



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, February 25, 2024

Second Sunday Of Lent

Gathering: Hold Us In Your Mercy

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 51)

*Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned;
be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.*

Preparation: Sacred Silence BB 555

Mass Parts: Mass For Christ The Savior

Communion: The Supper Of The Lord BB 339

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 11, 2024

Offertory \$5,839.02
Catholic Schools \$1,499.42

**COLLECTION AMOUNTS FOR
FEBRUARY 14 & 18, 2024
WILL APPEAR IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN**

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

February 25 No Second Collection
March 3 Property Management



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.

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). 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.



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.**

RETROUVAILLE

A Lifeline For Married Couples

Does your marriage need help? We are a 3-phase program. We are not just a feel good, get away weekend. We are a marriage program that continues after the initial weekend with follow-up sessions that further develop the concepts that we introduce on the weekend. Some of the topics we cover are: Communication Skills, Conflict Management, Family of Origin, Forgiveness and Trust, Love and Commitment, Marriage as a Vocation, Intimacy and Sexual Relationship. Over 76% of couples are still married to same spouse at the five-year anniversary of their attending a Retrouvaille weekend. Email us at NewEngland@HelpOurMarriage.org or call 508-271-7155. Our next weekend is scheduled for:

**March 1-3, 2024
Tewksbury, MA**

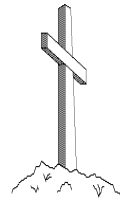
MARRIAGE IN THE CHURCH

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!

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE

All announcements to be included in the March 31 (Easter) bulletin must be received **no later than Monday, March 18.**



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 25

10:00 AM Religious Ed – Grades K to 6 *Plaistow*
 6:00 PM Evening Prayer *Newton*
 6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Newton*

Wednesday, February 28
 Holy Angels Church Open
 All Day For Prayer

7:00 PM Disciples On The Journey *Plaistow*

Thursday, February 29

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

Friday, March 1

6:30 PM Stations of the Cross *Newton*

Saturday, March 2

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, March 3

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

Jim Glendye

by a Fellow Knight

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

All Deceased Knights

by a Fellow Knight



The Sanctuary Light at Holy Angels Church will burn this week in loving memory of

Allen Neale

by a Fellow Knight



✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, February 24 ~ Second Sunday of Lent

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10 (Vigil)

4:00 PM The Intentions of Eleanor Martin
 by Edwin and Susan Martin
Plaistow

Sunday, February 25 ~ Second Sunday of Lent

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

8:00 AM Linda Trevillion by Barbara and Jack Brotz
Newton

10:00 AM John Francis Lyons (1st Anniversary)
 by Gerard Lyons
Plaistow

Monday, February 26 ~ Lenten Weekday

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

8:00 AM Suzanne Busch by Bob and Alice Litwinovich
Newton

Tuesday, February 27 ~ Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church

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

8:00 AM All Souls Intentions
Plaistow

Wednesday, February 28 ~ Lenten Weekday

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

6:30 PM Suzanne Busch by Mike and Nancy Edwards
Plaistow

Thursday, February 29 ~ Lenten Weekday

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

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

Friday, March 1 ~ Lenten Weekday

Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

No Mass

Saturday, March 2 ~ Lenten Weekday

Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32 (Day)

Ex 20:1-17; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25 (Vigil)

4:00 PM John Lyons (1st Anniversary) and
 Sean Lyons (10th Anniversary) by Gerard Lyons
Plaistow

Sunday, March 3 ~ Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 20:1-17; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

8:00 AM Lucy McGrath by the Burge family
Newton

10:00 AM In Honor of St. Michael the Archangel
 by George Giraldo
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.

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.

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. Luke's Outreach Ministry	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



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**

This month, the Knights donated \$2,500 to assist our Parish with the purchase of a copier/printer. We are currently planning for our 2024 St. Jude Golf 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 pmpjs6@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.

**Contact Your State Representatives to Voice
Opposition to Assisted Suicide**

Thank you for voicing your opposition – in person and online – to HB 1283, a bill pending before the NH Legislature that would legalize assisted suicide. Online opposition to the bill outnumbered support by 2 to 1 for the House Judiciary Committee Hearing on February 7. We need your help again. Please contact your representatives ASAP to urge them to oppose HB 1283, as the House of Representatives will vote as early as **February 22** on the bill. The Diocese is working alongside a broad coalition that includes health care providers, veterans, and organizations that advocate with and for people with disabilities and those who are at high risk of suicide. The Church teaches that suicide is always a tragedy and that a caring community should respond with hospice and palliative care to better meet the needs of those facing the end of life. For more information about this bill and how to contact your representatives in the Legislature, visit: catholicnh.org/nosuicide.

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.**

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. The three day weekend is also the bridge connecting the faithful with the supportive post-Cursillo community, where we live our faith joyfully with our fellow Christians. 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.

ST PATRICKS DAY DINNER

HOSTED BY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, COUNCIL #6617

MARCH 16th

5:00 - 7:00 pm

St Luke The Evangelist Parish Center

8 Atkinson Road, Plaistow NH

Ticket - \$15 per Adult / \$5 Kids 10 Years and younger

Take Out Meals will be available

Shenanigans will abound

Chef Rudy O'Ferrandi will be preparing

a traditional Irish meal of

**Corned Beef and Cabbage (Ham Option) served with Vegetables, Rolls,
Desserts and Drinks**

Hot Dogs will be available for wee little ones

**Entertainment will include traditional Irish music, an Irish Sing Along
and the Irish Step Dancers from**



**MURRAY
ACADEMY**
OF IRISH DANCE



Proceeds raised from the dinner will be used to fund the many charities /programs the Knights of Columbus support throughout the year. Donations to the St Luke the Evangelist Food Pantry, Special Olympics, Neighbor Helping Neighbor, Pregnancy Care Centers, Haven House, Support for our Seminarians, High School Scholarships to name a few.

PRAY THE ROSARY



FIND PEACE, HEALING, HOPE



The Knights of Columbus and other members of our parish for the last five years gather every Thursday evening to pray and reflect on the Rosary

We pray for our intentions, peace in the world, and on the third Thursday of the month, we dedicate the Rosary to Respect for Life from inception to natural death.

Join Us - There is great power in prayer

Every Thursday, 7:00pm - 7:30 pm at Mary Mother of the Church in Newton

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.

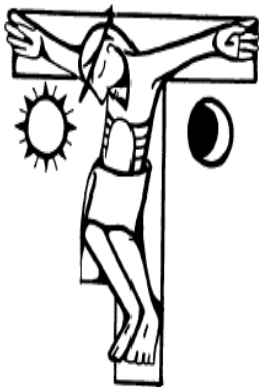


Praying the Stations of the cross

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. Our Lenten Soup Supper will be held following Stations on Friday, March 22.

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.



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 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 praiseworthy for the faithful to give generously to charities and to their Church during this Season of Sacrifice.



Bringing Home the Word †

Second Sunday of Lent (B)
February 25, 2024

Future Gazing

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Some spiritual writers and psychologists tell us how important it is to live in the present. Still, many of our decisions are made with an eye toward the future. Life commitments are always future oriented. Each newborn child carries promises for the future. Because we are part of the emerging universe, we are always called into the future. Today's readings also carry implications for the future.

Isaac was not only Abraham's beloved son; he was Abraham's legacy and future dynasty. Isaac's death would have put an end to Abraham's memory in the future.

Sunday Readings

Genesis 22:1–2, 9a, 10–13, 15–18

I will bless you and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore.

Romans 8:31b–34

He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him?

Mark 9:2–10

And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white.

Consequently, this was more than a test of obedience. Abraham was presented with a choice: Choose Isaac and all that the future might bring to your family and memory through him. Or trust that the promise God made—that your descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky—would be fulfilled even if Isaac dies. God asked Abraham to place his future in God's hands.

Some scholars believe that the real meaning of Jesus' transfiguration lies in its effects on the disciples who witnessed it. In this experience they came to see Jesus in a significantly new way. They saw that he has somehow associated with Moses, an agent of the law, and Elijah, a great prophet. In other words, Jesus was somehow associated with the very core of Jewish religion. The disciples did not understand how, nor did they grasp what "rising from the dead meant." Still, they placed their future in his hands. †

*God asked Abraham
to place his future
in God's hands.*



A Word from Pope Francis

We are called to experience the encounter with Christ so that, enlightened by his light, we might take it and make it shine everywhere. Igniting little lights in people's hearts; being little lamps of the Gospel that bear a bit of love and hope: this is the mission of a Christian.

ANGELUS, ROME, FEBRUARY 28, 2021



REFLECTION
QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS
REFLECTION

- Do you believe that God has a plan for you?
- Do we trust God's plan more than our own?

God Meets Us Where We Are

Nathan D. Mitchell

The great twentieth-century theologian, Karl Barth, once advised Christians to pray with the Bible in one hand and the daily newspaper in the other. He meant, in part, that faith and daily life interpret each another. “Drink deeply of the Word,” St. Ambrose once told his people. “Soon you’ll find yourself craving more.” He was right, of course. God’s word forever illumines our path—a shining “pillar of fire” by night, daily bread for our journey. Yet our experience of the world’s perils and opportunities also shapes our response to that word. We’re reminded that God’s love for the world didn’t result in indifference and neglect, but in the word sent to “pitch a tent among us,” to share our flesh, to taste the world in all its salty, roiling complexity. Word and world: they belong together.



The God of Sarah and Abraham, Rebecca and Isaac, Rachel and Jacob is passionately focused on humankind, intent on participating in our history, hungry for relationship with every person. The God we meet in the stories of creation is a “God with skin on,” one

who understands that our primary mode of perceiving reality—of interacting with God, world, and each other—is flesh and body. Every day we meet the holy in the homely; the divine in the daily; the saving God in blood, sweat, and tears; in soil and labor; in sex, seed, and harvest; in fertility and childbirth.

Lent reminds us that Christians form a community gathered in contemplation around God’s Word—and that means we’re also gathered in meditation on the world, its goodness and grandeur, its beauty and brutality. Lent is a call to pay attention, to see creation as God does, to gather our faith not only from God’s promise (where it begins), but also from God’s presence in the low, vast murmur of human life that tugs at our hearts, heads, and hands. Be prepared for some surprises. †

Source: *Daybreaks: Daily Reflections for Lent and Easter*, 2010

Wisdom from Catholic UPDATE

Excerpt from *Lenten Customs: A Journey to Conversion* by Rev. Lawrence E. Mick

The key to understanding the meaning of Lent is simple: baptism. Preparation for baptism and for renewing baptismal commitment lies at the heart of the season. When the Second Vatican council issued the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy in 1963, the bishops called for the renewal of the season of Lent. Since then, the Church has reemphasized the baptismal character of Lent, especially through the restoration of the catechumenate and its Lenten rituals. Our challenge today is to renew our understanding of this important season of the Church year and to see how we can integrate our personal practices into this renewed perspective. †

Catholic Update is a practical and affordable four-page newsletter that explores Catholic teaching and tradition on contemporary topics in easy-to-understand language.

To subscribe, visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9526.



So that we may witness to the light of God’s love and the sacredness of this life, we pray—Lord, let us be like you.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

February 26—March 2

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, Lenten Weekday:

Mi 7:14–15, 18–20 / Lk 15:1–3, 11–32