



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, March 13, 2022

Second Sunday of Lent

4:00 PM

8:00 AM

10:00 AM

Gathering: Hold Us In Your Mercy

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 51)

*Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.
(2x)*

Preparation Forty Days And Forty Nights BB 123

Mass Parts Mass For Christ The Savior

Communion Ubi Caritas BB 325
Gift Of Finest Wheat BB 329

Recessional: *We depart in silence during Lent.*

✠ 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!

February 27, 2022

Offertory \$7,033.43

March 2, 2022

Aid to Church/Europe/Africa \$1,422.00

March 6, 2022

Offertory \$6,175.14

Property Management \$1,504.95

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're new to our parish, registration forms are available at the entrances of both churches. Registration forms can also be found on our website at <http://stlukenh.org>.



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.

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!



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!

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

March 13	CRS and Catholic Home Missions
March 20	Fuel
March 27	Easter Flowers

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 ✠

COVID UPDATE

By mandate of the Bishop of Manchester on June 6, all restrictions and procedures put in place during the pandemic are no longer in effect.

The choice to wear or to not wear a mask is left up to individuals and their discretion. Those persons who have not been vaccinated should be especially mindful of their own safety and the safety of others, especially those vulnerable to communicable disease.

A hand sanitizer station will remain at the main entrances of the church doors for the time being for parishioners' convenience.

Anyone who has been recently exposed to COVID 19 or any other communicable disease should not attend public services of any kind. Those sick should remain at home until such time as they are healthy.

Liturgy online or on TV...

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

PLEASE HELP US!

As you leave church, kindly take your Bulletin with you - or return it to the basket at the entrance of the Church, return your music book and Mass card to their proper place, and pick up after yourself as you leave. Our Ushers are wonderful and diligent, but they should not have to face a Foxboro aftermath as each Mass ends! Thanks for being attentive and respectful! F. Albert.

AMAZONSMILE FOUNDATION

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:

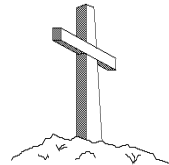
St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.

TAX TIME SUGGESTION

Did you know? If you are 72 or older and need to take a "required minimum distribution (RMD)" from an IRA retirement account, a direct distribution to a qualified charitable organization, such as Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish, can save you money on your taxes. Such a donation will count toward your required minimum distribution but will be excluded from taxable income. Ask your tax preparer or IRA trustee for more details.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

If you would like an "end of year" financial statement of your contributions to the Parish for 2021, **please call Jackie** at the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. **Financial Statements are issued on a request only basis.**



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will take place each Friday evening during Lent at 6:30 PM in Newton.

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.



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.

WHILE AWAY THIS WINTER / SPRING...

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

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, March 13

10:00 AM Religious Ed – PreK to 8 *Plaistow*
 6:00 PM Vespers *Newton*
 6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Newton*

Tuesday, March 15

6:00 PM Finance Council Meeting *Plaistow*

Wednesday, March 16

Holy Angels Church
Open All Day For Prayer

7:00 PM Disciples on the Journey *Plaistow*
 7:00 PM St. Vincent de Paul Society Meeting *Plaistow*

Thursday, March 17

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

Friday, March 18

6:30 PM Stations of the Cross *Newton*

Saturday, March 20

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

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.



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.

From the Pastor's Desk



HOLY ANGELS CEMETERY CLOSED

Holy Angels Cemetery in Plaistow is closed until Spring 2022. 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.

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, March 12 ~ Second Sunday of Lent

Gn 15:5-12, 17-18; Phil 3:17—4:1; Lk 9:28b-36 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Margaret Sheehan
 by Ray and Beverley Viglione
Plaistow

Sunday, March 13 ~ Second Sunday of Lent

Gn 15:5-12, 17-18; Phil 3:17—4:1; Lk 9:28b-36

8:00 AM Daniel Gorthy by Barbara and Jack Brotz
Newton

10:00 AM The Intentions of Eleanor Martin
 by Edwin and Susan Martin
Plaistow

Monday, March 14 ~ Lenten Weekday

Dn 9:4b-10; Lk 6:36-38

8:00 AM Craig Inglis by Barbara Metcalf
Newton

Tuesday, March 15 ~ Lenten Weekday

Is 1:10, 16-20; Mt 23:1-12

8:00 AM Jesselyn Driscoll by her family
Plaistow

Wednesday, March 16 ~ Lenten Weekday

Jer 18:18-20; Mt 20:17-28

6:30 PM People of the Parish
Plaistow

Thursday, March 17 ~ Patrick, Bishop

Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31

8:00 AM Lorraine Purington by Barbara Metcalf
Newton

Friday, March 18 ~ Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and

Doctor of the Church

Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
 No Mass

Saturday, March 19 ~ Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed

Virgin Mary

2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22;

Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a (Day)

Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15; 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12; Lk 13:1-9 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Clara, Leo, and Edward McCusker
 by Elaine Kelcourse
Plaistow

Sunday, March 20 ~ Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15; 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12; Lk 13:1-9

8:00 AM Theresa Tremblay by Cathy Smith
Newton

10:00 AM Joyce Gauthier by Cathy Smith
Plaistow



Mass Times for travel
masstimes.org
 "come to me all of you"
 - Matthew 11:28



WINTER WEATHER CLOSINGS

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish Office, Holy Angels Cemetery Office, Saint Luke Food Pantry and the Parish Liturgical schedule complies with the longstanding inclement weather policy of Saint Luke Religious Education Program and Holy Angels Pre-School-Kindergarten: **If the Timberlane and/or Sanborn regional school districts close because of inclement weather, ALL Parish Offices and Parish programs will be closed or suspended. All activities by any Parish or non-Parish groups will be cancelled for that day/evening on both campuses.** In the event of a weather related closing, the scheduled weekday Liturgy will not be held and the intention (if any) will be moved to a conveniently available date. **Sunday (or Saturday evening) liturgies can never be cancelled, but all are advised to use prudence when deciding to travel to Church during winter storms.**

THE GOD MINUTE

Every morning a small group of priests, religious, and lay people start their day in prayer. Soft music, sacred scripture, and a thoughtful reflection are weaved into a 10-minute prayer called "The God Minute." It's then uploaded for you to access and pray along with us on your own time. And it's free. Listen with your coffee in the morning, while driving to work, or taking a walk. See how easy and beautiful prayer can be!

www.thegodminute.org

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.

YOUTH CONFIRMATION

Students in Junior High or High School who have not celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation and would like to prepare to receive the sacrament, contact Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305, or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

EUCCHARISTIC 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 Szczapa	jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net
Jackie Tremblay	jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net
Val Barczak	mvmbarczak@comcast.net
Parish Council	parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net

❖ Community News ❖



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.**

Thanks to your generosity, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul continues to help our friends and neighbors in need. Requests for help, especially



heat and utilities, have been on the rise lately. We've recently helped several families with rent and utility payments. Your continued support makes it possible for us to assist all who come to us for help.

March is our Membership Drive month and we're inviting you to our next meeting **on Wednesday, March 16 at 7:00 PM** in the Holy Angels Church Hall. We welcome you to sit in on our meeting and determine if membership in this great group is for you.

We hope to be selling lilies following Easter Liturgies again this year. Keep your eye on this space and in the bulletin for more information on that!

If you are interested in learning more about this great group of volunteers, contact our Secretary, Jim Edwards, at jimmy69180@hotmail.com or 603-642-5236. Meetings are both live and virtual.

If you seek assistance or need information about the Society, call (603) 382-8324, ext.315.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

A Men's AA Step Meeting is 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.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Bishop Peter A. Libasci invites all couples celebrating a significant wedding anniversary in 2022, and those recently unable to participate due to COVID-19, to attend a **Wedding Anniversary Mass**. The Mass will be held on **Sunday, May 1, 2022 at 2:00 PM** at St. Joseph Cathedral, Manchester. To register, please contact the parish office **by April 8, 2022**. The parish office will gather and submit all necessary information. Once registration has been completed by the parish office, all registrants will receive an invitation to this special celebration.

KENTUCKY DERBY BALL

Run for the Roses! Break out the Mint Juleps and Big Hats for the St. Joseph Catholic School 2022 Annual Fundraising Gala. This event will be held on **Saturday, March 19, 2022 from 5:30 to 11:30 PM** at the Castleton Banquet & Conference Center. Go to SJRCSAUCTION22.GIVESMART.COM for tickets and more information.

Let's Pray!

Please join the Knights of Columbus **every Thursday evening at 7:00 PM** at Mary Mother of the Church in Newton, NH

We pray for an end to the pandemic, for the respect of all life, and we pray for the intentions of each other and the parish.

COME PRAY WITH US.

THE KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBUS
ST. JUDE COUNCIL
#6617

www.kofc6617.org



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

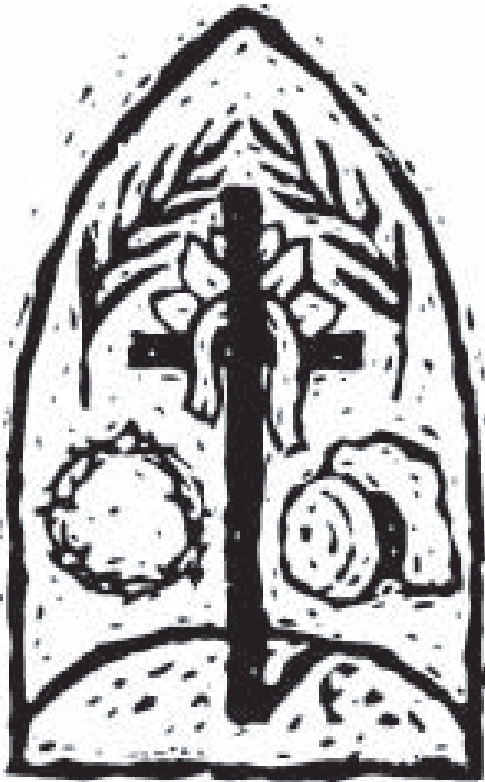
Abstinence is the observance for all those 14 years of age or older to forego the eating of meat on: Ash Wednesday; all Fridays in Lent and on Good Friday. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, this discipline does not apply.

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.



Lenten Prayer and Liturgy

The Church invites all people to special moments of prayer during the season of Lent. It is a common custom for people to make room in their schedule for daily Eucharist, which we celebrate as follows during the Lenten season:

Monday	8 am	Newton
Tuesday	8 am	Plaistow
Wednesday	6:30 PM	Plaistow
Thursday	8 am	Newton

Another Lenten custom involves taking a journey... to the Holy Land! Going on pilgrimage has always been an important part of our Christian tradition. By visiting a place where a religious event occurred, a pilgrim hoped to share in the experience associated with that place. The desire to visit Jerusalem and the Holy Land was very important to Christians long ago, but because of the danger and expense of travel, and the political climate of Palestine, such a journey was not always feasible. When the Friars of the Franciscan Order took over the care of the Holy Places in Jerusalem in 1342, they began to erect "Stations" in Churches back home in Europe. It was a way to "go" to the Holy Land without ever leaving home. The custom of the Stations quickly spread to parish Churches, and the devotion of the Stations of the Cross was born.

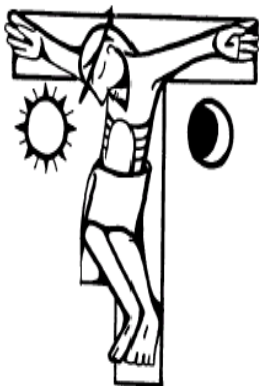


Praying the Stations of the cross

We walk the **Stations of the Cross** each Friday of Lent at 6:30 at **NEWTON**. Using various versions and forms of the Stations, and led by various groups in the Parish, we make Jesus' journey to the Cross our own.

Baptismal Font and Holy Water Font

During Lent, we pray and prepare to renew our own Baptismal promises even as we pray as a community for those to be Baptized. Following ancient custom, the Sacrament of Baptism is not ordinarily celebrated during Lent, and the Baptismal Font itself is sealed. We also "fast" from the Baptismal water usually present at the doors of the Church. The entire Church waits with Jesus in the desert, praying for the Living Waters of Easter.



Lenten Space, Silence, & Music

During Lent, the Church's lighting is dimmed so as to encourage an atmosphere of prayer and introspection. Our Assembly's music is more meditative and somber.

We leave at the end of Mass in silence, reflecting on our mission as Disciples to pray, fast, and to give of ourselves in the coming week.

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: Luke 9:28b–36

Jesus journeys to a mountain with Peter, James, and John in this Sunday's Gospel. While praying, Jesus becomes transfigured. His glory shows through as the ancient Israelite leaders Moses and Elijah speak with him. Then the voice of God tells the Apostles that Jesus is his Son. "Listen to him."

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): This week's lesson teaches that Jesus is God's Son. Talk with your child about your relationship with the Son of God, especially how you hear and listen to him. The class also recorded prayer times and places. This would be a good week to plan regular prayer times or maybe add to them. Encourage your child to find times and places to pray to Jesus.

Promise (Grades K–1): This week your child read about what God revealed during the Transfiguration. Ask your child what the voice from the cloud said about Jesus. Check out your child's Prayer Pocket from this week's class. Encourage your child to pray on his or her own as well as with family and friends.

Good News (Grades 2–3): Your child explored who they are by answering eight questions. Ask your child what he or she would shout from a mountaintop? Your child also wrote seven short prayers about what they are thankful for, so be sure to ask what some of those prayers were. Discuss as a family how you listen to Jesus. Ask your child about "Mai's Poem" from class, and how Abraham and Sarah listened to God. Ask, too, what the Transfiguration is.

Venture (Grades 4–6): In this week's class your young person learned about the time of Abraham. He or she also read a story about fifth-graders who wrote chapters about themselves for a book. Share a story from your grade school days. Ask your child to imagine what it must have been like for the Apostles to see the Transfiguration of Jesus. Ask your young person to explain the Lord's Prayer, then pray it together as a family. What are the welcoming, healing, and loving signs your family shares with others? Ask your youngster what he or she learned from the game based on The Lord's Prayer.

Visions (Grades 7–9): Listening to the Lord and looking at things from different points of view was how this week's class started. Have your young person describe the story of Kubisa Muzenende. Be sure to ask about Daniel Baguma, a child soldier from Rwanda. How has your family helped people? What is your young person's Lenten Commitment? Pray for his or her success. Maybe incorporate the Psalms into the prayer as the class did this week.

Pray Together

God commanded the Apostles and us to listen to Jesus, his Son. During prayer this week, include some silent time to listen to what God is telling your hearts. Share what each of you heard the Lord saying to you. Pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance in following Jesus' teaching in our lives.





Anointing of the Sick I: The Mystery of Illness

We get hurt. We wear out. The lungs, the eyes, the memory, and any of the many limbs and organs that compose us break or ache. Gloom comes over us then: pity for ourselves, sorrow, depression, anger. But hope can come, too, and courage, and sometimes peace.

All of this is marked and celebrated in the rites of our tradition. With a word and a deed, with touch and breath and spit and mud, Jesus heals those who ail. In every place and time, we who are the church remember and tell stories of healing, anoint the sick with oil and share the one bread even with those who cannot assemble for Mass. Thus the sick and the healthy, the homebound and the spry, saints and sinners are made one and remain one, a single body of many parts.

Anyone who is seriously ill can receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, including the elderly who become weaker, even if no illness is present; those waiting for surgery when a serious condition is the reason for the operation; sick children who have sufficient use of reason to be helped by the celebration; and those who are unconscious or who have lost the use of reason, provided that they probably would have asked for the sacrament had they the use of their faculties. Furthermore, many forms of mental illness are now known to be serious. So the mentally ill may be anointed, provided that they will be helped and not harmed by the rite. If you have questions, consult a priest or other parish leader.

The most complete celebration of the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is a communal one, a celebration in which those to be anointed are surrounded and supported by other members of the Christian community, whether at home, or in the house of the church (for those who can leave their beds and come here). In song and in silence, with scriptures and prayers, we strengthen the bonds of love and faith that are stronger than the most lethal disease and more powerful even than death.



Bringing Home the Word

Second Sunday of Lent (C)

March 13, 2022

Transfiguring Our Lives through Christ

By Fr. Mark Haydu

The same three apostles who are present in the Garden of Gethsemane are also at the transfiguration. On both occasions they fall asleep! But when they awake at the transfiguration, they see something totally different. They see Jesus radiant and resplendent like they had never seen him before. This revelation of his glory is meant to strengthen their faith and prepare them for seeing Jesus later, sweating blood in the agony of the Garden. Experiencing the joy and beauty of Jesus is essential to persevering

through the inevitable passions we will have to undergo. Faith is not all about suffering, but about joy, love, and intimacy with Christ. Yes, love sometimes means we must suffer, but the fruit is greater intimacy. A diamond is made under great pressure and love must pass through temptations.

All three synoptic Gospels unite the transfiguration with Peter's profession of faith. The reality of the passion and cross should not shake the apostle's faith, but they should realize that his exaltation can only be accomplished in the cross: "And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself" (John 12:32).

The sufferings we see in the world, in our own past and present, shouldn't shake our faith in Jesus, either. Overcoming sin comes from embracing suffering.

Jesus is so radiant that he awakes the apostles from their slumber. May the consuming love with which we burn for Jesus transfigure us into beautiful lights that awaken this world from its slumber of faith as well. +

Experiencing the joy and beauty of Jesus is essential to persevering through the passions we must undergo.

A Word from Pope Francis

Belief in God and the worship of God are not enough to ensure that we are actually living in a way pleasing to God. A believer may be untrue to everything that his faith demands of him, and yet think he is close to God and better than others.

—On Fraternity and Social Friendship (*Fratelli Tutti*), October 3, 2020



Sunday Readings

Genesis 15:5–12, 17–18

The LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: To your descendants I give this land.

**Philippians 3:17—4:1
or 3:20—4:1**

Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 9:28b–36

While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- What area of your life does Jesus want to transfigure into a brighter testimony for him?
- Light comes from energy consumed and transformed. How does that truth apply to your spiritual life?

An Unexpected Awakening

By Barbara Hughes

I'm not sure what I expected, but as I crossed the threshold, the room with its cement floor, cinder-block walls, and two small windows placed near the ceiling caused me to question my sanity. What in the world was I doing here? In lieu of a bed, a hammock hung from the ceiling in one corner of the room, and in another was a straight-back chair facing a shelflike table that held a wooden cross fashioned from tree branches. There was no electricity, but there was running water, evidenced by the small sink and toilet tucked behind a half-wall that partially divided the space. This was my first trip to the hermitage hidden deep in the woods on the grounds of a Benedictine monastery. I had decided spending time in a hermitage would be a meaningful, delightful way to begin the season of Lent. Now I wasn't so sure.

But as I looked around the room, I realized the bare-bones environment was intentional. There was nothing pleasant to look at, nothing to distract me. I could no longer run from God or hide behind work or family commitments. With nothing else to do, I took a deep breath, closed my eyes, and let the world around me disappear.

A cocoonlike silence enveloped me, and as my heart began to swell, I knew I stood on holy ground. In the hours and days that followed, I discovered that it wasn't the hermitage I was visiting that was holy. It was the hermitage that



God was building inside me that was pure, a place I could carry with me long after I left the monastery grounds. This unexpected awakening gave me a new perspective, which, in essence, is what Lent is all about.

The word *Lent* means “lengthening of days.” It reminds us we have time to turn away from sin and fall in love with God. We begin by stripping away excuses for our sins and shortcomings. We strive to shed illusions rooted in the false self and enter the desert with Jesus, where we are given the opportunity to discover what can only be learned through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Each year, the Church invites us to enter the desert, because once is never enough. Despite our best intentions,

we grow weary, our resolve dissipates, and our baptismal robe becomes soiled. Hence, the penitential tone of Lent invites us to fast not only from food but also from sin and all that may lead us astray. We recognize that we can't do this by ourselves and so we profess our weakness and ask God to create a clean heart in us and renew our commitment to practice good works.

Lent is serious business, but serious is not the same as gloomy. In fact, Lent can be a time of joyful consolation because the more we empty ourselves, the more God fills us with his mercy and grace. This is the good news with which we are called to begin our Lenten journey, because, according to St. Paul in 2 Corinthians 6:2, God affirms, “In an acceptable time I heard you, and on the day of salvation I helped you.” +

*During Lent, we strive
to shed illusions rooted
in the false self and
enter the desert with Jesus.*

PRAYER

*Lord, you desire to be with me
and walk with me along life's
journey. Awaken in my heart
a desire and commitment
to be with you in prayer.*

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

March 14–19

Monday, Lenten Weekday:
Dn 9:4b–10 / Lk 6:36–38

Tuesday, Lenten Weekday:
Is 1:10, 16–20 / Mt 23:1–12

Wednesday, Lenten Weekday:
Jer 18:18–20 / Mt 20:17–28

Thursday, Lenten Weekday:
Jer 17:5–10 / Lk 16:19–31

Friday, Lenten Weekday: Gn 37:3–4, 12–13a, 17b–28a / Mt 21:33–43, 45–46

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

Bringing Home
the Word 

March 13, 2022

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