



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, February 11, 2024

Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Gathering: As We Gather At Your Table BB 316

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 27)

The Lord is my light and my salvation; of whom should I be afraid; of whom should I be afraid.

Preparation: Prayer Of St. Francis BB 535

Mass Parts: Mass Of Creation

Communion: Ubi Caritas BB 356

Recessional: Take The Word Of God With You BB 383

✠ 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 4, 2024

Offertory	\$12,793.67
Property Management	\$ 1,457.30



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.

You can also use your smart phone to scan the QR code below. The link will take you directly to Parish Giving so you can donate.



UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

February 11	Catholic Schools
February 14	Aid Churches Europe/Africa



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.

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. Thanks for being attentive and respectful! F. Albert.



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.

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

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 2023, **please call Jackie** at the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. **Financial Statements are issued on a request only basis.**

HELP WANTED TO PUT AWAY TREES

With Lent fast approaching, volunteers are welcome to help prepare the churches on **Sunday, February 11 following the 8:00 AM Liturgy in Newton and the 10:00 AM Liturgy in Plaistow.** Our tasks include taking down our green trees and some light cleanup of the churches in preparation for the Lenten season. All are welcome to lend a hand – our work usually lasts just over an hour if we have all the help we can muster! Please contact the Parish Office for more information – or just stay after Mass!

BLESSING OF COUPLES

There will be a special blessing of couples at the conclusion of all Liturgies on the weekend of **February 10-11.** Please pray for those married among us and remember those preparing to be married as well.

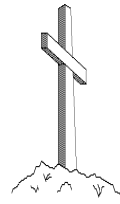
MARRIAGE IN THE CHURCH

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 may be resolved!

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

In observance of the Presidents Day holiday, the Parish Office will be **closed on Monday, February 19.**



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will take place each Friday evening during Lent at 6:30 PM in Newton. **A Soup Supper will follow Stations on March 22.**

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.



END OF LIFE PLANNING

Three Beliefs is a document from the Diocese of Manchester that gives valuable assistance to Catholics and others on end-of-life issues. **Three Beliefs** explains Catholic teaching on life-sustaining treatment and care and includes the New Hampshire Advance Directive form modified in such a way to make it consistent with both Catholic teaching and New Hampshire law. **Three Beliefs** contains a helpful FAQ section and wallet cards that include important information for healthcare providers.

The New Hampshire Advance Directive form was revised by a law that is consistent with Catholic teaching and the changes to the New Hampshire form. If you completed an advance directive before 2021 and your intentions for your end-of-life care have not changed, you do not need to complete a new form as long as your advance directive was valid when it was executed. For example, if you completed the October 2007 version of **Three Beliefs** and signed the document before two witnesses or a notary public or justice of the peace, you do not need to complete a new advance directive form.

Copies of **Three Beliefs** are available at the church entrance. También están disponibles ediciones en Español.

WHILE AWAY THIS WINTER...

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

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, February 11
 10:00 AM Religious Ed – Grades K to 6 *Plaistow*

Wednesday, February 14
 Holy Angels Church Open
 All Day For Prayer
 7:00 PM Disciples On The Journey *Plaistow*

Thursday, February 15
 8:30 AM – 8:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration *Newton*
 1:30 PM Disciples On The Journey *Plaistow*

Friday, February 16
 6:30 PM Stations of the Cross *Newton*

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

Sunday, February 18
 10:00 AM Religious Ed – Grades K to 6 *Plaistow*
 6:00 PM Evening Prayer *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.



The Sanctuary Light
 at Mary Mother of the Church
 will burn this week in loving memory of
Suzanne Busch
 by Jim Edwards

The Vigil Light in front of the
 Blessed Mother icon
 at Mary Mother of the Church
 will burn this week in loving memory of
Joan Burge
 by the Burge Family



The Sanctuary Light
 at Holy Angels Church
 will burn this week in loving memory of
Paul R. Antkowiak
 (Birthday Remembrance)
 by his family



✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, February 10 ~ Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Lv 13:1-2, 44-46; 1 Cor 10:31—11:1; Mk 1:40-45 (Vigil)
 4:00 PM Adelaide Sullivan by Jeanne Sullivan
Plaistow

Sunday, February 11 ~ Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Lv 13:1-2, 44-46; 1 Cor 10:31—11:1; Mk 1:40-45
 8:00 AM Joan Burge by the Burge family
Newton
 10:00 AM Paul R. Antkowiak (Birthday Remembrance)
 by his family
Plaistow

Monday, February 12 ~ Weekday
Jas 1:1-11; Mk 8:11-13
 8:00 AM Barbara Metcalf by Jackie Tremblay
Newton

Tuesday, February 13 ~ Weekday
Jas 1:12-18; Mk 8:14-21
 8:00 AM All Souls Intentions
Plaistow

Wednesday, February 14 ~ Ash Wednesday
Jl 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20—6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
 8:00 AM Sr. Elizabeth Anne Lee, osf by Nancy Lee
Newton
 12:15 PM Prayer Service
Plaistow
 6:30 PM Gerald Dennig (Month's Mind)
Plaistow

Thursday, February 15 ~ Thursday after Ash Wednesday
Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25
 8:00 AM Sr. Elizabeth Anne Lee, osf
 by the Little Sisters of St. Francis
Newton

Friday, February 16 ~ Friday after Ash Wednesday
Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15
 No Mass

**Saturday, February 17 ~ The Seven Holy Founders of
 The Servite Order**
Is 58:9b-14; Lk 5:27-32 (Day)
Gn 9:8-15; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15 (Vigil)
 4:00 PM Jesselyn and Donald Driscoll
 by the McKinney family
Plaistow

Sunday, February 18 ~ First Sunday of Lent
Gn 9:8-15; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15
 8:00 AM Suzanne Busch (Birthday Remembrance)
 by Jim Edwards
Newton
 10:00 AM Sr. Elizabeth Ann Lee, osf
 by Charlie and Lisa Angwin
Plaistow



WELCOME IN CHRIST!

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish invites all to a deeper love of Jesus and to a fullness of communion with the Church. The **rites of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)** is a process where adults and older children are welcomed into the Catholic Church. Some have never been Baptized, others never received Eucharist or

Confirmation, and others arrive at our door after a long faith journey.

Do you know someone who is thinking about becoming part of our Catholic community? Are you the non-Catholic spouse of a parishioner who is wondering about full communion with the Church? Are you an adult Catholic who for whatever reason, "missed" one or more of the sacraments of initiation while growing up? Do you have children over 7 years of age who were never Baptized, or older children who "missed" sacraments?

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (and its adapted form for children) welcomes all kinds of people into the Catholic family. The RCIA is for any adult who is: unbaptized and recognizes a need for spirituality in their life, or Baptized and raised in another Christian tradition but interested in learning about the Catholic faith, or Baptized in the Catholic faith, but never received any formal religious training.

Children of all ages are welcome and participate in age appropriate meetings for their RCIA experience.

Contact Father Albert or Cathy Smith in the Parish Office at 603.382.8324 for more information.

ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

February 14, 2024

Mass at 8:00 AM in Newton

Prayer Service at 12:15 PM in Plaistow

Mass at 6:30 PM in Plaistow

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Parents – Please mark your calendars and save these dates!

St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Plaistow, NH invites children to attend **SCUBA Vacation Bible Camp from June 17 to June 21, 2024.**

Kids will participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building game, engage in fun snack eating experiences, take part in one-of-a-kind Bible Adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them to trust Jesus, and each day make a craft to take home and play with all summer.

SCUBA Vacation Bible Camp is for kids from age 4 to 12 and will run from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon each day. For more information, call Joyce at 603-382-8324, ext. 303.

ADORERS NEEDED AT 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 is a great source of grace for us as a parish family. We have many who have made the commitment to spend an hour each week with our Eucharistic Lord. Adoration takes place each Thursday in Newton from 8:30 AM to 8:30 PM. We also need people at all times so we can have 2 people at each hour. 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 a 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.

HOLY ANGELS CEMETERY CLOSED

Holy Angels Cemetery in Plaistow is closed from December 2023 until Spring 2024. 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.

✠ 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



MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE

**Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus
St. Jude Council #6617**

The Knights of Columbus and Saint Luke the Evangelist Food Pantry would like to thank our parishioners for the ongoing support to feed those in need. Over the last two months, support has been provided to 135 families. That represents 118 children under the age of 18 and 111 adults over the age of 60, for a total of 370 individuals served. Shopping lists and bags are provided on the 3rd week of every month with the general collection of non-perishable items happening the following (4th) weekend. Food donations can also be left in the plastic totes at the rear of either church or brought to the Parish Office any time they are open. Prefer not to shop? Gift cards or checks can be made out to Saint Luke Food Pantry anytime. Your generosity and support are greatly appreciated!

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
HAPPENINGS**

In January, the Knights donated \$2,000 to assist our Parish. This is one of the many ways that the Knights provide support to our Parish. We are currently planning for our 2024 St. Jude Gold Open which will be held in early June. This year's Open will help a single mother who suffered a severe stroke and another single mother who is raising two daughters with severe medical issues.

Website: www.kofc6617.org

We are always looking for help. If you would like to help or want more information on the Knights, contact Peter Richards at 603-382-4315 or pmrjs6@comcast.net.

**THE KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBUS
ST. JUDE COUNCIL
#6617**



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.

CURSILLO

If you have a desire to know Jesus more closely, a Cursillo is for you. The Cursillo weekend is a short course in Christianity. The purpose of the weekend is to facilitate a meaningful personal encounter with Christ and his body, the Church. Cursillo weekends are being offered at the Sarto Center in Hookset, NH. To find out more, contact Mark Collopy at 603-833-7341 or explore www.nhcursillo.org.

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.**

**St. Vincent
de Paul
Society**



Your "Dropped Dollar" Hard At Work

Thank you for your continued support of the St. Vincent de Paul Society! Please know that your "dropped dollars" are being used wisely to help the poor in our area. Your generosity does not go unnoticed.

Drop-a-Dollar in the St. Vincent de Paul box on your way out of church. Remember ~ 100% of your donation is used to help those who need a hand up, not a handout.

Our next meeting on **Wednesday, February 21 at 7:00 PM.** We meet downstairs in the Church Hall in Plaistow. **New members are always welcome!**

If you seek assistance or need information about the St. Vincent de Paul Society, call 603-382-8324 x315.

**Hear, O LORD, and answer me
for I am poor and needy.**

LENT 2024

Daily Mass Readings and Reflections for the Sacred Season

He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness.

– 1 Peter 2:24



Sunday

18 Into the Wild

We often enter into wild times in our lives when we are weak. But Christ will strengthen us.

Mark 1:12-15

Monday

19 You Shall Not

The commandments tell us what we shall not do. Our Savior says what we shall do: love.

Lev. 19: 1-2, 11-18

Tuesday

20 Rain Down

The Word that rains down from above brings growth deep into the soil of our souls.

Isaiah 55:10-11

Wednesday

14 FEBRUARY Ash Wed.

Turn from sin and return to God, who is abounding in love this Valentine's Day.

Joel 2:12-18

Thursday

15 Follow

Following Jesus means taking up your cross and enduring every hardship for him and his glory.

Luke 9:22-25

Friday

16 Undo

Loosen what binds, undo what straps you down, let go of heavy burdens to live for God.

Isaiah 58:1-9a

Saturday

17 Find Healing

Jesus heals the sickness of our sins through his forgiveness and saves room at his table for us.

Luke 5:27-32

25 Not Against

We can be confident that, in Jesus, God is not against us but always on our side.

Romans 8:31-34

26 Give and Receive

We receive from God far more than we deserve. We are called to be just as generous in our giving.

Luke 6:36-38

27 Humble Yourself

Instead of making yourself the focus, always point to the power of the Father.

Matthew 23:1-12

28 Two Sons

James and John asked for places of prominence. But only the Son of God has a place of honor.

Matthew 20:17-28

29 Rich in Spirit

Unlike the rich man, poor Lazarus was rich in faith. May we be rich in faith unto eternal glory.

Luke 16:19-31

1 MARCH The Heir

Jesus, the heir of heaven, was killed by tenants of earth. Yet, by his death, we all inherit life.

Matthew 21:33-43

2 Welcome Home

The Father greets with open arms all who come to him, repentant of their sins.

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

3 Crucified

While others look to signs and wisdom for power, we preach Christ crucified.

1 Cor. 1:22-25

4 Hometown Boy

Jesus was not accepted in his hometown. How would he be accepted in our neighborhood?

Luke 4:24-30

5 Be a Blessing

How richly we have been blessed by God. How can we be a blessing to others?

Matthew 18:21-35

6 Forget Not

Don't forget the statutes of the Lord that he spoke to us. Share them with your children.

Deut. 4:1, 5-9

7 Stiff Necks

Never stay rigid in your resolve to do your own thing or follow your own way when God calls.

Jeremiah 7:23-28

8 Love God and Others

The Great Commandment comes in two parts: Love God, love others. Both are important.

Mark 12:28-34

9 Press On

Press on to know the Lord. For he desires mercy over sacrifice and is as sure as the dawn.

Hosea 6:1-6

SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST
Lent- Easter Liturgical Schedule 2024

BEGINNING OF LENTEN FAST FEBRUARY 14
ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY 8 am (N)
DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES 12:15 pm (P)
ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY 6:30 pm (P)

LENTEN SEASON DAILY LITURGIES
Mondays 8 am Newton
Tuesdays 8 am Plaistow
Wednesdays 6:30 pm Plaistow
Thursdays 8 am Newton

RECONCILIATION:
Saturdays - Plaistow 3:00 pm (except Holy Saturday)
Sundays of Lent - Newton 6:30 pm
Lenten Penance Service, Sunday March 17, 3:00 pm
St. Michael's, Exeter, NH
Monday of Holy Week: Plaistow 11:00am-1:00 pm
Newton 5:00-7:00 pm

LENTEN EVENING PRAYER:
Sunday evenings of Lent - 6 pm at Newton

STATIONS OF THE CROSS:
Fridays of Lent - 6:30 pm - Newton
*Lenten Soup Supper, after Stations, Friday, March 22

HOLY WEEK
Monday March 25- Liturgy at 8 am - Newton
Tuesday March 26 - Liturgy at 8 am - Plaistow
Wednesday March 27 - Liturgy at 6:30 pm - Plaistow
Tenebrae at 7:30 pm - Plaistow

PASCHAL TRIDUUM
HOLY THURSDAY, March 28
Morning prayer 8 am - Newton
Mid-day prayer 12 noon - Newton
LITURGY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
6:30 pm - Newton, Eucharistic Adoration follows.
9:00 pm - Newton, Night Prayer

GOOD FRIDAY, March 29
Morning prayer 8 am - Plaistow
Mid-day prayer 12 noon - Plaistow
Stations of the Cross 3 pm - Newton
PASSION SERVICE and HOLY COMMUNION
6:30 pm - Plaistow

HOLY SATURDAY, March 30
Morning Prayer 8 am - Plaistow
Mid-day Prayer 12 noon - Plaistow
EASTER GREAT VIGIL
8 pm - Plaistow

EASTER SUNDAY LITURGIES March 31
8 AM - Newton
10 AM - Plaistow
Easter Solemn Vespers with Benediction at
6:00 pm - Newton

Holy Angels Church, 8 Atkinson Depot Rd. Plaistow
Mary Mother of the Church, 12 Amesbury Rd. Newton
603 382-8324 www.stlukenh.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
10 A Gift Salvation in Jesus is a gift of God, undeserved grace not based on what we have done. Ephesians 2:4-10	11 New Things In Jesus, the former things will fade away, and new things will come to pass. So we rejoice. Isaiah 65:17-21	12 Get Up and Go Jesus revealed how we can be paralyzed by our sins. Forgiven, we get up and move in faith. John 5:1-16	13 Day of Salvation In the day of salvation, God will guide and guard, feed and nurture, help and heal you. Isaiah 49:8-15	14 Bear Witness John the Baptist bore witness to Christ. The Scriptures bear witness to him. We do too. John 5:31-47	15 Know Him Unlike many in his day, we know where Jesus comes from. He comes from the Father. John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30	16 Lamb Jesus is the Lamb of God sacrificed in our stead. We will remember his name forever. Jeremiah 11:18-20			
17 Lifted Up When Jesus is lifted up on the Cross, all people will be drawn to him like a magnet. John 12:20-33	18 Stones Instead of casting stones against each other, we should look to the Rock of our salvation. John 8:1-11	19 Name Him Jesus We call on the name of Jesus because we know that he will save us from our sins. Matt. 1:16, 18-21, 24	20 Set Free We are set free and no longer slaves to sin by the sacrifice of Jesus, our Redeemer. John 8:31-42	21 Covenant The covenant God made with Abraham is fulfilled in the life of Jesus. Genesis 17:3-9	22 A Warrior Our God is a warrior for us and does battle against all who seek to attack us. Jeremiah 20:10-13	23 The Plot Thickens The plot against Jesus thickened when the rulers saw his influence growing. Are we influenced? John 11:45-56			
24 Hosanna When Jesus entered Jerusalem, people shouted <i>hosanna</i> (save us!). We shout <i>hosanna</i> too. Mark 11:1-10	25 God's Servant Jesus was God's servant, whose suffering fulfilled the work of salvation on our behalf. Isaiah 42:1-7	26 Rescue Mission Jesus is on a rescue mission to reclaim the people of God and bring them back to him. Isaiah 49:1-6	27 Face Like Flint No whip or slap or spit would keep Jesus from his determination to face the Cross head on. Isaiah 50:4-9	<h2 style="text-align: center;">The Paschal Triduum</h2> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>from Holy Thursday evening through Easter Vigil Mass</i></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>HOLY THURSDAY Taste and See</td> <td>GOOD FRIDAY Finished</td> <td>EASTER VIGIL Buried</td> </tr> </table> <p>In the bread and the wine, Christ's Body and Blood, we taste and see that the Lord is good. 1 Cor. 11:23-26</p> <p>The sacrifice of the Lord for our salvation is completed when Jesus declares from the Cross, "It is finished!" John 18:1-19:42</p> <p>We are buried with Christ through our Baptism that we may walk in newness of life when he is risen. Romans 6:3-11</p>			HOLY THURSDAY Taste and See	GOOD FRIDAY Finished	EASTER VIGIL Buried
HOLY THURSDAY Taste and See	GOOD FRIDAY Finished	EASTER VIGIL Buried							
<h2 style="text-align: center;">Traditional Lenten Disciplines</h2> <p>Fasting & Abstinence: Catholics aged 14 and older abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent. In addition, on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, Catholics from age 18-59 fast, limiting themselves to one full meal and two smaller meals each day.</p> <p>Prayer: Catholics are encouraged to pray more during Lent, especially with Scripture. Lent is also an ideal time to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for the celebration of Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection.</p> <p>Almsgiving: Moved by the sacrifice of Christ, many Christians combine almsgiving with fasting, giving to the poor the money they saved by eating, drinking or buying less as they rely more upon God's abundant grace.</p>									

The Paschal Triduum

from Holy Thursday evening through Easter Vigil Mass

HOLY THURSDAY Taste and See	GOOD FRIDAY Finished	EASTER VIGIL Buried
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In the bread and the wine, Christ's Body and Blood, we taste and see that the Lord is good.
1 Cor. 11:23-26

The sacrifice of the Lord for our salvation is completed when Jesus declares from the Cross, "It is finished!"
John 18:1-19:42

We are buried with Christ through our Baptism that we may walk in newness of life when he is risen.
Romans 6:3-11

EASTER SUNDAY
On the Run

We race to the empty tomb with Peter and John to see that Jesus is not there. He had risen, just as he said.
John 20:1-9

Attende, Domine

“Hear us, O Lord”

With Ash Wednesday upon us, it is a good time to think and pray about the Lenten Season - the “Springtime” of the Church. The word “Lent” means spring, and comes from the same root as the word “lengthen,” since the days do get longer as winter wanes. The whole northern hemisphere turns toward the sun, the source of life, and winter gives way to spring. In Hebrew, the language of the Old Testament, the word for “repentance” is “to turn.” As the earth turns to the sun, as the earth turns from winter cold to the new life of spring, so do we turn our lives towards our loving God and seek the Way of the Lord Jesus anew.



“Even now, return to me, says the Lord.” (Joel 2:12). The word “sin” means separation. We are called to turn from our separate selves, from our sins; and to come together in community. Self denial is another way we express our repentance. We turn away from sin and death and toward God as our source of life by disciplining our wills and desires.

Self-denial is three-fold, according to Matthew’s Gospel (chap. 6). We **PRAY**: “Go to your room, close your door and pray to your Father in private.” We **FAST**: “No one may see you are fasting but your Father in heaven.” We give **ALMS**: “Keep your deeds of mercy secret, and your Father, who sees in secret will repay you.” Self-denial is an exercise, a work-out, getting our lives and spirits into shape. Through the Lenten exercise of **PRAYER, FASTING and ALMSGIVING**, we spring clean our lives, sharpen our senses, put tomorrow in its place and treasure the day at hand.

For Forty Days we are conscious of how we must sharpen our senses and focus mind and heart on the reign of God. We are, above all, aware of those waters in which we were baptized into Christ’s death. That is, death to sin and evil; it is life in Christ that we began in those waters of baptism. These waters wait at Lent’s end for the Catechumens of the Church. The entire Lenten season turns, it seems, on Baptism, renewal and reception into the Church.

We, too, wait for the opportunity to renew our own Baptismal Promises, and to feel the splash of Easter water on our faces after the dryness of our Lenten desert journey.

From Father Albert
Lent, 2023

The Church asks us to give ourselves to prayer and to the reading of Scripture, to fasting and to giving of alms during the Lenten season. The fasting that all do together on Fridays is but a sign of the daily Lenten discipline of individuals and households: fasting for certain periods of time, fasting from certain foods, but also fasting from other things and activities. Likewise, the giving of alms is some effort to share this world equally not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and possessions and through work of many kinds for a just world.

FASTING means that anyone between the ages of 18 and 59 may eat only one full meal (with the other 2 meals being distinctly smaller). One may, however, enter more into the spiritual element of fasting and not partake of any meals at all. One fasts for a spiritual reason - (an end to sin, a reconciliation in one's life or family, an end to war or other disturbance, or for the spread of the Gospel or personal/corporate conversion) than for a personal dietary goal. **The Church requires all between the ages of 18 and 59 to observe the fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fridays and Wednesdays are also traditional fast days, but are not mandatory.**



ABSTINENCE is the discipline for those age 14 or older to **forego the eating of any meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all Fridays of Lent.**

The EASTER DUTY is the obligation to receive Holy Eucharist between the First Sunday of Lent and Trinity Sunday.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is an obligation for all those who are conscious of grave sin. A frequent celebration of Reconciliation is encouraged for all, especially during the Lenten Season.

Reconciliation is celebrated at Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish on Saturdays at 3:00 at Plaistow, and on the Sundays of Lent following 6:00 PM Evening Prayer at Newton. There are communal Lenten Reconciliation Services in the area, watch the Bulletin for more information.

Do Something for Lent. Renew your faith.

What is the **Lenten Journey** all about? Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are called the “three pillars” of the Christian way of life. They help support a full and healthy life. During Lent we try to repair and strengthen these three pillars, which also are called the “three disciplines” because they help people become better disciples of the Lord. Our **Lenten Journey** program helps Discipleship!

Lenten Journey is about **SMALL GROUPS... IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN-UP!** We continue to welcome sign-ups for small groups. **On the back of this flyer is a REGISTRATION FORM. Return the form today, or call the office at (603) 382-8324, Ext. 305.**

Meetings begin this week! Groups meet six times during the Lenten season to discuss the Lenten Sunday Lectionary readings. You will learn more about Scripture through the resource book provided, participate in interesting discussions, meet some wonderful people and have the opportunity to build up the Body of Christ.



**All group members will pick up their resource booklets
at the first meeting.**

Groups begin meeting THIS WEEK!

**Wednesday, February 14, at 7:00 p.m., after the 6:30 p.m. Mass, downstairs in the Church Hall.
Thursday, February 15, at 1:30 p.m., downstairs in the Church Hall**

Ash Wednesday is This Wednesday, February 14!

DISCIPLES ON THE JOURNEY REGISTRATION FORM



Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____ Cell Phone _____

Please check the time and day you prefer

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m. ____
(February 14 – March 20)

Thursday Afternoons at 1:30 p.m. ____
(February 15 – March 21)

Check if you are willing to be a group leader _____

**GROUP MEETINGS BEGIN
THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 11
GROUPS WILL MEET IN THE CHURCH
HALL**

**(Please return this form in the collection basket or bring
to the parish office)**

Saint Luke the Evangelist

Parish Financial Report - Fiscal Year 2023

January, 2024

Dear Members of the Saint Luke Parish Community:

With the assistance of our Finance Council and the Parish staff, I present the Financial Report for the fiscal year 2023.

The fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, showed evidence both of Parishioners' good stewardship and a troubling trend. While the Parish was able to meet its needs thanks to parishioners' generosity, Parish income continues to decrease, while expenses have risen markedly. At this point, Parish finances are unstable because of the gap between income and expenses. All our Parish entities (church, school, food pantry) have shown the same instability as we try to budget and plan for our financial health.

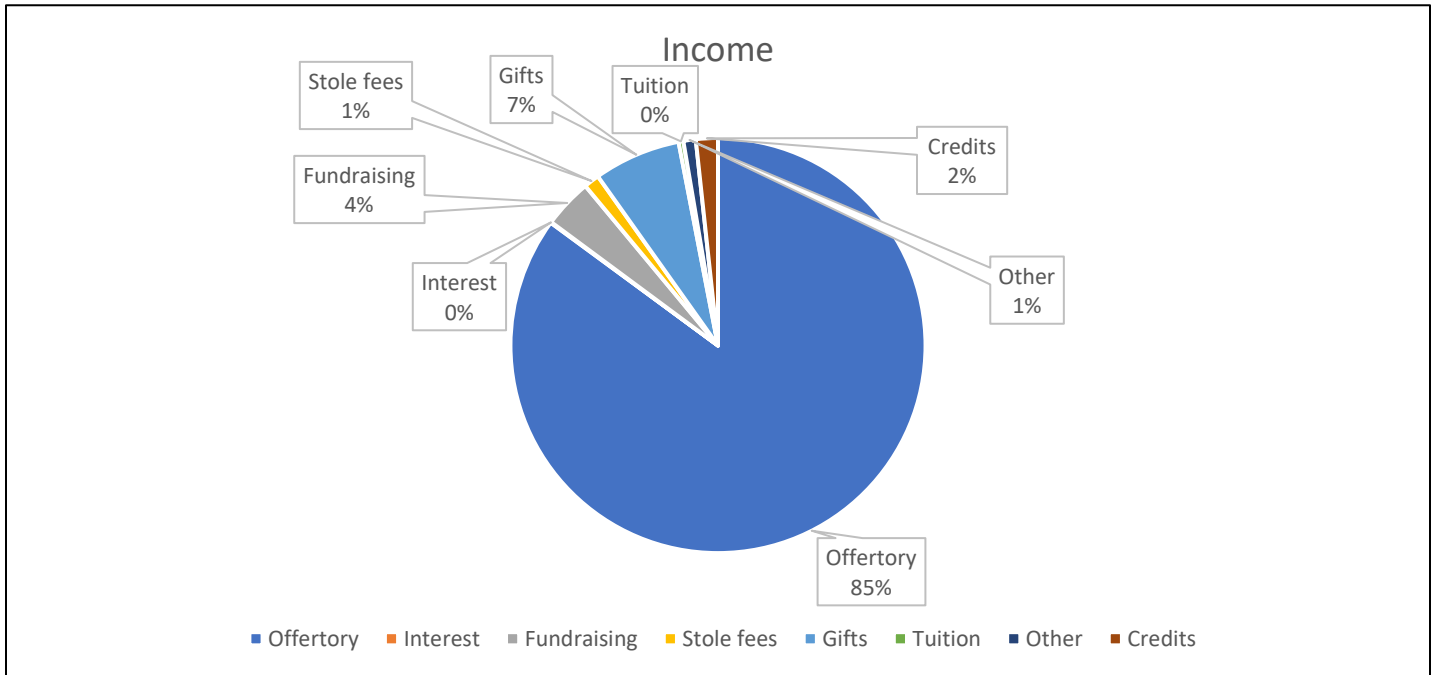
The Parish struggled to meet offertory goals during the last fiscal year. The \$9,700.00 (combined offertory and fuel-property management collections) weekly amount continues to be our goal in order to meet Parish expenses. The weekly offertory is the Parish's primary source of income, and so in-pew contributions or electronic donations continue to be critical.

Although not part of the Parish budget the Catholic Appeal in our Parish was hearteningly successful. As of the beginning of January, contributions to the Catholic Appeal were at \$50,080.00, above our Diocesan goal of \$46,740.00. The balance of more than \$4000.00 will return to the Parish for our use, according to the Diocesan terms of the Appeal. This generosity on the part of parishioners will hopefully carry us into the future of the Catholic Appeal, which is now a permanent annual collection which replaces many of the Diocesan special collections of years past and helps to fund Diocesan ministry programs as well as NH Catholic Charities.

The Parish continues to monitor all expenses and to use our resources wisely. I am grateful for your generous response to the mission of the Parish. In presenting this report to you, I request that you continue to evaluate your support of the Parish seriously and prayerfully. You as a Parishioner are responsible for the kind of Parish you want to have; I respectfully ask that you make decisions that you deem appropriate for your own contributions of time, talent, and treasure. For all you do to make our Parish life possible, thank you and God bless you.

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

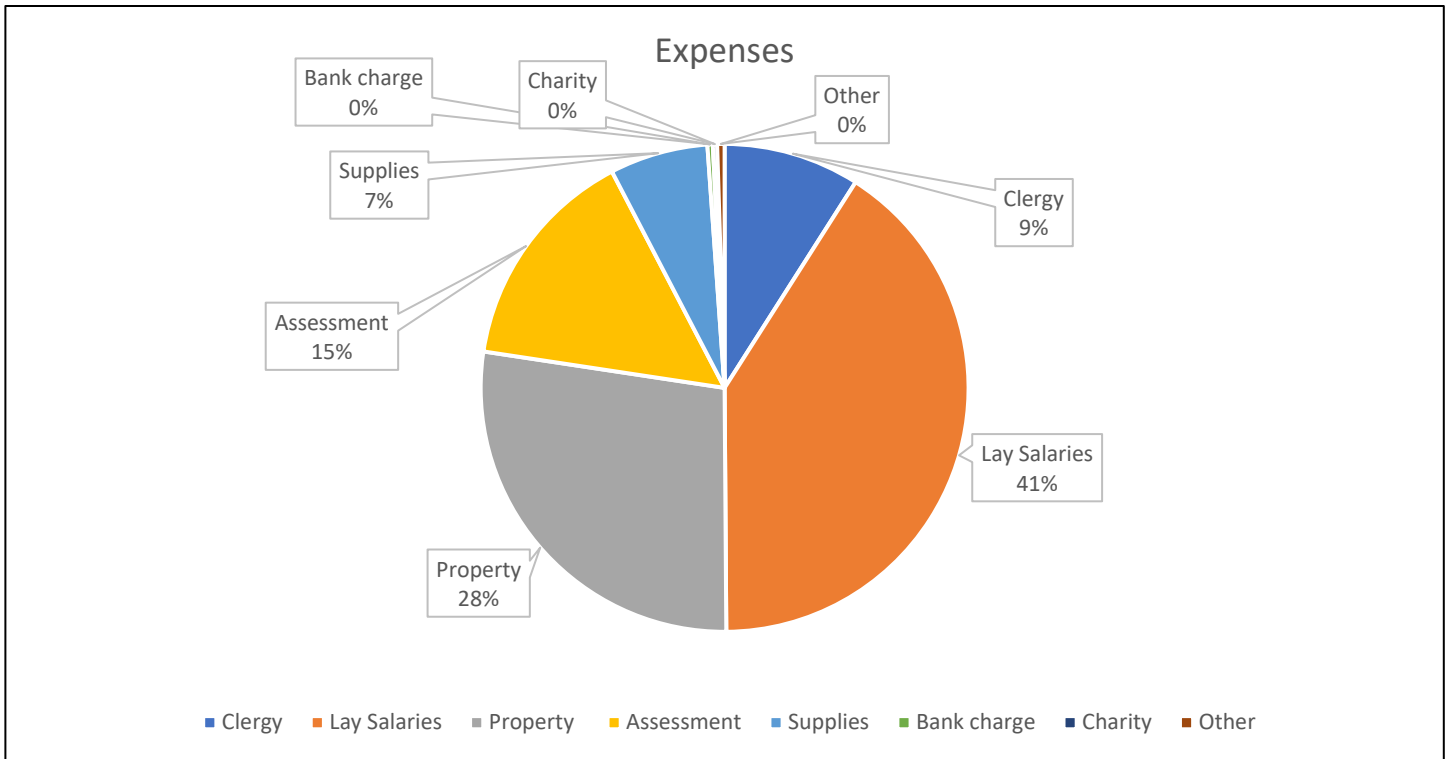
Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on a Percentage Increase			
Your Current Offertory Contribution	25% Increase	30% Increase	40% Increase
\$75.00	\$93.75	\$97.50	\$105.00
\$50.00	\$62.50	\$65.00	\$70.00
\$40.00	\$50.00	\$52.00	\$56.00
\$35.00	\$43.75	\$45.50	\$49.00
\$30.00	\$37.50	\$39.00	\$42.00
\$25.00	\$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



INCOME

2023 compared with 2022

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Regular Offertory	417,435	442,395	-24,960	
Interest	296	346	-50	Interest from Diocesan Central Fund
Fundraising	18,755	22,618	-3863	2022 Christmas Fair 26,614 -3996 expenses 2023 Christmas Fair 24,315 - 5560 expenses
Stole Fees	5940	6615	-675	Funeral, Wedding, Baptism fees
Gifts	33,258	17,862	15,396	Exclude Capital Campaign contributions
Rel Ed.	1825	2405	-580	
Other income	9774	12,001	-2227	2022 2,500 Bulletin, none for 2023 2023 Diocesan School Collection 1591, Candles 850, Programs 431, other 6902
Other donations	4721	5154	-433	Flower donations
Cost Credits	12600	12,600	0	2022 Pantry 8400, Cemetery 4200 2023 Pantry 4200, Cemetery 4200
Diocesan Grants	0	4500	-4500	2022 Diocesan grants Parish to Parish 2000 School Support 2500
Bequests	0	1050	-1050	
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>504,604</u>	<u>527,546</u>	<u>-22,942</u>	



EXPENSES

2023 compared with 2022

EXPENSES	2023	2022	Variance	Notes
Clergy salary & benefits	49,620	46,723	2897	Pastor, Diocesan insurance & benefits, expenses for Rectory
Lay salaries & benefits	224,569	212,126	12,443	4 FT & 2 PT employees in 2023, 4 FT & 1 PT in 2022
Property	151,912	123,560	28,352	Property & liability insurance, snow & trash removal, equipment service contracts, fire alarm monitoring, general maintenance
Assessments	82,275	82,340	-65	
Supplies	35,809	39,734	-3925	All liturgical supplies, music, office supplies, faith formation, printing & postage
Bank charges	2369	2789	-420	Bank service charges
Charity	2658	2647	11	Catholic Charities rebate donated to Pantry & St. Vincent de Paul
Total Expenses	549,212	509,919	39,293	

Some definitions... INCOME

Offertory: Money associated with the regular weekly collection from Masses. This includes Sunday collection, Holy Days, Fuel & Property Management collections

Stole fee: Donations associated with the celebration of the sacraments

Diocesan collections: Charitable collections for specific groups or causes, exclusive of the Diocesan Assessments (ex. Catholic Relief Services, Retired Religious Fund, Church in Eastern Europe, etc.). Many of these collections are now redundant because of their inclusion in the annual Catholic Appeal

Fundraising: Monies derived from any fundraising activity; principally from the Parish Christmas Fair

Other donations: Monies given to the Parish outside of regular offertory

EXPENSES

Clergy: Pastor salary and health insurance benefits, Diocesan assessments for clergy continuing education, clergy retirement

Diocesan assessments: Monies assessed based on Parish gross income for the Diocesan Administration, Catholic Schools, property and liability insurance, workmen's compensation, Diocesan programs, and cathedral expenses. Some of these assessments will no longer be charged as they are now part of the annual Catholic Appeal. Certain special collections are "taxed" at a specific percentage of the Parish gross income (Seminary Fund, Peter's Pence, Parish to Parish Mission Fund, Catholic University/USCCB)

Program expenses: Costs associated with RCIA, Religious Education, Scripture Sharing, Lenten Journey, adult education programs, music ministry

Property expenses: Costs associated with insurance, utilities, fuel oil, snow removal, equipment and building service contracts

Supplies: All liturgical supplies for churches, music and subscriptions for music, faith formation publications, printing & postage. Costs associated with all Parish programs and activities



Bringing Home the Word

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
February 11, 2024

Jesus Embraces the Culturally Marginalized

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Today's readings are about forced quarantine. On one level they are about diseases that might be contagious. On another level they are about ritual impurity that was contagious. The Israelites believed that to stand before God in worship, one's body had to be physically intact—no fractures or missing body parts, no open wounds, no oozing body fluids. Skin lesions like those associated with leprosy made one ritually unclean or impure. Furthermore, to touch one with such a disease was to become unclean oneself. The ritual impurity was considered contagious, not necessarily the disease. Unclean people were socially and religiously ostracized.

In the Gospel story, Jesus completely neutralized this practice. Touching the leprosy and thus unclean man, Jesus not only didn't become unclean himself, but he actually made the man clean again. The issue here is not merely one of healing. It is a matter of reincorporating the marginalized man into society.

Unfortunately, out of fear or a sense of superiority, some people ostracize or marginalize entire groups of people. This bias might be based on gender, race, culture, sexual preference—almost anything. In this way the benefits of society are denied to those who are marginalized. One characteristic of Jesus, obvious throughout the Gospel stories, is his all-inclusiveness. Jesus rejected no one. He was open to those who society ostracized. He interacted graciously with people with diseases, non-Jews, recognized public sinners, and those working with the Roman occupiers—all people considered ritually unclean. As his disciples, can we do less? †

One characteristic of Jesus, obvious throughout the Gospel stories, is his all-inclusiveness.

A Word from Pope Francis

[Jesus] extends His hand and touches [the leper]....To touch with love means to establish a relationship, to enter into communion, to become involved in the life of another person even to the point of sharing their wounds. With that gesture, Jesus reveals that God, who is not indifferent, does not keep himself at a "safe distance."

ANGELUS, ROME, FEBRUARY 14, 2021



Sunday Readings

Leviticus 13:1–2, 44–46

The individual shall cry out, "Unclean, unclean!"

1 Corinthians 10:31—11:1

Whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.

Mark 1:40–45

"If you wish, you can make me clean." ...[Jesus] said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Which groups of people does society tend to ostracize or marginalize?
- Is there someone I fail to recognize as a brother or sister in Christ?

Where Does Hope Come From?

John Shea

Every year I look forward to Lent, although I'm not sure why. I grew up in a Catholic neighborhood where Lent was a community affair. Everyone, adults and children, tried "giving up something." Although one girl in my sixth-grade class gave up her little brother, most people denied themselves some culinary delight. Lent was a deep breath that you took, held for six weeks, and let out at noon on Holy Saturday.

There is also the hope for some slight signs of improvement. I am always on the lookout for a better self. Lent triggers an "I can do better" tape and connects with my early childhood memory of *The Little Engine That Could*: "I think I can, I think I can, I think I can..."

A *New Yorker* cartoon shows two men in a dungeon without windows or doors. They are manacled to the wall by their wrists, ankles, and neck. Both have long beards; they have obviously been there a



while. One is leaning over to the other and whispering, "Now here's my plan."

This cartoon made me laugh and when I have described it to others, they laughed. There is something essentially human about a burst of hope in a hopeless situation. It shows us who we are: people without a way out who are planning a way out.

Where does this deep hope come from?

Václav Havel, the former president of the Czech Republic, was once asked, "Do you see a grain of hope anywhere in the 1980s?" He began his lengthy answer with, "I should probably say first that the kind of hope I often think about, especially in situations that are particularly hopeless, such as prison (e.g., the manacled planner), I understand above all as a state of mind, not a state of the world. Either we have hope within us or we don't; it is a dimension of soul, and it is not essentially dependent on some particular observation of the world or estimate of the situation."

Hope is not a response to what we observe or how we estimate what is going on. Hope is an inner quality we bring to life. †

Source: *Daybreaks: Daily Reflections for Lent and Easter*, 2008

Wisdom from Catholic UPDATE

Excerpt from *Ash Wednesday: Our Shifting Understanding of Lent* by Lawrence E. Mick

We dirty our faces on Ash Wednesday and are cleansed in the waters of the font at Easter.

When we receive ashes on our foreheads, we remember who we are. We remember that we are creatures of the earth ("Remember that you are dust"). We remember that we are mortal beings ("and to dust you will return"). We remember that we are baptized. We remember that we are people on a journey of conversion ("Repent and believe in the Gospel"). We remember that we are members of the body of Christ (and that smudge on our foreheads will proclaim that identity to others, too). †



Loving God, open our eyes to see in every person the face of your son whom you sent to teach us to love as you love. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

February 12-17

Monday, Weekday:
Jas 1:1-11 / Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday, Weekday:
Jas 1:12-18 / Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday, Ash Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18 /
2 Cor 5:20-6:2 / Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday after Ash Wednesday:
Dt 30:15-20 / Lk 9:22-25

Friday after Ash Wednesday:
Is 58:1-9a / Mt 9:14-15

Saturday after Ash Wednesday:
Is 58:9b-14 / Lk 5:27-32