



## MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, March 27, 2022

Fourth 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 As The Deer Longs BB 508

Mass Parts Mass For Christ The Savior

Communion Take And Eat BB 358

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!

**March 20, 2022**

Offertory	\$6,462.67
Fuel	\$1,401.25

## FOR OUR RECORDS

We need your help to keep our records current. If there are any births, deaths, marriages, moves, or address changes in your family, please notify the Parish Office at 603-382-8324 or by email at [jtremlay@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:jtremlay@stluketheevangelist.net). If you'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>.

## 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!



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 27	Easter Flowers
April 3	Property Management
April 10	No Second Collection
April 15	Good Friday – Holy Land
April 17	Easter and Needs of the Parish

### 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...

<b>Boston Catholic Television</b>	<b>catholictv.org</b>
Sunday Mass from Notre Dame	
<a href="http://catholictv.org/masses/notre-dame-mass">catholictv.org/masses/notre-dame-mass</a>	
Salt & Light TV	<a href="http://saltandlighttv.org">saltandlighttv.org</a>
Eternal Word Television	<a href="http://ewtn.com">ewtn.com</a>

### EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE

The April 17, 2022 bulletin (Easter) must be submitted early. All announcements to be included in the April 17 bulletin must be at the Parish Office **no later than 12:00 Noon on Tuesday, April 5.**

### AMAZONSMILE FOUNDATION

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish has been issued a **\$132.31 donation** from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between October 1 and December 31, 2021.

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

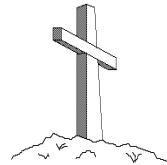
**St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.**

### 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.



The Sanctuary Candle in Holy Angels Church will burn this week in loving memory of **Mark Hammond** by Colleen Hammond

### 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.

### 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.

## ✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

### Sunday, March 27

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

### Wednesday, March 30

Holy Angels Church  
Open All Day For Prayer

7:00 PM Disciples on the Journey *Plaistow*

### Thursday, March 31

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

### Friday, April 1

6:30 PM Stations of the Cross *Newton*

### Saturday, April 2

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

### Sunday, April 3

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

### PRAYER LINE

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



Find us on:  
**facebook®**

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

## 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 26 ~ Fourth Sunday of Lent

*Jos 5:9a, 10-12; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32 (Vigil)*

4:00 PM Michael Gerard Lyons (Birthday Remembrance)  
by Gerard Lyons  
*Plaistow*

### Sunday, March 27 ~ Fourth Sunday of Lent

*Jos 5:9a, 10-12; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32*

8:00 AM Theresa Tremblay by Alice and Bob Litwinovich  
*Newton*

10:00 AM Mark Hammond by Colleen Hammond  
*Plaistow*

### Monday, March 28 ~ Lenten Weekday

*Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54*

8:00 AM Sr. Marilyn Lagerman by Stephanie Stanley  
*Newton*

### Tuesday, March 29 ~ Lenten Weekday

*Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16*

8:00 AM Robert Giallongo by his family  
*Plaistow*

### Wednesday, March 30 ~ Lenten Weekday

*Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30*

6:30 PM Theresa Tremblay  
by Joe and Ann Marie Sheehan  
*Plaistow*

### Thursday, March 31 ~ Lenten Weekday

*Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47*

8:00 AM Eileen Meader by Joan Meader  
*Newton*

### Friday, April 1 ~ Lenten Weekday

*Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30*

*No Mass*

### Saturday, April 2 ~ Francis of Paola, Hermit

*Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53 (Day)*

*Is 43:16-21; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11 (Vigil)*

4:00 PM Kevin Gallant (29<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) by his family  
*Plaistow*

### Sunday, April 3 ~ Fifth Sunday of Lent

*Is 43:16-21; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11*

8:00 AM Theresa Tremblay by Bonnie Lajoie  
*Newton*

10:00 AM Ed Murphy by his family  
*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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net).

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

### ✠ PARISH DIRECTORY ✠

Parish Office	603-382-8324
Parish Prayer Line	603-382-8324 x 314
St. Vincent de Paul Society	603-382-8324 x 315
St. Luke's Food Pantry	603-819-4949
Preschool	603-382-9783
Presentation of Mary Convent	603-382-2744

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



## ❖ 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](mailto: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.

### INTERESTED IN SENDING YOUR CHILD TO CAMP?

Camp Bernadette for girls and Camp Fatima for boys could be ideal for your family! The Diocesan camps of New Hampshire are joyful, Catholic communities with a sense of belonging for all. Campers' lives are changed every summer after participating in the robust camping experiences at Bernadette and Fatima. Visit [www.bfcamp.com](http://www.bfcamp.com) for 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](http://www.kofc6617.org)



## SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST

**THE BEGINNING OF THE LENTEN FAST**      **MARCH 2**  
**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 – NEWTON

## 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 14 – 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 15 - 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 16- Morning Prayer 8 am - Plaistow**  
**Mid-day Prayer 12 noon - Plaistow**

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

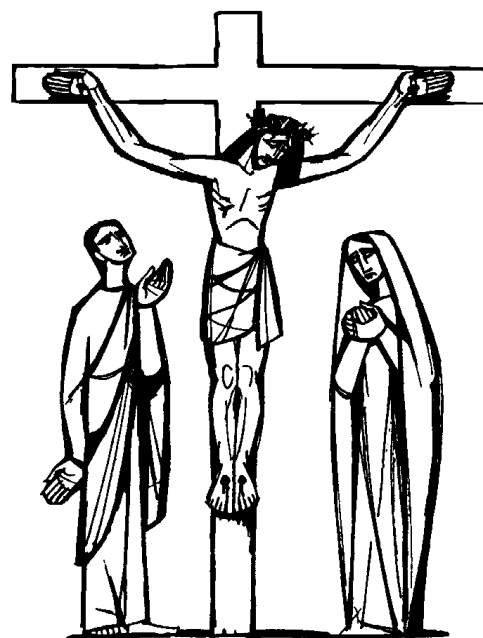
## EASTER SUNDAY LITURGIES APRIL 17

**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

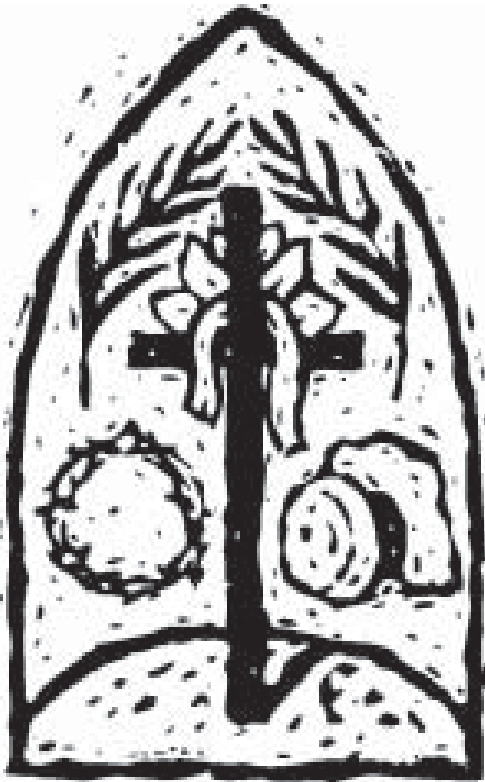
Abstinence is the observance for all those 14 years of age or older to forego the eating of meat on: Ash Wednesday; all Fridays in Lent and on Good Friday. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, this discipline does not apply.

## 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 Week's Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

The Parable of the Forgiving Father is one of the most well-known from Jesus. The son does not earn the love of his father. Instead love is what the father gives. God's love and forgiveness are freely given to help us grow close to him. No matter how lost we become, the Lord will find us.

### Exploring the Gospel Message

**Seeds (Preschool):** Your child learned that God is our forgiving Father. Your son or daughter can show you the path to find Jesus as he welcomes us home. Have your child tell you how we share happiness. Have the family discuss how you all share happiness with others. Pray that the Lord will grant you all a happy life.

**Promise (Grades K-1):** God is our forgiving Father. What story do the pictures on the front of this week's *Promise* booklet tell? Have your child tell the Parable of the Forgiving Father using the pictures from this week's *Promise*. Talk about the many ways that God forgives us.

**Good News (Grades 2-3):** This week, your child's class talked about how to forgive others. Have your child tell you what happened in the story titled, "Ella Leaves Home." He or she should also know what a parable is. The Parable of the Forgiving Father is a good example from this week's Gospel. Talk about the story with your child. This week's lesson included the story of the Exodus when God freed his People from slavery. Ask your child how love and forgiveness factor into the parable and the Exodus story?

**Venture (Grades 4-6):** Have your child point out some of the places on the cover map in the land where Joshua walked, especially Gilgal. Which ending did your youngster choose for the lesson story? Have he or she explain the choice. Talk about what the Parable of the Forgiving Father teaches us about forgiveness. For Lent, this week's lesson explores the Lord's Prayer. Be sure to add it to family prayer this week.

**Visions (Grades 7-9):** Ask your young person about the choices he or she made on the What Can I Forgive survey? Why does the mother get so upset in the story titled, "My Brother Part II"? Talk about what this week's Gospel says about the Lord's forgiveness. Allow time at home this week for an examination of conscience in preparation for the times we seek forgiveness. Consider holding the Forgiveness Prayer Service at home. Pray that your family will forgive each other as God forgives us. Find out when your parish celebrates the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation and plan to take part.

### Pray Together

In this fourth week of Lent, forgiveness is the theme as presented in the Parable of the Forgiving Father. Add prayers of forgiveness to family prayer, and plan to take part in the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation if possible. It is important to practice the forgiveness we pray for.





# Communion Call



As early as the year 150, the martyr Justin, in writing an explanation of Christian worship to the Roman authorities, described the Sunday Eucharist pretty much as we celebrate it today. At the end of the description, he notes that ministers take the eucharist from the Sunday assembly to those who were unable to be present.

Perhaps these included people who were in prison for living according to the Gospel, and those whose work (Sunday was a work day back then) kept them

away. But almost certainly he meant the sick and the infirm, and those who were otherwise homebound. This is our ancient tradition: to love and cherish and to keep connected with those members of this community who cannot be with us on Sunday.

When illness or infirmity keeps you from the Sunday assembly, Special Ministers of Communion will bring a word of scripture and the body of Christ to you. The best time for this is Sunday, when the minister can come straight from the celebration of Mass. But other times can be arranged. Don't worry about fasting before receiving communion: If you are able to, that's fine. But because of your condition, you are not obligated.

The rite of communion for the sick is simple. It can be very brief if you are not feeling up to more. But normally, it consists of some opening prayers and readings (similar to those at Mass). If you are able, you then offer some prayers for the world and the church. Your family, friends and caregivers can (and should!) participate in the rite. If they would normally receive communion at Mass, then they can share in communion at this time, too. Before and after this simple, powerful rite of communion, you can visit with the minister or not, depending on how you feel.

Sick or infirm, homebound or hospitalized, each baptized person is nonetheless part of this parish, a member of the body of Christ. So don't be afraid that you're being a burden, and don't think that we're so busy we wouldn't have time for you. Regularly sharing in communion is an important part of our life together as the church.

Call the Parish Office at 603 382 8324 for more information.



# Bringing Home the Word +

Fourth Sunday of Lent (C)  
March 27, 2022

## Living, Loving in the Here and Now

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

It is good that we are here—joined in community for Sunday worship, here, in this moment of prayer.

Our lives are so hectic and fast-paced that it's often hard to enjoy just being in the present moment with God. It's not just the pressure of work, but the added responsibilities of home. You know the routine...getting the kids to school; getting to work on time; leaving from work; running a few errands; preparing dinner; going back out to pick up the kids from practice; then back home for

dinner, dishes, laundry, homework; and then finally to bed on time so you can get up early and start again.

But just stop! Take the time to enjoy the grace of the Eucharist, to rejoice in one another and savor Christ who reveals his love to you. Give yourself this gift. Each moment has power, poetry, and grace. Each instant is a gift from God, and each moment is an opportunity to encounter Jesus Christ. It's an occasion to return within ourselves and turn back to our Father who is eagerly waiting for us.

It's good to be here—not somewhere else, not in another time when we were happier, healthier, or life was easier and simpler. Right here, right now, right where God has you is where he is revealing his love. It may not be easy, but this is where God is, and it's good to reflect on the graces each moment presents. +

## Sunday Readings

### Joshua 5:9a, 10–12

No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan.

### 2 Corinthians 5:17–21

Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.

### Luke 15:1–3, 11–32

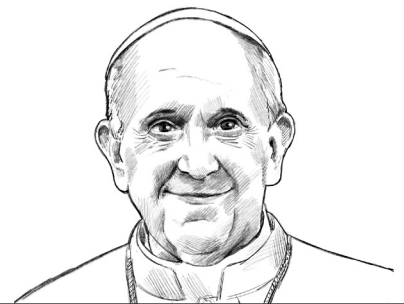
[Jesus said,] "Now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found."

*Right here, right now,  
right where God has you  
is where he is revealing  
his love.*

## A Word from Pope Francis

Prayer often coexists with distraction....We all experience this constant whirlwind of images and illusions in perpetual motion, which accompanies us even during sleep. And we all know that it is not good to follow this inclination toward disorder.

—General audience, May 19, 2021



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Can I let go of the past and set aside worries of the future to find God in the only place he can be found—in the present moment?
- If not, how about asking Christ for that grace today?

# What's the Point of Lenten Sacrifices?

By Emily Blasik

*"Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy."*

—Pope Francis

Confession time. In my twenty-six years of living, I have never, ever been able to successfully give up something I love for the entirety of Lent. No matter what I choose to forego in any given year for the sake of sacrifice—whether it's caffeine, chocolate, or even cursing (habits die hard, y'all)—by the end of the second week, I'm back at it with a vengeance. Sacrifice obviously isn't my strong suit.

Despite my past weaknesses, each Ash Wednesday I feel a renewed sense of motivation and good intention. *I'm going to do it right this year*, I tell myself as I stand in line to receive my ashes. Time and time again, I make a solemn vow to refrain from whatever it is that's on my heart, hoping that my small amount of self-induced "suffering" will somehow bring me closer to Christ. And time and time again, I cave before the season ends. Cue an extra layer of guilt.

This year, however, I'm doing something different. I'm looking inward and asking myself why it's important to make sacrifices for the Lord in the first place. Are random sacrifices for sacrifice's sake really going to strengthen my faith or make me a better person? Perhaps. Discipline is a virtue, no doubt, and an underrated one at that. But when



it comes to accomplishing anything, I'm the type of person who needs to see value in the Big Picture in order to follow through. I need to have a *why*: a purpose for my actions, a reason to keep going when the going gets tough.

Finally, after much prayer and contemplation this time around, I've figured out my big *why*—and it doesn't have anything to do with proving myself as a devout Catholic who deserves God's love. God doesn't care if I can resist chocolate or coffee for forty days. He truly cares about my eternal salvation—whether I'm choosing to place my time, faith, and trust in him...or something else entirely.

It can be easy to let God fade into the

background while we "worship" material goods, attach ourselves to worldly joys, and find comfort and solace in lesser things. But Lent reminds us that we still need a Savior, and despite what the devil will have us believe, our Savior, Jesus Christ, is all we need.

***God doesn't care if I can resist chocolate or coffee for forty days. He truly cares about my eternal salvation.***



***Lord, you are the face of God's compassion in the world. Give me a compassionate heart to embrace my suffering brothers and sisters.***

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

## WEEKDAY READINGS

March 28–April 2

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

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

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

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

**Friday**, Lenten Weekday:  
Wis 2:1a, 12–22 / Jn 7:1–2, 10, 25–30

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