in the Parish Office.

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 call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 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	603-382-8324
Parish Prayer Line	603-382-8324 x 314
St. Vincent de Paul Society	603-382-8324 x 315
St. Luke's Food Pantry	603-819-4949
Preschool	603-382-9783
Presentation of Mary Convent	603-382-2744

Fr. Albert Tremblay	fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net
Cathy Smith	csmith@stluketheevangelist.net
Joyce Szapa	jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net
Jackie Tremblay	jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net
Val Barczak	mvmbarczak@comcast.net
Parish Council	parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net

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

MEN OF ST LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH

The Knights of Columbus, St Jude Council 6617, invite all men from the parish to join them for a virtual Mass for the Feast of St. Joseph on **Saturday March 20, 2021 at 7:30 AM** in the Holy Angels church hall in Plaistow. The Bishop celebrates this anniversary annually with Mass at the Cathedral. This year, the Mass will be livestreamed. The Knights will set up a TV screen in the church hall for viewing of the live Mass. **Masks must be worn at all times; social distancing policies will be observed.**

From our Bishop:

*Bishop Peter Libasci invites you to join with Men of St. Joseph from all over New Hampshire on **Saturday, March 20**, for a "LiveStream" Mass to celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph. While we cannot be together this year to share breakfast, fellowship, and our always excellent keynote speakers, let us pray that next year will bring us all back together to celebrate in person the Feast of our Patron. And as always, we pray that St. Joseph will grant each of us the heart of a father and the soul of a warrior.*

On behalf of Bishop Peter Libasci and Very Reverend Jason Jalbert, I hope you will be able to join us. I remain your brother in Christ.

To reserve your seat, please call Dan Sullivan at 603-770-4803.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES NH OFFERS SUPPORT PROGRAMS IN SPITE OF THE PANDEMIC...

Here are some resources:

Catholic Charities continues to offer Adoption and Maternity Services (669-3030), Immigration Legal Services (889-9431), and Mental Health Counseling (some on-line - 669-3030). Our Healthcare Service facilities are located throughout the state (call 669-3030 or see our website for a facility close to you). *Our Place* continues parent education services from pregnancy through the first three years of a child's life (647-2244). *St Charles School* continues to provide academic, social, emotional and behavioral services to children in grades K-8 (332-4768). And *The Food Bank* continues to provide food supplies to most food pantries throughout the state.

You may not be aware that *Liberty House* supports vulnerable veterans with recovery, job placement and wellness programs (669-0761). *Monadnock at Home* supports seniors in the Monadnock area allowing them to stay independent and remain in their homes (371-0809). Our *Caregivers* program lends support to homebound seniors and the disabled in the greater Manchester and Nashua areas (622-4948).

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE

The bulletin for Easter, April 4, 2021, must be submitted early. All announcements for the April 4 bulletin must be sent to the parish office **no later than 12:00 Noon on Wednesday, March 17.**

AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD

Oregon Catholic Press is excited to introduce its new, USCCB-approved ***Breaking Bread 2021 eMissal app***. The *Breaking Bread eMissal* is the same missal that our Parish uses at Mass every Sunday. With music, readings, prayers, and the Order of the Mass, this digital resource helps you to fully participate in the Liturgy – whether at home or in church. The cost is \$4.99 for the entire year. You can download it through the App Store or Google Play.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BLOOD DRIVE

The St. Jude Council of the Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a blood drive on **Friday, March 26** at the Atkinson Community Center, 4 Main Street, Atkinson **from 1:00 to 6:00 PM**. Pre-registration for an appointment time is required. You can pre-register by going to www.redcrossblood.org or by calling 1-800-733-2767. The need for blood is extremely urgent. Please consider giving the gift of life!

AUCTION FUNDRAISER FOR SAINT JOSEPH REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Celebrate St. Joe's! You are invited to join online for St. Joseph Regional Catholic School's 2021 Auction Fundraiser from **March 13 to March 20**! Register for free today by texting "Auction21" to 76278. This year's event will include a large assortment of items, services, and experiences, including the popular theme baskets and a 50/50 raffle. Questions? Want to donate / advertise to this, the school's most important fundraiser? Email auction@sjrcs.com.

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.

SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST
Lent - Easter Liturgical Schedule 2021

THE BEGINNING OF THE LENTEN FAST FEBRUARY 17
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
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 – Plaistow

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 1 – 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 2 - 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 3– Morning Prayer 8 am - Plaistow
Mid-day Prayer 12 noon - Plaistow

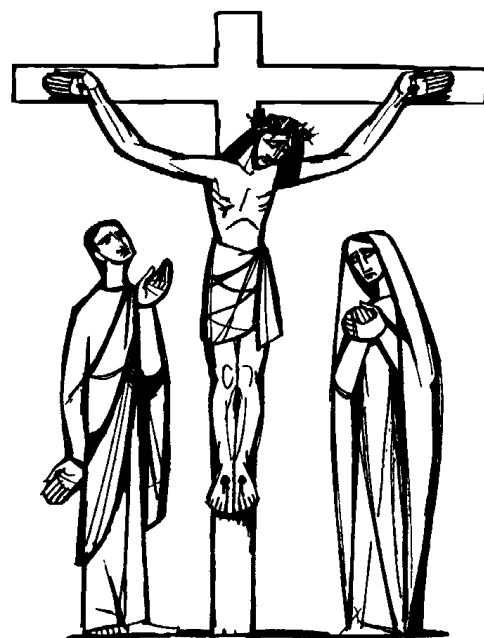
EASTER GREAT VIGIL AT 8 PM - Plaistow

EASTER SUNDAY LITURGIES APRIL 4

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**

LENTEN REGULATIONS

FASTING

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

ABSTINENCE

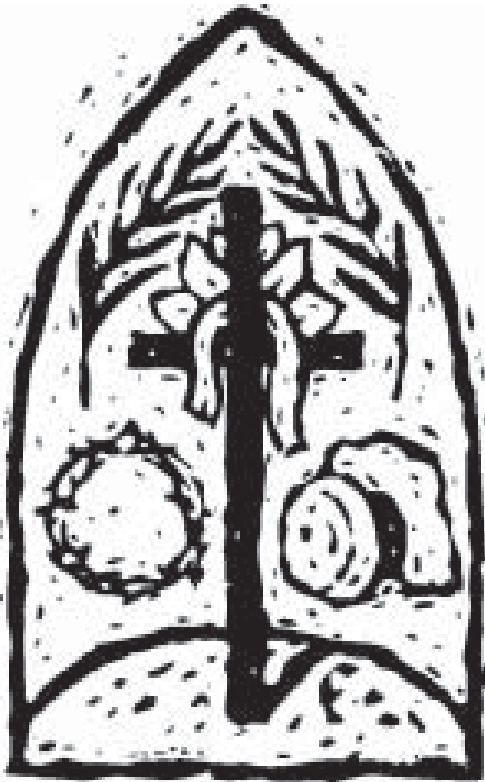
Abstinence is the observance for all those 14 years of age or older to forego the eating of meat on: Ash Wednesday; all Fridays in Lent and on Good Friday. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, this discipline does not apply.

EASTER PRECEPT

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

PRAYER AND ALMSGIVING

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



The Gospel at Home

This Sunday's Gospel: John 3:14-21

This Sunday's Gospel describes Jesus as the Son God sent into the world to reveal God's love. Those who believe in Jesus believe in the power of God's love as the light of their lives—a light that can turn darkness into light and troubles into joys.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Your child sometimes experiences fear because he or she does not have a full understanding of events or feelings. Give your son or daughter the chance to talk about what scares them and why. Remind your child that Jesus is the Light of the World. We can all turn to Jesus when we are frightened.

Promise (Grades K–1): This week, your child explored the Christian call to forgive others as one wants to be forgiven. This is expressed in the Lord's Prayer and in the Golden Rule. Ask your child to share the forgiveness stories he or she heard in class. Share stories about how your family members model forgiveness and are able to say, "I'm sorry." Is there anyone in the household who might need forgiveness today?

Good News (Grades 2–3): Your child learned about the importance of rules when they play with others. The class learned, too, about finding loving solutions to problems. Talk with your child about forgiveness. The class emphasized that Jesus is the Light that shows us the way. Talk about how Jesus is the Light for your family. Don't pass up the opportunity to discuss the Ten Commandments, which the class discussed this week. See how many of the Commandments your family remembers, then check how you did. Pray that the Holy Spirit will help you follow God's Commandments.

Venture (Grades 4–6): In this week's class, your child learned about the Eighth Commandment. Ask your child to tell you the story about the person who collects just about everything. Talk about reasons people are tempted to tell a lie. Discuss ways you can help one another be honest. Your child also learned about the catechumenate. Ask your youngster about how the catechumenate is important to many people's faith journeys. Pray that Jesus will be the Light on your family's faith journey.

Visions (Grades 7–9): This Sunday's Gospel says that people who love the light do what is true and good. The young people explored the words to John 3:16. Ask why people regard this verse as the central message of the entire Gospel. The young people also learned that doing the right thing often involves personal risk. Ask your son or daughter to tell you about Homeboy Industries and how helping the gangs in Los Angeles is the way some people show that they love the light. Your child also experienced a reconciliation prayer service in class. Lent is a good time to share forgiveness in the family by expressing sorrow for any times when you have hurt one another.

Pray Together

As a special devotion, try to have a family evening prayer each day this week. Use a favorite family prayer, pray in your own words, or say one decade of the Rosary. Set a definite time for this prayer. Remember that the prayer time does not need to be long or involved. The important part is praying together in the Light of Christ.



CREMATION?

While burial or entombment of the body remains the preference and is encouraged by the Church, cremation may be chosen for sufficient reason. The Revised Code of Canon Law states: “The Church earnestly recommends the pious custom of burial be retained; but it does not forbid cremation, unless this is chosen for reasons which are contrary to Christian teaching.” (CIC, c. 1176.3)

When is Cremation Allowed? Cremation may be requested for hygienic, economic or other reasons of a public or private nature. Some examples include: transfer of the remains to a distant place, possible avoidance of considerable expense, a severe psychological fear of burial in the ground or in a tomb. The selection of cremation was the specific choice of the individual before death. When requested by the family of the deceased for what also might be determined as an appropriate pastoral reason.

If a body is to be cremated, is it preferable that cremation take place after the Funeral Liturgy?

It is recommended that priority be given to the celebration of the Eucharistic Liturgy with the body of the deceased present.

Can a body be cremated prior to the Funeral Liturgy? What arrangements are different?

In the Diocese of Manchester, it is permitted to celebrate the funeral liturgy in the presence of the cremated remains. The cremated remains are to be accorded the same respect given to the corporeal remains of a human body. This includes the way they are carried, the care and attention to appropriate placement and transport, and their final disposition. The container in which the cremated remains are placed should be dignified in nature. The cremated remains are to be positioned on a suitable table in the same place where the casket is usually positioned. They may also be placed near the Paschal Candle during the funeral liturgy. The candle and the cremated remains may be placed in the sanctuary so as to be visible to all.

What is required for the proper and reverent disposition of cremated remains?

Cremated remains are to be buried or inurned. They should not be buried on private land, but are to be buried in a cemetery or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. **The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground is not permitted.** If burial takes place at sea, according to local custom, the cremated remains are to be kept intact in a solid and durable container, and not scattered.

Keeping the cremated remains in a private home, funeral home or any other place is not considered to be the reverent disposition that the Church requires. **The integrity of the cremated remains is always to be respected.** The cremated remains of one deceased person may not be mixed with the cremated remains of another person. It is not permitted to divide the cremated remains and retain, inter or entomb them in more than one place.

It is also not permitted to divide the cremated remains in such a way that they are contained in lockets or jewelry. Any other practice which violates the integrity of the cremated remains and impedes reverent and proper burial/disposition is prohibited. Whenever possible, appropriate memorialization should be utilized at the place of burial.

Consult your cemetery office for all available options for the respectful burial, disposition and memorialization of cremated remains.



Bringing Home the Word

Fourth Sunday of Lent (B)

March 14, 2021

Healed through His Wounds

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Jesus refers to the story Michelangelo painted into a corner of the Sistine Chapel, *The Brazen Serpent*. It is about the time the Chosen People were attacked by serpents and many were dying. God instructed Moses to place two serpents on a staff and lift it up over the people. All they had to do was look at the serpents to be miraculously healed of their bite wounds.

We have all been bitten by sin. This can be our own self-destructive choices and attitudes, or we can be victims of other's sins. Yet sin and suffering doesn't

need to have the last word. We can overcome if we choose to look at Christ crucified and learn his lesson of love. Jesus teaches us to not be defined by our ugly choices or the wounds we suffer. Our wounds and weaknesses can become the place of our healing. Jesus wants to heal us. That is why he let himself be lifted up!

To embrace this healing is simple yet challenging. First it requires simple faith to believe you are loved by the Father, no matter what. Second, we need a constant, often-denied effort on our part to sincerely repent and work with God's grace to transform self-limiting attitudes and habits into virtues.

Even if you feel dead in your transgressions now, Jesus has already secured your path to life. Grace awaits you. The first step is to accept the love from he who is lifted up with arms outstretched to receive you. +

Sunday Readings

2 Chronicles 36:14–16, 19–23

They mocked God's messengers, despised his words, and scoffed at his prophets, until the LORD's anger against his people blazed up.

Ephesians 2:4–10

By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast.

John 3:14–21

[Jesus said,] "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up."

We have all been bitten by sin. This can be our own self-destructive choices and attitudes.

A Word from Pope Francis

Saint Joseph appears as a strong and courageous man, a working man, yet in his heart we see great tenderness, which is not the virtue of the weak but rather a sign of strength of spirit and a capacity for concern, for compassion, for genuine openness to others, for love. We must not be afraid of goodness, of tenderness!

—Solemnity of St. Joseph, March 19, 2013



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Do I have any unspoken beliefs that I am unlovable?
- Can I repent from attitudes or actions that distance me from God's love?

Conscience-informed Speech

By Fr. Bruce Lewandowski, CSSR

Our high school forensics team didn't win many awards, if memory serves. However, we did learn a lot about speaking in public. We studied and put into practice simple rules for public speaking and debate. We were told to check our content and make sure it was accurate. We were warned about misinterpreting and fabricating information. We were taught the skill of being adversarial and competitive without name-calling. Debate is public, not private or personal. We were instructed that it is never appropriate to demean, belittle, degrade, or dehumanize the opponent. What we didn't know was that we were being taught to reason and think critically and exercise sound judgment.

High school forensics taught me that I shouldn't say everything that I think. There is a difference between personal thought and public opinion. And while personal thought can contribute to the formation of public opinion, some personal thoughts should remain just that, personal, internal, and most importantly, unspoken. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians encourages this: "No foul language should come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for needed edification, that it may impart grace to those who hear" (Ephesians 4:29). Many parents have said it this way, "If you have nothing nice to say, say nothing at all."

Say nothing. That's the key. How



many of us speak and then regret what we've said? How many people in public life have been caught in the act of misspeaking, exaggerating, mixing truth with lies, and fabricating stories about themselves or others? Saying nothing is a valid response—at times the most appropriate response. It's even a holy response, especially if the alternative is a lie or words that will wound.

It is very important to stop and think about the language we use when speaking about people, especially in terms of race, immigration, human sexuality, religion, and politics. I am not advocating political correctness. Sometimes political correctness runs and hides from the truth. I'm looking for a place in the

middle of the road, somewhere between the shield of political correctness and license that permits unapologetically brutal and inflammatory expression.

That place is called conscience-informed speech. It goes beyond self-censure, beyond reasoning and critical thinking; it goes even further than the exercise of sound judgment. Conscience-informed speech asks one to stop and weigh the moral value and implications of one's words. It means speaking with moral judgment enlightened by God and the Word, especially in important moments: political debates, campaign speeches, teaching, preaching, and conversations in the public square. We should not underestimate the ethical responsibility of the speaker. There is a duty to say the right thing or say nothing at all. +

Sometimes the best response is no response.



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

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

March 15–20

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

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

Wednesday, Lenten Weekday:
Is 49:8–15 / Jn 5:17–30

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

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

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

Bringing Home
the Word 

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