

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

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](#)

SANCTUARY CANDLES

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

VIGIL LIGHT

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



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!

✠ 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 28, 2021

Offertory \$9,064.11

**COLLECTION AMOUNTS FOR
APRIL 4, 2021
WILL APPEAR IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN**



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

April 11 Property Management
April 18 Fuel

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
Joseph Fitzpatrick
(Birthday Remembrance)
by his wife, Kay

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



CREMATION & THE CHURCH

On October 25, 2016, the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith published a new instruction on the burial of the dead and on the conservation of the ashes in cases of cremation. The instruction reiterated the long held view that the Church is not opposed to the practice of cremation, though it continues to recommend that the bodies of the deceased be buried in cemeteries or other sacred places. **However, the new document insists that ashes should not be kept in private homes and that the scattering of ashes in the air, on land, or at sea is not permitted.** The instruction also insisted that cremains may not be divided among various family members, nor may they be preserved in mementos, pieces of jewelry, or other objects. Please contact Father Albert in the Parish Office with any questions. Brochures about the Rite of Christian Funerals are available at the Church entrances.

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>.

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. 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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Wednesday, April 14
Holy Angels Church Plaistow open for
private prayer all day

Thursday, April 15
8:30 AM – 8:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration *Newton*

Saturday, April 17
3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

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

RESTROOM BREAKS DURING MASS

Attention Parents

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

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.**

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, April 10 ~ Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35; 1 Jn 5:1-6; Jn 20:19-31

4:00 PM Lucy, Joe, and Patrick Zakiewicz
by Pat Zakiewicz
Plaistow

Sunday, April 11 ~ Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35; 1 Jn 5:1-6; Jn 20:19-31

8:00 AM Ron Metcalf by his family
Newton
10:00 AM Carol Flaherty (10th Anniversary)
by her daughter
Plaistow

Monday, April 12 ~ Easter Weekday

Acts 4:23-31; Jn 3:1-8

8:00 AM Mary Walsh by Alice and Bob Litwinovich
Newton

Tuesday, April 13 ~ Martin I, Pope and Martyr

Acts 4:32-37; Jn 3:7b-15

8:00 AM William Knowles (Birthday Remembrance)
by his wife, Marjorie
Plaistow

Wednesday, April 14 ~ Easter Weekday

Acts 5:17-26; Jn 3:16-21

6:30 PM For Michael and his recovery
Plaistow

Thursday, April 15 ~ Easter Weekday

Acts 5:27-33; Jn 3:31-36

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

Friday, April 16 ~ Easter Weekday

Acts 5:34-42; Jn 6:1-15

No Mass

Saturday, April 17 ~ Easter Weekday

Acts 6:1-7; Jn 6:16-21 (Day)

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; 1 Jn 2:1-5a; Lk 24:35-48

4:00 PM Jo Chudzicki by Pat Zakiewicz
Plaistow

Sunday, April 18 ~ Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; 1 Jn 2:1-5a; Lk 24:35-48

8:00 AM John and Mary Madore by the Madore family
Newton
10:00 AM Carl Jesionowski by his family
Plaistow



✠ 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>

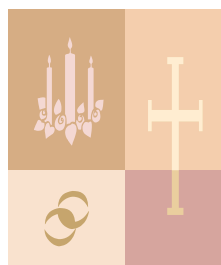


The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** is the process by which people become members of the Roman Catholic Church. Be a good agent of welcome and evangelization! If you or someone you know is interested in inquiring about becoming a member of the Roman Catholic Church, contact Cathy Smith in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



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 in the Parish Office for more information and assistance – there are ways in which your situation might be resolved!



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.

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 ✠

**THE KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBUS GO
SHOPPING**



THE KNIGHTS WENT ON THEIR TRADITIONAL SHOPPING TRIP TO PURCHASE EVERYTHING A FAMILY WOULD NEED TO HAVE A WONDERFUL EASTER DINNER.

THEY ALSO ANSWERED FATHER ALBERT'S CALL TO FILL THE EMPTY SHELVES AT THE FOOD PANTRY, AGAIN HEADING TO THE MARKET. THEY PURCHASED OVER \$400 OF FOOD ITEMS AND ALSO MADE A SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION.



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.

The Gospel at Home

Easter Sunday Gospel: John 20:1–9 2nd Sunday of Easter Gospel: John 20:19–31

Easter Sunday celebrates the core of the Christian faith—that God raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus promised that all who believe in him will have new life with God. The Gospels for both Sundays covered in this lesson tell the story of Easter—first through the eyes of Mary Magdalene and next through the eyes of the Apostles, especially Thomas. Note that the Gospels in the children’s lessons include the bridge between these two Gospels: John 20:10–18.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Easter celebrates the power of Jesus’ great love. Jesus promises that all who believe in him will live forever. Talk with your child about the signs of new life they see in springtime. Make sure you point out that the bunnies, egg hunts, birds, and butterflies are ways to celebrate the great joy of Easter and the new life Jesus gives.

Promise (Grades K–1): Children of this age love to tell stories. This week, your child learned about the greatest story of all—God raising Jesus from the dead. Ask your child to share this wonderful story with the family in his or her own words. Find a place to hang the Alleluia butterflies in your home.

Good News (Grades 2–3): Your child learned about God raising Jesus to new life. Share all the ways your family celebrates this great feast. Ask each member to tell what he or she likes best about Easter. Ask your child to tell the story from the lesson titled, “Lost and Found Treasure.” Talk about the symbols that tell of Easter joy—candles, eggs, lilies, butterflies, and the like. Be sure to attend Easter Mass together.

Venture (Grades 4–6): Your child’s class discovered that Easter is also a Baptism feast. The class learned about the experience of Easter Baptism through the eyes of three young people their age who were baptized at the Easter Vigil. Share memories of your youngster’s Baptism. As a family, pray to always keep your baptismal promises to be faithful to Christ and the Church and to follow what the Church believes and teaches. Be sure to have your young person show you the scavenger hunt the class did this week. Work on completing the hunt if there are unchecked boxes.

Visions (Grades 7–9): The celebration of the Easter Vigil is filled with symbols of the history of God’s People, of their new life, and of the promise of life everlasting. Your young son or daughter is at an age when the experience of the Easter Vigil can help them appreciate their membership in the Church. Discuss the sights, sounds, and meaning of the parts of the Easter Vigil Mass that takes place the night before Easter Sunday. Reminders are in this week’s lesson.

Pray Together

Make a family Easter candle. Decorate a plain white candle with the signs and symbols of Easter. Each evening during the first week of the Easter feast, light the candle and spend a few moments in family prayer. Then renew your baptismal promises by making the Sign of the Cross together.





The Society of St. Vincent DePaul, at St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, invites you to join our Prayer Shawl Ministry! Even if you are unable to attend meetings, your talents are more than welcome.

Shawls can be made with yarn, quilt fabric, or fleece. They are filled with prayer, care and love. They will be given to anyone in need of comfort or solace.

If you are interested in prayerful camaraderie or just want to contribute your talent, consider joining our committee.

If you know of someone that is in need of comfort and would like to receive a gift from our group, please call to make the request.

Barbara Metcalf

603-642-8334

cmbklb@yahoo.com

Meeting Schedule:

- First Thursday of each month, except July and August.
- 10 A.M. – 12 Noon
- Parish office building (dining room)
- Material can be supplied

We are honored to provide this service to anyone in need.



Bringing Home the Word

Second Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy) (B)

April 11, 2021

Leaning Upon God

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The Embrace, a painting by Pedro Cano, is a powerful image of paternal love and union. It recalls the historic moment when St. John Paul II, at the Mass of his elevation to the papacy, embraced his lifelong mentor, Stefan Cardinal Wyszyński. The painting is a moment frozen in time that represents something much bigger than the event that inspired it.

The two figures are barely distinguishable. They seem to be fused, like two figures carved out of one piece of marble. It is the mutual love of giving and receiving that makes this exchange

so moving. Indeed, it reminds us of the embrace of love we seek in this life from our loved ones as well as in eternal life. There is no distance between them, rancor, or questioning—only the total happiness of being united with a friend.

The pope's strong, broad shoulders are penetrated by the grasping hands of the one embraced. There is a clenching need to find security in the other. We all search for love, forgiveness, and for strength we do not find in ourselves. We wish our faith were stronger but, the truth is, we need to be constantly turning to God for his mercy.

Yet, he is pleased to be our rock upon which we lean, the one we can touch in our doubt. Turn to him in need, for he is happy to save you from the trials of this life. He wants to be the risen one who restores our faith. He rejoices that we need him and return to him. +

Sunday Readings

Acts 4:32-35

With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all.

1 John 5:1-6

Whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith.

John 20:19-31

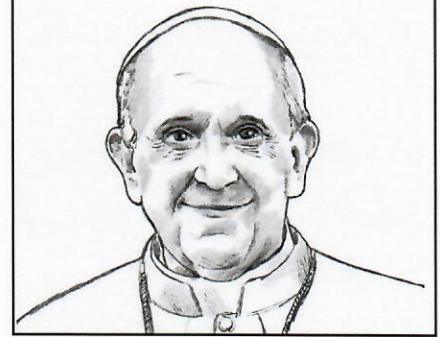
[Jesus said,] "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

*We wish our faith
were stronger but,
the truth is, we need
to be constantly
turning to God for his
mercy.*

A Word from Pope Francis

[The disciples] had abandoned the Lord at his passion and felt guilty. But meeting them, Jesus did not give a long sermon. To them, who were wounded within, he shows his own wounds. Thomas can now touch them and know of Jesus' love and how much Jesus had suffered for him, even though he had abandoned him.

—Divine Mercy Sunday, April 19, 2020



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS REFLECTION

- Do I find security in the love of another in a healthy way? Is it the fruit of giving and not possessing?
- Is my strongest foundation in the love and mercy of Jesus?

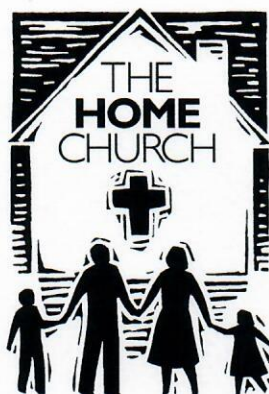
A Parable of Mercy

By Johan van Parys

When my grandmother died, I inherited her personal papers. Though I was hesitant to go through them, I was soon immersed as stories that had been relayed only through whispers or hints became abundantly clear.

The most amazing story concerned my grandparents' plight during World War II. In the late 1930s, my grandmother inherited her family's shoe business. Her biggest client was the Belgian army. When the Nazis took over Belgium, they ordered her to make shoes for them. She refused, so they closed her factory and sent her employees and my grandfather to work camps in Germany. Nazi officers took over the family home, and my grandmother and great-grandmother were made to serve them.

The story was illuminated by two sets of letters. The first set, tied with a red ribbon, was written by my grandfather to my grandmother from the work camp. Most of the letters are filled with small anecdotes of camp life, nothing



No matter what we've done, we can and should ask our merciful God for forgiveness and help.

incriminating because the letters were scrutinized by the Nazis before being mailed. He also thanks my grandmother for the occasional package of soap or chocolates and for news from home. His letters are all very strong and full of words of encouragement. The most moving among all of them is the letter written in response to the birth of his youngest daughter a few months after he was sent to the camps. He writes about how he longs to return home and wishes he could hold her.

After the war, my grandfather came home, and the Nazi officers returned to Germany.

The second set of letters, tied with a blue ribbon, was written by one of the officers who had occupied my grandparents' home. In the first letter, the former Nazi officer apologizes and asks forgiveness. In ensuing letters he speaks about his two sons who were killed in the war, the destruction of their hometown, and the absolute poverty he and his wife live in. Then he starts asking my grandparents for clothes, shoes, and food. In other letters, he thanks my grandparents for

sending them whatever they needed.

In 1967 my aunt got married. Though I was very young, I do remember an unknown couple at my grandparents' home. I didn't understand their language, but I liked their accordion playing. I deduced from the letters that this was the former Nazi officer and his wife.

I was incredulous. I couldn't comprehend how he dared ask forgiveness after all he'd done to my family. Even worse, how could he ask my grandparents for help? I also didn't understand how my grandparents could forgive him, help him, and invite him into their home.

I've given much thought to this amazing story of sin and sorrow that led to forgiveness and reconciliation. It's a true parable of God's forgiveness and mercy and of the mercy and forgiveness God requires of us. No matter what we've done, we can and should ask our merciful God for forgiveness and help. And regardless of what has been done to us or what we've done to others, we can and must ask for forgiveness—and give it in return. +

PRAYER

Risen Lord, you fulfilled your promise by rising from the dead. Help me to practice what I preach.

From Hopeful Meditations for Every Day of Easter Through Pentecost, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

April 12-17

Monday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 4:23–31 / Jn 3:1–8

Tuesday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 4:32–37 / Jn 3:7b–15

Wednesday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 5:17–26 / Jn 3:16–21

Thursday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 5:27–33 / Jn 3:31–36

Friday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 5:34–42 / Jn 6:1–15

Saturday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 6:1–7 / Jn 6:16–21

Bringing Home
the Word 

April 11, 2021

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