

### 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** catholicstv.org  
Sunday Mass from Notre Dame  
catholicstv.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 14, 2021**

**Offertory** \$7,741.98  
**CRS/Home Missions** \$1,151.00

### 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.

### UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

March 21 Fuel  
March 28 No Second Collection  
April 2 Good Friday – Holy Land

## 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.



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!

### 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.**

### 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  
**John Marciano**  
(Birthday Remembrance)  
by his family

The Sanctuary Candle in  
Mary, Mother of the Church  
will burn this week in loving memory of  
**Marcia Gallant**  
by William Tucker



### 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](http://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.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Friday, March 26 at 6:30 PM



The Knights of Columbus, St. Jude Council #6617, invite you to join them on **Friday evening, March 26** to Walk With Christ, praying and reflecting on the Stations of the Cross.

The Stations of the Cross will begin at 6:30 PM at Holy Angels Church located in Plaistow, NH.

Due to COVID restrictions, we will NOT have our traditional Soup and Bread Meal at the conclusion of the Stations. In lieu of this, the Knights are asking those attending to kindly bring a non-perishable food donation for the St. Luke Food Pantry.

### 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 [jtremlay@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:jtremlay@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>.

### EVICTIION & EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE

If you or someone you know are facing eviction or need emergency rental assistance, help is available. Please call Catholic Charities at 603-889-9431.

### AMAZON SMILE

St. Luke the Evangelist Parish has received **\$117.94** donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between October 1 and December 21, 2020!

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

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

### 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 ✠

**Sunday, March 21**  
 6:00 PM Vespers *Newton*  
 6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Newton*

**Wednesday, March 24**  
 Holy Angels Church Plaistow open for  
 private prayer all day

7:00 PM Disciples on the Journey *Plaistow*

**Thursday, March 25**  
 8:30 AM – 8:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration *Newton*  
 1:30 PM Disciples on the Journey *Plaistow*

**Friday, March 26**  
 6:30 PM Stations of the Cross *Plaistow*

**Saturday, March 27**  
 3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

**Sunday, March 28**  
 12:00 PM Parish Pastoral Council Meeting *Plaistow*  
 6:00 PM Vespers *Newton*  
 6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Newton*

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

### PRAYER LINE

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



### ST. LUKE 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.**

**FEED THE  
HUNGRY**

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.**

### ✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

#### **Saturday, March 20 ~ Vigil / Fifth Sunday of Lent**

*Jer 31:31-34; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33 (Vigil)*  
 4:00 PM Clara, Leo, and Edward McCusker  
 by Elaine Kelcourse  
*Plaistow*

#### **Sunday, March 21 ~ Fifth Sunday of Lent**

*Jer 31:31-34; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33*  
 8:00 AM Gerald and Alice Lahue by Mary Ann Downs  
*Newton*  
 10:00 AM Carl Jesionowski by his family  
*Plaistow*

#### **Monday, March 22 ~ Lenten Weekday**

*Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62; Jn 8:1-11*  
 8:00 AM In Thanksgiving for Answered Prayers  
 by a Parishioner  
*Newton*

#### **Tuesday, March 23 ~ Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop**

*Nm 21:4-9; Jn 8:21-30*  
 8:00 AM Roland and Mary Guilmette by the Matson family  
*Plaistow*

#### **Wednesday, March 24 ~ Lenten Weekday**

*Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Jn 8:31-42*  
 6:30 PM Sean Breen (12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) by his parents  
*Plaistow*

#### **Thursday, March 25 ~ The Annunciation of the Lord**

*Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38*  
 8:00 AM Jack Ronan by Barbara Metcalf  
*Newton*

#### **Friday, March 26 ~ Lenten Weekday**

*Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42*  
**No Mass**

#### **Saturday, March 27 ~ Lenten Weekday**

*Ez 37:21-28; Jn 11:45-56 (Day)*  
*Mk 11:1-10; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1—15:47 (Vigil)*  
 4:00 PM Mark Hammond (Birthday Remembrance)  
 by Walter and Joanne Lord  
*Plaistow*

#### **Sunday, March 28 ~ Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

*Mk 11:1-10; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1—15:47*  
 8:00 AM Jack Ronan by the Knights of Columbus,  
 St. Jude Council #6617  
*Newton*  
 10:00 AM Michael Gerard Lyons by Gerard Lyons  
*Plaistow*





MARCH 21, 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 **3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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>

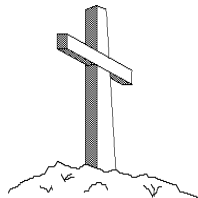


### LENTEN EVENING PRAYER

**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/](http://www.facebook.com/stlukenh.org/) or **St. Luke the Evangelist Parish – Newton/Plaistow** and give us a Like! Please invite fellow parishioners & friends to do the same.



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

**The Church in Plaistow is open all day on Wednesdays for people to stop by and pray before the presence of Jesus in the tabernacle.**

## ✠ PARISH DIRECTORY ✠

Parish Office	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	<a href="mailto:fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net">fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Cathy Smith	<a href="mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net">csmith@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Joyce Szapa	<a href="mailto:jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net">jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Jackie Tremblay	<a href="mailto:jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net">jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Val Barczak	<a href="mailto:mvmbarczak@comcast.net">mvmbarczak@comcast.net</a>
Parish Council	<a href="mailto:parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net">parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net</a>

✠ Parish News ~ Youth News ~ Around The Diocese ✠

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
**ST JUDE COUNCIL # 6617**  
**GIVE YOUR PARISH COMMUNITY**  
**1 HOUR A MONTH**

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

[www.kofc.org/un/en/todays-knights/what-we-do.html](http://www.kofc.org/un/en/todays-knights/what-we-do.html)

**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).

**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](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or by calling 1-800-733-2767. The need for blood is extremely urgent. Please consider giving the gift of life!

**4 WEEK GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP**

**Tuesdays from April 6 through April 27**  
**6:00 to 7:00 PM Live on Zoom**

**What The Group Will Consist Of:**

Spiritual component of prayer, meditation, and reflection;  
Community component of listening, discussion, and activities;  
Individual component of realizing one's own unique grief journey

If you would like to join the group or have any questions, please contact Sheila Corsaro at [corsaros@merrimack.edu](mailto:corsaros@merrimack.edu).

**SPRING WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS**

Bishop Libasci invites couples celebrating any significant wedding anniversaries during the year 2021 to pray with the Most Holy Sacrifice of the Mass via livestream on **Sunday, April 18 at 2:00 PM**. All registering couples will receive a certificate from the Bishop recognizing their anniversaries and a link to an at-home date night kit. Registering couples may opt to attend a virtual couple's trivia night for a small fee (\$10 per couple). **You must register by April 11** by going to [www.catholicnh.org](http://www.catholicnh.org).

**CAMPS BERNADETTE AND FATIMA**  
**ACCEPTING REGISTRATIONS**

The Catholic Camps of NH are great places for girls and boys to spend their summer, re-opening for the 2021 season. The camps serve as a needed refuge from screen time. Campers are safe, busy, and in a welcoming environment! For more information, or to register, go to [www.bfcamp.com](http://www.bfcamp.com).

**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.

**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**

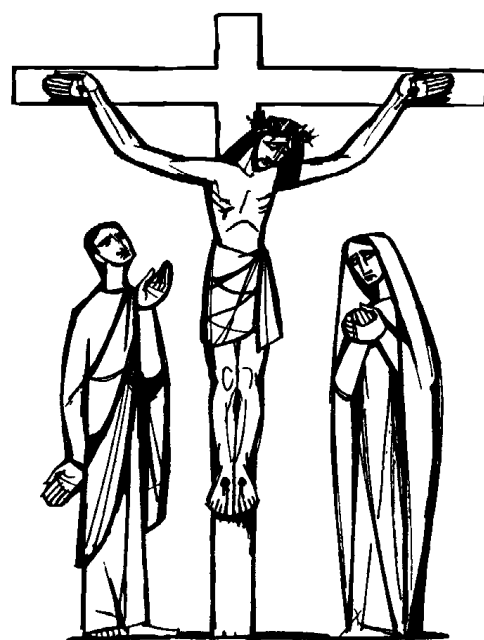
**EASTER GREAT VIGIL AT 8 PM - Plaistow**

**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**

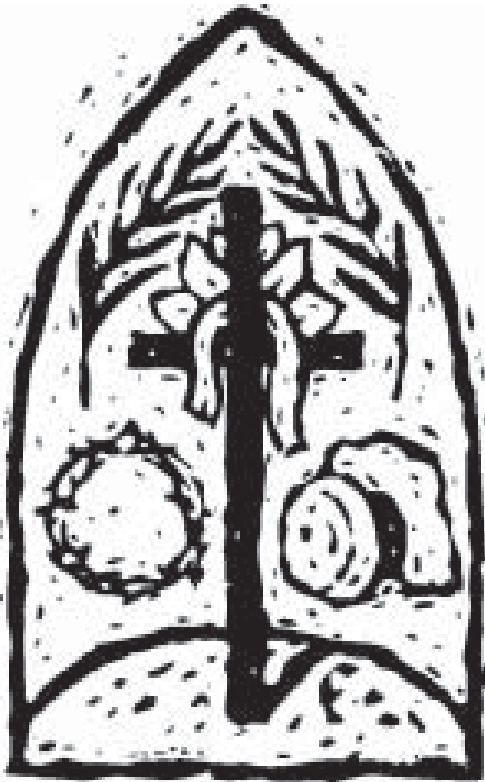
Abstinence is the observance for all those 14 years of age or older to forego the eating of meat on: Ash Wednesday; all Fridays in Lent and on Good Friday. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, this discipline does not apply.

## **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 12:20-33

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus faces religious leaders who are plotting against him. Many Jews and Greeks in Jerusalem were coming to him, and this angered Jesus' opponents. Jesus explains his fate by using the parable of a grain of wheat falling to the ground. Unless it dies, it remains a single grain. If the seed dies, it will produce a rich harvest.

### Exploring the Gospel Message

**Seeds (Preschool):** Your child learned about the grain of wheat that is ground into flour. Ask your child to show you the pictures of families sharing bread. Discuss how important it is for family members and friends to learn to share. Ask your young one to pay close attention to what the priest does during the consecration of the bread and wine at Mass.

**Promise (Grades K-1):** Your child explored how seeds grow and the ways children can grow in love. Ask your child to share the story, "Hooray for Spring!" with the family. Invite your child to share the stories of the four saints who gave their lives to God. Talk about ways your family grows in love for God and for one another.

**Good News (Grades 2-3):** This week, your child learned what Jesus meant when he compared himself to a grain of wheat. They also saw how bread is made. Consider making some bread as a family to experience it first hand. The class also completed a Eucharist Crossword and learned what the words of Jesus are in the Eucharistic Prayer at Mass. Talk as a family about what it means to you that Jesus is the Bread of Life.

**Venture (Grades 4-6):** This week in class, your child explored the Gospel message about the seed falling to the ground and dying in order for there to be a great harvest of grain. The class also explored the Lord's Prayer and how the Seventh, Ninth, and Tenth Commandments call us to respect others' belongings and friendships. Ask your young person to explain the three Commandments to the family. Ask your child to share the story of Saint Oscar Romero with the family.

**Visions (Grades 7-9):** The class discussed how the grain of wheat becomes bread. They also discussed how the bread of the Eucharist helps us understand who Jesus is and how the Mass gathers us together as a people. As a family, share your experiences of Mass. What are some of your best experiences? Why are these experiences so special? Also ask your son or daughter to share what he or she learned about the Prophet Jeremiah from the play the class performed. Ask why Jeremiah's message was so hard for the people to hear.

### Pray Together

One evening before the family meal, stand around the table and give each person a small piece of bread. Ask each person to imagine how simple seeds planted in the soil became this delicious bread. Let each member of the family say a simple thank-you prayer for the life and Death of Jesus. Then pray the Lord's Prayer together, eat the pieces of bread, and enjoy the meal.





## ✠ AROUND THE DIOCESE ✠



### **MARRIAGE IN THE CHURCH**

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

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



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

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

### **CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELING**

New Hampshire Catholic Charities provides individual, marital, family, and couples' counseling, helping people with a variety of personal difficulties, including: Depression, Stress, Family Conflicts, Relationship Problems, Anxiety, Substance Abuse, Life Adjustment Issues, Grief and Loss. Counseling also helps individuals and families strengthen communication skills in order to build and sustain healthy relationships and live more satisfying lives. A sliding scale fee is offered. Contact Arlene Dody, LCMHC in Salem at 603-893-1971 for more information.

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

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

### **The Pregnancy Care Center**

The Pregnancy Care Center is a non-profit organization that offers its confidential services at no cost to its clients. We are committed to promoting the culture of life by assisting expectant parents in the birth and subsequent development of their child during his or her first year of life. We are also committed to helping young people embrace the virtues of chastity and continence as a sign of their Christian dignity.

#### **Main Center**

496 Main St., Haverhill, MA (978-373-5700)

[www.pccnortheast.org](http://www.pccnortheast.org)

Helpline: 866-254-4440



### **MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER**

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

### **NH COUPLE ENRICHMENT CIRCLE**

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

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

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



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

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





# Bringing Home the Word

*Fifth Sunday of Lent (B)*

March 21, 2021

## The Meaning of the Gardens of Scripture

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Focus on the painting, Sebastiano Conca's *Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane*, and you will be drawn across the space between the gaze of Jesus and the chalice the angel offers. Sebastiano understands the essence of the agony in the Garden—the loneliness of Jesus before the bitter cup the Father extends to him via the hands of an angel.

Jesus' attitude in receiving this passion is evident in his open arms. Like the posture he will assume when

nailed to the cross, he shows his humble acceptance and abandonment.

Gardens don't appear often in Scripture, but they are important. There is the Garden of Eden, the place of God's creative love and man's original sin. There is the garden in the Song of Songs—a garden of passion, possession, and life-giving union. Where is Jesus' tomb, and where does Mary Magdalene, the transformed lover, find Jesus on Easter morning? In the Scriptures, gardens are a place of new life, sin, and redemption. It's where lovers go; where love is declared and tested.

This is important in understanding the drama of our Lord's agony in the Garden. It is the drama inside of love. It is the drama of acceptance and abandonment, trust and generosity, life and death.

Jesus knows this and goes into the Garden to do what Adam failed to do in the first Garden. He goes to pay the price of love. He engenders new life by giving his own. He looks at the chalice, the price of our salvation, and with a heart full of generous, uncomplicated love, accepts the Father's invitation. "Not my will but yours be done." +

***In the Scriptures, gardens are a place of new life, sin, and redemption. It's where love is tested.***

### ***A Word from Pope Francis***

By visiting the tombs of our loved ones we remember that we have a multitude of saints who before God intercede for our needs. Let us not forget, however, that so many deceased also await our spiritual support. Let us remember them in our prayers...asking that they be welcomed into the ranks of the elect in heaven.

—General Audience, October 31, 2018



## Sunday Readings

### **Jeremiah 21:31–34**

Everyone...shall know me—oracle of the LORD—for I will forgive their iniquity and no longer remember their sin.

### **Hebrews 5:7–9**

[Christ Jesus] offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears.

### **John 12:20–33**

[Jesus said,] "Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour."

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

### QUESTIONS REFLECTION

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

# "You Visited Me"

By Fr. Bruce Lewandowski, CSSR

My neighbor's son, Joe, didn't last one week. He was only out of prison for a few days when he knowingly broke his probation so he could go back. He couldn't find anything to hold onto on the outside. Joe felt the life waiting for him after prison was devoid of meaning. The unfortunate reality is, many find it difficult to reenter the "world" after spending time in prison. Critics are quick to say it's because prison is too comfortable. The inmates are treated too well. Many end up back in prison, not because they miss their cell or their high-school-equivalency classes or the predictability of it all, but because they miss their friends. They have no social network on the "outside." Though not the sole cause, loneliness and isolation contribute greatly to recidivism.

Pope Francis, during a visit to Philadelphia's Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility said:

*This time in your life can only have one purpose: to give you a hand in getting back on the right road, to give you a hand to help you rejoin society. All of us are part of that effort, all of us are invited to encourage, help and enable your rehabilitation. A rehabilitation, which everyone seeks and desires: inmates and their families, correctional authorities, social and educational programs. A rehabilitation, which benefits and elevates the morale of the entire community.*



I was Sally's neighbor. I knew she had a son in prison. She shared his letters with me. She worried about what would happen when he got out. I tried to comfort and assure her that everything would be all right. I was Sally's pastor. It never occurred to me that I could be her son's pastor, too. If I had visited Joe, met him in prison, offered him the ministry and friendship of our parish while he was doing time, maybe he would have had something to come home to: a church, friends, the prospect of a new life.

In the inner-city parish where I was the pastor for six years, almost 50 percent of the parishioners knew someone in prison: a brother, mother, son, former classmate, or a neighbor. No one ever

spoke about it. No one ever asked the priest to visit. No one ever had a Mass said on behalf of the imprisoned. Fear and shame made us think that we couldn't make a difference. What if our friendship and love could have made all the difference in the life of an ex-offender?

If you know someone in prison, if you know someone who knows someone in prison, write a letter, call, and visit. "I was in prison and you visited me" and gave me something to look forward to after prison: a new life (Matthew 25:36). +

***We can make a difference in the life of someone in prison.***



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

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

## WEEKDAY READINGS

March 22–27

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

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

**Saturday**, Lenten Weekday:  
Ez 37:21–28 / Jn 11:45–5

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