

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 21, 2021

Offertory	\$6,219.44
Fuel	\$1,397.17

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 28	No Second Collection
April 2	Good Friday – Holy Land
April 4	Easter / Needs of Parish

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
Robert Giallongo
by his family

The Sanctuary Candle in
Mary, Mother of the Church
will burn this week in loving memory of
Moses and Ellen Tucker
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 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.

TAI CHI RETURNS!

The Parish is once again offering Tai Chi classes on **Thursdays at 3:00 PM and at 7:00 PM**. A minimum of three (3) students per class will be needed to hold the class. Social distancing and all COVID-19 protocols, including masks, are required. Contact the Parish Office to register. Tai Chi is the ancient Chinese martial art that is used for meditation, exercise, balance, and mind and body wellness. St. Luke the Evangelist Parish is offering this form of graceful, slow movement to help parishioners to gain strength, to improve their balance, flexibility, and range-of-motion, and to relieve stress. Classes are taught by members of the Oriental Healing Arts Association – a Senior Friendly and Senior Safe Tai Chi Program with the purpose of bringing Tai Chi to all age groups.

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>.

EVICTON & 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. 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.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, March 28

12:00 PM Parish Pastoral Council *Plaistow*
 6:00 PM Vespers *Newton*
 6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Newton*

Monday, March 29

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*
 5:00 to 7:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Newton*

Wednesday, March 31

Holy Angels Church Plaistow open for
private prayer all day

7:30 PM Tennebrae *Plaistow*

Thursday, April 1

NO ADORATION IN NEWTON

Friday, April 2

3:00 PM Stations of the Cross *Newton*

Saturday, April 3

NO SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Sunday, April 4

6:00 PM Vespers and Benediction *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.



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 27 ~ Vigil / 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 (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

Monday, March 29 ~ Monday of Holy Week

Is 42:1-7; Jn 12:1-11
 8:00 AM Craig Inglis by Barbara Metcalf
Newton

Tuesday, March 30 ~ Tuesday of Holy Week

Is 49:1-6; Jn 13:31-33, 36-38
 8:00 AM Robert Giallongo by his family
Plaistow

Wednesday, March 31 ~ Wednesday of Holy Week

Is 50:4-9a; Mt 26:14-25
 6:30 PM Jack Ronan by the Brotz family
Plaistow

Thursday, April 1 ~ Holy Thursday

Ex 12:1-8, 11-14; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15
 6:30 PM Liturgy of the Lord's Supper and Adoration
Newton

Friday, April 2 ~ Good Friday

Is 52:13—53:12; Heb 4:14-16, 5:7-9; Jn 18:1—19:42
 6:30 PM Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
Plaistow

Saturday, April 3 ~ Holy Saturday

*Gn 1—2:2; Gn 22:1-18; Ex 14—15:1; Is 54:5-14;
 Is 55:1-11; Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4; Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28;
 Rom 6:3-11; Mk 16:1-7*
 8:00 PM Great Vigil of Easter
Plaistow

Sunday, April 4 ~ Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9
 8:00 AM Marilyn Bouchard by Don and Liz Carcieri
Newton
 10:00 AM Kevin Gallant (28th Anniversary)
by Patricia Gallant and family
Plaistow



MARCH 28, 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>

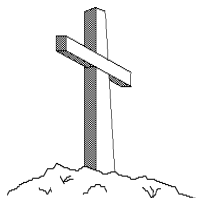


LENTEN EVENING PRAYER

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 on Good Friday at **3:00 PM** in Newton.



Find us on:
facebook®

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** ✠

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. **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, visit:**

www.kofc.org/un/en/todays-knights/what-we-do.html



DIOCESAN EASTER SERIES

The Diocese of Manchester invites all to join in an Easter Series, "The Resurrection and the Church's Mission in the Public Square." This series is offered to help New Hampshire Catholics reflect more deeply on the Easter message and its meaning today for our state, our country, and the whole world. The full series is available in a free-eBook at catholicnh.org/Easter that contains brief written offerings and short excerpts from various church writings on the topics that are covered for each week of the Easter Season.

4 WEEK GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

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

The group will consist of the 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.

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).

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.

NEW ONLINE SUPPORT GROUP FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES NH

Divorce / separation can be an uncomfortable and often misunderstood topic, and for those directly impacted, a painful process with many questions often left unanswered. Catholic Charities NH will be hosting its next online support group, "*Divorce/Separation: Why me? What can I do?*" for those navigating the divorce process or trying to find their way afterward. Participants will learn more about the dynamics of divorce, better understand their options, learn helpful coping strategies, and support others on the same journey. The program will be held via Zoom for six consecutive Wednesdays (at 12:00 Noon) starting **April 21**. To register, visit www.cc-nh.org/supportgroup or call 603-752-1325.

ST. VINCENT dePAUL

EASTER LILY FUND RAISER

\$15. PER PLANT

(PROVIDED BY NEWTON GREENHOUSE)

EASTER SUNDAY

After the 8:00 A.M.

mass in Newton

and after the 10:00 A.M.

mass in Plaistow

***PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THOSE IN NEED.
THANK YOU, IN ADVANCE, FOR YOUR
SUPPORT!***

(ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL SUSAN MOKRAY AT (603) 887-5055)



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

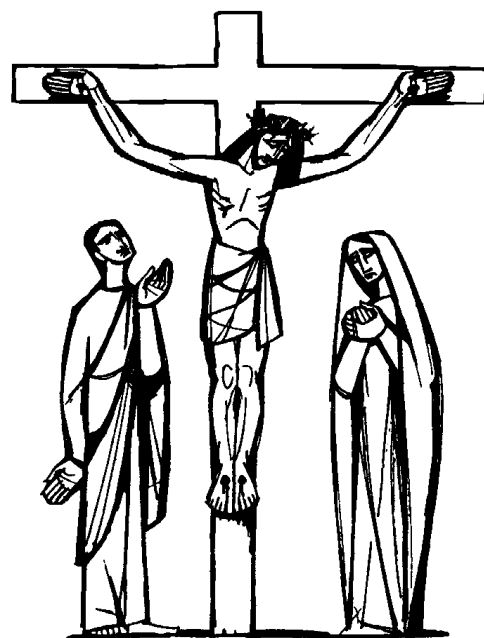
EASTER GREAT VIGIL AT 8 PM - Plaistow

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

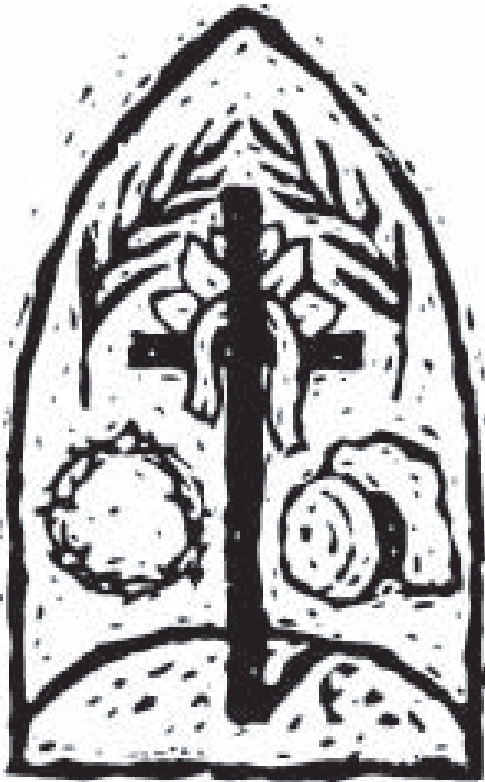
Abstinence is the observance for all those 14 years of age or older to forego the eating of meat on: Ash Wednesday; all Fridays in Lent and on Good Friday. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, this discipline does not apply.

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 Gospels: Mark 11:1–10 and Mark 14:1–15:47

Palm Sunday celebrates Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and the start of Holy Week. The mysteries of Holy Week are focused on the Sacred Triduum—the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Holy Saturday celebration of the Easter Vigil. This Sunday, we proclaim two Gospels—Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and the entire story of the Passion and Death of Jesus according to Mark's Gospel.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): You can bring the liturgy of Palm Sunday to your child with the blessed palm you received at Mass. Talk about Jesus entering the city. Then place the palm somewhere in the house where the family will see it every day. Remind one another that the palm is a sign that Jesus is welcome in your home.

Promise (Grades K–1): In class this week, your child made a Holy Week booklet to help them visualize and remember the events in Jesus' life that are celebrated this week. Talk with your child about each page in the booklet. If possible, take your child to one or more of the liturgies of Holy Week so that he or she can begin to experience the sights and sounds of these very important celebrations.

Good News (Grades 2–3): This week, your child's class learned of all the events in the final days of Jesus' life. Ask your child to share with the family what the days of Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday celebrate. Talk together about what it means that Jesus suffered and died for you and for the whole world. Be sure to display the palm branches you received at Mass.

Venture (Grades 4–6): This week, your child's class learned about the story and symbols of Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday. Discuss the suffering and Death of Jesus and why it is so important that Jesus' followers know the events of these important days. Your child learned that Jesus' Passover from death to life is similar to the passage of the Hebrew people from slavery to freedom. Ask your son or daughter to share the Passover booklet that he or she made in class. Be sure to participate in the Holy Week liturgies as a family.

Visions (Grades 7–9): Most of this week's class consisted of a play that dramatized the story of Jesus' Passion and Death on the Cross. Ask your son or daughter to describe the play and to share his or her reactions to participating in it. Review together the meaning of Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday. Plan your family's involvement in the liturgies of Holy Week. Develop a plan for also observing each of these important days in your home.

Pray Together

One of the elements of the Good Friday liturgy is the adoration of the cross. Every Catholic home should prominently display a cross or a crucifix. One day this week, gather around a crucifix. Pray together the prayer from the liturgy.

Leader: "Behold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the salvation of the world."

All respond: "Come let us adore."

If possible, pass the crucifix from one family member to the next. Each family member can then gently kiss the crucifix. When all have adored the cross, repeat the prayer. Conclude by making a reverent Sign of the Cross.





Maybe

it's time

To re-connect with your Church

To re-new yourself and others through the unique power of the Holy Spirit who guides us in Love and Truth.

If you are a baptized Catholic, have received your First Communion, but decided against Confirmation as a teen, maybe **NOW IS THE TIME** for you to re-consider **Confirmation**.

- ✓ Maybe you weren't ready when you were sixteen years old.
- ✓ Maybe you didn't want to be pressured into it by your family and peers.
- ✓ Maybe you weren't sure that Catholic is who you wanted to be.
- ✓ Maybe you were just beginning to doubt that what you were taught as a child -- about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Virgin Mary, the Eucharist, the saints, eternal life -- was all too good to be true.
- ✓ Maybe you were overwhelmed with school commitments, personal disappointments, and feeling that God really didn't care if you were Catholic anyway.

Sessions begin
soon!

God *does* care about you. *For some reason*, God chose you to be born into a family that would bring you to the Catholic Church for Baptism.

So maybe -- just maybe -- now...it's time....to make your own choice.

Confirmation.

If you are 18 or over and were never Confirmed, contact the Parish Office. With little time and reflection, practicing Catholics can be prepared to celebrate the gift of the Spirit in their lives.

Maybe it's your time.

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish, Newton-Plaistow
603 382 8324. www.stlukenh.org



Bringing Home the Word

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion (B)

March 28, 2021

Acceptance of the Passion

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

There is a sharp contrast between Jesus' and Peter's acceptance of Christ's passion. Both are afraid, but while Jesus faces and embraces, Peter hides and denies.

We understand Peter's gloomy darkness and identify with the confusion and weakness leading to his failure. Like us, he tries to follow Jesus, but at a safe distance. He wants to be close, but not too close. He wants to feel he hasn't abandoned him, to be there—but remains on the fringe.

But following Jesus always leads to moments of truth. Jesus and life have a way of bringing us full circle to face our true selves. Are we in or out? How deep is our love? This time, Peter's love for Jesus fails. But like us, Jesus looks at him with understanding and gives him a chance to be honest, repent, and follow him once again.

Jesus' acceptance of his passion is our example. First, he suffers freely. He's not being forced into a fate he cannot escape. As a result, he is calm, self-possessed, in control of his heart, and patient. Second, he suffers peacefully without resentment. He isn't constantly recriminating against Judas, Peter, or John during his trial or flagellation. He doesn't seek blame or payback.

Not only is he not bitter or resentful, but he is full of compassion and focused on others: on the elderly women, his Mother, John the Apostle, forgiving his tormenters, and leading the good thief to heaven. Let's enter this holiest week following our Redeemer and imitating his example. +

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A Word from Pope Francis

This celebration seems to combine stories of joy and suffering, mistakes and successes, which are part of our daily lives as disciples. It somehow expresses the contradictory feelings that we too, the men and women of today, experience: the capacity for great love...but also the ability to "wash our hands" at the right moment.

—Palm Sunday Homily, March 25, 2018



Sunday Readings

Mark 11:1–10 or John 12:12–16

Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Isaiah 50:4–7; Philippians 2:6–11

Rather, he emptied himself... becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross.

Mark 14:1—15:47 or 15:1–39

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Do I value the infinite mercy of Jesus, who forgives me whenever I turn to him sincerely?

Journey to Joy

By Kathleen M. Basi

I first noticed it at Thanksgiving several years ago when everyone was posting what-I'm-thankful-for lists. Counting my blessings only seemed to underscore the sadness I was feeling on behalf of the multitudes whose lives consisted of suffering: refugees, sick children, communities torn apart by racism, and worlds blown apart by gunfire and suicide bombs. I felt powerless—and at the same time deeply aware that I really wasn't trying very hard to make a difference, especially considering how much I have been given.

Opening ourselves to joy also sensitizes us to sorrow—and vice versa. The two go hand in hand.

Holy Week illustrates this in a profound way. In a handful of days, we travel from the bleakest stage of the Christian journey to its most glorious. In fact, the power of the latter depends upon the apparent hopelessness of the former.

If we want to live the joy of the resurrection to its fullest, we have to be willing to shine a light on the dark underbelly of our own lives and clean up our acts. To recognize the ways in which our actions—or lack thereof—contribute to the pain of the world. We need to be willing to acknowledge that, all too often, we're part of the problem.



But wait—didn't we just spend all of Lent doing exactly that? It's Easter now. Isn't it time to move beyond penance and focus on, you know...joy?

The potential for great good and for great evil resides within every heart, and the opportunity to choose comes to us every day, regardless of the season. Jesus didn't endure the Way of the Cross to give us a fifty-day vacation from examining our consciences. He went through it to show us that the pathway to the fullness of life passes through pain: through dying to our sins, our selfishness, the grudges we hold, and the

preconceived lenses through which we view the world and the people in it.

To grieve for the suffering of others and acknowledge the ways in which our own failure to act can contribute to that suffering joins us to the heart of God. When we unite ourselves to the heart of God, we feel compelled to change—to act as God's hands and feet in the world. And it is through this action that we discover the full joy of the resurrection. +

*With all the bleakness,
how do we get to
the feast of joy that is
the resurrection?*

PRAYER

*Lord, you empty yourself out
in loving service to all people.
Give me a selfless spirit that
I may be of service to others.*

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

March 29–April 3

Monday of Holy Week:

Is 42:1–7 / Jn 12:1–11

Tuesday of Holy Week:

Is 49:1–6 / Jn 13:21–33, 36–38

Wednesday of Holy Week:

Is 50:4–9a / Mt 26:14–25

Holy Thursday: Ex 12:1–8, 11–14 /

1 Cor 11:23–26 / Jn 13:1–15

Good Friday: Is 52:13–53:12 /

Heb 4:14–16, 5:7–9 / Jn 18:1–19:42

Holy Saturday: Gn 1:1–2:2 or 1:1, 26–31a /

Gn 22:1–18 or 22:1–2, 9a, 10–13, 15–18 /

Ex 14:15–15:1 / Is 54:5–14 / Is 55:1–11 /

Bar 3:9–15, 32–4:4 / Ez 36:16–17a, 18–28 /

Rom 6:3–11 / Mk 16:1–7